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The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

September 3, 1982

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Office of Public Liaison
Special Assistant to the President
Old Executive Office Building
Room 191
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Morton:

Again, my sincere thanks for your counsel on both the voluntary school prayer issue and building our grassroots organization.

The enclosed letters will be of interest to you. The Coordinators' letter went to our approximately 50 State and 50 Capital City Coordinators and 129 Congressional District Coordinators. The pastors' letter went to approximately 6,000 pastors across the country. In addition to these letters, a third letter went to our 9,000 supporters urging them to contact their U.S. Senators at home on "invoking cloture" on the Helms' amendments. And I also appeared on the "700 Club" yesterday morning urging viewers to do the same and showed the D.C. address of U.S. Senators to the viewing audience.

If there is anything else that you feel we can do on this matter or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

God bless you my friend.

Your brother in Christ,



Ted Pantaleo
Executive Director

sld

Enclosure

The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

September 2, 1982

Dear Coordinator:

I have just returned from Washington, DC, where I participated in private strategy meetings on voluntary school prayer with key White House staffers and leaders of coordinating organizations. If we move quickly and in concert--and pray for wisdom as we go along--THE FREEDOM COUNCIL can be instrumental in restoring prayer to our nation's schools.

At present, the battleground is the U.S. Senate. When our Senators return from the "Labor Day recess," the opposition will resume their filibuster of Senator Jesse Helms' (North Carolina) amendments to the Debt-Ceiling Bill. These amendments pave the way for both the restoration of voluntary school prayer and the return of constitutional protection for our unborn.

Before these vital amendments can be voted upon, the filibustering must stop. Under Senate rules this can only happen if 60 Senators vote to "invoke cloture."

In anticipation of continued filibustering on these amendments, Senator Howard Baker (Tennessee) will initiate a vote to "invoke cloture" the first time on September 9, 1982. Knowledgeable sources believe the Senate will have to "invoke cloture" several times after that to stop the opposition's filibuster efforts against these two amendments.

Christian ministries across the nation agree that the voluntary school prayer and pro-life issues are the two single most important problems facing the church today...these are two issues all Christians can rally around. That is why leaders throughout the Body of Christ are leaving no stone unturned to mount an effective and sustained effort to make it happen now!!

All Coordinators of THE FREEDOM COUNCIL should immediately:

- (1) call their two U.S. Senators while they are still in their home states
- (2) have as many acquaintances, pastors and congregations do the same.

The purpose of these calls is to let your Senators know how to represent you on these two issues.

ASK YOUR SENATORS SPECIFICALLY TO: (1) VOTE TO INVOKE CLOTURE ON ALL FILIBUSTERING EFFORTS AGAINST THE HELMS' AMENDMENTS; AND (2) TO VOTE YEA FOR THESE AMENDMENTS.

(continued)

THE NATIONAL MATERNAL
SEPTEMBER 11, 1991
Page 7

We are doing everything possible on the '700 Club' in Washington and with our 9,000 plus supporters across America to support your efforts. May God bless you abundantly for standing in the gap for our unborn children and for the people of our nation and your state.

Love in Christ Jesus,



Ted Pantaleo
Executive Director

sld

The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

September 3, 1982

Dear Pastors:

THE FREEDOM COUNCIL, in cooperation with CBN's National Counseling Center is using this local mailing to quickly reach thousands of pastors and Christian leaders on a matter of utmost importance to the Church. We need your immediate participation in a plan to restore voluntary school prayer in our nation's classrooms.

Quite simply, President Reagan recently sent a proposed Constitutional amendment to Congress which would allow voluntary prayer in our schools again. Now we have to support this action by letting the President know that we, as individual pastors and leaders, wholeheartedly endorse his amendment and stand squarely behind him on this matter.

The proposed amendment states in its entirety that...

"Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or any state to participate in prayer."

It is hard to believe that these two simple sentences could mean so much. But the fact is they could help turn this nation around. They could show our youth and the world that God and prayer are important in our society. They could also allow our children to offer voluntary prayer in their schools again.

These two brief sentences would again permit individual states--not the federal government--to decide on what is essentially a local matter. Finally, they would mark the return of the Christian voice again to the classrooms of our beloved country.

The two sentences contained in the President's proposed amendment would do all that and more. At the same time, they would insure the voluntary aspect of school prayer and protect the rights of every person desiring not to pray.

Your help is needed today on securing passage of this amendment. The President needs to know he has the backing of the pastors in the United States on voluntary school prayer. He needs to receive a letter from you asking him to put the full weight of the presidency effectively behind this amendment as he has done on economic and foreign policy matters.

-continued-

This session of Congress is rapidly drawing to a close. Please write Mr. Reagan at once so he can use his great office to influence our U.S. Representatives and Senators on behalf of voluntary school prayer.

If you have the time, it would have far greater additional impact if you would do one thing more. Also write a similar letter to the President's closest advisors, the gentlemen listed below:

Mr. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. William Clark
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

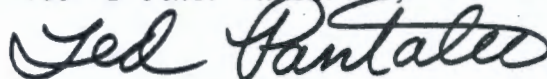
Mr. James A. Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Edwin Harper
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Edwin Meese
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

God bless you abundantly for taking a stand for voluntary school prayer in America. Our heartfelt thanks for your help with this crucial issue.

Your brother in Christ,



Ted Pantaleo
Executive Director

sld

To Morton

Date 6/14/83 Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Mike Wallace ^{Dept. of} FD

of Francis Morris - 245-8280

Phone 225-0197

Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL
CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Ltr. on Equal
Access Act update me
for Trent Lott
Hope they are to
be named.

