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W. J. ISBELL, JR.
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May 8, 1964

Honorable Emanuel Celler
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Representative Celler:

For some time I have been watching with interest the controversy on "prayer and Bible reading in school." When the Supreme Court ruled that forced and designated prayers or Bible reading were unconstitutional, I said, "Amen." For, this is as it should be.

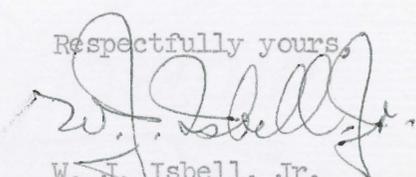
Then all "hell broke loose." Everybody wanted to impeach the Supreme Court and change the constitution so we could get God and the Bible back into our schools. They didn't stop to realize that neither had left. The Supreme Court did not rule that Bible reading and prayer in our schools were unconstitutional. It is unconstitutional only when forced or designated.

I personally felt that the news media would inform the people and sanity would prevail, but this does not seem the case. The panic button has been pushed and everyone is running in all directions trying to return something that hasn't been lost. In their effort to rectify what they feel is wrong, they are about to destroy what they accused the Supreme Court of destroying.

If the Becker Amendment (H.J. Res. 693) is passed, we not only destroy the First Amendment to the constitution; but we will be trying to replace God with the state. The state will then set the prayers and religious functions.

May I urge that you do everything within your power to oppose the enactment of the Becker Amendment or any similar amendment. Leave the First Amendment as it is. It gives me the freedom to worship as I desire and the freedom to petition the government for a redress of grievances. This I am doing.

Respectfully yours,


W. J. Isbell, Jr.



WJI:she

Sharing Christ
with the Whole World