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MORTON BLACKWELL
OFFICE FOR PUBLIC LIAISON
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20500

File School prayer

THE FOLLOWING IS YOUR COPY OF MAILGRAM SENT TO PRESIDENT REAGAN:

THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20500

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT MAJOR EFFORTS ARE NOW WELL UNDERWAY TO GENERATE A MASSIVE GRASSROOTS LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE IN SUPPORT OF YOUR PRAYER AMENDMENT, SJR73. EACH SENATOR SHOULD START RECEIVING A FLOOD OF LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF YOUR AMENDMENT IN LATE SEPTEMBER. THE MAXIMUM EFFORT SHOULD ARRIVE AT THEIR DESKS DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER AND SHOULD REMAIN STRONG UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

IF THE SENATE WERE TO SCHEDULE SJR73 FOR FLOOR ACTIONS IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER IT WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE CONSTITUANCY INFLUENCE ON THE SENATORS' VOTING, THEREBY MAXIMIZING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PASSAGE OF THIS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AMENDMENT. ACCORDINGLY, IF YOU WOULD CONTACT SENATOR BAKER AND ASK HIM TO SCHEDULE SJR73 FOR FLOOR ACTION IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER IT WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THIS BILL.

MAY I EXTEND MY GRATEFUL APPRECIATION TO YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE GIVEN THIS MATTER. I THANK GOD THAT THIS NATION IS SERVED BY A GOD-FEARING PRESIDENT.

SINCERELY,

DR. M. G. "PAT" ROBERTSON
THE CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC.
CBN CENTER
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23463

COPY TO: MORTON BLACKWELL
OFFICE FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

0241 (R) 1977

Western
Union **Mailgram**



THE WHITE HOUSE

18154 EST

MGMOCMP

Battle Lines Drawn:

School Prayer Versus 'Right of Silence'

School prayer proponents will have their choice of two constitutional amendments in early September as the Senate begins floor consideration of President Reagan's measure and an alternative proposal offered by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT).

Both versions were sent to the Senate Floor last month "without recommendations", meaning the Senate Judiciary Committee had not endorsed either bill.

This dual consideration approach has lead many Americans to seriously examine the contents of both amendments. The examination is not merely one of analytical research, but a hard hitting campaign spelling out major differences between the two proposals.

The Reagan Amendment reads as follows:

"Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public school or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or any state to participate in prayer. Nor shall the United States or any state compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."

This amendment would restore organized prayers to public schools. Teachers would be permitted to offer prayer, read scriptures, or ask students to give prayer recitations. However, students would not be required to participate and governments would not be permitted to draft the prayers.

Recent public opinion polls have indicated that nearly three-quarters of the American people support the Reagan method for restoring voluntary school prayer. Yet, despite this groundswell of public support, Sen. hatch has proposed a watered down prayer alternative, which reads:

"Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to prohibit 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 encourage any particular form of prayer or meditation.

"Nothing in this constituion shall be construed to prohibit

equal access to the use of public school facilities by all voluntary student groups."

The Hatch version would only permit students to observe a moment of silence during school hours for meditation. It is feared that if silent prayer is adopted as the only constitutionally approved practice, other forms of expression which have been historically permitted will be automatically excluded. This would include such things as invocations and benedictions at various functions; student groups voluntarily saying a blessing before their meals; the carrying of Bibles on school premises; the singing of songs related to religious holidays, ect.

Opponents of the Hatch Amendment also contend that the second phrase of the last sentence of section 1 runs a serious risk of being misinterpreted as embracing more than just schools. If so, there could be efforts to ban all forms of religious expression in all areas of government, such as: the functions of all chaplains in federal, state and local government institutions; the motto on U. S. currency; the taking of oaths; the convening of the Supreme Court, and the list goes on and on. Such a far reaching impact is hard to imagine but the judicial mischief which could lead to such an impact is not hard to imagine.

Supporters of both amendments have endorsed the concept of equal access to the use of school facilities. Yet, it is feared that by including it in the Hatch Amendment as a right which is not already guaranteed by the constitution, serious legal repercussions will occur on relevant legal cases currently in litigation. Legal experts also speculate that the enclusion of "Equal Access" in the Hatch constitutional amendment will open the door to lawsuits designed to shut down existing voluntary religious programs on all campuses.

Pro school prayer forces are favoring the Reagan Amendment over Hatch's version because the measure seeks to return "real prayer, rather than silence" to America's public schools.

A coalition of religious and political leaders have voiced support for the Reagan solution to the school prayer problem. It is believed that their endorsement of the President's amendment will provide enough pressure on key Senators to get the necessary two-thirds approval for passage.

Among those publicly endorsing the Reagan Amendment was Moral Majority President Jerry Falwell: "I don't believe we've been fighting this prayer battle for the right to remain silent. And that is why I am supporting his (President Reagan's) amendment."