Operator Jayce



AMPAD
EFFICIENCY®

23-020

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: EDWIN L. HARPER
FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

FROM: Stephen H. Galebach *SHG*
Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*

SUBJECT: House Action on "Equal Access Act"

Congressman Carl Perkins has scheduled hearings June 16, on Congressman Trent Lott's bill which would, in effect, prohibit discrimination against student group use of school facilities on the grounds of the religious orientation of such groups.

In a recent letter to Senator Thurmond, the President repeated his endorsement not only of his Constitutional Amendment but of the concept embodied in bills by Senator Denton and Senator Hatfield which are similar to Congressman Lott's Bill, H.R. 2732.

It was very unexpected for Congressman Perkins to schedule these hearings. We think it is very appropriate for the President to respond to Congressman Perkins' initiative.

Attached is a draft letter which we suggest be forwarded to Ken Duberstein for possible signing by the President.

1 Attachment a/s

DRAFT LETTER FOR PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

The Honorable Carl D. Perkins,
Chairman
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
Suite #2181 - Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to hear that your subcommittee has scheduled hearings on June 16, 1983, to consider H.R. 2732, the Equal Access Act. As you know, I strongly support the concept embodied in this bill, and I commend you for taking swift action to consider this problem.

Americans have a strong tradition of respect for religious liberty. We need to uphold this tradition above all in our public schools, which are designed to transmit the best of our values to our young people. Conflicting decisions by lower courts have left school administrators uncertain as to whether they ought to treat voluntary religious groups on an equal basis with other voluntary extracurricular organizations. I believe that Congress should resolve the uncertainty by giving full protection to First Amendment rights as described by the Supreme Court in Widmar v. Vincent.

I realize that there are several possible approaches to this problem, and I look forward to working with your subcommittee in reaching the most equitable solution for all concerned.

No issue is more important than the constitutional rights of young Americans, and I hope that the full committee will be prepared to bring the issue to the floor of the House for consideration in time for final passage in this session of the Congress.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to hear that your subcommittee has scheduled hearings on June 16, 1983, to consider H.R. 2732, the Equal Access Act. As you know, I strongly support the concept embodied in this bill, and I commend you for taking swift action to consider this problem.

Americans have a strong tradition of devotion to religious liberty. It is indeed ironic that this tradition is least respected in our public schools, which are designed to transmit the best of our values to our young people. Conflicting decisions by lower courts have left school administrators uncertain as to whether they ought to treat voluntary religious groups on an equal basis with other voluntary extracurricular organizations. I believe that Congress should resolve the uncertainty by giving full protection to First Amendment rights as described by the Supreme Court in Widmar v. Vincent.

I realize that there are several possible approaches to this problem, and I look forward to working with your subcommittee in reaching the most equitable solution for all concerned. ^(P) No issue is more important than the constitutional rights of young Americans, and I hope that the full committee will be prepared to bring the issue to the floor of the House for consideration in conjunction ~~with the Department of Education authorization bill for 1984.~~

~~for the beginning of time for final~~ ^{passage} ~~action in this session of~~

Sincerely,

~~the~~
Congress.

6/10 → park us
+ Goodling

Talk to Mike
Wallace about
this. He has some
corrections he
wants to make
m

*file School
Prayer*

National

'Morality' vote rated November wild cardBy Wesley Pruden
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

For many Democrats now smacking their lips over their prospects in the Nov. 2 congressional elections, the infuriating wild card is the staying power of the "morality" issue.

By all accounts, many blue-collar union members who voted for Ronald Reagan and other Republicans in 1980 seem to be on their way back to the Democratic levers they pulled faithfully for so many years. Most, but not all.

The Moral Majority and other organizations on the Christian right were disappointed by the failure of the school-prayer amendment in the Senate and then humiliated by a poorly planned pro-prayer rally that almost nobody attended. But they have nevertheless registered a million new voters since 1980, and many of these are union members.

How could a working man out of a job and with nothing in his pocket allow any other issue — whether it is school prayer, abortion, or pornography — to obscure what should be an obsession with the faltering economy and growing unem-

ployment? Why should he worry about the disintegration of family values when he may see with terrifying clarity the threat of the disintegration of his own family?

One reason, of course, is that these voters, many born to the faith and others nurtured on the assurances of the old-time religion, are willing to pay the price of short-term sacrifice for what they believe will ensure the preservation of long-term values. This translates into votes for conservatives, usually Republicans.

Some analysts like Richard Scammon, Director of the Elections Research Center in Washington, see a clear secular reason as well. "Economics is a difficult subject for most people," he says. "Most voters throw up their hands and consider economics a subject only for the experts.

"But this is not true for the social issues. Every man and woman can have an opinion on prayer, abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment and so forth. They may not have come to a conclusion about all of these issues, but everyone feels qualified to have an expert opinion."

The success of the religious conservatives, in the eyes of Richard Viguerie, is based on an almost total concentration on social issues. "We're not impressed by credentials," says Viguerie, who heads a direct-mail firm that has raised millions of dollars for conservative causes. "We don't want to hear about a candidate's committee chairmanships, his or her Harvard economics degrees, how many world leaders he or she knows by their first names. We want to know what the candidate's values are."

Most of the social issues, particularly those based on family values, have a permanent staying power, waxing as economic or foreign affairs issues wane. Two years ago, the number one economic issue was inflation; two years hence, excluding the unthinkable, unemployment is not likely to be the issue that drives out all others.

In fact, says Scammon, the worst that could befall the Democrats would be the temptations inherent in an enormous sweep of 50 to 60 House seats.

If that should happen, many Democratic liberals might be seduced into free-lance expeditions to the far fringe of

ideology, making the same mistakes of judgment they perceive in conservative Republicans. The ideological split that has plagued the Democratic Party for two generations would be exacerbated, encouraging doctrinaire positions, continued growth of independent political-action committees, and the further weakening of the two major political parties.

