

Congress Not Expected To Override School Prayer Decision

Decision Draws Criticism From Some Lawmakers

Washington—UPI—Any efforts in Congress to override the Supreme Court ban on religious exercises in public schools appeared doomed today despite sharp criticism of the ruling by some lawmakers.

Congress and the state legislatures could override the high court by enacting a constitutional amendment, but no one really expects they will do so.

The Supreme Court, in a long-awaited decision, ruled 8 to 1 Monday that use of the Lord's Prayer or Bible reading in public schools for devotional purposes violated the First Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits government establishment of religion.

Justice Tom C. Clark wrote in the majority opinion that the government must maintain strict "neutrality" between man and the worship of God. He held that laws in Maryland and Pennsylvania, which were challenged by parents of school children, violated the neutrality doctrine.

Justice Potter Stewart dissented, as he did last year when the court ruled unconstitutional a state-written prayer in New York schools. Stewart accused the majority in Monday's decision of trampling on the constitutional guarantee that there shall be no governmental prohibition on the free exercise of religion.

The new court decision brought angry reaction from some members of Congress and immediate moves to try to overturn it. Several such amendments were offered last year after the New York prayer ruling, but nothing came of them.

If last year's reaction is a guide, it seems likely that members of the House and Senate will fume publicly about the decision for several weeks, introduce proposed constitutional amendments and then forget about it.

To overturn the Supreme Court ruling, the First Amendment would have to be revised. This would require two-thirds approval of both the House and Senate and then ratification by three-fourths, or 38, of the 50 states.

In addition, rewriting the First Amendment—which provides for basic freedoms of speech, press, peaceful assembly and petition as well as religion, could be a most difficult task. Even if a serious effort were made to overturn the court's decision, this problem could derail it.

Church leaders were split in their reaction to the ruling. Several hailed it as a step that might encourage more meaningful religious practice by individuals both at home and in their churches. But others criticized the decision.

The Rev. Silas G. Kessler, moderator, and the Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk, of the Presbyterian church, said in a joint statement that "responsible Americans will abide by its decision in good grace."

But Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, president of the World Methodist Council, said in Philadelphia that the ruling would "penalize the religious people who are very definitely in the majority in the United States."

In Congress Sen. George D. Aiken (R-Vt.) questioned whether the opening of the Senate and House sessions with a prayer would be legal.



MAIL STUDIED—Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Schempp, Abington, Pa., with the help of their children, Donna, 17, and Roger, 20, go through some of the more than 500 letters they received in the past five years. The couple's

legal action started in a Philadelphia federal court against compulsory Bible reading in public schools resulted in Monday's Supreme Court decision to ban such activity. (UPI)

Door Seen Open for Objective Study Of Religion in Schools of Nation

Editor's note—What is the significance of the Supreme Court's decision that religious exercises in public schools are unconstitutional? Here is an analysis by the UPI religion editor.

By LOUIS CASSELS
Washington—UPI—In banning devotional exercises in public schools, the Supreme Court went out of its way to encourage objective study of religion as a regular part of the school curriculum.

The court majority thus took a stand very similar to that adopted earlier this month by the general board of National Council of Churches.

Monday's 8 to 1 ruling was unequivocal in saying that public schools may not continue the widespread practice of opening each school day with a religious exercise which usually includes the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the devotional reading of a passage from the Bible.

Surveys indicate that about half of the nation's public schools now follow this practice. It is much more common in the South and East than in the Midwest and West.

The court said that such exercises, whether compulsory or voluntary, violate "the command of the First Amendment that the government maintain strict neutrality, neither aiding nor opposing religion."

Departed From Issue
But the majority opinion, written by Justice Tom C. Clark, went on to speak of the "exalted" place which religion occupies in American society. And it departed from the specific legal issues before it and offered schools and students these words of advice:

"It might well be said that one's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the his-

tory of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization.

"It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities.

"Nothing we have said here indicates that such study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education, may not be effected consistently with the First Amendment."

The court's strong plus for objective teaching about religion was warmly welcomed by a number of religious leaders.

J. Irwin Miller, president of the National Council of Churches, noted that the council's policy-making general board, meeting in New York on June 7, adopted a pronouncement opposing "devotional use of the Bible" in public schools, but asserting that "the full treatment of some regular school subjects requires the use of the Bible as a source book."

The council statement said that "no person is truly educated who is not aware of the vital part played by religion in the shaping of our history and culture, and of its contemporary expressions." It suggested that information about religion be taught in courses in social studies, literature and the arts.

The Rt. Rev. William F. Creighton, Episcopal bishop of Washington, said the court decision "clearly opens the door for an increased emphasis upon our religious heritage as a regular part of the public school curriculum."

Portland—UPI—Church leaders here expressed mixed reactions today to the U.S. Supreme Court decision forbidding states from requiring Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in public schools.

The Rev. J. Lester Harnish of the First Baptist Church said the state could not require anyone to exercise any religious function.

"This does not mean that prayer cannot be offered in schools by those who wish to voluntarily participate," he said, explaining the key word in the decision was "require."

