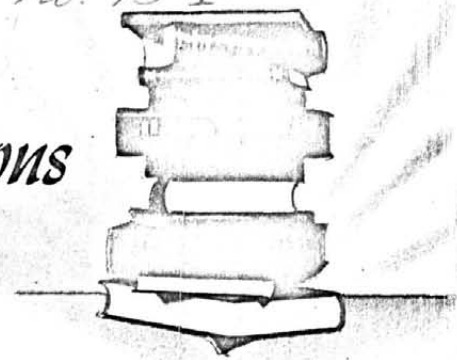


PROPRIETOR OF

ELLEN G. WHITE

Publications



Office Address:

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012

October 18, 1966

737 Silver Spring Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland

Dear Brother and Sister

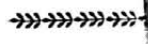
I enjoyed so much having you both in our home last night. It is always a pleasure to have you with us. I appreciate your desire to do what is right in the sight of God and to be obedient to the teachings of God's Holy Word. I have tried to point out just how the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are being fulfilled and will continue to be fulfilled in the near future, in this great country of ours. I would not feel guiltless before God unless I presented to you such great truths as the one that we studied last night dealing with the mark of the beast, the national Sunday law that will be passed in this nation and doubtless in other nations subsequently. Such action on the part of civil government will incur the wrath of God and the seven last plagues will be poured out upon those who receive the mark of the beast in the forehead or in the hand. This is made clear in Revelation 13.

It is because of the bridging of the gulf that separates church from state - in the near future - that Seventh-day Adventists have tried for nearly a century to keep this gulf fixed so that the state might function in the creation of laws and the enforcement of laws that relate to the relations of human beings one to another. We've tried to emphasize that the business of the church is to lead men to have faith in God and to be obedient to the teachings of the holy scriptures. It is the business of the church to instruct its members in how to pray and how to worship God, and in the great doctrines that are essential that we shall believe.

It is also the business of the church to bring to the non-christian world the knowledge of the gospel and the binding obligations of God's moral law, and the truth concerning Bible doctrine. This, Seventh-day Adventists have been trying to do for well over a century - as we prepare the world for Jesus' second coming.

In the light of the foregoing facts we are careful to keep a vigilant eye opened for any in roads that would tend to place the government in the position of teacher of religion. This is the church's function, not the government's function. The prayer amendment is in a dubious area for the reason that I have suggested. I'm enclosing a document that I secured from the office of W. Melvin Adams, one of our Religious Liberty leaders

W. P. BRADLEY President	R. S. WATTS Vice-President	A. L. WHITE Secretary	D. A. DELAFIELD Associate Secretary	BESSIE MOUNT Assistant Secretary
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here in the General Conference. Please read it through very carefully, for it deals with the testimony that he gave "before the sub-committee on Constitutional Amendments of the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee" several months ago. I urge you to read it through very carefully and meditatively so that you can see the basic arguments on which the Adventist position is based. These arguments are basic American, Christian arguments.

Seventh-day Adventists have tried to make very clear, as Brother Adams does in his testimony, as you will read it, that Seventh-day Adventists are not opposed to prayer. That People have a right to pray voluntarily when they sit in a classroom, at the lunch hour, while they are pouring over books. But the teacher who represents the government cannot really, consistent with the American principle of separation of church and state, assume role of a priest, or a minister, or a religious teacher, in a civil classroom, and say to his students "we will now pray." Is this the function of government?

There are many students: Jewish, Atheistic, Mohammedan, Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox backgrounds - a regular medley of religious faiths, or no faith at all - whose parents would object to such procedures. The litigation that might insue as the result of a law or an amendment, should it be passed by the United States Congress, would involve the United States government in great embarrassment.

Well, ponder these things Brother and Sister Mack, and please think about them objectively. I know the zeal that you have for prayer and even prayer in public schools, if it is of a voluntary character. But please consider these other aspects too and meditate a bit upon the dangers involved. Think too of how this type of thing might prepare the way for other marriages of religion and civil government that might lead to just exactly what prophecy says will follow.

Talking to Brother Adams in his office about an hour ago, I discussed with him the relationship that exists between the Seventh-day Adventist church and the National Council of Churches. Elder Adams is the representative of this denomination, serving as a consultant to a committee created by the National Council of Churches on religious freedom. The National Council of Churches invited Seventh-day Adventist Church to send in a man to get his veews on religious freedom in this country. Seventh-day Adventists saw in this, an opportunity to provide some light in guidance that might be helpful to our fellow christians. We are not members of the National Council of Churches in any shape or form.

In the same sense, Seventh-day Adventists have supplied a consultant to the National Council on missions and radio and television. Representatives from our denomination serve in these capacities also on similar committees, operated by the National Council. Our men go there to offer what help they can. They seriously refrain from participation in the ecumenical emphasis of the National Council of Churches, have nothing to do with the organization as such, except to share what light and blessing we can with christians of other persuasions who desire our council and advise.

Now Brother and Sister Mack, I hope that what I have said here proves helpful to you and I'm anticipating seeing you next Monday night.

With Christian regards.

Sincerely in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. A. Delafield".

D. A. Delafield, Associate Secretary
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DAD/js