In that event, Scammon does not expect this to happen. "I think the 1982 winners will make every effort to show how responsible they are. I doubt many would try to enact a sweeping New Deal-like program.

"Typically, you would have a new Ohio congressman who had won by 5,000 votes in a district the Republican had won in 1980 by 3,500 votes. There's not much change in the attitudes that we saw in 1980."

And precisely what has not changed is a fundamental American belief in an enduring system of values, belief that cuts across ideological, sectarian, ethnic and geographical groups, abiding and asserting itself in new and often curious ways, surprising the unwary and confounding only the inattentive.

PRESERVATION COPY

Abortion, School Prayer Issues Shuffle the Cards in the Senate

By Bill Peterson

Washington Post Staff Writer

The last two months were strange ones in this most conservative Senate in a quarter century.

Two moderate Republicans—both of them prickly mavericks—grabbed control of the Senate. They moved out in front of the better-known liberal Democrats in the Senate and filibustered the New Right into the ground on its two big issues of restricting abortion and promoting school prayer.

Behind these moderates was one of the unlikeliest senatorial lineups of all time, ranging from a backbench Democrat from Montana to a windy neo-conservative from New York to old "Mr. Conservative" himself, Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.).

The most formidable group lobbying on the moderates' side and against the prayer and abortion amendments was a fairly stuffy organization seldom heard on such explosive social subjects: the American Bar Association. And when the Senate voted on school prayer, the Moral Majority didn't show up.

The two moderate GOP filibuster leaders were Sens. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut, a fiesty and bombastic fellow unpopular among his colleagues, and Bob Packwood of Oregon, the independent-minded

chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Weicker became the dominant figure on the civil liberties side of the debate and showed himself to be a master of Senate rules; Packwood was the leader on abortion.

On the Democratic side, moreover, such familiar liberal figures as Sens. Edward M. Kennedy (Mass.) and Alan Cranston (Calif.) were rarely heard. Instead, the Democrats were led in the filibuster by Max Baucus (Mont.) and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (N.Y.). Their main opponent on the New Right side of the debate was Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

The filibuster tied up the Senate from Aug. 16 until Sept. 23. It was punctuated by 10 votes, none on abortion or prayer per se but rather on parliamentary questions—whether to limit debate, whether to table a pending amendment. Helms' forces won only one of these. Time after time, Republican moderates—such as Sens. Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (Md.), John Heinz (Pa.), Arlen Specter (Pa.) and John H. Chafee (R.I.)—joined Democratic liberals in beating back Helms.

Helms said the prayer and abortion votes should dispel the notion that the Senate is controlled by conservatives. There are no more than 35 solid conservatives in the body,

he said. "Republican it is," he said of the Senate, but "conservative it ain't."

But Helms also lacked united support among conservatives; such staunch ones as Sens. S. I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), Warren Rudman (R-N.H.) and Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) deserted him. His problem was that for many senators the issues at some point ceased to be abortion and prayer and became instead the Constitution.

The debate was not one of Republicans versus Democrats or liberals versus conservatives so much as the moderate center standing up for the Constitution against "the radical right." Two elements were key:

- "The Goldwater factor." The crusty Arizona Republican has no patience with the New Right or its attempts to legislate morality. His opposition to Helms made it possible for other conservatives to oppose him as well. "I am getting tired of hearing about the New Right. I am just an old fashioned conservative," he said at one news conference. "I don't like being called New Right. I'm just an old, old son of a bitch. I am a conservative."

- The ABA's role in the fight.

Helms' anti-abortion amendment declared the Supreme Court "erred" in its 1973 decision on abortion, and set up machinery for

quick Supreme Court reconsideration of the issue. His prayer amendment would have kept federal courts from overturning state laws allowing prayer in public schools.

The ABA leadership and such conservative constitutional scholars as Robert H. Bork, now a U.S. Court of Appeals judge, agreed with civil liberties groups that the proposals were attempts to strip federal courts of authority.

Letters from the ABA castigating Helms' proposals were entered into the Congressional Record during the long filibuster. In a body dominated by lawyers, they were potent stuff. Republican Specter, for example, is a former Philadelphia district attorney; Rudman a former New Hampshire attorney general; Gorton a former Washington attorney general. "I don't understand how any lawyer worth his salt could vote for amendments like these," said one senator, a lawyer. "They make a mockery of the Constitution."

Meanwhile, the coalition that the ABA had joined was gathering steam across the country. Called the Ad Hoc Coalition to Save the Federal Courts, it was formed in the winter of 1981, and has met at 2:30 p.m. almost every Monday ever since in Room 2141 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the home of the House Judiciary Committee.

The meetings are chaired by John Shattuck, the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington director. They included representatives of Common Cause, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, ABA, National Abortion Rights Action League, Planned Parenthood Federation, organized labor, National Organization for Women, the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, Jewish and Protestant religious groups, and others. They provided a skilled corps of lobbyists here and an army of thousands out in the field.

In essence, the group represented a rebirth of the old coalition that pushed for civil rights legislation in the 1960s. Ralph Neas, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, says its strategy was "to build as broad a coalition of Republicans, Democrats and conservatives as possible" and to "isolate the far right from the mainstream of the Republican Party."

Most of the same groups teamed up in the successful effort earlier this year to extend the Voting Rights Act. By the time the anti-abortion and school prayer fights reached the Senate floor, they were a well-oiled lobbying machine. Their opponents were in disarray. "We learned the other side was divided and not very sophisticated," says Shattuck of ACLU. "They really weren't very effective."