Methodist Bishop A. Raymond Grant and officials of the Greater Portland Council of Churches also released statements supporting the opinion.

Dissenting Opinions
Two dissenting opinions came from Rev. Martin Thelen, director of education for the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Portland and the Rev. George Macris of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

The Rev. Mr. Thelen said the decision is in line with a trend to promote complete secularization of American public life.

"Such a concept is to our mind completely at variance with the thinking of our founding fathers," he said.

In Salem, James Turnbull, deputy state superintendent of public instruction, said he doubted if the decision will have any effect in Oregon. He said he knew of no schools which require Bible reading.

INSURANCE BILL PASSED
Washington—UPI—The House passed and sent to the Senate Monday a bill which would extend for another two years liberal home financing mortgage insurance now available to low- and moderate-income families.

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At last! A pleasant, refreshing way to help break smoking habit. Great taste, gently medicated to help satisfy tobacco craving. At drug stores.

Stocks Show Improvement On Moderately Active Trading

New York—UPI—Stocks showed signs of improving early today on moderately active trading.

Some electronics and tobacco brightened, IBM and Texas Instruments were up about 1½ and 2, respectively. However, Singer Manufacturing continued to weaken after a Supreme Court decision that Singer attempted through patent deals to monopolize

domestic sales of Zigzag automatic sewing machines.

Both Philip Morris and Liggett & Myers moved higher in the tobacco.

DOW JONES AVERAGES
New York—UPI—Dow Jones final stock averages: 30 Industrials 718.21, off 3.82; 20 railroads 170.11, up 0.32; 15 utilities 139.87, up 0.24; 65 stocks 256.45, off 0.58. Sales Monday were

about 3.51 million shares compared with 3.84 million Friday.

Monday's prices on selected stocks

Alum Co Am	65 1/2
American Air Lines	24 1/8
Chrysler Corp	102 1/2
A T & T	101 1/2
American Tobacco	29 1/2
Amoskeag Copper	50 1/2
Armed	37 1/2
Bendix Corp	31 1/2
Chrysler Corp	102 1/2
Caterpillar Corp	43 1/2
Coca Cola	93 1/2
Firestone	64 1/2
Columbia Gas	30 1/2
Continental Can	47 1/2
Crown Zellerbach	32 1/2
Cruible Steel	25 1/2
Curtis Wright	21 1/2
Dow Chemical	60 1/2
Do Post	24 1/2
Eastman Kodak	100 1/2
Ford	34 1/2
General Electric	79 1/2
General Foods	81 1/2
General Motors	70 1/2
General Portland Cement	21 1/2
Georgia Pacific	52 1/2
Greyhound	48 1/2
Gulf Oil	44 1/2
Homesite	34 1/2
Idaho Power	34 1/2
I B M	45 1/2
J.P. Paper	32 1/2
Johns Manville	32 1/2
Kennecott Copper	73 1/2
Lockheed Aircraft	107 1/2
Martin	19 1/2
Merck	93 1/2
Montana Power	37 1/2
Natl Biscuit	48 1/2
Northern Natural Gas	33 1/2
Northern Pacific	46 1/2
Pac Gas Elec	42 1/2
Pennex J. C.	43 1/2
Penn R.R.	18 1/2
Petroleum Cement	16 1/2
Phillips	54 1/2
Procter Gamble	74 1/2
Safeway	57 1/2
Swans	42 1/2
Shell Oil	90 1/2
Southern Co.	53 1/2
Southern Pacific	35 1/2
Standard California	63 1/2
Standard Indiana	90 1/2
Standard N. J.	67 1/2
Texas Co.	69 1/2
Texas Gulf Sulphur	13 1/2
Texas Pacific Land Trust	22 1/2
Thisko	24 1/2
Trans America	51 1/2
Trans World Air	17 1/2
Tru-Continental	46 1/2
Union Carbide	107 1/2
Union Pacific	40 1/2
United Air Lines	48 1/2
U. S. Plywood	38 1/2
U. S. Rubber	46 1/2
U. S. Steel	37 1/2
United Utilities	37 1/2
Youngstown	101 1/2

Southland Soaked By Heavy Showers
United Press International
Heavy showers soaked the Southland today and summery air pushed northward into the Midwest.

The heaviest rainfall during the night occurred in the Southwest. More than two inches fell at Corpus Christi, Tex., Naval Air Station. Earlier, more than four inches hit Laredo, Tex., and Morgan City, La., ran its 24-hour total to seven inches.

American Clergy, Laymen Differ In Reaction To Prayer Decision

United Press International
America's clergy and laymen differed today in their reaction to the Supreme Court ruling banning compulsory reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in schools.

Protestants and Jewish leaders were divided, while Roman Catholics generally urged support of the ruling.

In Los Angeles, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union said he would file suit to challenge the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance as a violation of the First Amendment.

The National Council of Churches said the decision was a "reminder . . . that teaching religion is the responsibility of the home and the community of faith (church or synagogue) rather than public schools. Neither the church nor state should use the public school or compel acceptance of any creed or conformity to any specific religious practice."

