RELIGION IS NOT ONE OF THE 3 'R's'



#### **OBSERVATION POINT**

# Why Can't My Kid Pray In School?

#### Philip H. Power

"Why can't my kid pray in the schools?" Remember when that was one of the hottest topics going, just after the Supreme Court laid down the school prayer decision some years ago?

There was a lot of criticism of the Court then, and lots of people

There was a lot of criticism of the Court then, and lots of people said it was anti-religion. Gradually, however, tempers cooled down and people realized that the separation of church and state that the Supreme Court wanted was fundamentally a good thing in our pluralist American society.

ALL THIS CAME to mind over the weekend, when I attended a National Newspaper Association convention in Washington, D. C., which was briefed by Associate Supreme Court Justices William O. Douglas.

Now one of the senior Justices, Douglas is a white-haired man in his 70s, with a face seamed with the lines of amusement and hard thought. He com-

seamed with the lines of amuse-ment and hard thought. He com-bined a gentle humanity with a breadth of vision and concern that left his audience—a pretty skeptical group of newspaper

publishers—deeply impressed. One publisher asked him a One publisher asked him a question: "How come my chil-dren can't pray in our schools?" It was pointed and direct, and it expressed some of the worries that must have concerned parents in this area.

school boards control school policy. Often, this included just what prayer policy was to be in the school.

"Now, I'm a Presbyterian. If we Presbyterians got control of the school board, we'd have Pres-

the school board, we d have Pres-byterian prayers.

"If the Catholics got control of the board, we might have Catho-lic prayers. If the Methodists did, we might have Methodist pray-

ers.
"If the Jews got control, we
might have Jewish prayers. And
if the Moslems did—remember
there are 26 mosques in this country—we might have Moslem prayers.
"Now I've been in Moslem

"Now I've been in mostem schools. And they have prayers there. They read the first verse of the Koran. And you know what that says? It pledges every Moslem believer to go out and kill all the infidels (ie. all non-Moslems).

"Now it seems to me that that's a heek of a way to start the school day with a prayer! The audience gave Justice Douglas a standing ovation.

WHAT DOUGLAS was getting at, of course, is that in America we have a melting pot of all kinds of various religions. If we start

linking the state (through the school boards) with religion (ie. school prayers), someone is bound to have his religious beliefs offended.

School authorities in this area

Douglas answered: - report that most parents have accepted this point of view.

Southfield Superintendent of Schools John English says that "once the SupremelCourt speaks, people are pretty reluctant to speak out against it. There may be some who felt the decision was not correct, but by and large most people in our pluralistics ociety understand the problems regarding school prayers."

Plymouth Superintendent James Rossman reports no diffi-culty. "We've had no problems. I have had no complaints on the policy of separation of church and state since I came to Plymouth. "We talk about religions—all of them—in the schools, and the members of the Plymouth Minis-terial Association have been very

2 BIBLE

cooperative in sending speakers over to help us out."

Rolland Upton, Livonia's Su-perintendent, reports that he has received only one complaint since assuming his post.

prayers, the vast majority seem to have accepted the verdictiin a sensible way.

People seem to understand that we live in an open society, where each person's freedom of religious choice is guaranteed by the stately convertien from rereligious choice is guaranteed by the state's separation from re-ligion. You can't teach respect for another man's religious beliefs by cramming them down someone else's throat—in school or any-where else.

"The Board's policy is that of separation of church and state." Upton said. "We teach honor for flag and country and respect for all religions in the schools, and I think the parents understand it very well."

I SUSPECT Upton is right.
Although many parents may have been startled and upset when the Court ruled on school prayers, the vast majority seem

The schools in this area ap-pear to have taken a sensible and responsible course in administering the Court's ruling. And most parents appear to have accepted it

That's something that's going right. And in a time of turmoil and strife, it's good to realize that there are some things which are going well.