Paul M. Weyrich, executive director of the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, said, "Silent prayer gives weak sisters an opportunity to squish out on school prayer."

Pat Robertson said he would use his Christian Broadcasting Network to oppose the Hatch silent prayer amendment.

Television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart said, "The American people want the Reagan Amendment to pass. If it's not brought to bear, there's a possibility that some congressmen and senators will be looking for a job. It's that simple."

Gary Jarmin of Christian Voice may have best represented the conservative movement's concern when he said, "There is very little support for Hatch's version. Because of Sen. Hatch we're going to have our own forces badly divided and spilling each other's blood on the Senate floor."

Many other school prayer leaders have endorsed the Reagan Amendment. The task at hand now is not which school prayer version to choose, but how to minimize the damages inflicted on their movement by a senator they helped re-elect in 1980.

#

From the desk of CECIL TODD

September 22, 1983

Morton C. Blackwell
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

At the top of my 1,000 foot long prayer petition addressed to the House and Senate, I've left a space for President Reagan's name.

I've collected 100,000 names on the petition, but it desperately needs the clout of our President's name at the top, heading this list, to make the impact needed.

I believe you're the man God can use to make it happen! I'm sure you remember seeing it when you came to Joplin and honored us with your presence.

My first desire was to have him sign it personally. My second choice was to have him sign a duplicate petition (one enclosed) and let us transfer it to the giant petition. I believe you can get our President's approval for me to put his name at the top of this giant petition!

I'm making arrangements now to deliver this petition to Tip O'Neill and Howard Baker, but I will wait to hear from you before I finalize my plans.

I want to deliver it to them at the most opportune time, so it can be used of God to help break things loose with our House and Senate members, so they will properly represent the people who elected them and return the freedom to pray to our public schools.

The collecting of these 100,000 names has taken fourteen months and traveling over 100,000 miles in twenty-eight states. We have conducted rallies in 200 key cities in America in some of our largest churches. I've already spent over \$100,000 on this effort...and if God can use it for good, it will be worth the effort expended!

Thank you so much for your personal involvement in this Crusade that is so dear to my heart and the hearts of a multitude of others!

I will await word from you at your earliest convenience.

God's best to you!

Yours, Settin' revival fires,

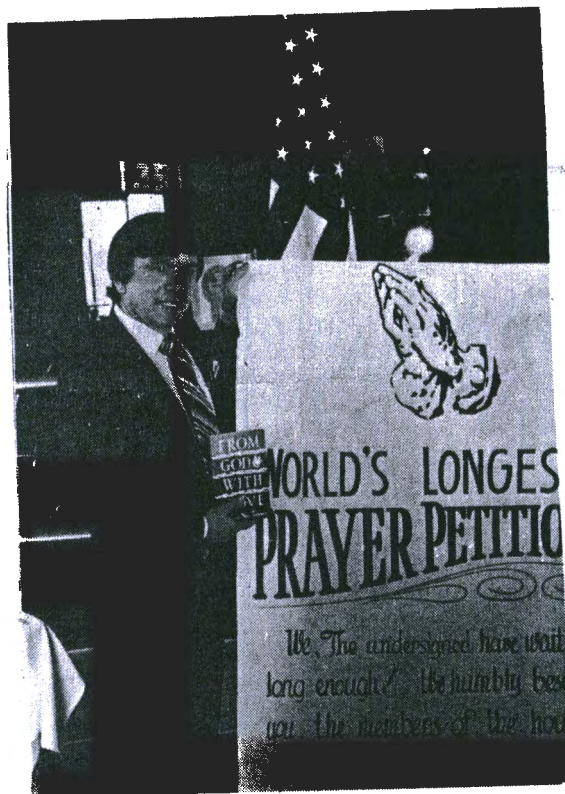
Cecil Todd
Proverbs 11:30

CT:cp

Enclosure



file
School prayer



Evangelist Cecil Todd with 1,000 foot petition

Long prayer petition coming to Assembly

GALLUP — Cecil Todd's "America For Jesus" Crusade is coming to the First Assembly of God Church, 716 E. Hill St., Sunday, Sept. 4, reports Pastor Terry Bell.

Todd is a 10-year member of the National Religious Broadcasters, Chairman of the first National Clean Up TV Crusade and has a Doctor's Degree in Divinity.

Attending the program also will be famous Elvis Presley impersonator, Aaron Patrick, who has traveled extensively using his talents to portray the vocal talents of the late Presley.

The nationwide crusade was recently launched by the Revival Fires Ministry from Joplin, Mo. and is designed to unite people under the Christian banner of love, faith and power.

Purpose is to put prayer back into the public school, give a Bible to every school age young person without one, stop the godless killing of unborn babies and bring more of the powerful influence of Jesus Christ to America, reports Bell.

Everyone attending will be given an opportunity to vote their feeling on the above issue. The results will be sent to the two U.S. Senators and Congressmen of New Mexico.

