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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

KDB 9/5/2006

File Folder PRAYER IN SCHOOLS (11)

FOIA

F05-0103/01

Box Number 9086

HABERMAN

5

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	LIST	RE CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY (PAGE 2, PARTIAL)	1	9/24/1982	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

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B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233
Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Blackwell, Morton C.: Files
OA/Box: 9086 *9081*
File Folder: Prayer in Schools (11)

Archivist: kdb
FOIA ID: F05-103/1, Haberman
Date: 4/9/07

gtm 4/30/08

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
A. memo	Blackwell and Stephen Galebach to Faith Whittlesey and Edwin Harper <u>re school prayer (w/notations), 5p</u>	5/16/83 <i>20</i>	<i>Good</i> <i>07/31/2009</i> <i>J</i>

*School
Prayer*

Bellvue

BAPTIST CHURCH

70 NORTH BELLEVUE BOULEVARD
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104

ADRIAN ROGERS
PASTOR

July 13, 1982

Mr. Morton Blackwell
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Morton:

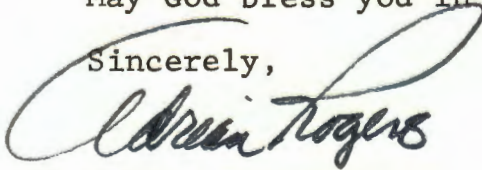
I am sending you the article by Stan Hasteley that I promised. Stan Hasteley is the writer for the Washington Bureau of the Baptist Press. I am not sure of his address, but your secretary can find it or he can be addressed at the headquarters of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

I don't believe that there is anything in this article that really needs an answer except that you should make it very clear to Mr. Hasteley if you wish that you did not ask Ed McAteer to seek a resolution proposing the amendment if indeed you did not. In my own personal opinion there would have been nothing wrong had you done this but some would like to make it appear that the White House is somehow interfering in a particular meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. They are poor losers and are trying to stir up a little tempest in the teapot. I really don't think much will come of it anyhow.

Believe me when I tell you that the rank and file of Southern Baptists are solidly behind the Prayer Amendment proposed by the President.

May God bless you in all that you do.

Sincerely,



Adrian Rogers

lg

Enc.

White House Backed Prayer Amendment Bid

BY STAN HASTEY

Washington Bureau, Baptist Press

An aide to President Reagan has confirmed that New Right leader Edward E. McAteer received White House encouragement to work for Southern Baptist Convention support of a constitutional amendment on school prayer.

Morton C. Blackwell, special assistant to the president, told Baptist Press that he and McAteer confer regularly and consulted before the New Orleans meeting. During that conversation, Blackwell said, McAteer predicted the SBC would endorse the prayer amendment.

Blackwell, whose primary duty is to line up support for Reagan policies as White House liaison to Christian and other religious groups and the conservative political organizations, told Baptist Press: "I thanked him very cordially."

SOME OBSERVERS feel Resolution 9, in which messengers to the 1982 meeting declared "Our support of the . . . proposed constitutional amendment" is a reversal of previous SBC action. In 1980, messengers adopted a resolution which pointed out the Supreme Court "had not held that it is illegal for any individual to pray or read his

or her Bible in public schools" and recorded "opposition to attempts, either by law or by other means to circumvent the Supreme Court's decision forbidding government-authored or sponsored religious exercises in public schools . . ."

In an interview immediately following the convention, McAteer told Baptist Press a White House official, presumably Blackwell, called him two weeks before the New Orleans meeting, asking him if the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs would seek a resolution opposing the amendment and, if it did, to help deliver a resolution of support.

MCATEER is founder and president of Religious Roundtable, an organization formed three years ago to work for New Right causes and support the candidacy of Ronald Reagan for president. He is a member of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn.

McAteer declared of the resolution supporting the prayer amendment, "God intervened here today."

He said the three-to-one vote approving the proposed amendment was due primarily to the oratorical skills of a pair of prominent pastors who urged passage during con-

vention debate. Charles Stanley of First Church, Atlanta, and Morris Chapman of First Church, Wichita Falls, "carried the day," McAteer said.

ALTHOUGH McAteer did not speak during the debate on the prayer resolution, he played a major role in shepherding it through the Resolutions Committee, frequently advising committee chairman Norris W. Sydnor Jr., a Religious Roundtable leader in Maryland, and monitoring the panel's proceedings throughout the nearly 25 hours of committee deliberations. The vote within the committee to report out favorably the prayer resolution was nine to one. McAteer repeatedly offered suggestions on the platform to Sydnor and other committee members.

McAteer also said he did not regret the convention's refusal to go along with a separate resolution proposed by the committee to censure Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn for criticizing Reagan's proposal. The resolution was tabled.

"I'd like to impact the man (Dunn) for good," McAteer said. "I'm not for overkill." He said he is eager to give Dunn a new chance, if he will "repent." (BP)

*aptist Standard, Dallas, TX
July 7, 1982*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
May 20, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
EDWIN L. HARPER

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL
STEPHEN H. GALEBACH

SUBJECT: School Prayer

As you requested, we have investigated the situation on Capitol Hill and among our supporters on the issue of school prayer, and have come up with a strategy for advancing the President's program.

We believe the best course is exactly what the President has already endorsed: the school prayer amendment plus an equal access bill. We need to act, however, to keep these proposals on track in the Senate Judiciary Committee and build up momentum for a floor vote on each.

We are seeking to have Senator Hatch postpone the markup he had scheduled for today, so that we have time to influence the course of events (we are working with Bob Kabel in this regard); but we will need to decide early next week what result we want to emerge from Judiciary.

I. Background

Senator Thurmond is ready to move quickly on the school prayer issue. For a successful outcome in the Judiciary Committee, however, we need to exert some quiet but firm leadership.

Early this month, the Judiciary Committee completed hearings on school prayer, both on the President's amendment and on the "equal access" approach that the President endorsed at the NAE convention. The hearings on equal access got especially good play in the press, with prominent quotes from high school students who testified about discrimination in public schools against religious students who try to meet at their own initiative on the same terms as other students. Typical was Bonnie Bailey of Lubbock, Texas, saying the courts view her as mature enough to get an abortion or use contraceptives without her parents knowing, but somehow she's not considered mature enough to read the Bible or pray together with her fellow students. In the wake of these hearings, we have a basis for successful action on equal access.

At the same time, Christian groups are gearing up to boost the President's school prayer amendment. We still need to overcome a widespread sense that politicians are not really going to push the amendment. But we can certainly do this with a modicum of effort.

