

PORTLAND OBSERVER

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher and Editor

School prayer issue Revived with some new dimensions..

America is supposed to be a religious nation. Religious freedom stimulated the early Founders of the Land of the Free and home of the brave. Yet in recent years we've had what should not have been problems of religious nature in our public institutions, particularly our schools.

Prayer in schools is stirring again. One key to its revival is a Massachusetts court ruling that public school children may recite voluntary classroom prayers if teachers and staff do not participate in the exercises. A new flavor however, has been added, that of charges of "civil disobedience" against school prayer supporters, indictments that had been reserved principally for more "radical" or "left-leaning" elements in American society.

Concurrent with "righteous" demands for rejuvenation of prayer in public schools is an equally loud outcry by church-state separation groups and such organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union against what they term are outright violations of the U. S. Constitution. In fact, some legislators, civic leaders, church spokesmen and other proponents of school prayer admit their actions run counter to the 1963 U.S. Supreme Court decision prohibiting prayer in public schools.

In many cases, these same proponents of schools prayer have been on the other side of the fence, condemning or denouncing other acts of civil disobedience, such as draft card burning, sit-ins and campus disruptions.

The revival of school prayer issue appears to be adding a new dimension to the modern American phenomenon of dissent and civil disobedience - a "silent majority" or conservative dimension. In some parts of the country, a large measure of success in restoring school prayer periods has been at least temporarily achieved. It may necessitate another Supreme Court Action to resolve the matter once and for all.

Very recently, the Cambridge, Mass., board of education approved a "five-minute" period for voluntary prayer by pupils in 19 schools. Shortly after the superior court ruling, the Mass. House voted overwhelmingly its approval of a bill to allow students to pray voluntarily in public school classrooms. This was thought to present a challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1963 ruling which barred Bible readings and prayers. But proponents of the legislation contended that the High Court cases dealt with prayers officially mandated by school authorities, thus involving the individuals in the classrooms.

In most of the school prayer policies now being approved by local boards of education, the time element is a paramount factor. Most state legal officials concede that the High Court's ruling is interpreted to mean that prayers cannot be recited in public schools during regular hours, and that students never were forbidden to engage in voluntary prayer sessions prior to school hours, providing there was no sanction by school officials.

While many school boards are basing their case for school prayer on the "voluntary" aspects of prayer or meditation, opponents are taking issue with it. Numerous state and court cases have decryed the Supreme Court Decision on prayer in schools. We could quote or refer to quite many cases in point. The above surffices to indicate the revival of the issue of prayer in schools without further hesitation.

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School nurse

With a DPT shot it is probable a child will have a fever and a sore arm for a few days. IF a child is coming down or getting over a cold, the fever might persist longer. Usually aspirin will bring fever down.

In some cases there will be a lump in the arm where the shot was given. A cold compress will relieve any painful discomfort. This lump should go away in a few weeks.

We as parents are aware of our children's eating habits but how many of us check our child's bathroom habits? This is just as important as the foods we give them.

Maybe when your child complains frequently of a stomachache, this could be a sign of constipation. Or when frequently "scratching his seat" or being restless and unable to sleep all night, he may be showing symptoms of pinworms.

Contact your family doctor if you are having any of these problems.

Drugs

Portland has a drug problem! Seattle has a bigger drug problem! But Seattle has a new and effective answer.

We, the Committee for Creative Life for Portland, want this answer to be available to the residents of Portland, also.

Creative Life Foundation has a two-fold program; one in adult communications, the other in the teen rehabilitation. These programs are based on course work and group therapy and have a better than fifty percent success story.

Creative Life Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation supported through tuitions, gifts and grants. It is not a tax burden. Peer Group Effective Communications is the working muscle of this organization involving the community in the program of healing itself.

The dope problem has mounted to gigantic proportions and is increasing daily in its epidemic effect. The sooner we stem the current of drug abuse, the sooner the swelling tide of related crimes and wasted human life will subside.

Frankly, this letter is an effort to enlist you.

We must build roads out of our drug dilemma. Creative Life Foundation has found one workable way. This program is not a social experiment. It has been tested and approved. In fact, the Seattle Police Department is incorporating this program in its training curriculum and Seattle courts are referring teens to this organizations. If you are interested in the drug problem, let us tell you more about this way out in our meeting with Ron Perault, Field Representative for Creative Life Foundation of Seattle. The date is Mar 16, Write, Creative Life Foundation, P. O. Box 02182, Portland 97202; Tel. 774-0500.

Unless this committee receives community backing, we cannot get the Creative Life Foundation to come to Portland.

Other cities -- Tacoma, Olympia, Spokane and even Glendale, Calif. -- have adopted this very successful program. We must act soon and decisively. Will you help us?

It's your future.



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