Todd is planning to deliver a 1,000 - foot long prayer petition to the House and Senate with more than 100,000 names of supporters. In 1982 Todd took a record 1,000,000 prayer petitions to President Reagan just before he announced support for an amendment to the Constitution that would return the privilege of prayer of prayer to the school classrooms.

JOPLIN GLOBE

Saturday, January 22, 1983

Religion



Chat With President

Cecil Todd and his wife Linda, while on a crusade, recently joined President Ronald Reagan in Costa Rica aboard Air Force One for a brief visit and photos. Todd has been invited to attend Reagan's Prayer Breakfast Feb. 3 in Washington, D.C. Reagan will be the principal speaker at the 31st annual event. In addition,

several leading government officials and prominent world religious leaders will attend. Todd, who has been the Joplin Revival Fires only speaker since its first broadcast in 1965, will also attend the National Religious Broadcasters Convention Jan. 30-Feb. 2 in Washington, D.C.

Minister holds sign-up for prayer petition

'We have rules allowing kids to have places to smoke (in school), but we have no place where they can go to pray.'

— Cecil Todd
evangelist

By Jeff Catron
The News-Leader

Students in America's public schools should have the privilege of starting their days with prayer, just as America's lawmakers do, an advocate of voluntary school prayer said Sunday night.

The Rev. Cecil Todd, the founder and director of Revival Fires Ministry of Joplin, told members of the Oak Grove Assembly of God Church in Springfield that Americans are demanding that their children have the right to pray in public schools.

"Gallup polls show that 85 percent of Americans favor returning prayer to schools," Todd told the 125 church members. "They just want the same privilege as members of the House and Senate."

In June 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled voluntary school-sponsored prayer to be a violation of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

Todd, speaking during Sunday night services at the church at 1320 S. Oak Grove, illustrated his plea for a return of school prayer by presenting members with a petition calling for Congress to rescind the 1963 decision.

The petition, Todd said, contains 85,000 signatures and is recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest petition ever started.

The petition is more than 1,000 feet long, and before it's presented to Congress in mid-July it will have more than 100,000 names, he said.

The purpose of the petition is to convince lawmakers that they must reinstate school prayer to properly represent their constituents, Todd said.

"We're not talking about a mandatory prayer," he said. "It would be just for those who want to."

Todd said he has taken the petition to rallies in 28 states and has signatures from people in all 50 states. At the top of the

petition there is a place reserved for President Reagan, Todd said.

Reagan has supported returning voluntary prayer to public schools.

During his message Todd said young people, especially high-school students, have been victims of the court's prayer ban.

In the 20 years since it was imposed, he said, crime has gone up 300 percent, more than 1 million babies have been aborted and thousands of high-school students have committed suicide.

"We also haven't had a president that has lasted two terms in office," he said. "One has been assassinated, another shot at and another run from office. The last one to serve two terms, Dwight Eisenhower, was the one who put 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance."

Many public school students are asking for the right of voluntary prayer, Todd said.

"Girls are asking why they are allowed to have birth-control pills, alcohol, cigarettes and pot, but they aren't allowed to pray," Todd said. "They are now starting to cry out about it."

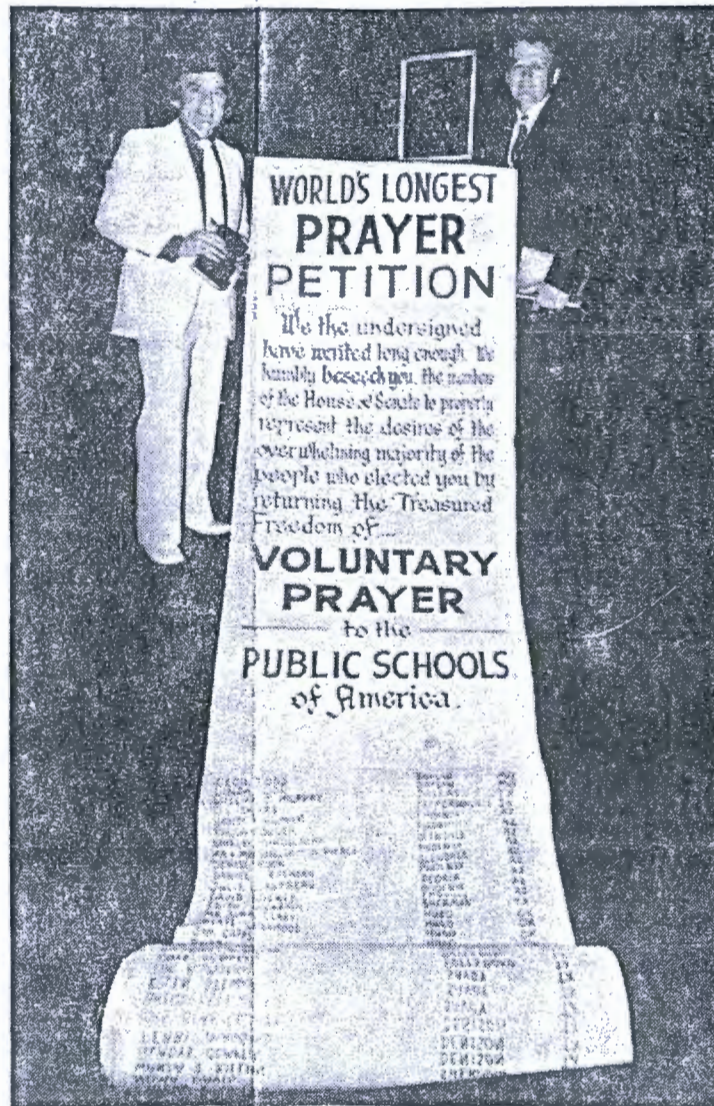
"We have rules allowing kids to have places to smoke (in school), but we have no place where they can go to pray," he said.