Several lobbyists for religious groups had been pushing alternative ideas for amendments different from the President's -- e.g., allowing only "non-sectarian" prayer, allowing only prayers not drafted by state legislatures, allowing only prayers in which the form and content is not influenced by government, etc. -- but each of these groups, when we contacted them, said they want to get behind the President's version if we push it. Each of the proposed alternatives, by the way, creates more problems than it solves; the drafting of our amendment appears to be the best we can come up with.

The major problem we face at this point is a proposal for an alternative amendment by Steve Markman, the Judiciary Committee staffer who has had the lead thus far on this issue. He has been pushing within the Committee, apparently with Senator Hatch's backing, for an amendment that would provide only for a minute of silence and for equal access for all student groups. If this amendment is reported out of the Subcommittee on the Constitution instead of the President's amendment, it would bring our school prayer efforts to an embarrassing halt, since:

- o Few of our supporters on this issue want to go to the great pains of enacting a constitutional amendment that will only give them the right to be silent.
- o The Supreme Court has never said that a minute of silence or equal access is unconstitutional in the first place.
- o We can gain a big victory on the equal access issue if it is approached by statute, but placing the concept into an amendment merely plays into the argument of the ACLU that we need an amendment to make equal access constitutional.

We do not know of any group that supports Markman's amendment over the President's, but the possibility cannot be dismissed that many Senators would go for it as an "easy out" if we do not inform them clearly that it is not an acceptable replacement for the President's amendment.

II. Options

Option 1 -- Do nothing.

ADVANTAGES

- o Avoids possible criticism for anything positive we might do.

DISADVANTAGES

- o Without Presidential leadership, our constituency groups will probably split over various possible courses of action, leading to disenchantment, frustration, and lack of support for us in 1984.
- o To stand back while the Constitution Subcommittee or the full Judiciary Committee reports out an amendment unacceptable to school prayer advocates, would not serve the President's announced goals.

Option 2 -- Inform Senator Thurmond and Senator Hatch that we want our version of the school prayer amendment, plus an equal access bill, reported out of Judiciary Committee.

ADVANTAGES

- o Our version of the amendment promises the maximum possible unity among pro-prayer groups.
- o If we push for an up-down vote on the President's amendment, and we have a good effort from the groups that support us, we should be able to win a majority in the Judiciary Committee (we are working along with Bob Kabel to get a definitive assessment).
- o Pushing the equal access bill out of committee immediately after the amendment gives our supporters an ideal opportunity to mount public pressure and cast the issue in the most favorable possible terms; an equal access bill would highlight the worst forms of discrimination against religious expression by students, call attention to the unpopular extremes to which the ACLU has gone in these cases, and give people a chance to accomplish something quickly which is of major importance to all the religious ministries in which public school students are involved (e.g., Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, Maranatha, Campus Crusade, etc. -- not to mention groups such as St. Thomas Moore clubs and Hillel clubs that are active in colleges and could be in high schools if equal access became a reality).

- o We are already cooperating with religious media to call attention to discriminations against religious speech; a legislative battle over both amendment and equal access bill would give a renewed opportunity to mobilize elements of our coalition that have declined in activism since 1980.
- o Major religious broadcasters who support school prayer have told us they will support this course of action and rally their people behind it.

DISADVANTAGES

- o We should not get caught in the middle over differences concerning details of an equal access bill -- Hatfield and Denton have introduced differing versions -- but we can avoid this problem by simply asking Judiciary to report out an equal access bill, without mandating which one.
- o While a positive Administration effort for the President's amendment and an equal access bill will mobilize our supporters, it will also bring louder criticism from our detractors -- polls indicate, however, that there is far more potential gain than loss in this issue.

Option 3 -- Push for school prayer amendment only, or equal access bill only.

ADVANTAGES

- o Equal access bill appears more passable -- BUT our supporter groups would be very disappointed if we backed off from an amendment, and the President has clearly stated his intention not to do so.
- o Some New Right theoreticians have at times favored the amendment only approach, fearing that equal access gives moderates too easy a safe base to jump to -- BUT our supporter groups now feel, by and large, that equal access is a tremendous opportunity to build moral indignation and activism among those who favor freedom of religious expression, and that a buildup of publicity on the equal access issue will help efforts for the prayer amendment.

DISADVANTAGES

- o We lose flexibility by picking one or the other measure at this point -- we can always push both measures for now, and make tactical judgments further down the road on which measure to bring up for a floor vote, and when.

III. Conclusion

Option 2 appears far the best. To accomplish it successfully, we need to:

- o Ask Senator Hatch to postpone the markup scheduled for this Friday.
- o Send a letter from the President to Senator Thurmond and another to Senator Hatch, requesting that the Judiciary Committee mark up and promptly approve the President's prayer amendment, as presently worded, and an equal access bill. (Draft letter is attached.)
- o Continue working with Senate staffers on the Judiciary Committee to ensure a favorable vote on each measure (Bob Kabel has been working with Steve Galebach on this).
- o Continue coordinating with pro-prayer groups in their communications efforts on this issue (Gary Bauer is already helping on this -- his letter to local newspapers concerning the Bristol prayer case was a big hit).
- o Send letters to key members in House:
 - Carl Perkins, asking him to hold hearings on equal access approach. (The equal access bill introduced by Lott, Kemp, Hyde, and Dannemeyer was referred to Education and Labor.)
 - Don Edwards, asking him to hold hearings on our constitutional amendment.
 - Republican sponsors of House equal access bill, listed above, commending them for their efforts and urging quick floor action.
 - Bob Michel, asking his support and assistance.

May 18, 1983

Dear Strom:

I want to express my appreciation for the fine hearings you have held on the school prayer issue, both on the constitutional amendment I transmitted to Congress and on the equal access statutory approach. You have successfully framed this issue for the American people by calling attention to disturbing instances of discrimination against religious forms of student expression in our public schools.

I would like to request that you take advantage of the excellent record built by your hearings and report out of committee both approaches: our constitutional amendment to restore the ability of schools and other public institutions to allow individual and group prayer, and a bill to guarantee equal access and non-discrimination for religious student groups in federally assisted public schools.

As you know, various changes have been suggested for our amendment, such as limiting prayers to those that are "non-sectarian" and placing constitutional restrictions on the ability of governmental authorities to influence the form or content of prayers. While these ideas reflect legitimate concerns that will have to be addressed by states and localities after enactment of our amendment, I hope we can avoid getting federal courts into the business of deciding what is a "non-sectarian" prayer.

Further, I would not like to see any additional constitutional limitations on state, local, and federal governmental authorities that might call into question the legitimacy of the chaplains in our armed services, the chaplain of the Senate and House, or the invocations that are often provided at the behest of governmental authorities such as the Supreme Court at the opening of its sessions. Federal prohibition of school authority influence on the "form or content" of religious expression at public schools would endanger the desirable and currently widespread practice of inviting clergy to give invocations and benedictions at graduations, school assemblies, and other school-related events.