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Area Coordinators for School Prayer Day 1982

FROM: Sam Walker, Chairman, ph. (w)224-2766 or 2946, (h)751-5298, and
Sally Reed, Co-Chairman, ph. (w)546-3000, (h)241-

- I. OUTREACH COORDINATOR: Roy Jones, Moral Majority, ph. (w)484-7511
(h)971-1072
 - a. Local information chairman: Rebecca Secrist, ph. (w)484-7511
 - b. National information chairman: Gary Unger, ph. (w)(804)528-0070
 - c. Transportation/Housing chairman: Lisa Judson, ph. (w)484-7511
 - d. Ministerial Advisory Chairman: Rev. John Metcalfe
- II. CELEBRITIES COORDINATOR: Ken Cox, D.C. Firefighters Association,
ph. (w)635-5800 and 678-9765
(h)780-2462
 - a. Entertainment chairmen:
 1. Religious Leaders and Celebrities: Gary Jarman, Christian Voice
ph. (w)544-5202 (h)281-7378
 2. Musical Performers: Alan Pyles, Benjamin Berman Co.
ph. (w)621-1866 (h)248-2522
 - b. Legislative chairmen:
 1. House side: Dave Hoppe, Republican Whip's Office, ph. (w)225-0197
 2. Senate side: Jim Hinish, Senate Republican Policy Committee
ph. (w)224-2767 or 2946
- III. PROMOTIONAL COORDINATOR: Peter Gemma, National Pro-Life PAC
ph. (w)536-7650
 - a. Writing chairman: Carter Clews, Senate Republican Conference
ph. (w)224-3050
 - b. Print-up and send-out: Moral Majority

- IV. LOGISTICS COORDINATOR: Sam Pimm, Young Americans for Freedom
ph. (w) 450-5162, (h) 751-6778
- a. Permits: Sally Reed and I are taking care of this.
 - b. Sound Engineer: Bill Livingston, Senate Republican Conference
ph. (w) 224-2757 or 3050
(h) 354-3028
 - c. Decorations chairman: Jean Morrison, ph. (h) 560-6147
 - d. Comforts chairman: Jack Howard, Congressman Bob Walker's Office
ph. (w) 225-2411
- V. SECURITY COORDINATOR: Lilly Dollinger, College Republicans
ph. (w) 484-6527
- a. Assistant: Bob Lauterberg, House Republican Study Committee
ph. (w) 225-0587
- VI. PROPS COORDINATOR: Helen White, Senate Republican Steering Committee
ph. (w) 224-5597

Candle Lighting Ceremony - School Prayer 9-25-82
12:30 State Dining Room

Additional guest list:

Mrs. Jane Walker (703)759-5916
9412 Jeffrey Road
Great Falls, VA 22066

Secretary James Watt, Interior

Mr. Mark Caulk 543-6406
648 Independence Avenue S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Additional children:

Erick Messing 10-22-75 (invitation to Susan Messing you already have.
His sister Cami is one of the candle lighters)

Miss Natasha Shields, 8-18-74)
Master Kendrick Roff Shields 8-27-73) Invitation being sent to Mrs. Edith
Shields already on your list

Master Peter Fitzgerald (telephoned to you - coming with Mrs. Helen
June 30, 1973 Blackwell)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1982

MEETING WITH SCHOOL PRAYER DAY RALLY GROUP

DATE: September 25, 1982

LOCATION: State Dining Room

TIME: 12:30 p.m.

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole

I. PURPOSE:

To light the candles of three small public school children from which all those at the School Prayer Day Rally on the mall will light their candles.

II. BACKGROUND:

Project Prayer, the umbrella coalition of groups supporting voluntary school prayer, is having simultaneous rallies in each state and in D.C. These rallies will include candle lighting at dusk and the ringing of church bells. At the Mall the local group has obtained the original Alamo bell for their bell ringing. Keynote speaker will be Rev. James Robison and Pat Boone will be master of ceremonies.

Most speakers will explicitly support the President's proposed Constitutional Amendment for voluntary prayer in the schools.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

See guest list attached. Children whose candles the President will light are:
Christopher Clews, 8 grandson of Rev. Gordon Clews from Maryland
Senghor Shields, 8 (black - mother works for Paul Weyrich)
Miss Cami Messing, 8 (daughter of Andy Messing, Conservative Caucus)

IV. PRESS PLAN

Full press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

12:30 p.m. Guests will assemble in State Dining Room.
12:35 p.m. President enters and makes brief remarks.
12:40 p.m. President crosses platform to Military Aide who assists him in lighting his candle.
12:41 p.m. President comes down the steps and around the platform to stand in front of the three children on the platform. He will light the two boys' candles first and then Cami's.
12:43 p.m. President shakes hands of front row dignitaries and poses for photographs.
12:46 p.m. President departs.

SCHOOL PRAYER DAY 1982

721 Second Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

SAM WALKER, (202) 224-2766
Chairman

SALLY D. REED, (202) 546-3000
Co-Chairman

PETER GEMMA, (703) 536-7650
Promotional Coordinator

August 20, 1982

"Unless public pressure intensifies in this election year, the ... school prayer issue appears dead for now."

Phil Jones
CBS News
August 19, 1982

Dear Editor:

Phil Jones is right -- the school prayer issue is in serious danger of dying a dolorous death.

But, fortunately, public pressure is intensifying.

Recent polls from Gallup, Harris, and a host of others, indicate that a full 70 percent of the American people strongly support the right of children to voluntarily pray in public schools.

And now, to demonstrate that support -- thousands of concerned citizens are preparing to join hands and hearts at a mass rally in the Nation's Capitol. The rally, sponsored by a coalition of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish organizations, will be held on the Mall from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m., Saturday, September 25 -- "School Prayer Day, 1982."