Todd said he supports separation of church and state. However, he said prayer does not constitute a church-sanctioned event.

"I believe in separation of church and state but not separation of God from country," Todd said. "God is not church. God is not a religion. He is a relationship."

Those who wish to pray are being denied their rights to do so, he said.

"What we have is a case of the tail wagging the dog," he said. "The rights of the minority have become more important than the rights of the majority."



The Rev. Cecil Todd (left) and the Rev. L. Jack Moore of the Oak Grove Assembly of God Church in Springfield display the world's longest petition Sunday night. The petition has 85,000 names.

Peace pilgrims spread word in Springfield

By Steve Cusick
The News-Leader

Peace.
It is a word that comes often from "peace pilgrims" on a journey to Amarillo, Texas. The group, on its way from Washington, D.C., to Amarillo, brought its message of nuclear disarmament to Springfield this weekend.

Members of the group, who have walked about 600 miles since leaving Washington on Pentecost Sunday, spoke to about 35 people during a program Sunday afternoon at St. Agnes Cathedral. They talked of the doom and disaster nuclear weapons bring.

But they talked even more of the faith in God they believe is needed to remove humanity from the brink of nuclear holocaust. And they mixed the message with the freedoms prescribed in a document signed 207 years ago today — the Declaration of Independence.

The founding fathers had a deep belief in the right to life, said Andrew Comas of Yonkers, N.Y. That freedom is being trounced on by a huge defense budget, he said.

"The arms race is destructive of life," he said. "It is killing the poor. It is taking away our freedom. I strongly recommend re-reading the Declaration of Independence."

The group said much of the money being spent on defense could be spent on food and social programs for the poor.

Although the odds and history — a string of wars — are against them, the group members say they stick to their idealism because it is rooted in a belief in God.

"We have to put our trust in God," said Karan Loats from Maryland. "And that's where our security is, not in nuclear weapons. God teaches us other ways to interact with people."

"I think that all we can do is use our minds and bodies to work for peace."

One of the walkers is a mother of two children. Lyn Shaw, of Connecticut, said she was tired of the despair and hopelessness she felt. So she joined the 1,600-mile journey to Amarillo.

She also said July Fourth is a special day for recognizing that the arms race must be stopped.

"I love my country very much," she said, "but I love it in the way a parent loves his or her child."

Parents don't allow their children to walk into busy streets, she said, and "in the same way I can't stand by and watch my country take this course that

Please see PEACE, Page 2B

— DUPLICATE —

WORLD'S LARGEST PRAYER PETITION

WE THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! WE HUMBLY BESEECH YOU THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO PROPERLY REPRESENT THE DESIRES OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED YOU, BY RETURNING THE TREASURED FREEDOM OF VOLUNTARY PRAYER TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF AMERICA.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(CITY) **(STATE)** **(ZIP)**

PHONE: (____) _____

— DUPLICATE —

WORLD'S LARGEST PRAYER PETITION

WE THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! WE HUMBLY BESEECH YOU THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO PROPERLY REPRESENT THE DESIRES OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED YOU, BY RETURNING THE TREASURED FREEDOM OF VOLUNTARY PRAYER TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF AMERICA.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(CITY) **(STATE)** **(ZIP)**

PHONE: (____) _____

**The
Christian
Broadcasting
Network
Inc.**



September 2, 1983

Dear CBN Friend,

In just a few days, a vote will be taken in the United States Senate which I believe will affect the entire future of our nation. What I'm talking about is the vote on the President's proposed School Prayer Amendment.

Less than two months ago this same amendment came up before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Even White House staffers predicted defeat.

Meanwhile, my associate Ted Pantaleo of The Freedom Council worked behind the scenes to rally the support of Christian leaders. And I made an emergency appeal on "The 700 Club" encouraging our viewers to contact the members of the committee.