As for an equal access bill, I value your judgment and the assessments of your committee members on the best way to frame a bill along the general lines of those proposed by Senators Denton and Hatfield. I believe a statute can go far to ensure that federally assisted public schools not discriminate against religious student groups while routinely permitting all sorts of other groups to meet. Last week's federal court decision in favor of a religious student group that had been denied the right to meet in a Pennsylvania high school confirms that nothing in the Constitution prevents an even-handed policy of equal access for religious and non-religious groups.

We should, in any event, not do anything to support the argument heard from some quarters that only a constitutional amendment can legitimize equal access, or that only silent prayer is appropriate in public schools.

I hope that both our school prayer amendment and an equal access bill can be voted quickly out of committee, and that a floor vote in the Senate can be held as soon as possible after Labor Day, giving ample time for public discussion and expression of citizens' views to their representatives, before a national decision is made on this most important matter.

Thank you for your commitment and assistance in helping to restore voluntary religious expression to our public schools.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

STROM THURMOND
SOUTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

for paper file

IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEND
THE ENCLOSED MATERIAL
IN RESPONSE TO YOUR
RECENT REQUEST

Strom Thurmond

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 73

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to voluntary school prayer.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24 (legislative day, MARCH 21), 1983

Mr. THURMOND (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CHILES, Mr. ABDNOR, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. HELMS) (by request) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to voluntary school prayer.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the following article is hereby proposed as an amend-
4 ment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be
5 valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution if
6 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
7 States within seven years from the date of its submission to
8 the States by the Congress:

“ARTICLE —

2 “Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to pro-
3 hibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other
4 public institutions. No person shall be required by the United
5 States or by any State to participate in prayer.”.



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○

PRAYER AMENDMENT

file
School
Prayer.

Section 1. Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group silent prayer or meditation in public schools. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to participate in such prayer or meditation, nor shall they encourage any particular form of prayer or meditation.

Section 2. Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit equal access to the use of public school facilities by all voluntary student groups.

Legitimate relationships

— speech is forbidden

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: Dee Jepsen

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 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 will be lit are: Master Christopher Clews, grandson of Rev. Carter Clews from Maryland Master Senghor Shields (black and has a terminal form of cancer mother works for Paul Weyrich) Miss Cami Messing (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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
September 24, 1982

MEETING WITH SCHOOL PRAYER DAY ORGANIZERS

DATE: September 25, 1982
LOCATION: State Dining Room
TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.
FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

I. PURPOSE:

Since an earlier schedule commitment precludes your attendance at the School Prayer Day Rally on the Mall this evening, you agreed to hold a brief ceremony at the White House to light the candles of three young public school children. It is from these three candles that all those attending the evening's School Prayer Day Rally on the Mall will light their candles at 7:00 p.m. This same candlelighting ceremony will be replicated in the 50 States.

II. BACKGROUND:

Project Prayer, the umbrella coalition of groups supporting voluntary school prayer, is sponsoring simultaneous rallies in each state and the District. The theme of the nationwide rallies is "Let Freedom Ring." These rallies will include candle lighting at dusk as well as the ringing of church bells. For the Mall ceremony, the local group has obtained the original Alamo bell for their use. The local keynote speaker will be Reverend James Robison and Pat Boone will be Master of Ceremonies.

Virtually all speakers support your proposed Constitutional Amendment for voluntary prayer in the schools. Your involvement in this activity, coming immediately on the heels of the Helms defeat, means a great deal to supporters of school prayer.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

The eight-year old children, who will be on the dais with candles are: Master Christopher Clews of Maryland, Master Senghor Shields of the District and Miss Cami Messing of Virginia, and event organizers and their families. (See attached list of key invitees - not all have accepted. Total attendance to be 60, 15 of whom will be children.)

IV. PRESS PLAN:

Full press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

12:30 p.m. You enter the State Dining Room and proceed to the podium to offer brief remarks.

12:35 p.m. Remarks conclude.

You will be given a taper, which you hold while it is lighted.

On the taper being lighted, you move to each of the school children on the dais and light the candle they will be holding.

12:37 p.m. Upon lighting the third candle, the taper will be taken from you and you greet the other children and guests in attendance on departure.

12:45 p.m. You depart State Dining Room.

-
Attachment

List of Participants

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1982

f Sally Reed
Mr. Sam Walker, Co-Chairman
School Prayer Day 1982
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sam:

I want to express heartfelt thanks for the excellent job you did organizing School Prayer Day. You made a great effort for the rally on the Mall, and your cooperation made the President's candle lighting ceremony in the White House a success.

The President really enjoyed the candle lighting ceremony.

Although I had a long standing commitment to be with my parents in Louisiana that weekend, my wife and son did attend the rally. The program was superb. I urge you to ignore carping by those who have been pleased to criticize the rally throughout.

In my judgment it was absolutely vital this year to have highly visible, public endorsements of restoring voluntary prayer in our schools. The polls all indicate massive public support for voluntary prayer, but without efforts by you and the many who worked with you, we might not sustain the momentum of public opinion on this issue.

You can imagine my delight after School Prayer Day when I saw highly constructive, national wire service stories about your efforts in both the New Orleans and Baton Rouge newspapers. We must not worry too much about the D. C. coverage. People all over the country got the right message.

Liberals are engaged in a steady drumbeat on this issue. The President refers to this as part of a relentless drive against God. Eventually we will prevail on this issue. The war will be won.

Perhaps most significantly, we are strengthened by each battle, and the opposition is weakened. I look forward to carrying on the fight as your strong ally in future battles.

Cordially,

Morton

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

KDB 9/5/2006

File Folder

PRAYER IN SCHOOLS (11)

FOIA

F05-0103/01

HABERMAN

Box Number

9086

5

DOC Document Type

No of Doc Date Restriction

NO Document Description

pages

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1 LIST

1 9/24/1982 B6

RE CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY (PAGE 2,
PARTIAL)

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

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)

REPORT DATE: 24 SEP 1982

RSVP (alphabetic) LIST OF NAMES

FOR EVENT: CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

NAME	A/R	DOB	SSN	PHONE
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CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY
Saturday, September 25, 1982
12:30 pm/SW Gate/Telegram
Contact Social Office x7787
THE PRESIDENT

Alexander, Dan (Mr.)	A			
----------------------	---	--	--	--

Baker, James A. III (Hon.)	R			
----------------------------	---	--	--	--

Ben-Ami, Rabbi David	A			
----------------------	---	--	--	--

BARBER Robert				
Blackwell, Helen (Mrs.)	A			

Blackwell, William (Master)	A			
GUEST OF: Blackwell, Helen (Mrs.)				

