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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 30, 1982

*Returned 10-3
9-2*

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*

SUBJECT: President's remarks to Ohio Veterans
Organizations

I believe there is a problem in the draft remarks. On Page 2 there are clear cut endorsements and calls for the election of the Republican candidates for Governor and Senator.

When I approached the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars about this, my understanding was that this would be a speech generally about defense and other issues of importance to veterans. There was no indication that the President would be taking this opportunity for making political endorsements.

I suggest we substantially soften the references to the U. S. Senate and gubernatorial races or eliminate them entirely.

The alternative would be to proceed with this excellent speech and hope that neither the American Legion nor the V. F. W. would complain that they had been misled. I would rather the President not take that risk.

Aside from the election angle, this well-drafted speech is very appropriate and will be well received.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/29/82 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OHIO VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, COLUMBUS, OHIO, 1
(9/29/82 - 1:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	FULLER	☒	☐
MEESE	☐	☒	GERGEN	☒	☐
BAKER	☐	☒	HARPER	☒	☐
DEAVER	☐	☒	JENKINS	☐	☐
STOCKMAN	☒	☐	MURPHY	☐	☐
CLARK	☒	☐	ROLLINS	☒	☐
DARMAN	☐ P	☒ SS	WILLIAMSON	☒	☐
DOLE	☒	☐	VON DAMM	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☒	☐	BRADY/SPEAKES	☐	☒
FELDSTEIN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☐	☐
FIELDING	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

Remarks:

Please provide any edits/comments directly to Aram Bakshian by 2:00 p.m. tomorrow, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

onse:

(Dolan/AB)
September 29, 1982
1:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: OHIO VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
COLUMBUS, OHIO
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1982

I can't tell you how refreshing it is to get out of Washington and back here to the heartland of America.

As some of you know, we've had our headaches lately. The Congress is spending money again -- inventing miracle cures for which there are no known diseases. And then there's the pipeline. The Soviet Union is launching a very aggressive marketing campaign. Their new slogan is "Use our gas . . . we'll cook your goose;" and, if you fall behind on your bill, you're invited for a tour of the pumping stations in Siberia. Actually though, we're just trying to point out to our European friends the disadvantages of the deal. For one thing: use Soviet gas in your oven and the stroganoff immediately starts fighting with the chow mein -- you also get an uncontrollable urge to build a wall dividing the east side of your house from the west side.

But it is good to be back on the campaign trail even if it does mean the silly season is upon us again. Out in California, some of the Republican candidates are using helicopters to get around the State -- Jerry Brown says he wants none of that though . . . he's sticking to his skateboard . . . he said he was afraid of catching medflies in his rotorblades.

In solid, hardworking Ohio, this year you can make a real difference in government. There are two classic confrontations between the past and the future -- between candidates who reject the policies of tax and tax, spend and spend and candidates who endorse them; and between candidates who stand for growth and

opportunity and candidates who want more Government and more spending. Congressman Bud Brown has been an invaluable ally in the fight against big Government in Washington. Bud has won the respect of virtually everyone he has dealt with there. In this campaign he has one agenda: bringing jobs and economic opportunity back to Ohio. He'll make a great Governor -- I hope you'll support him.

And right now Paul Pfeifer is waging one of those campaigns that is making the opposition very, very nervous. The incumbent represents a political point of view that is out of step with the people of Ohio. Mistaking his voting record for the views of the people of Ohio is like mistaking Woody Hayes for Woody Allen.

It's time you had a Senator who represents the voters of Ohio and not the liberals in Washington. I need Paul Pfeifer in Washington, the country needs him -- and we hope Ohio can help us out.

Two years ago, I made a good many campaign stops in this State. The reasons for that aren't hard to figure out: Ohio isn't just one of the most important States in the Union -- it is also a measure of America, a barometer of our people.

You may remember that all the pundits were speculating and the polls were predicting it would be a very close election race. But as I travelled through States like Ohio, one thing became very clear: something was stirring in America, a new political consensus was emerging -- a consensus that rejected Government intrusion and expansion into areas where it was neither competent nor needed; but a consensus that was also critical of Government's failure to perform its legitimate and traditional

duties -- like maintaining our national security and keeping our streets safe.