The result was dramatic. The senators unexpectedly voted 14-3 in favor of reporting the President's Amendment to the full Senate.

President Reagan once told me that, in dealing with Congress, what's important is not whether they see the light, it's whether they feel the heat! The members of the Judiciary Committee felt the heat. And look at what happened.

Now we've got to make the entire Senate feel that heat. Because soon after Labor Day, the President's Prayer Amendment will be brought before the full Senate for a vote. And it must pass by a two-thirds majority.

The President's Amendment (Senate Joint Resolution 73) reads as follows:

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. Neither the United States nor any state shall compose the words of any prayer to be said in the public schools.

Working together with The Freedom Council, we are doing all that we can to secure the passage of this amendment.

But it won't be easy. It hasn't been easy yet and it's not going to

be now. While we rejoice in the Judiciary Committee's action, we can't afford to relax our efforts in the least. We need to work harder than ever before.

You see, this is our greatest chance in two decades to regain this most vital of our freedoms.

Right now, I'm urging you to write the two U.S. senators from your state. Tell them how strongly you support the President's Prayer Amendment. And tell them how important it is to you that they support this amendment as well. Then ask them to let you know how they intend to vote.

It is vital that you refer to SJR 73 when you contact your senators. Senator Orrin Hatch has introduced an alternative prayer amendment which would permit only silent prayer. But I agree with what President Reagan says about that amendment: "I don't believe we've been fighting this prayer battle for the right to remain silent!"

So make sure your senators know you support the President's Amendment, SJR 73, but are opposed to the Silent Prayer and Meditation Amendment.

There's no time to waste. This measure could come before the Senate any day. Let us begin right now -- this very minute -- to create the groundswell that will leave no doubt in the minds of any U.S. senator that the American people want them to LET OUR CHILDREN PRAY AGAIN!

Please write, telephone, or visit your senators today. And talk to your pastor, your relatives, your friends -- even casual acquaintances -- and urge them to join us in this effort.

With your help and the help of others, we can make an impact on the future of this nation. After 20 years America's children can once again be free to pray.

Thank you for your help and God bless you.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Robertson". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "P" and "R".