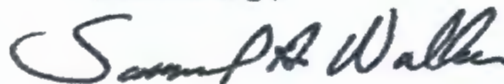
As events unfold in the days immediately ahead, we'll keep you informed of the latest developments. Suffice it to say, for now, that a full afternoon of musical entertainment will be followed by a keynote address and the symbolic lighting of candles and ringing of bells.

The bell-ringing ceremony -- scheduled for precisely 7:30 p.m. -- will be duplicated by similar ceremonies in cities and towns across the country.

The school prayer rally, it should be noted, is not an endorsement of specific legislation. It is simply a symbolic means of applying the "public pressure" needed to allow the American people once again to keep the scriptural charge, "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the number above.

Sincerely,



Sam Walker
Chairman

"LET FREEDOM RING!"



UPI photo

Reagan lights symbolic candles for School Prayer Day festivities as his wife looks on

Wants amendment

Reagan joins prayer fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Saturday decried the "drive to eliminate God" from the classroom and then lit three candles in support of voluntary prayer in public schools.

"No one is suggesting that others should be forced into any religious activity," said Reagan, urging the Senate to act on a constitutional amendment to allow prayer in schools.

"But to prevent those who believe in God from expressing their belief is an outrage. And the relentless drive to eliminate God from our schools can and should be stopped," he told about 50 people gathered in the State Dining Room.

"If the president of the United States can pray with others in the Oval Office — and I have on a number of occasions — then let's make certain that our children have the same right as they go about preparing for their futures and the future of this country," he said.

Asked when Reagan prays in the Oval Office, deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said he thought the president had once prayed with an anti-abortion group that visited him. Reagan very rarely attends Sunday church services.

The candles that Reagan lit were to be used Saturday during a rally near the Capitol for School Prayer Day.

Rep. Peter Peyser, who delivered the Democratic response to Reagan's weekly radio address, said the president appeared to be lighting candles for the wrong cause.

With preliminary reports from the Labor Department indicating that unemployment will exceed 10 percent in the month of September, I say that if any candles are lit, they should be lit for the unemployed," said Peyser, D-N.Y.

After talking to the rally participants in the State Dining Room, the president and his wife, Nancy, spent several minutes informally shaking hands and chatting with the audience, which included singer Pat Boone, former football player Rosie Grier, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., and the Rev. Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority.

Helms had led a long but unsuccessful Senate fight for school prayer legislation.

Speaking later at the rally of several hundred people on the Mall, the North Carolina Republican warned his liberal foes in Congress that "you ain't seen nothing yet" on the prayer issue.

"I have two messages for the liberals in the Senate and the liberals in the news media," Helms said. "First, I never consider it to be a defeat to have done the best I could to defend a just cause. And secondly . . . we'll be back to fight another day — and that day is not far off."

Falwell told reporters that on the school prayer issue as well as a constitutional amendment to ban abortion, "the question is not if we're going to win, it's only when. . . . We are on the winning side. The majority of people of this country are with us."

SCHOOL PRAYER DAY 1982

721 Second Street, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002

School Prayer Day
"LET FREEDOM RING!"

October 1, 1982

Sam Walker
(202) 224-2766
Chairman
Sally D. Reed
(202) 546-3000
Co-Chairman
Peter Gemma
(703) 536-7650
Promotional Coordinator

ADVISORY BOARD

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North Carolina
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Congressman Bob Walker
Pennsylvania
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Alabama
Connaught Marshner
Dr. Charles Moser
Paul Weyrich

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton,

I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of Sally and I, to thank you for obtaining President Reagan's participation in School Prayer Day 1982.

Although I couldn't be there myself, I understand that the ceremony was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and a fitting show of support by the President for School Prayer Day.

I am enclosing a letter to President Reagan thanking him for his participation and would appreciate it if you would send it through the proper channels.

Sally and I value your friendship, advice and cooperation very much, and look forward to the time when we can work together again.

Please thank Carolyn and Maiselle for their help.

Sincerely,

Sam

Sam Walker
Chairman

Sally Reed

Sally Reed
Co-chairman

*Dear Morton -
Thanks for all of
your "special attention".
God Bless you,
Sally*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1982

PARTICIPANTS

Miss Sally Reed of Virginia, Chairman

Rev. & Mrs. James Robison of Texas, National Prayer Committee

Mr. Pat Boone, Rally Master of Ceremonies

Mr. & Mrs. Roosevelt Grier, Rally Speaker

X Mrs. Karen Davis, Christian Women's National Concern

Mr. Peter Gemma, National Pro-Life & Overall Rally Coordinator

Dr. Jerry Falwell

Rabbi David Ben-Ami

Mrs. Connie Marshner, Pro-Family Coalition

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Weyrich & others

Secretary & Mrs. James Watt

Congressional Members who invited the President to the Rally:

Senator Orrin Hatch	(Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution)
Senator Jesse Helms	(S. 1742 Sponsor)
Senator Strom Thurmond	(S. 199 Sponsor)
Representative R. Beard	(H.R. 6957 Sponsor)
Representative Phil Crane	(H.R. 2347 Sponsor)
Representative T. Kindness	(H.R. 493 Sponsor)
Representative Robert Walker	(Amendment 202 to H.R. 4169 Sponsor)

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: Sept. 23, 1982

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

today
3:00 TomorrowFriday, Sept. 24, 1982SUBJECT: Draft Remarks: Candlelight Ceremony, School Prayer Day

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	FULLER	☒	☐
MEESE	☐	☒	GERGEN	☒	☐
BAKER	☐	☒	HARPER	☒	☐
DEAVER	☐	☒	JENKINS	☐	☐
STOCKMAN	☐	☐	MURPHY	☐	☐
CLARK	☐	☒	ROLLINS	☒	☐
DARMAN	☐ P	☒ SS	WILLIAMSON	☒	☐
DOLE	☒	☐	VON DAMM	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☒	☐	BRADY/SPEAKES	☐	☒
FELDSTEIN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	<u>Bakshian</u>	☐	☒

Remarks:

Please provide comments by 3:00 tomorrow directly to Aram Bakshian, with a copy to my office.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

(Rohrabacher/AB)
September 23, 1982
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY, SCHOOL PRAYER DAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 1982

I want to welcome each of you to the White House. Today, we gather together to draw attention to an issue that is as vital to the future of this country as any that we face. No one should doubt that economic and technological progress will have little impact unless the spirit of our people remains strong.