Boone, Pat (Mr.)	A			
------------------	---	--	--	--

Bull, Christa (Miss)	A			
MR & MRS DACE (NORMA)				

Bush, Vice President George	R			
-----------------------------	---	--	--	--

Caulk, Mark (Mr.)	A			
-------------------	---	--	--	--

Clark, William P. (Hon.)				
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Clews, Christopher (Master)	A			
GUEST OF: Clews, Gordon (Rev.)				

MR & MRS VINCENT Clews (NARDA)				
Clews, Gordon (Mrs.)	A			
GUEST OF: Clews, Gordon (Rev.)				

Clews, Gordon (Rev.)	A			
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Corson, Stewart (Mr.)	A			
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REPORT DATE: 24 SEP 1982

cl0925al

RSVP (alphabetic) LIST OF NAMES

FOR EVENT: CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

NAME	A/R	DOB	SSN	PHONE
Davis, Karen (Mrs.) <i>Callen?</i>	(A)			
Deaver, Michael K. (Hon.)	A			
Dollinger, Lilli (Miss)	R			
Falwell, Jerry (Dr.)	A			
Fitzgerald, Peter (Master) GUEST OF: Blackwell, Helen (Mrs.)	A			
Gemma, Peter (Mr.)	A			
Goodman, Howard (Mr.)	A	11/9/21		
Goodman, Howard (Mrs.) GUEST OF: Goodman, Howard (Mr.) <i>Vestal</i>	A	12/13/29		
Grier, Roosevelt (Mr.)	A			REDACTED 66
Harris, Bennie (Rev.)	A			
<i>Heerspink David</i>				
Major, Suzanne (Miss)	A			
Marshner, Connaught (Mrs.)	(A)			
Marshner, Michael (Master) GUEST OF: Marshner, Connaught (Mrs.)	(A)			
Marshner, Pierce (Master) GUEST OF: Marshner, Connaught (Mrs.)	(A)			
McGuill, Father Martin	(A)			
Meese, Edwin III (Hon.)				

REPORT DATE: 24 SEP 1982

c10925a1

RSVP (alphabetic) LIST OF NAMES

FOR EVENT: CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

NAME	A/R	DOB	SSN	PHONE
Messing, Cami (Miss)	A			
GUEST OF: Messing, Susanne (Mrs.)				
Messing, Erick (Master)	A			
GUEST OF: Messing, Susanne (Mrs.)				
Messing, Frederick (Mr.)	A			
GUEST OF: Messing, Susanne (Mrs.)				
Messing, Susanne (Mrs.)	A			
Reed, Sally (Miss)	(A)			
Robison, James (Mrs.)	A			
GUEST OF: Robison, James (Rev.)				
Robison, James (Rev.)	A			
Shields, Edith (Mrs.)	A			
Shields, Kendrick Roff (Master)	A			
GUEST OF: Shields, Edith (Mrs.)				
Shields, Natasha (Miss)	A			
GUEST OF: Shields, Edith (Mrs.)				
Shields, Senghor (Master)	(A)			
GUEST OF: Shields, Edith (Mrs.)				
Skousen, Cleon (Dr.)	(A)			
Sparrow, Cleveland (Rev.)	A			
Sundseth, Victor (Mr.)	(A)			
T. Thompson Dick Sean Amy Sean				
Volens, Stan (Mr.)	(A)			
Walker, (Mr.) Bob	(A)			
GUEST OF: Walker, Jane (Mrs.)				

REPORT DATE: 24 SEP 1982

c10925a1

RSVP (alphabetic) LIST OF NAMES

FOR EVENT: CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

NAME	A/R	DOB	SSN	PHONE
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Walker, Jane (Mrs.)				
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(A)

DUANE WARD

Watt, James Gaius (Honorable)				
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--

A

Watt, James Gaius (Mrs.)				
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A

GUEST OF: Watt, James Gaius (Honorable)

Wessel, Emily (Miss)				
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A

GUEST OF: Clews, Gordon (Rev.)

Wessel, Joshua (Master)				
-------------------------	--	--	--	--

A

GUEST OF: Clews, Gordon (Rev.)

Weyrich, Andrew (Mr.)				
-----------------------	--	--	--	--

GUEST OF: Weyrich, Paul (Mr.)

(A)

Weyrich, Paul (Mr.)				
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(A)

Weyrich, Stephen (Master)				
---------------------------	--	--	--	--

GUEST OF: Weyrich, Paul (Mr.)

(A)

White, Helen (Mrs.)				
---------------------	--	--	--	--

(A)

REPORT DATE: 24 SEP 1982

cl0925a1

RSVP (alphabetic) LIST OF NAMES

FOR EVENT: CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

NAME A/R DOB SSN PHONE

	TOTAL		ACCEPTS	NORSVP	REGRETS	SUBS
INVITEES:	35	=	16	18	1	0
GUESTS:	20	=	13	7	0	0
TOTALS:	55	=	29	25	1	0

Possible attendance as of SEP 24 2:06 PM = 54

REPORT: RSVP

PAGE: 5

END OF PROGRAM

:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 25, 1982

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE SCHOOL PRAYER DAY CEREMONY

The State Dining Room

12:30 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Please, sit down. We want to welcome each of you to the White House. 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 a little -- or very 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 onslaught of such twisted logic that if Alice were visiting America, she might think she'd never left Wonderland. (Laughter.) We're told that it somehow violates the rights of others to permit students in school who desire to pray to do so. Clearly, this infringes on the freedom of those who choose to pray -- a freedom taken for granted since the time of our Founding Fathers. This would be bad enough but the purge of God from our schools went much farther. In one case, a federal court ruled against the right of children to voluntarily say grace before lunch in the school cafeteria. 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 and they, too, were prohibited from doing so. Students have even been prevented from having voluntary prayer groups on school property after class hours just on their own.

Now, 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. (Applause.)

This issue has brought people of good will and every faith together to make the situation right. We believe that permitting voluntary prayer in public schools is within the finest traditions of this country and consistent with the principles of American liberty. Neither the constitutional amendment that I've endorsed nor the legislative remedies offered by others permit 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.

MORE

I want to thank all of you and all of those who'll gather on the Capitol Mall this evening for what you're doing on this vital issue. And a special thanks to Senator Helms, Senator Thurmond, and Congressman Kindness for all that they have done. (Applause.)

And today, I'd like to take this opportunity to urge the Senate to move directly on the constitutional amendment now awaiting action. But Senate action is not enough. The leadership in the House has the proposed constitutional amendment bottled up and has, thus far, failed to hold the appropriate hearings.