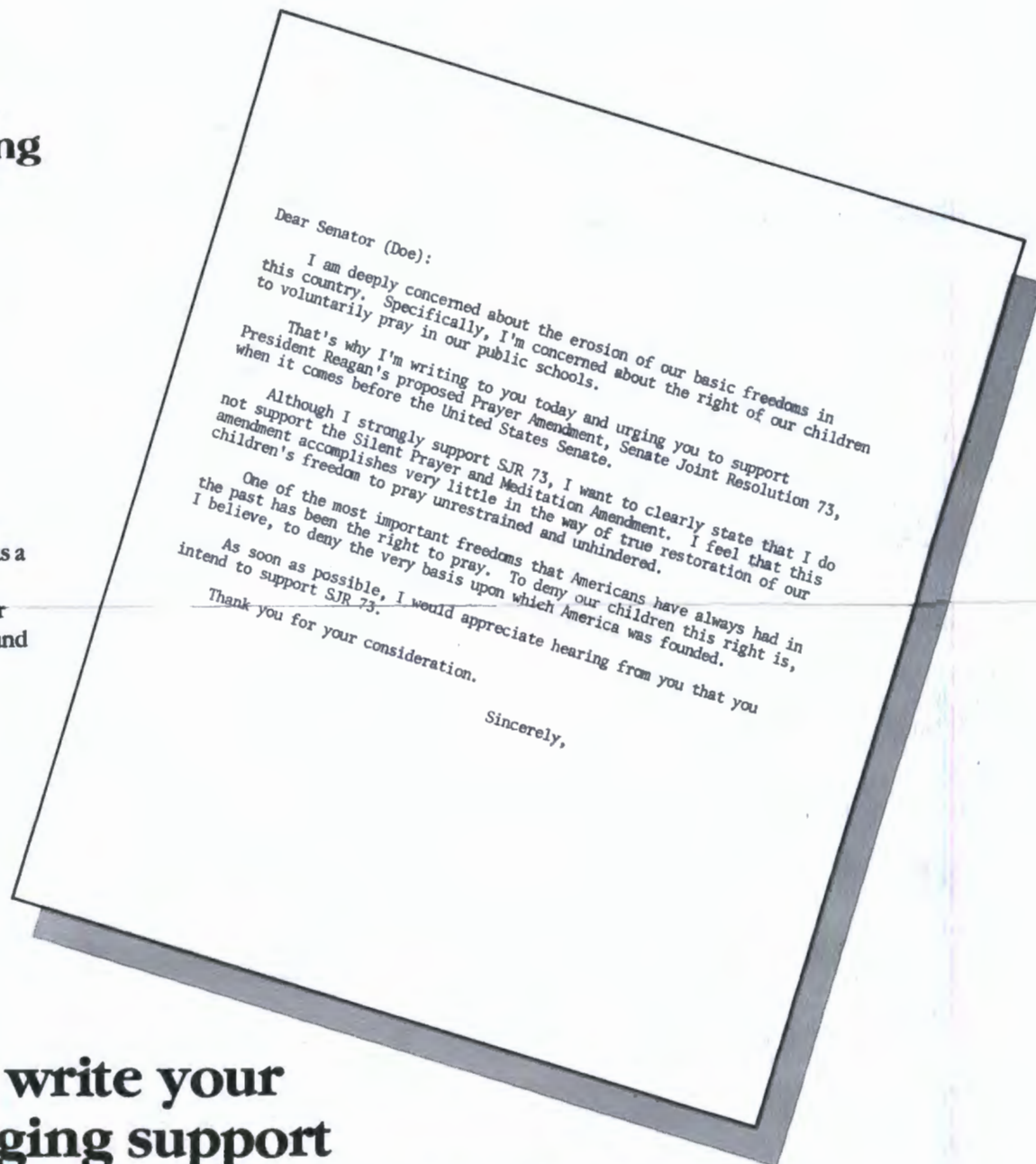
Pat Robertson

P.S. Please fill in the enclosed reply card to let me know you are supporting us in this effort to restore our most precious freedom. Then return the card to me in the enclosed Freedom Council reply envelope. Thank you.

**The
Christian
Broadcasting
Network
Inc.**



This letter is intended only as a sample of one approach you might take. Please write your senator in your own words and urge him to support this important measure.



When you write your senator urging support for the President's Prayer Amendment:

1. Be courteous, tactful and positive.
2. Be concise, logical and factual, but use adequate length to express your position clearly. Accuracy is important, both in facts presented and in spelling and grammar.
3. Use personal stationery or plain paper.
4. Include an inside return address in the upper right hand corner followed by the reference line: Re: President's Prayer Amendment SJR 73.
5. It should be addressed to:

The Honorable (John Doe)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator (Doe)
6. State clearly how you want him to vote and ask him to write you and let you know how he intends to vote.
7. Write a follow-up letter if he doesn't answer your question directly. Politely insist that he respond to your question.
8. Send a follow-up thank-you letter when the senator votes the way you asked him to.
9. Be sure and sign your name.
10. Don't be belligerent or threatening. Senators know your vote in the next election for them might be in question if they do not vote as you have instructed them. Trying to persuade the senator with your vote introduces a negative element into your communication that will likely destroy any positive results from your attempt to influence him.

United States Senate

Alabama

The Hon. Howell Heflin
The Hon. Jeremiah Denton

Alaska

The Hon. Ted Stevens
The Hon. Frank H. Murkowski

Arizona

The Hon. Barry Goldwater
The Hon. Dennis DeConcini

Arkansas

The Hon. Dale Bumpers
The Hon. David Pryor

California

The Hon. Alan Cranston
The Hon. Pete Wilson

Colorado

The Hon. Gary Hart
The Hon. William L. Armstrong

Connecticut

The Hon. Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.
The Hon. Christopher J. Dodd

Delaware

The Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.
The Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Florida

The Hon. Lawton Chiles
The Hon. Paula Hawkins

Georgia

The Hon. Sam Nunn
The Hon. Mack Mattingly

Hawaii

The Hon. Daniel K. Inouye
The Hon. Spark M. Matsunaga

Idaho

The Hon. James A. McClure
The Hon. Steven D. Symms

Illinois

The Hon. Charles H. Percy
The Hon. Alan J. Dixon

Indiana

The Hon. Richard G. Lugar
The Hon. Dan Quayle

Iowa

The Hon. Roger W. Jepsen
The Hon. Charles E. Grassley

Kansas

The Hon. Robert Dole
The Hon. Nancy Landon Kassebaum

Kentucky

The Hon. Walter D. Huddleston
The Hon. Wendell H. Ford

Louisiana

The Hon. Russell B. Long
The Hon. J. Bennett Johnston

Maine

The Hon. William S. Cohen
The Hon. George J. Mitchell

Maryland

The Hon. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
The Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes

Massachusetts

The Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
The Hon. Paul E. Tsongas

Michigan

The Hon. Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
The Hon. Carl Levin