I think the results of the 1980 election marked not the high point but the beginning of a historical tide. Something has been going on in America -- a change of mind and heart that goes beyond one election or even one administration. And just as I think some of the pundits couldn't see this tide in 1980, I think it's possible they're not seeing it now.

The trouble is that too many of the seers and prophets in Washington spend their time talking to each other and not to the American people. If a career in politics teaches one truth it teaches this: over the long run it's the people who know, who understand, who decide.

Despite the hysterical cries of the opposition, the people of Ohio understand the economic mess this Administration inherited when we took office. I hate to dredge up unpleasant memories, but we'd had inflation in double digits for 2 years in a row; interest rates had shot as high as 21½ percent; productivity and the rate of growth in the G.N.P. had gone down for the third year in a row; and the money supply had increased at a 13 percent annual rate in the last half of 1980 -- the fastest in history. Unemployment was already a serious problem; business failures were increasing. Then that recession hit us with hurricane force -- a recession that was a legacy from all the years of boom and bust, of wild spending and erratic monetary policy of "tax and tax and spend and spend."

And what a job we had before us 20 months ago -- to try and control the spending juggernaut. In the last 10 years, Federal

duties -- like maintaining our national security and keeping our streets safe.

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And what a job we had before us 20 months ago -- to try and control the spending juggernaut. In the last 10 years, Federal

spending had tripled; in the last 5 years, Federal taxes had doubled. The budget for the Department of Health and Human Services -- roughly \$250 billion -- became the third largest budget in the world just after the entire national budgets of the United States and the Soviet Union. The Federal debt reached \$1 trillion and the interest payments on that debt alone were in the range of \$100 billion -- about as much as the entire Federal budget 20 years ago.

Automatic spending programs had gone completely out of control, medicare and medicaid payments had gone up 400 percent in the last decade, and the food stamp program had grown in 16 years from \$65 million to \$11.3 billion -- an increase of more than 16,000 percent.

Now maybe the people of Ohio don't have all these statistics at their fingertips, but like most Americans they know what got us in this economic mess, what caused inflation and unemployment: Government is too big and it spends too much money.

That's why the American people supported us when we moved to cut the growth in spending, when we reduced taxes for individual Americans and indexed them to the rate of inflation, when we cut through the thicket of Federal regulations, when we mobilized our Inspectors General in war on waste and fraud in the Government.

In 20 months we've managed to slow three decades of momentum towards bigger and bigger Government. Even in Washington, it's beginning to sink in: you can't drink yourself sober or spend yourself rich -- you can't prime the pump without pumping the prime. Our economic recovery program has been in effect for less than a year -- but the economic indicators are up and inflation,

which a little more than a year ago was the number one economic concern of most Americans, is now down from 12.4 percent in 1980 to an annual rate of 6.5 percent. Oh yes, and we've brought individual Americans the first real tax cut they've had in nearly 20 years.

The American people know the truth about this Administration: that we've done something that hasn't been done in American politics for a very long time. We said we would cut spending -- and we cut spending. We said we would ease the tax burden -- and we eased the tax burden. We said we would rebuild our national defenses -- and we're rebuilding them. We said we would be firm with totalitarian powers -- and we have been firm. We said these things and we meant them. We made our promises and we kept them.

Let me speak for a minute about one of the things I just mentioned. I think all of you here today, and especially those of you who served in our armed forces, will agree: a President's first duty is protecting the peace by guarding us from foreign attack and insuring the safety of our country and the future of our children.

In the last 20 years, as Government got into areas where it didn't belong, it failed to meet one of its most important and legitimate responsibilities. During the past 20 years an almost complete reversal took place in Federal fiscal priorities -- in 1960, we were devoting 49 percent of the budget to defense while 28 percent went to social spending. By 1980, that proportion had completely reversed itself with 52 percent going to social spending and only 23 percent going to defense spending.

I think you all realize the consequences. Remember those stories in 1980 about our military? About the airplanes that couldn't fly, about ships that couldn't leave port, about a rapid deployment force that was neither rapid, deployable nor much of a force.

Well, we've begun to change all that -- we've improved our strategic forces, toughened our conventional forces. And, one thing that has made me particularly happy, more and more young Americans are proud again to wear their country's uniform.