Some suggest we should keep religion out of politics. The opposite is also true. Those in politics should keep their hands off of the religious freedom of our people and, especially, our children. (Applause.)

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 Divine Providence. Unless the President is sustained by an abiding faith in the 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."

After 20 months, I can attest to the truth of those 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 and the Supreme Court begin each day with a prayer. And that's why we provide chaplains for the armed forces.

We can and must respect the rights of those who are nonbelievers, but we must not cut 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 -- 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 for the future of this country.

And now I understand that we're to light some candles. I think you children are to go down there and someone is to present me with a -- there it is. (Applause.) These three candles, as I understand it, will start the ceremony tonight on the Mall.

Happy that we've had this opportunity this morning. God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

12:37 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Jack C. Courtemanche
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell
SUBJECT: Prayer Amendment

Attached is a memorandum for your signature. For whatever reason, Bob Kabel has not been able to clarify the status of Senator Baker's commitment to schedule a vote on the Prayer Amendment this fall.

The situation is politically dangerous for us. We must resolve the question. Otherwise we will face an avalanche of bad publicity for misleading supporters of school prayer.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO KENNETH M. DUBERSTEIN

FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

SUBJECT: Delivery on School Prayer Vote in
the Senate This Year

Acting on assurances from your office that Senator Baker is committed to scheduling a vote this fall on the President's Voluntary School Prayer Amendment, many supportive groups have spent much time and hundreds of thousands of dollars generating grassroots influence on the senators.

The attached packet from Pat Robertson's Freedom Council is paralleled by efforts from other broadcasters, denomination heads, and lay groups.

For more than a week, we have reported to Bob Kabel that senators, Senate staffers, and conservative activists have been reporting that Senator Baker does not intend to keep his agreement with you. Bob has been unable to get us a confirmation or denial of this report.

If we fail to get a record Senate vote this fall on school prayer, we will be badly discredited. I would appreciate your getting me some definitive word now about the status of Senator Baker's commitment. We have to respond to the queries of those who have put themselves to so much trouble based on our assurances.

The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

October 4, 1983

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

Dear Morton:

The following is a brief update of the activities of THE FREEDOM COUNCIL concerning President Reagan's revised school prayer amendment.

Since August 8th we have been traveling around the country briefing denominational heads and leaders of Christian groups on the school prayer issue. As a result of these briefings, these leaders have agreed to do two things: (a) write letters on their denominational or organizational letterhead to all 100 Senators asking them to vote yea on SJR #73 and nay on the alternative silent meditation and prayer amendment; and (b) send word to their leaders in the field, and through them, to the members of their denominations or organizations, asking them to write the 2 U.S. Senators from their states.

To date we have personally briefed these leaders:

Dr. Ben Armstrong, Executive Director, National Religious Broadcasters

Dr. William Bright, President, Campus Crusade for Christ

* Bishop Roderick Caesar, Head Bishop, United Pentecostal Council of the Assembly of God, Inc.

Dr. James Draper, President, Southern Baptist Convention

Rev. H.O. Espinoza, Chairman of the Hispanic section of the National Religious Broadcasters and President of PROMESA

Dr. Rudy Hernandez, President, Texas Southern Baptist Mexican Convention

Rev. Namsoo Kim, Pastor, Korean Assembly of God, Full Gospel New York Church

Dr. L.L. King, President, Christian & Missionary Alliance

Mrs Beverly LaHaye, President, Concerned Women of America

Al Matt, Publisher, The Wanderer, a conservative Catholic newspaper

Dr. Rolf McPherson, General Superintendent, International Church of the Four Square Gospel

Bishop Paul Paino, President, Calvary Ministries International

D. Leland Paris, North & South American Director, Youth With a Mission

*Bishop J.O. Patterson, Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ

Dr. Dell Sanchez, member, Gulf Latin American District Council of the Assemblies of God

Demos Shakarian, Founder and President, Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship International

Bishop Leon Stewart, General Superintendent, Pentecostal Holiness Church

*Bishop Alvin Tate, Presiding Bishop, Soul Saving Station denomination

Rev. Morris Vaagenes, President, International Lutheran Center for Church Renewal

Rev. Robert Weiner, President and Founder, Maranatha Campus Ministries

Rev. Kenneth Wong, English Pastor, Oversea Chinese Mission

Dr. Thomas Zimmerman, General Superintendent, Assemblies of God

In addition, we prepared and distributed special materials on the school prayer issue for certain leaders whose schedules would not permit a personal meeting, and briefed them by telephone and mail. They are: Rev. Billy Graham, President, Billy Graham Association; Rev. Andrew Leung, Chairman, Chinese Pastors Fellowship, New York City; Rev. Robert Tilton, Pastor, Word of Faith World Outreach Center; Dr. Jerald Johnson, General Superintendent, The Nazarene Church; Rev. Eugene McGee, Pastor's Prayer Fellowship of New York City; and Rev. John Kim, Superintendent, Korean section of Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Mr. Harley Hickling, governmental and political analyst on our staff, has personally followed up my work with these leaders by maintaining close telephone contact with their offices. Thus we have been able to both monitor and increase the response of national Christian leaders and their followers throughout the nation.

During the final phase of this effort with the churches, we will increase our efforts to obtain participation by mainline churches. We are now preparing to meet with leaders in the Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Methodist and Menonite churches.

We have asked all these Christian leaders to send us copies of their correspondence they receive from the U.S. Senators. This will help us find out where individual senators stand on the school prayer issue in regard to both amendments and possible alternatives. We have already begun intensified "grassroots" lobbying efforts with some of these senators through our own network of volunteer coordinators and through the efforts of local churches, religious media, and local chapters of Christian organizations.

As part of our all out effort to secure passage of SJR #73 our Direct Mail department developed a special package for those on the mailing list of the Christian Broadcasting Network. On September 9, 1981 nearly 400,000 pieces were mailed out over Pat Robertson's signature asking those on our mailing list to contact their U.S. Senators to insure passage of the President's prayer amendment and the defeat of the alternative amendment for silent meditation and silent prayer. Everyone on the mailing list should have received this package between September 16th and September 23rd, and subsequently contacted their 2 U.S. Senators. CBN's "700 Club" will follow up this mailing with a special TV blitz just prior to the vote on both amendments by the full Senate.

* Black denominations

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted".