## Is College Board Overstepping Powers?

## The elected trustees, of School-craft Community College can't seem to follow basic concepts of

management and are dangerously close to aborting everything thus far created at that "commuter school."

The board of trustees presently serving will be expected to dis-charge the responsibilities of nearly \$5 million of taxpayer

money next year.
Yet: as a group, the board cannot yet properly handle its own
regular monthly business meetings.
ONE REASON is that as yet

ONE REASON is that as yet the board, again — as a group, does not seem to realize just why it hired professional administra-tive personnel: a president, a vice president for business af-fairs, a dean of instruction. etc. Some individual members do seem to understand that the basic concepting function of an elected

seem to understand that the basic operating function of an elected board is to set policy and the basic function of administrators is to recommend and carry out board policy. These, however, are also remiss in that they don't

impress their fellow board members with this fact.
Others seem more bent on administering their own pet ideas -- before even seeking a concensus of their fellow board members

bers.

While paying professional, and apparently qualified, administrators in the neighborhood of \$20,000 annually to do a job, these board members constantly and consistently insist upon questioning every thought that goes administrative decision, and suggesting new ones. gesting new ones.

gesting new ones.

ONE ADMINISTRATOR suggested at last month is board meeting that it would help if the trustees would set some policies by which the administration could gauge the desires of the board.

POLICY MUST COME first in the order of priorities. The trus-tees must set the policy Until the board does this, it cannot expect the administration to function

### DAN J. GILMARTIN WRITES

### Lenore Best Forget Vietnam

When Eisenhower announced that "he'd go to Korea," it wasn't considered such an outlandish political ploy, although for a time many wondered how they would get that private railroad car aboard a C-54.

However, if this corner were advising Mrs. Lenore Romney she'd be told to try Majorca, Val-larta or Capri. Vietnam isn't ex-actly the Yacht Club.

And whoever is paying for the trip, be it the Republican National Committee or her husband, should first consult either an astrologer or an analyst.

MRS. ROMNEY'S declaration MRS. ROMNEY'S declaration to "go to Vietnam" is just about the poorest piece of advice that could be offered to the lady. And when she compounds the flap with the statement that "she wants to reassess" the situation, there'll be a lot of credibility to be ungapped.

Mrs. Romney has also hinted that she knows "more about Vietnam than many other people do." Considering what happened when George made the ltrip. she must be referring to the laundry. They both know where that is.

And when Mrs. Romney hints at reassessment, one speculates that she's maybe talking about whether or not the laundry people are using enzymes in the washer in which they handle cerebrums and corebrums. and cerebellums.

There's no way the nation's editorialists are going to let Mrs. Romney forget that George had his brain washed during a previous trip.

BRINGING UP PAST disasters BKINGING UP PAST disasters can be two-pronged. There was a time some years ago when this writer wanted to impress the family with his knowledge about plumbing.

"I'm going to fix the base-ment faucet," he declared. "What do you know about a faucet?" he was asked.

"I'll talk to a plumber and find

"It talk to a plumber and find out." he answered.

The outcome was predictable. The downstairs looked like Niagara Falls after the self-styled "Mr. Ficht" had a go at the valves and pipes.

But somehow, you always want to recoup your losses, particularly if you have suffered painfully at the hands of not only your immediate family but relatives and neighbors as well.

You guessed it. The basement faucet went on the fritz again.

"I'm going back to the basement." "I'm going back to the basement." "You blew it last time." I was told. "Keep the hell away from the basement."

"I'was brainwashed." I said.

the basement."
"I was brainwashed," I said.
"Brainwashed?"
"Yes, the plumber gave me some poor advice, which I, a trusting soul, bought hook, line and sinker," I retaliated.
"I'm warning you," the wife

said. "Keep the hell out of the

"I MERELY WANT to reassess the situation." I said. "I know more about leaky faucets

"I don't think the neighbors will buy it if the basement pours out onto the lawn again." she

said.
"It'll never happen." I count-

"It'll never happen." I countered.
"I'll give you one last chance." the wife isaid. "Leave the basement alone, Well call a plumber this time."
"It's too late," I told her. "I've already given a statement to the neighbors telling them I'm going to fix the faucet."
"That does it." she said. And began to leave the room.
"Where are you going?" I asked.

asked.