Minnesota

The Hon. David Durenberger
The Hon. Rudolph E. Boschwitz

Mississippi

The Hon. John C. Stennis
The Hon. Thad Cochran

Missouri

The Hon. Thomas F. Eagleton
The Hon. John C. Danforth

Montana

The Hon. John Melcher
The Hon. Max Baucus

Nebraska

The Hon. Edward Zorinsky
The Hon. J. James Exon

Nevada

The Hon. Paul Laxalt
The Hon. Chic Hecht

New Hampshire

The Hon. Gordon J. Humphrey
The Hon. Warren Rudman

New Jersey

The Hon. Bill Bradley
The Hon. Frank R. Lautenberg

New Mexico

The Hon. Pete V. Domenici
The Hon. Jeff Bingaman

New York

The Hon. Daniel Patrick Moynihan
The Hon. Alfonse M. D'Amato

North Carolina

The Hon. Jesse Helms
The Hon. John P. East

North Dakota

The Hon. Quentin N. Burdick
The Hon. Mark Andrews

Ohio

The Hon. John Glenn
The Hon. Howard M. Metzenbaum

Oklahoma

The Hon. David Lyle Boren
The Hon. Don Nickles

Oregon

The Hon. Mark O. Hatfield
The Hon. Bob Packwood

Pennsylvania

The Hon. John Heinz
The Hon. Arlen Specter

Rhode Island

The Hon. Claiborne Pell
The Hon. John H. Chafee

South Carolina

The Hon. Strom Thurmond
The Hon. Ernest F. Hollings

South Dakota

The Hon. Larry Pressler
The Hon. James Abdnor

Tennessee

The Hon. Howard H. Baker, Jr.
The Hon. Jim Sasser

Texas

The Hon. John Tower
The Hon. Lloyd Bentsen

Utah

The Hon. Jake Garn
The Hon. Orrin G. Hatch

Vermont

The Hon. Robert T. Stafford
The Hon. Patrick J. Leahy

Virginia

The Hon. John William Warner
The Hon. Paul S. Trible, Jr.

Washington

The Hon. Henry M. Jackson
The Hon. Slade Gorton

West Virginia

The Hon. Jennings Randolph
The Hon. Robert C. Byrd

Wisconsin

The Hon. William Proxmire
The Hon. Bob Kasten

Wyoming

The Hon. Malcolm Wallop
The Hon. Alan Kooi Simpson

WHY A PRAYER AMENDMENT?

FACT: Several years ago, in Whitestone, New York, a young child was forced to stop saying grace at lunchtime by his principal.

FACT: Recently, in South Florida, a high school principal took a pocketknife to each copy of the school's yearbook and cut out a reference to the Bible Club.

FACT: In June of this year, valedictorians across the nation were forbidden to mention their faith publicly during graduation exercises.

These are just a few shocking examples of what has taken place since the Supreme Court ruled against allowing prayer in our public schools in 1963. As a result of that decision, our government has moved from being neutral toward religion to an attitude of open hostility toward it.

Why should prayer be permitted in our schools?

Because of historical and constitutional precedent: Our nation was founded on the principle of religious freedom which was written into our original Constitution. From 1607, when the first permanent English settlers landed on this continent, until 1962, prayer was an integral part of this nation's public life.

Because a majority of Americans favor a prayer amendment: Gallup and Harris polls have shown that 73 percent of all Americans favor a constitutional amendment to restore prayer in public schools. Why should a small minority force their views on the majority of Americans who clearly favor this amendment?

Because it's fair and morally right: The children of agnostics and humanists enjoy perfect freedom to express their beliefs. In all fairness, our children should not be denied the right to freely express their faith in God.

For these reasons it is imperative that we let our elected officials know where we stand. Within a few days, the Senate will vote on President Reagan's Prayer Amendment. You can make your voice count in this vital decision by contacting your senators today.

PRAYER AMENDMENT REPLY CARD

Yes Pat! I stand with you in this effort to LET OUR CHILDREN PRAY AGAIN!

- ☐ I will contact my senators by mail, by telephone, or in person, to urge passage of the President's Prayer Amendment, SJR 73.
- ☐ I will contact as many of my friends, relatives and acquaintances as possible and urge them to join us in this effort.

018284182 5474
Victor and Carolyn Sundseth
15 Silverwood Cir Apt 7
Annapolis MD 21403

- ☐ Please send me the latest issue of THE FREEDOM REPORT to help me stay informed on the battle for religious freedom in America.
- ☐ Please send me more information on how I can become involved in The Freedom Council's work to protect and restore America's religious liberty.

FROM:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Freedom Council
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464



October 21, 1983

The Honorable Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord!

This letter is to invite you to attend a press conference I will be having on Friday, October 28 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Twin Bridges Marriot prior to my delivering the 1,000 ft. long petition to Howard Baker and Tip O'Neill.

I am also sending you a copy of the letter sent to the news media informing them of this event.

We are planning on sharing at the press conference the three most important messages that I have gathered from the 100,000 people that I will be representing at this delivery.

I have traveled for the past fourteen months, conducted rallies in 200 cities, collected these 100,000 names and they have come from all fifty states. I am hopeful of being able to share their strong emotional desires and reasoned convictions on the prayer-in-school issue with the press, as well as with you, when I meet with you on that occasion.

Your presence at this press conference would certainly be an inspiration to me. Hope to see you there.