Ted Pantaleo,
Executive Director

TP/ifo

July 29, 1983

INITIAL PRAYER AMENDMENT STRATEGY

PHASE I <u>FULL SENATE</u>	<u>TIME FRAME</u>	<u>GOAL:</u>
A. CBN Direct Mail Campaign (week of Aug. 15; Aug. 22) B. TV & Media Support (700 Club; NRB; Friends in Broadcasting; Spots; PSA'S) C. Coordination of Mail Campaign for Denominations and Christian organizations (So. Baptists; A.G.'s; FGBMFI; Womens' Aglow; NRB; NAE; COGIC; Hispanics; Charismatic Lutherans; National Baptists; Catholics and others)	Labor Day thru Oct. 1	67 U.S. Senators must vote: YES (SJR #73) 34 U.S. Senators must vote: NO (Hatch Amend.) <u>OBSTACLE:</u> (60 U.S. Senators must also vote "for cloture" to break expected filli- buster)
PHASE II <u>HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE</u> (27 Members: 16 Democrats 11 Republicans)	By Mid Sept/later (immediately after Senate vote)	<u>GOAL:</u> Amendment voted out of Committee for vote on House floor <u>OBSTACLE:</u> 218 House Members must sign Discharge Petition to release from House Judic. Committee
PHASE III <u>FULL HOUSE VOTE</u> Basically repeat and refine activities of PHASE I	?	<u>GOAL:</u> 290 House Members must vote favorably for Amendment
PHASE IV <u>38 STATE LEGISLATURES</u> Intense "in-state" lobbying of state elected officials coordinated by TFC Coordinators as directed by National Headquarters; supported by groups in PHASE I,C	?	<u>GOAL:</u> Ratified by 3/4 states

Full Gospel
Business Men's Fellowship
International

DEMOS SHAKARIAN
President/Founder

August 22, 1983

The Honorable Alan Cranston
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cranston:

After meeting with President Reagan on July 12, to discuss school prayer legislation, I wanted to say that we, as an organization, emphatically endorse the new version of Senate Joint Resolution 73.

I strongly believe in the right of voluntary prayer in the public schools. We are a theistic country. The Supreme Court has clearly ruled that such acknowledgement of our theistic faith in the public sector is our right by law. Voluntary prayer guarantees the same right to our children. I believe we all share a strong desire to do something effective to reverse the trend of excluding all religious forms of speech from the public schools. S.J. Res. 73 is intended to reverse the Supreme Court's school prayer decisions of the early 1960's.

May I strongly urge you to support the President's revised amendment, which would ensure that religion is not discriminated against in our public schools, and vote NO on the alternative amendment. Our constituency of 75,000 members, represented in 2700 chapters and outreach ministries in 81 nations, oppose the silent prayer or meditation amendment as expressed by Senator Orrin Hatch.

I would appreciate knowing how you specifically intend to vote on this very vital and important issue.

Thank you for your leadership efforts on behalf of the school prayer movement, Senator Cranston, and your assistance in helping to restore voluntary religious expression to our public schools. God bless you and our continued prayers are with you in your key role of leadership.

Sincerely,

DEMOS SHAKARIAN
International President

DS/ds

September 2, 1983

The Honorable-----

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

At its recent 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God meeting in Anaheim, California, delegates overwhelmingly passed a resolution in support of senate joint Resolution #73, also known as President Reagan's Revised Voluntary Prayer Amendment. The same delegates also opposed the alternative amendment which calls for silent meditation and silent prayer in the public schools.

The Assemblies of God represents over 10,000 churches in the United States with some 1.8 million members. It is the largest of the Pentecostal denominations with a worldwide constituency of over 12 million.

It is my understanding that Resolution #73 will come before the Senate for vote within the next few weeks. I am personally interested in seeing this resolution pass and therefore am requesting that you indicate to me how you will vote on this important matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thos. F. Zimmerman
General Superintendent

cls

Enc: 1

Dear :

I am writing to you on behalf of the more than 3 million members of my denomination, The Church of God in Christ, the vast majority of whom favor voluntary prayer in our public schools.

The black community throughout America has a rich and fervent religious heritage. Since our people are so dependent upon the public school system we want our children to be able to pray in their classrooms again.

More than most, perhaps, we understand what happened in our nations classrooms when the Supreme Court asked God out of our schools. We know from bitter experience that once this happened, heroin, cocaine, murder, ignorance, illiteracy came into our public schools like a flood. If we are to upgrade the quality of our public schools we must again give our children a consciousness of God.

I ask you to wholeheartedly support the President's revised school prayer amendment, Senate Joint Resolution #73, when it comes to the floor of the Senate for a vote in the next few weeks. This amendment will not take away any rights of non-Christian or non praying students, but simply would allow students who want to pray the privilege that school children had enjoyed in our land for a period of 170 years, prior to the Supreme Court decisions of the 1960's and 70's.

By the same token, I would ask you to oppose vigorously the alternative "silent meditation and prayer" amendment, voted out of the Judiciary Committee along with Senate Resolution #73. This amendment is dangerous because it would not allow our children to mention God openly in our classrooms. It would prohibit even the slightest vocal mention of the Creator throughout the entire public education system of our nation. This amendment is totally unacceptable. Again, I ask to use all the means at your disposal to stop passage of "silent meditation and prayer" amendment.

Would you be so kind as to let me hear from you.

Believe me when I say, the black community is vitally concerned about the fate of the prayer amendment in the United States Senate. Our children should no longer be deprived of the right to pray, when the means to accomplish that--namely, passage of SJR #73--is so close at hand.

Thank you in advance for representing our people on this issue and bringing voluntary prayer back to our public schools.

Sincerely yours,

Bishop J.O. Patterson
Presiding Bishop
The Church of God in Christ

9/283
107

Today's Date

The Honorable John Doe
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Doe:

I am writing to you today concerning the President's revised amendment calling for voluntary prayer in the public schools, Senate Joint Resolution #73. When the President first proposed his amendment I was opposed to it because it would allow for state-composed prayers. While the vast majority of our 14 million Southern Baptists favor voluntary prayer in our public schools, we could not support such a proposal. However, when the President at the urging of many of us in the Christian community, added clear and precise language which forbids any agent of the state or nation to compose the words of prayer for our schools, I was elated.

I want to urge you to support this proposed amendment. It will allow the school children of America the same privilege that we cherish for our congress, courts and other public forums, namely the right to public prayer. We are not an atheistic country. We are a nation that was founded upon Biblical principles and upon a firm belief in God. Voluntary prayer acknowledges this cherished heritage.

I must also express my strong opposition to the alternative proposal which calls for silent prayer and meditation. Because of the wording it could open the door for the full removal of all religious acknowledgement from the schools and eventually from public life. It must not be accepted. I urge you to oppose that alternative proposal.

I would be interested in hearing from you concerning this matter. I assure you that the people of this nation will be watching this matter most carefully and that there are millions of us who will not sit idly by and watch our wonderful nation take on the atmosphere and posture of denying God by removing all opportunities for prayer from the basic education of our children.