There's something else, too. As we've rebuilt America's military and strategic strength, we've also adopted a foreign policy that speaks openly and candidly about the failure of totalitarianism, that advocates the moral superiority of Western ideals like personal freedom and representative government, a foreign policy that calls for a global crusade for personal freedom and representative government. It's this combination of strategic strength and rhetorical candor that, for the first time in years, has taken American foreign policy off the defensive. Most important, it has strengthened the chances for lasting peace by providing a credible basis for important new peace initiatives -- especially in the arms control area and in regions like the Middle East. These vital initiatives for peace now have a far better chance of success than they did in that climate of doubt about American leadership that existed only a few years ago.

But none of this would have been possible without the new political consensus that I've talked about -- without the support of the American people. Our initiatives in other areas as well -- our attempts, to return prayer to our schools, to get

tuition tax credits for the parents of independent school children, to protect the unborn, to help make our streets and homes safe again by tightening up on bail and parole -- these are not just separate initiatives. They are all part of the same consensus -- that sea change in American politics, that historical tide that is sweeping America.

For the truth is that Americans this year, just as in 1980, must choose between two drastically different points of view. The other side puts its faith in the pipe dreamers and margin scribblers in Washington; we believe in the collective wisdom of the people and their commitment to the American dream. The other side says tax and tax, spend and spend, and we say power to the people.

The other side believes the solutions to our Nation's problems lie in the psychiatrist's notes or in the social worker's file or in the bureaucrat's budget -- we believe in the workingman's toil, the businessman's enterprise and the clergyman's counsel.

The other side speaks of limitations and redistribution; we want growth and opportunity. The other side wants us to lower our expectations, we have a vision for making America great again. The other side speaks of national malaise, we offer hope.

That's what the political choices boil down to this election year -- a choice between basic values, between two differing political and social philosophies; between government as master or government as servant; between a vision of America strong and secure and able to stand forthrightly for human freedom, or an

America that is weak and confused and reluctant to speak for the downtrodden.

James Madison had a favorite quote he often repeated: "All great reforms, great movements, come from the bottom and not the top . . . Wherever there is a wrong, point it out to all the world and you can trust the people to fight it."

Alexis de Tocqueville put it another way: "There is an amazing strength in the expression of the will of people, and when it declares itself, even the imagination of those who wish to contest it is overawed."

This country was born of an ancient dream, and then was nourished by a new wisdom. The dream envisioned a place on this Earth where people of all classes and kinds could live together in peace and freedom. The wisdom held that the final resting place of power was in the hands not of the government but of the people.

In the last 20 months in Washington, we have tried to return to these honored ways and reassert the basic values of the American people. Because of that sea change, because we are part of a tide, we can look again to a future filled with hope. America is on her feet again. The days of national malaise are over and an era of national renewal is upon us. There's optimism and energy again in this land. As your State motto puts it, "With God's help, all is possible." Yes, with His help, and with yours -- for all of us, for our children and for this much loved country of ours -- there are great days ahead.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Advisor List: Veterans/Military Groups

Mr. Mylio Kraja 861-2711 (O) 455-3735 (H)
Executive Director, The American Legion
1608 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Mylio was helpful in bringing the largest veterans group into support of the President's economic package.

Mr. Cooper Holt 543-2239 (O) 649-1908 (H)
Executive Director

Col. Phelps Jones (Ret) 543-2239 (O) 521-6659 (H)
Director of Security and Foreign Affairs
Veterans of Foreign Wars
200 Maryland Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Phelps is considered "Dean" of the pro-defense organization activists in the D. C. metropolitan area; he has been very helpful in providing advice regarding these organizations. We have also developed a strong working relationship with Cooper Holt.

Major General J. Milnor Roberts (AUS Ret.) 479-2200 (O) 920-0074 (H)
Reserve Officers Association
Minute Man Memorial Building
One Constitution Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002
General Roberts is a sophisticated leader of the veterans/military community; he plays key roles both as a public spokesman and as an organizer of pro-defense activities.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: ADVISOR LIST: Limited Government/Conservative Groups

Mr. Paul Weyrich (Wife - Joyce) 546-3000 (O) 941-4852 (H)
Director, Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress
721 Second Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20012

Paul is the conservative expert on coalition building who has, in addition, played a leading role in the creation of many major conservative organizations in Congress, in the D.C. area, and across the country.

Mr. John T. (Terry) Dolan 522-2800 (O) 836-1862 (H)
Chairman, National Conservative Political Action Committee
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 503
Arlington, VA 22212

Terry is the most successful conservative PAC organizer, who also heads other groups including a legal foundation, a lobby, and an education foundation.