Calvin Coolidge, a President whom I greatly admire, once said: "The government of a country never gets ahead of the religion of a country."

Fostering the faith and character of our people is one of the great trusts of responsible leadership. I deeply believe that if those in government offer a good example, and if the people preserve the freedom which is their birthright as Americans, no one need fear the future.

Unfortunately, in the last two decades, we've experienced an ^{extended logic} onslaught of illogic under the banner of liberalism. It has turned things so topsy-turvy that if Alice were visiting America, she might think she'd never left Wonderland.

When it comes to the issue of God and the classroom, things ^{, as Alice observed,} just seem to be curiouser and curiouser. The original Supreme Court decision, which suggests it somehow violates the rights of others to permit students who desire to pray to do so, stretches logic to the breaking point. Clearly, this decision infringes on the freedom of those who choose to pray, a freedom taken for granted from the time of our Founding Fathers.

back into
legal dept
for
absolute
necessity

This would be bad enough, but the purge of God from our schools went much farther. In one case, a Federal court ruled ~~To uphold a principal's action against the right of children~~ ^{denying the} ~~against the right of children~~ ^{Kindergarten} in a school cafeteria to simply, voluntarily say grace before lunch. In another situation, a group of children, again on their own initiative and with their parents' approval, wanted to begin the school day with a minute of prayer and meditation. They too were prohibited from doing so. Students have even been prevented from having voluntary prayer groups on school property after class hours.

This is not what America is all about. No one is suggesting that others should be forced into any religious activity, but to prevent those who believe in God from expressing their faith is an outrage; and the relentless drive to eliminate God from our schools can and should be stopped.

This issue has brought people of goodwill, people of every faith, together to set the situation right. We believe that permitting voluntary prayer in public schools is within the finest traditions of this country and is consistent with the principles of American liberty. Neither the constitutional amendment I have endorsed, nor the legislative remedies offered by others, permits anyone to be coerced into religious activity. Instead, these measures are designed to protect the rights of those who choose to pray as well as those who choose not to.

I want to thank all of you, and all those who gather on the Capitol Mall this evening, for what you are doing on this vital issue. A special thanks to Senator Helms, Congressman Kindness, and Senator Thurmond for all they've done.

And today I'd like to take this opportunity to urge the Senate to move quickly on the constitutional amendment now awaiting action. But Senate action is not enough. Even now the liberal Democratic leadership in the House has the proposed constitutional amendment bottled up and has thus far failed to hold the appropriate hearings. I agree with the idea that we should keep religion out of politics, but the opposite is also true: Those in politics should keep their hands off of the religious freedom of our people and especially our children.

If you'll permit, I'd like to close with a personal note. Earlier, I quoted Calvin Coolidge. He had some other words I'd like to share with you. "It would be difficult for me to conceive," President Coolidge said, "of anyone being able to administer the duties of a great office like the Presidency without a belief in the guidance of a divine providence. Unless the President is sustained by an abiding faith in a divine power . . . I cannot understand how he would have the courage to attempt to meet the various problems that constantly pour in upon him from all parts of the Earth."

Having been President now for 20 months, I can tell you that I'm more convinced than ever of the truth of these words. Faith in God is a vital guidepost, a source of inspiration, and a pillar of strength in times of trial. In recognition of this, the Congress begins each day with a prayer -- and that is why we provide chaplains for our Armed Forces. We can and must respect the rights of those who are non-believers, *but we must not cut* ~~without cutting~~

ourselves off from this indispensable source of strength and guidance.

I think it would be a tragedy for us to deny our children what the rest of us in and out of government find so valuable. If the President of the United States can pray with others in the Oval Office -- as I have on many occasions -- then let's make certain that our children have the same right as they go about preparing for their futures and the future of this country. ,

And now I understand we are to light some candles.

Candle Lighting Ceremony - School Prayer 9-25-82
12:30 State Dining Room

Additional guest list:

Mrs. Jane Walker (703)759-5916
9412 Jeffrey Road
Great Falls, VA 22066

Secretary James Watt, Interior

Mr. Mark Caulk 543-6406
648 Independence Avenue S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Additional children:

Erick Messing 10-22-75 (invitation to Susan Messing you already have.
His sister Cami is one of the candle lighters)

Miss Natasha Shields, 8-18-74)
Master Kendrick Roff Shields 8-27-73) Invitation being sent to Mrs. Edith
Shields already on your list

Master Peter Fitzgerald (telephoned to you - coming with Mrs. Helen
June 30, 1973 Blackwell)



"LET FREEDOM RING!"

721 Second Street, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002

August 31, 1982

Sam Walker
(202) 224-2766
Chairman
Sally D. Reed
(202) 546-3000
Co-Chairman
Peter Gemma
(703) 536-7650
Promotional Coordinator

ADVISORY BOARD

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Senator Orrin Hatch
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Congressman Tom Kindness
Ohio
Congressman Bob Walker
Pennsylvania
Dr. Jerry Falwell
Dr. Ronald S. Godwin
Governor Fob James
Alabama
Connaught Marshner
Dr. Charles Moser
Paul Weyrich

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant
to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

The location for "School Prayer Day, 1982" on Saturday, September 25th, has now been finalized.

