

Reagan: Pray for Soviets

'When men try to live in a world Without God, it is only too easy for them to forget the rights that God bestows'

Columbus, Ohio (NC) -- President Reagan March 6 called for a constitutional amendment to allow organized public school prayer and criticized abortion.

Reagan, who the White House says has not attended worship services in about nine months, also told the National Association of Evangelicals, meeting in Columbus, that he prays the Soviet Union finds God.

His speech, with frequent references to religion and God, came as the issue of school prayer was under consideration in the Senate.

"It's not just public prayer that the courts have moved against," the president said. He suggested that something has gone "haywire" when the Constitution is invoked to allow marches by such groups as the Ku Klux Klan or Nazis but supposedly forbids "our children from Bible study or the saying of a simple prayer in their schools."

The president also said he would be willing to negotiate with the Soviet Union but that in addition "we will never stop praying that the leaders, like so many of their own people, might come to know the liberating nature of faith in God."

"When men try to live in a world without God, it is only too easy for them to forget the rights that God bestows -- too easy to suppress freedom of speech, to build walls

to keep their countrymen in, to jail dissidents and to put great thinkers in mental wards," Reagan added.

In a pro-life reference, he said that "abortion as a means of birth control must stop" and repeated a statement he has made before that "the unborn children being killed often feel excruciating pain." He urged Americans to "come together in a spirit of understanding and helping" to "find positive solutions to the tragedy of abortion."

Throughout "most" of U.S. history, "all our material wealth and all our influence have been built on our faith in God and the bedrock values that follow from that faith," Reagan said. However, "in recent years, we must admit, America did seem to lose her religious and moral bearings -- to forget the faith and values that made us good and great."

Reagan's own church attendance record drew attention March 6 from the White House and House Speaker Rep. Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, D-Mass.

According to the White House press office, Reagan last attended a Sunday church service in June 1983.

O'Neill said Reagan is "a man that doesn't go to church and he talks about prayer. They ought to put a chapel up at Camp David so he can go."

Congress Debates School Prayer

Washington (NC) -- Congress took up the controversial issue of school prayer March 5 as supporters and opponents rallied outside the Capitol.

Debate began in the Senate on a constitutional amendment to restore school prayer while, in the House, pro-school prayer members held an all-night session.

At issue in the Senate was a proposed amendment backed by President Reagan, who has made school prayer a mainstay of his political agenda of social issues.

The amendment, offered by Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., states that the Constitution:

-- Does not proscribe individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions;

-- Does not require anyone to participate in prayer, and

-- Prevents the government from drafting the prayer used.

Another proposed amendment, sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, would provide for silent prayer or meditation. A third, offered by Senate Ma-

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Deadline
Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication.

College Gets Gift for Reading Clinic

Nazareth College has received a gift of \$1,000 from alumna Marie Callahan of Rochester to support programs in the reading clinic named in her honor, according to Laurel Ann Tarcinale, director of development. Ms. Callahan is a 1930 Nazareth graduate and a long-time benefactor of the college.

The campus facility for the college's undergraduate and reading program was designated the Marie Callahan Reading Clinic in September 1978.

More than 2,200 area children have benefited from clinic services since the facility opened in 1968. Some have received help with reading difficulties while others have participated in enrichment programs.

majority Leader Howard Baker, R-Tenn., would affirm the rights of people gathered in public places to pray.

If passed by both chambers of Congress on two-thirds majority votes and approved by three-quarters of the state legislatures, the amendment would remove the Supreme Court's 1962 ban on organized school prayer.

As Congress pondered, groups backing and opposing the amendment rallied outside. Capitol police estimated about 1,000 participants at the pro-school prayer vigil and about 100 in a rally against the proposal.

Another 60 supporters gathered inside a House meeting room for all-night singing and praying.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



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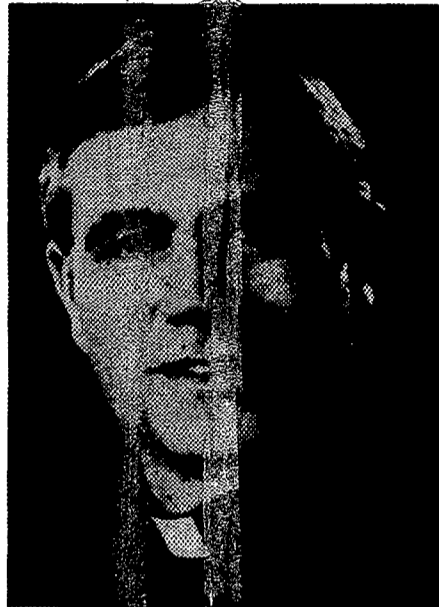
Does grief have a purpose?

When someone we love very much dies we face a major change of lifestyle. The person we love is gone; usually our lifestyle changes drastically. Over the years we lived with another person, we developed habits of living and dependencies. Grief is a way of expressing that we dislike what has occurred. Through our grief we are forced to recognize that life has changed and will no longer be the same. The purpose of productive grief is to make us look toward a new lifestyle and to do the things necessary to create a new lifestyle. In the end we break with a past that no longer exists and we create new ways to do things and to organize our lives without the deceased.

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