Mr. Howard Phillips (Wife - Peggy) 893-2777 (O) 759-3929 (H)
National Director, The Conservative Caucus
422 Maple Avenue East
Vienna, Virginia 22180

Howard is an indefatigable activist, who has personally held organizational meetings in all 435 Congressional districts; he has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the federal government.

Mr. Richard Viguerie (Wife - Elaine) 356-0440 (O) 790-0306 (H)
President, The Viguerie Company
7777 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22043

Richard is the so-called "godfather" of the New Right, who brought direct mail expertise into politics through organizing in most areas of conservative interest.

Mrs. Connie Marshner (Husband - Bill) 546-3004 (O) 941-2004 (H)
721 Second St. N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20012

Connie is Chairman of the Library Court coalition of pro-family groups. She was Chairman of the Family Policy Advisory Board for the Reagan/Bush Committee. She is well regarded by the broad spectrum of social issue groups.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Advisor List: Religious Groups

Dr. Robert Billings 245-7855 (O) 839-6986 (H)
Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education
Washington, D. C.
Bob was executive director of the Moral Majority and Reagan
campaign liaison to the fundamentalist and evangelical
communities.

Dr. Jerry Falwell (804) 528-0070 (O) (804) 237-3348 (H)
President, The Moral Majority
500 Alleghany Avenue
Lynchburg, Virginia 24501
Jerry is a strong supporter of the President who has awakened
millions of Christians to the political process.

Mr. Ed McAteer (901) 458-3795 (O) (901) 685-6542 (H)
Executive Director, Religious Roundtable
P. O. Box 11467, Memphis, TN 38111
Ed is an organizer of coalitions of religious leaders interested
in the public policy process; he is held in high regard by a
wide spectrum of religious leaders, many of whom are historically
at personal odds with each other.

Mr. Robert Dugan 628-7911 (O) 281-1885 (H)
Director, Office of Public Affairs
National Association of Evangelicals
1430 K Street, N. W., Suite 900
Washington, D. C. 20005
Bob has been very helpful in guiding us. He is very sensitive
to the nuances of doctrinal differences among the various
Protestant leaders, and he helps us avoid tripping over personality
disputes which are common in this area.

Dr. William Bright
Campus Crusade for Christ
Arrowhead Springs
San Bernardino, CA 92414
Dr. Bright has been most supportive of the President and very
cooperative in working with other religious leaders.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

Subject: Advisor List: Indian Groups

Peter MacDonald (602) 871-4941 (O) (602) 248-8811 (H)
Chairman, Navajo Tribal Council, The Navajo Nation
Window Rock Arizona 86515

Pter MacDonald is the strong pro-Reagan leader of the largest Indian tribe; he is politically the most sophisticated of the major Indian leaders.

Ken Smith 343-7163 (O) 362-6835 (H)
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Ken is the long time leader of the Warm Springs Wasco Tribe, Oregon; his relations with Indian leaders throughout the country are good.

Philip Martin 343-9484 (O)
President, National Tribal Chairmen's Association
Suite 207, 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
President of Mississippi Band of Choctaws.

Ron Andrade 546-1168(O)
Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians
202 E Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Ron has, from the outset of this Administration, maintained a very constructive relationship with Administration policy makers.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Advisor List: Fraternal and Civic Groups

Mr. Aubrey C. King 466-8424 (O) 262-8109 (H)
Director of Public Affairs
National Club Association
1625 I Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Aubrey King is strongly supportive of the President because of the President's commitment to private initiatives when possible in preference to government programs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR KEN CRIBB

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL 

SUBJECT: Proposed Meeting with United Pentecostal Leader

The head of the United Pentecostal Church, Nathaniel A. Urshan, has urgently requested a meeting with Mr. Meese. Attached is a packet of information regarding this request and about the jailing of a Pentecostal minister in Nebraska. Please note my September 22 memorandum to Mrs. Dole.

I think it would be helpful to the President if Mr. Meese would promptly see this church leader.

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 22, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*

SUBJECT: Christian School Crisis in Nebraska

The Protestant fundamentalist community is electrified with concern over events in Nebraska.

Many schools are under attack by state officials. A preacher is in jail because of his refusal to cease operating his church-affiliated school. Religious media are filled with reports of police harassment.