'I'm moving all the furniture to high ground, she told me.

By GLENN R. CLAWSON Plymouth Township

Do you know the assessed valuation of your property (land and building)? I am sure that most of you do not. In fact, many of you do not know the exact amount of your 1969 real estate laxes.

People, let's get interested! Visit the township hall. The people there will be happy to assist you in finding this information. Browse through the tax roll books — this is public information—and you will be astounded when you compare the assessed valuation with other similar homes in other areas in Plymouth Township.

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP property will be reassessed in 1970 in Jaccordance with Public Act 276 of 1969.

"Sec. 27. The words 'cash value,' whenever used in this act, shall be held to mean the usual selling price at the place where the property to which the term is applied shall be at the time of assessment, being the price which could be obtained therefore at private sale, and not at forced auction sale.

"Any sale or other disposition by the state or any agency or political subdivision thereof heretofore or hereafter made of lands acquired for delinquent taxes or any appraisal made in connection therewith shall not be considered as controlling evidence of true cash value for assessment purposes...

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, except as hereinafter provided, property shall be assessed at 50% of its true cash value in accordance with article 9, section 3 of the constitution."

IS YOUR PROPERTY assessed at 50% of its "true cash value" (today's market price)? If it is, your tax bill would have read as follows (based on \$47.84 per \$1.000 valuation, the millage on which the 1969 taxes were figured):

VALUE OF HOME

60,000 1.435.20

Does this shock you? It should:

If homes were in fact equally assessed according to law. Plymouth schools and Plymouth Township would have more than enough money to operate without asking for additional millage.

out asking for additional mil-lage.

On April 6. Plymouth schools are asking you for the renewal of expiring millage and additional millage to provide for a quality education for our children. I personally do not feel additional millage is the answer nor will it be necessary when everyone pays his fair share of the real estate taxes.

### Emory Daniels Writes...

### Do Sports Bridge Generation Gap?

A recent editorial on this page made the claim that high school athletics does more than anything else to help bridge the generation gap. The claim was followed by an observance that the "hippie"

an observance that the "hippie type student was notable by his absence from athletic events. That notable absence, it seems, is an indicator that high school athletics can do very little to help bridge the generating gap. It seems to me that high school athletics feature continuation of athletics fosters continuation of that gap by excluding the element many find it difficult to commu-nicate with.

IN FACT, just the opposite may be true. High school athlet-ics, instead of being a magnet drawing people together, is a burner of our great melting pot to

make everyone come out all-American boys. Athletics encourages and strengthens the position that to be

a typical American boy we must have blonde hair, blue eyes, a crew cut top, and be approxi-mately six feet and 180 lbs. Conversely, the long-haired type is considered by some as un-Ameri-

To be a member of a football team, the candidate must exem-plify this image, and very few coaches are pleased by a "hip-ple" type member on the team.

Thus, athletics is responsible for further polarization of the student body and community. The communications gap grows wider.

IT IS STRANGE that North Farmington High School, for example, can find enough faculty members to provide a coaching staff for football, baskethall, wrestling, baseball, etc., but can-not find one faculty member to sponsor a group of students op-

posed to the Vietnam War wanting to form a club.

Nothing wrong with melting pots. But's a little too much to acclaim high school athletics as a valuable tool in bridging the gen-

variable tool in bringing the generation gap.

It is a tool of the establishment to continue the attributes of its generation and does nothing to foster communication between the majority and minority groups in the high schools.







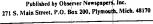
**Editorial & Opinion** 

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Philip H. Power, Publisher

The Livosia Observer - The Redford Observer
The Westland Observer - The Garden City Observer
The Plymouth Mail & Observer - The Southfield Observer
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer





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