Others Differ
A Methodist layman from Onida, S. D., differed.

"Those of us who believe that prayers and Bible reading in school are worthwhile have never suggested that these things should take the place of church and home training," Curtis Johnson, a road contractor, said.

"The real issue is not a matter of separation of church and state. It is the grievous mistake the Supreme Court believes religion should be channeled into certain areas of life only," Johnson said.

"This is a tragic error," said Evangelist Billy Graham, crusading in West Germany, said he was "shocked" at the Supreme Court decision.

"Prayers and Bible reading have been a part of American public school life since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock," Graham said. "Now a Supreme Court in 1963 says our fathers were all wrong all these years. In my opinion, it is the Supreme Court that is wrong."

Defends Ruling
A Roman Catholic educator, the Rev. William J. Kenealy, S.J., professor of law at Loy-

ola university in Chicago, said "reading of the Bible, recitation of prayers and the conduct of religious exercises in public schools infringes on the free exercise of religion on the part of dissenting parents."

The president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Albert G. Minda, Minneapolis, Minn., said, "We are gratified to learn of the decision . . . We believe they will strengthen the voluntary religious life in America."

A Jewish theologian, Rabbi Seymour Siegel of Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, said, "I number myself among those who believe that it is desirable within the dictates of the Constitution to find some way to make the in-

fluence of religion felt within the schools of our nation."

The American Jewish committee said the decision represented "a reaffirmation of the historic American principle of separation of church and state."

Criticizes Decision
The president of the World Methodist Council, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, said in Philadelphia the ruling will "penalize the religious people who are very definitely in the majority in the U.S."

Bishop Corson predicted the decision would be "the beginning of a new movement by both the Protestants and the Catholics for parochial education simply to protect their children from a growing secularism which now seems

to have invaded the courts." In Indianapolis, Ind., Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religious leaders issued a joint statement urging support of the court's decision.

Dr. Robert A. Cook, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, disagreed strongly with the ruling.

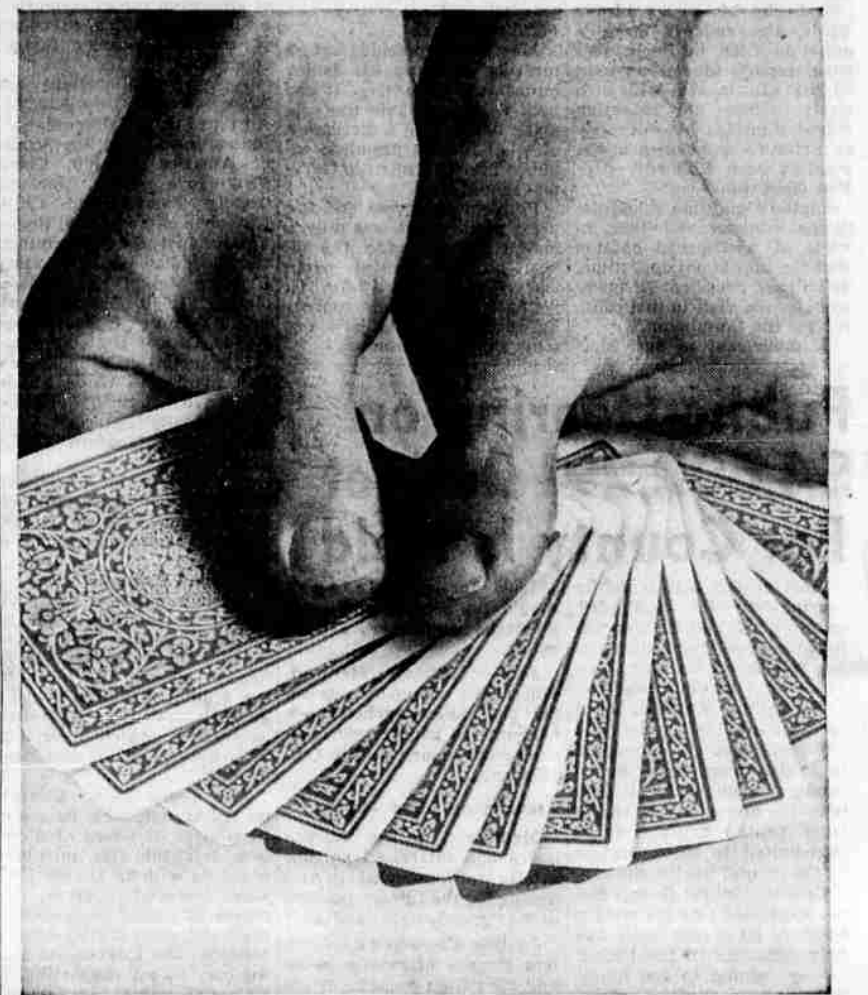
"The Supreme Court ruling against prayer and Bible reading as devotional exercises in the schools marks a sad departure from this nation's heritage under God," he said.

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