A stage will be set up on the west side of 3rd Street on the Washington Mall, facing west, with the west front of the Capitol as a backdrop. The crowd will assemble in front of that stage. I have arranged with the Park Service for the Mall to be reserved all the way to 14th Street.

This location secures three advantages for us:

1) We can use 3rd Street for loading and unloading of people and equipment; 2) We can still have a candle-lighting ceremony. Lighted candles are not allowed on the west steps of the Capitol; and 3) We can have trucks or platforms in this area for our bells. There was some doubt about whether this could be done on the west steps.

Since our program will be several hours long and people will probably bring blankets, coolers, etc., we have decided that a candle-light march is asking a bit too much. Therefore we will have a candle-lighting ceremony instead, and ringing of bells as was originally planned.

I believe the change of location and option of a candle-lighting ceremony instead of a march simplify the logistics of the event while retaining its symbolic quality.

Should the President decide to honor us by delivering the keynote address for "School Prayer Day," he will speak between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. Sunset on September 25th

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1982

August 31, 1982
Page 2

occurs at precisely 7:01 p.m., at which point, if he wishes, he can light the first candle for our ceremony.

Once again, should the President wish to speak at "School Prayer Day," but can only do so on the west steps of the Capitol due to problems with security, we will change back to that location. We still have a permit for that area from the Capitol Police.

The "School Prayer Day" Committee is now in the process of putting together a program of speakers and entertainers which will do justice to the importance of the school prayer issue.

We have commitments from four religious musical groups for our afternoon program and more are forthcoming.

We have as confirmed speakers the Rev. James Robison, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, and Dr. David Ben Ami. We are currently in touch with Pat Boone through Congressman Robert K. Dornan, with the Rev. Billy Graham through Senator Jesse Helms, with Pat Robertson at CBN, and are pursuing contacts with the Catholic and black religious communities. We should have speakers confirmed from these last two groups within a few days, and will let you know our progress on those now in the works.

Please let the President know how deeply honored the "School Prayer Day" Committee, the sponsors of "School Prayer Day," the religious groups lending their help and support, and the American people as a whole would be to have him join his voice with theirs on September 25th.

The groundswell of support in America for school prayer represents a victory just waiting for those who honor God in their hearts to reach out and win. With the President's help, I believe we can achieve that goal.

Please thank him for his consideration.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Samuel A. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Samuel" and last name "Walker" clearly distinguishable.

Samuel A. Walker
Chairman

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PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, CARE MORTON BLACKWELL SPECIAL ASST TO
THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

PAGE 2

JOHN C. WEBB

PAUL WEYRICH

LANEIL S. WRIGHT

WORLD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

WORLD VISION

PROJECT PRAYER

SAM WALKER AND SALLY REED--CO-CHAIRMEN OF SCHOOL PRAYER DAY

1982--"LET FREEDOM RING"

THOSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE LISTED DIRECTLY UNDER NAMES ARE FOR I.D.
PURPOSES ONLY

NNNN

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2025463000 TDMT WASHINGTON DC 684 08-16 1102A EST

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, CARE MORTON BLACKWELL SPECIAL ASST TO
THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

AUGUST 16 1982

DEAR PRESIDENT REAGAN

IN JUST A FEW SHORT WEEKS CONGRESS WILL DECIDE THE MOMENTOUS AND FAR
REACHING ISSUE OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOL PRAYER THOSE OF US WHO ARE
COMMITTED AS YOU ARE TO DEFEND THE RIGHT OF AMERICAN CHILDREN TO
VOLUNTARILY OFFER THANKS TO THEIR CREATOR WILL PRESS THE SENATE AND
HOUSE FOR A FINAL VOTE. TO INSURE THAT THAT VOTE IS SUCCESSFUL
HOWEVER WE NEED YOUR HELP WE RESPECTFULLY ASK MR. PRESIDENT THAT YOU
STAND WITH US ON SEPTEMBER 25 1982 AS WE GO TO OBSERVE A SPECIAL
PRAYER DAY VIGIL ON THE STEPS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL WE THE

UNDERSIGNED TOGETHER WITH MANY OF OUR COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN WITH
COMMUNITY AND STATE LEADERS, NOTED PERSONALITIES AND ENTERTAINERS,
RESPECTED CLERGYMEN, SCHOLARS AND JURISTS FOR A SERIES OF SPECIAL
EVENTS BEGINNING AT 3PM DESIGNED TO "LET FREEDOM RING". AT 630PM WE
AND THE SCHOOL PRAYER DAY 1982 PARTICIPANTS WILL ASSEMBLE AT THE WEST
FRONT OF THE CAPITOL FOR A KEYNOTE ADDRESS. WE WOULD LIKE FOR YOU MR.
PRESIDENT TO HONOR US BY GIVING THAT KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND BY LIGHTING
THE FIRST CANDLE OF THE EVENING. FOLLOWING THE ADDRESS AND SPECIAL
PRAYERS WE WILL LEAD A CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION TO THE AREA ACROSS FROM
THE SUPREME COURT AND THERE AT 730PM WE WILL ETERNALLY "LET FREEDOM
RING" BY RINGING A LARGE BELL SYMBOLIC OF THE TRADITIONAL HARMONY
BETWEEN AMERICA'S SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES. THIS BELL RINGING WILL BE
SYNCHRONIZED WITH BELL RINGING EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.
THEODORE ROOSEVELT ONCE CALLED THE PRESIDENCY "A BULLY PULPIT". WITH

DEEP ADMIRATION FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP WE ASK YOU MR. PRESIDENT TO USE
THAT PULPIT ONCE AGAIN NEXT MONTH AND HELP US SECURE FOR OUR CHILDREN
THAT GOD GIVENRIGHT OF PRAYER THAT IS AMERICA'S HERITAGE.