Sincerely yours,

James T. Draper

The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

September 14, 1983

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

My friend George Gallop last week gave me the interesting results of the August 1983 Gallop Poll of the attitudes of Americans.

The American people are almost unanimously united on one major issue. Democrats and Republicans, those over 55 and those under 30, blue collar workers, blacks, Hispanics, college educated, high school educated, those without high school education, all overwhelmingly favor a return to morality in the public schools of America.

Specifically, Gallop has found that 81% of the American people are totally familiar with a Constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayer in the public schools in America and an astounding 82% of those people in August of 1983 favor such a Constitutional amendment.

Our organization has joined with a coalition of major religious groups, including the largest Protestant denomination in America, the second largest black denomination in America, the ~~fifth~~^{fourth} largest Protestant denomination in America, the vast majority of the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Religious Broadcasters, the National Hispanic Broadcasters, and many other major religious groups to support Senate Joint Resolution #73 to permit voluntary prayer in public schools.

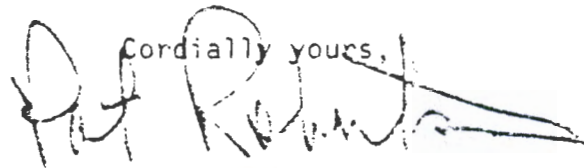
There has seldom been an issue as clear-cut as this one, and I urge your favorable vote when the measure comes before the United States Senate in early October, for the following reasons:

- (1) The amendment reestablishes time honored Constitutional rights which were erroneously taken away by Supreme Court action only 20 years ago.
- (2) From a sociological perspective the alarming decline in Scholastic Aptitude Tests and the equally alarming increase in delinquent behavior among our teenagers can be traced back to the breakdown of morality in our public schools subsequent to 1962.

Senator Ted Stevens
September 14, 1983
Page Two

(3) Seldom will you have the privilege of voting in favor of an issue which enjoys such overwhelming support from every class of your constituents in your State.

With thanks in advance for your consideration of this issue of vital importance to all the people of our nation, and with all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Pat Robertson
President

PR:bj

The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

September 29, 1983

Rev. Andrew Leung, Chairman
Chinese Pastors Fellowship New York City
Chinese Christian & Missionary Alliance
149 E. Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10002

Dear Rev. Leung:

Yesterday I had a delightful meeting with Pastor Kenneth Wong at his church in Chinatown, New York City and he suggested that I contact you immediately.

As you know two proposed constitutional amendments on school prayer were voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 14th:

- . the revised version of Senate Joint Resolution #73
(President's Amendment)
- . an alternative amendment calling for silent meditation
and silent prayer

Both amendments will be considered by the full Senate in early October. Between now and then a massive mail campaign will be launched by denominations and religious groups across America. The hope is that a well coordinated campaign by Christian leaders will help bring prayer back again to our public school system.

To be activated at once, this campaign will have 2 immediate goals, namely: (1) to ask Senators to secure passage of the President's revised prayer amendment and (2) to provide us with immediate feedback from our Senators as to how they plan to vote and why. Responses from our Senators will be very important in determining a national lobbying strategy for the Body of Christ in this matter.

We are asking you, and other heads of Christian denominations and Christian organizations, to write letters to all 100 United States Senators. These letters should be on the senator's desks no later than October 7th. They should indicate that these senators represent the denominations or Christian groups by voting YES for Senate Joint Resolution #73 and voting NO for the alternative silent meditation and silent prayer amendment.

The second part of the letter should attempt to get a response from the senators on how they intend to vote specifically in this situation. To help us coordinate this campaign as effectively as possible, we are asking you and the other denominational and organizational leaders to do one more thing. Please forward the responses from the senators to THE FREEDOM COUNCIL as soon as possible so we can gather intelligence and more effectively lobby for this amendment.

Finally, would you ask the pastors and leaders of the Chinese Christian & Missionary Alliance to write a similar letter to the 2 United States senators from their home states. In addition, they should ask the members of their congregations to do the same thing. These letters should reach the senator on or before October 10th.

In this way, your letter and the letters of the following Christian leaders will be in the hands of the aforementioned senators on or before October 7th: Dr. James Draper, President, Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. William Bright, President, Campus Crusade for Christ; Rev. Morris Vaagenes, President, International Lutheran Center for Church Renewal; Mrs Beverly LaHaye, President, Concerned Women of America; Dr. Thomas Zimmerman, General Superintendent, Assemblies of God; Demos Shakarian, Founder and President, Full Gospel Businessmen International; Dr. L.L. King, President, Christian and Missionary Alliance; Bishop J.O. Patterson, Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ; Dr. Ben Armstrong, Executive Director, National Religious Broadcasters; Rev. H.O. Espinoza, Chairman of the Hispanic section of the National Religious Broadcasters; Rev. Bob Weiner, Maranatha Campus Ministries; Dr. Rolf McPherson, General Superintendent, International Church of the Four Square Gospel, and others. The state and local leaders of these denominations and Christian organizations will then be writing similar letters to their senators to arrive on their desks by October 10th.

Senator Strom Thurmond reminded us at a recent hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee that, "We had prayer in our public schools for 170 years." We would like to thank you, and the leaders and members of the Chinese Christian Missionary and Alliance for your efforts to see that prayer is again restored in our nation's classrooms.

God bless you, my brother.

Your brother in Christ,



Ted Pantaleo,
Executive Director

TP/ifo

P.S. All United States Senators may be reached at:

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510



The Gallup Poll

FOR RELEASE:
Thursday,
September 8, 1983

8 In 10 Favor Amendment Permitting Voluntary Group Prayer In Schools

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. — An overwhelming majority of Americans favor a Constitutional Amendment that would permit voluntary group prayer in public schools.

Among the 8 in 10 who have followed the pros and cons of the debate over prayer in public schools, 81% say they favor the proposed Amendment while 14% oppose it and 5% are undecided.

Public support for such an Amendment has remained firm over the 15 months since President Reagan first proposed it. A May 1982 survey showed 78% of the aware group (also 82% in that survey) in favor of the Reagan proposal, 16% opposed and 6% with no opinion.

Many Express Strong Support

Nearly half of the aware group (48%) say they strongly favor the proposed Amendment, while 33% express mild support. On the disapproval side, 7% say they strongly oppose the Amendment, while 7% express mild opposition.

The Reagan Proposal

The President's proposed Amendment states:

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 by any state to participate in prayer.

Organized group prayer in public schools effectively came to an end in 1962 after the Supreme Court ruled it violated the First Amendment.

All persons in the current survey were first asked this question:

Have you heard or read about a proposed Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow voluntary prayer in the public schools?

Eight in 10 (82%) replied in the affirmative. This "aware" group was then asked:

Do you favor or oppose this proposed Amendment? How strongly do you favor (oppose) this proposed Amendment — very strongly, fairly strongly, or not at all strongly?