Yours Settin' Fires

Cecil Todd
Proverbs 11:30



October 21, 1983

SPECIAL NOTICE TO:
(Press Agency)

ATTENTION:
News Director

On Friday morning, October 28, at 9:00 a.m., Dr. Cecil Todd is conducting a press conference at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel, 333 Jefferson Davis Highway, Washington, D.C. 22202 in the Board Room. We believe members of your news team will want to be in attendance.

This press conference will be just prior to Dr. Todd's delivering two 1,000 ft. long (that's longer than three football fields and is recognized as the world's longest!) petitions to get prayer back into our public schools to Howard Baker for the Senate and Tip O'Neill of the House.

These two giant petitions have the names of 100,000 people from all fifty states that have been personally collected by Dr. Todd in over 200 crusade rallies he has conducted in as many cities during the past fourteen months.

These petitions call on the House and Senate to properly represent the people who elected them and return the freedom to pray to the kids in our public schools!

Dr. Todd says, "If the House and Senate can unite to make a national holiday of Martin Luther King's birthday, surely they can band together to return voluntary prayer to the public schools!"

When Dr. Todd makes this historic delivery to the House and Senate, he plans to relay three very important messages from these 100,000 people that he represents to House Speaker,

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Tip O'Neill and Senate Majority Leader, Howard Baker. This important information will be shared at the Friday morning press conference prior to delivery.

Also invited to the press conference are the members of the House and Senate (or their aides), representatives of Jim Bakker's PTL Cluf, Pat Robertson's 700 Club, the Moral Majority, and Presidential Assistant, Morton C. Blackwell.

The delivery of these two giant petitions is a follow-up of the 1,000 prayer petitions delivered last year by Dr. Todd to President Reagan. The impact of that delivery was felt when our President, just three weeks later, announced his support of an amendment to the Constitution to return prayer to our public schools. We are hopeful the delivery of these two 1,000 ft. long petitions with 100,000 names on each one to the House and Senate will also help jar things loose on this issue so close to the hearts of the American people.

Thank you for your consideration in covering this very important press conference.

Sincerely,

Charles Phipps

Charles Phipps
Special Assistant to
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The Joplin Globe, Saturday, January 22, 1983

Religion



Chat With President

Cecil Todd and his wife Linda, while on a crusade, recently joined President Ronald Reagan in Costa Rica aboard Air Force One for a brief visit and photos. Todd has been invited to attend Reagan's Prayer Breakfast Feb. 3 in Washington, D.C. Reagan will be the principal speaker at the 31st annual event. In addition,

several leading government officials and prominent world religious leaders will attend. Todd, who has been the Joplin Revival Fires only speaker since its first broadcast in 1965, will also attend the National Religious Broadcasters Convention Jan. 30-Feb. 2 in Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND PROFILE ON CECIL TODD

- Founder and President of the World-Wide Revival Fires Ministries based in Joplin, Missouri and speaker on the Nation-Wide TV Show "Revival Fires", third longest running religious program in America.
- Has witnessed over 350,000 souls come to Christ during his ministry!
- He and his teams have conducted evangelistic crusades in fifty-five different nations around the world in such places as India, Africa, Philippines, Korea, South America, Australia, Romania, etc.
- Delivered one million petitions to President Reagan to return the freedom of prayer back into our public schools!
- Interviewed Ronald Reagan twice for the Revival Fires TV program. Plus, Mr. Todd has met with Reagan several other times on matters of a spiritual nature as they relate to our nation.
- Making plans to deliver the World's Longest Prayer Petition (1,000 ft.) with 100,000 names, to Tip O'Neill and Howard Baker to get voluntary prayer back into our public schools.
- For over 10 years he has been a member of the National Religious Broadcasters, and has spoken twice at it's annual convention in Washington, D.C.
- Accepted an invitation by Jon Gimenez to be one of the keynote speakers for a Christian rally on the Capitol steps in Washington, D.C. this year for the National Day of Prayer!
- His recent crusades in Costa Rica, grew from 8,000 to over 20,000 in three nights with more than 3,000 coming to be born-again.
- He has given over 500,000 "Love" Bibles to school kids in America. He plans to give away 100,000 Bibles this year! Every school age kid in attendance at his rallies is given a "Love" Bible!
- He has authored many books and a monthly magazine during the past 20 years. He has a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Midwest Christian College in Oklahoma City.
- During the past year he has conducted crusade rallies in some of America's most prominent churches, Calvary Temple, Springfield, IL (over 5,000), First Assembly, Lakeland, FL (over 4,500), Trinity Church, Lubbock, TX (over 3,000), Camp Meeting Church, Denver, CO (over 2,500), Evangel Temple, Louisville, KY (over 2,000) and Southern Oaks Assembly in Oklahoma City, OK (over 1,000)!
- Cecil Todd is described by his associates as one of America's most powerful voices for God, Country and Revival! His message is Full-Gospel, his delivery is dynamic, and his heart is aflame with the Holy Ghost!

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

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