ACT MINISTRIES INCORPORATED

DR. JOHN ALEXANDER

PRESIDENT OF INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN CAUSE

AMERICANS FOR GOD

AMERICAN FORUM FOR JEWISH CHRISTIAN COOPERATION

AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS

AMERICAN LIFE LOBBY

REVEREND CLAUD LOGAN ASBURY

DR. BEN ARMSTRONG

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS

REVEREND RAYMOND W. BARBER

VERNON L. BARR

PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN BAPTISTS ASSOCIATION

MR. GEORGE BENSON

AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

REVEREND JAMES BRENN

CHAPLAIN FOR WASHINGTON REDSKINS

MRS. VONETTE V. BRIGHT

DR. B. ROBERT BISCOE

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

REVEREND WILLIAM P. BRINK

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

PASTOR FLETCHER BROTHERS

JOHN R. BRUEHL

MRS. HILL MCALLISTER BURCH

CATHOLICS FOR CHRISTIAN POLITICAL ACTION

THE CHRISTIAN INQUIRER

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CORPORATION

CHRISTIAN VOICE

CHRISTIAN VOICE MORAL GOVERNMENT FUND

CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS

CONSERVATIVE VICTORIES FUND

COMMITTEE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF A FREE CONGRESS

COALITION FOR AMERICA

MR. RICHARD FORD

ENTERPRISE CONSULTANTS

DR. JAMES DOBSON

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

DALE EVANS AND ROY ROGERS

TED W. ENGSTROM AND WORLD VISION

FAITH MINISTRIES

FAMILY AND FREEDOM FOUNDATION

FAMILY LIFE SEMINARS

FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN AMERICA

PASTOR MELS GARBONELL

PETER B. GEMMA JR.

NATIONAL PRO LIFE PAC

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMENS CLUBS

VERNIE R. GLASSON

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

DR. ROBERT GRANT

RICHARD HEADRICK

ROBERT LINCOLN HANCOCK AND WORLD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

ROBERT HECKMAN

YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM

JOANNE KING HERRING

HERRING STONE PRODUCTIONS

REVEREND MORTON A. HILL

MORALITY IN MEDIA

IOWA CONSERVATIVE UNION

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

DR. B. EDGAR JOHNSON

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

GEORGE B. JONES

KENTUCKY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

KIM MINISTRIES

LEADERSHIP ACTION

REVEREND AND MRS TIM LAHAYE

LIFE ACTION MINISTRIES

LIFE AMENDMENT PAC

REVEREND RON MAAR

MARANATHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES

MARYLAND FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC LAITY

MARYLAND INTERFAITH COMMUNITY TO RESTORE OPTIONAL SCHOOL PRAYER

MIDAMERICA CONSERVATIVE PAC

REVEREND JERRY FALWELL AND MORAL MAJORITY INC.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENIOR CITIZENS

NATIONAL BACK TO GOD

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ACTION COALITION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS
COMMISSIONER JOHN D NEEDHAM OF THE SALVATION ARMY
REVEREND WILLIAM W PENNELL

HOWARD PHILLIPS

DR WILLIAM POWELL

PROTECT AMERICA'S CHILDREN

THE RIGHT WOMAN

RON ROBISON OF YOUNG AMERICA FOUNDATION

FAMILY AMERICA

ED ROWE OF ROUNDTABLE ISSUES AND ANSWERS

MRS LORRAINE SIMMS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA PRO FAMILY FORUM

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION INC.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS FELLOWSHIP

REVEREND DAVIS E. SCHOCH

BETHANY MISSION ASSOCIATION

SOUTHERN BAPTIST JOURNAL

TAXPAYERS EDUCATION LOBBY

KATHY TAGUE OF ALEC

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

TRINITY COMMUNICATORS

TWIN VILLAGE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

END PART ONE

NNNN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/25/82

Children whose candles were lit
by the President and their public schools

Christopher Clews
Franklin Middle School
Reisterstown, Md.

Senghor Shields
Nelson E. Weatherless, D. C.

Cami Messing
Waynewood Elementary
Alexandria

Amy Thompson
Freshman, Mt. Vernon High School
Mt. Vernon, VA

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1982

MEETING WITH SCHOOL PRAYER DAY RALLY GROUP

DATE: September 25, 1982

LOCATION: State Dining Room

TIME: 12:30 p.m.

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole

I. PURPOSE:

To light the candles of three small public school children from which all those at the School Prayer Day Rally on the mall will light their candles.

II. BACKGROUND:

Project Prayer, the umbrella coalition of groups supporting voluntary school prayer, is having simultaneous rallies in each state and in D.C. These rallies will include candle lighting at dusk and the ringing of church bells. At the Mall the local group has obtained the original Alamo bell for their bell ringing. Keynote speaker will be Rev. James Robison and Pat Boone will be master of ceremonies.

Most speakers will explicitly support the President's proposed Constitutional Amendment for voluntary prayer in the schools.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

See guest list attached. Children whose candles the President will light are:
Christopher Clews, 8 grandson of Rev. Gordon Clews from Maryland
Senghor Shields, 8 (black - mother works for Paul Weyrich)
Miss Cami Messing, 8 (daughter of Andy Messing, Conservative Caucus)

IV. PRESS PLAN

Full press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

12:30 p.m. Guests will assemble in State Dining Room.
12:35 p.m. President enters and makes brief remarks.
12:40 p.m. President crosses platform to Military Aide who assists him in lighting his candle.
12:41 p.m. President comes down the steps and around the platform to stand in front of the three children on the platform. He will light the two boys' candles first and then Cami's.
12:43 p.m. President shakes hands of front row dignitaries and poses for photographs.
12:46 p.m. President departs.