Here are the national findings:

Voluntary School Prayer (Based on aware group)			
Favor — Total			81%
Very strongly	48%		
Fairly strongly	29		
Not at all strongly	4		
Oppose — Total			14
Not at all strongly	2		
Fairly strongly	5		
Very strongly	7		
No opinion			5
			100%

Here are the results by key population groups:

Voluntary School Prayer (Based on aware group)			
	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	81	14	5
Men	79	16	5
Women	83	12	5
Whites	79	15	6
Non-whites	91	7	2
18-29 years	77	18	5
30-49 years	79	15	6
50 & older	85	10	5
College education	72	21	7
High school	84	11	5
Grade school	94	5	1
Catholics	84	10	6
Protestants	84	11	5
Baptists	91	6	3
Methodists	82	11	7
Republicans	85	10	5
Democrats	81	14	5
Independents	77	16	7
East	81	16	6
Midwest	85	10	5
South	86	9	5
West	67	25	8

Home Is Seen As Key Training Ground

Although the public overwhelmingly favors permitting voluntary prayer in schools, the prevailing opinion among all groups and faiths is that the home is more important than either the church or schools in the religious training of children.

Currently 80% say the home is most important in the religious and spiritual development of a child while 15% name the church and only 2%, the schools.

Which one of the following do you think is the most important in the religious and spiritual development of a child — the home, school, or the Church?

Home.....	80%
Church.....	15
School	2
No opinion	3
	100%

The results reported today are based on in-person interviews with 1,567 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically-selected locations across the nation during the period July 22-25.

For results based on a sample of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 3 percentage points in either direction.

The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

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Jeremiah Denton (R)

ALASKA

Ted Stevens (R)
Frank H. Murkowski (R)

ARIZONA

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MEMO

to: TFC Coordinators
copy to: File
from: Ted Pantaleo, Executive Director, THE FREEDOM COUNCIL
subject: Brief on Silent Prayer and Meditation Amendment
date: August 16, 1983

"Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group silent prayer or meditation in public schools. Neither the United States or any state shall require any person to participate in such prayer or meditation, nor shall they encourage any particular form of prayer or meditation."

"Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit Equal Access to the use of Public School facilities by all voluntary student groups."

--Alternative Prayer Amendment

We have discussed the alternative amendment to Senate Joint Resolution #73 (the President's school prayer amendment) with the following constitutional attorneys: Sam Ericsson, Director, Washington Office, Christian Legal Society; John Whitehead, Founder, Rutherford Institute; Steve Galebach, Policy Staff, The White House; and Dr. Herb Titus, Dean of CBN's School of Public Policy.

Generally they oppose this amendment on the grounds that it puts the emphasis on silence. Silent prayer has not been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. From that standpoint, the alternative amendment is unnecessary and would create confusion.

In addition, there was agreement on two other objections to the proposed silent prayer and meditation amendment: (1) it would legally support the practice of eastern religions and transcendental meditation in our public schools, and (2) through the emphasis on silence, it would also jeopardize all oral devotional prayers in schools, including benedictions and invocations.

Sam Ericsson said he was strongly opposed to the silent prayer and meditation aspect contained in the first section of the amendment. He stated it was..."very limiting and implies no other form of prayer should ever be permitted." Ericsson also said the second section of the amendment infers that "equal access" is now illegal (unconstitutional) in our public schools. The U.S. Supreme Court has not so ruled, therefore this provision would generate great confusion in the courts of the land.

The Freedom Council

P.O. Box 64323 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

September 1, 1983

Archbishop J.R. Roach
Catholic Archdiocese
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Archbishop Roach:

As you may know two proposed constitutional amendments on school prayer were voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 14th:

- . the revised version of Senate Joint Resolution #73
(President's Amendment)
- . an alternative amendment calling for silent meditation
and silent prayer

Both amendments will be considered by the full Senate around the 1st of October. Between now and then a massive mail campaign will be launched by denominations and religious groups across America. The hope is that a well coordinated campaign by Christian leaders will help bring prayer back again to our public school system.

To be activated at once, this campaign will have 2 immediate goals, namely: (1) to ask Senators to secure passage of the President's revised prayer amendment and (2) to provide us with immediate feedback from our Senators as to how they plan to vote and why. Responses from our Senators will be very important in determining a national lobbying strategy for the Body of Christ in this matter.

We are asking you, and other heads of Christian denominations and Christian organizations, to write letters to the following United States senators: Senator Howard Baker, Majority Leader; Senator Robert C. Byrd, Minority Leader; Senator Strom Thurmond, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate; and the 2 U.S. Senators from the state where denominations or Christian organizations are currently based. These letters should be on the senator's desks no later than September 15th. They should indicate that these senators represent the denominations or Christian groups by voting YES for Senate Joint Resolution #73 and voting NO for the alternative silent meditation and silent prayer amendment.

The second part of the letter should attempt to get a response from the senators on how they intend to vote specifically in this situation. To help us coordinate this campaign effectively as possible, we are asking you and the other

denominational and organizational leaders to do one more thing. Please forward the responses from the senators to THE FREEDOM COUNCIL as soon as possible so we can gather intelligence and more effectively lobby for this amendment.

Finally, would you ask all pastors, and leaders of your Diocese throughout the United States to write a similar letter to the 2 United State senators from their home states. In addition, they should ask the members of their congregations to do the same thing. These letters should reach the senator on or before September 22nd.

In this way, your letter and the letters of the following Christian leaders will be in the hands of the aforementioned senators on or before September 15th: Dr. Thomas Zimmerman, General Superintendent, Assemblies of God; Demos Shakarian, Founder and President, Full Gospel Businessmen International; Dr. L.L. King, President, Christian Missionary and Alliance; Dr. William R. Bright, President, Campus Crusade for Christ; Dr. James Draper, Southern Baptist Convention; Bishop J.O. Patterson, Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ; Dr. Ben Armstrong, Executive Director, National Religious Broadcasters; H.O. Espinoza, Chairman of the Hispanic section of the National Religious Broadcasters; Rev. Bob Weiner, Maranatha Campus Ministries and others. The state and local leaders of these denominations and Christian organizations will then be writing similar letters to their senators to arrive on their desks by September 22nd.

Senator Strom Thurmond reminded us at a recent hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee that, "We had prayer in our public schools for 170 years." We would like to thank you and the leaders of your Diocese for your efforts to see that prayer is again restored in our nation's classrooms.

God bless you, my brother.

Your brother in Christ,



Ted Pantaleo,
Executive Director

TP/ifo

P.S. All United States Senators may be reached at:

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510