We have received many telephone calls and other communications urging that the President take action. Numerous pastors from across the country have gone to Nebraska to show their support for the church schools and their opposition to the State government's actions. Attached are letters on this topic.

I urge you to take the matter up with Fred Fielding to determine what appropriate steps the President can take.

I know that this is fundamentally a state matter. Nebraska requires religious schools to have state-accredited teachers. Many other states have much less restrictive regulations.

There may be some way in which the Justice Department could become involved. I don't know. Perhaps in some way the civil rights of the church school leaders have been violated.

I do know this, however. There is a big contrast between the conservative political enthusiasm of 1980 in the religious community and that we see today. In 1980 there were massive rallies of fundamentalists and evangelicals all across the country. Governor Reagan spoke to a stadium full at the National Affairs Briefing of the Religious Roundtable in Dallas. There is nothing parallel to that this year.

Among the steps we ought to take is some expression of support for the Christian schools in Nebraska. More than any other thing the President could do, this would restore the fire in our natural allies in the religious community. Just investigating the matter would have major benefits for us.

The situation in Nebraska has not received much attention in the network news broadcasts or national news magazines, but the matter has been thoroughly and repeatedly discussed on virtually all the national "religious right" broadcasts. Some strong demonstration of the President's concern in behalf of the jailed school official would be promptly and enthusiastically communicated through the religious broadcasts and publications.

There is little downside if we show concern here. The real opponents of these fundamentalist Christian schools are already in the pocket of the National Education Association, which actively opposes virtually every policy of this Administration.

HANIEL A. URSHAN
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

CLEVELAND M. BECTON
GENERAL SECRETARY

JAMES L. KILGORE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

JESSE F. WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

September 17, 1982

Mr. Martin Blackwell
Liaison to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

After a telephone conversation with Reverend Curtis Young of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, I was informed that it would be important for me to send a letter to you. The information in this letter pertains to a discussion held between Louis Jenkins, State Representative in Louisiana, and yourself. The conversation by telephone was held, as I understand, on Thursday, September 16.

The following sequence of happenings concerns Pastor Edward Morey and his parochial school, which is located in the Good Life Pentecostal Church, 74 Nebraska Avenue, York, Nebraska 68760. The State of Nebraska authorized police officials and the Superintendent of Education of the county to go into the school on a search and seizure warrant. It is my understanding that though the warrant did not give them the right to take as many things as they took, this did not prevent the police authorities of Nebraska from taking numerous things. The things they seized were student records, attendance records, demerit records, training paces which are used to train new staff members, parent orientation papers, and student report cards. They took anything they wanted to take even though much of it was not written in the warrant.

Pastor Edward Morey was subpoenaed to appear in court on Friday, September 17, at 10:30 a.m. They also issued a temporary restraining order to close the school. Pastor Morey, because he did not have an attorney working in his behalf at the time, plans to ask for a continuance so that his attorney, David Kimble, of Seward, Nebraska, can sufficiently apprise him of the necessary legal methods to contend in behalf of his client. This has all been done in the name of what they call Rule 14, The Teachers' Certification Law.

In this letter I am personally pleading for the intervention of the President of the United States of America. Ronald Reagan is beloved amongst us. This is a moment when the effectiveness, the reputation, the strength and the power of the President are sorely needed. If the President would

DALE F. GAMBLE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DAVID J. WHEELER
STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR



Mr. Martin Blackwell
September 17, 1982
Page 2

be willing to call the Governor of Nebraska and tell the Governor that he is deeply interested in justice and order in this case, it would be of utmost and specific strength to a situation which is rapidly getting out of hand as far as authoritative oversight is concerned.

Those who reported to me told me that the Sheriff, the city policemen, an educational authority that was deputized, and other Sheriff's deputies fanned out and went to the door of the school with hands on their guns in gestapo fashion. Though the guns were not drawn, there was still an awesome picture of police officials coming to a school that had never had any violence of any kind or any disruptive, agitated incidents ever reported. It was to show Pastor Morey and his staff and school that they had come to see to it that the school was closed down.

You are aware, I am sure, that many of the Christian schools that have begun have done so primarily for the teaching of Christian principles and truths to children. They are also the offsprings of the poor discipline demonstrated in many of our public institutions, where there is little control of dope and drug epidemics, as well as other serious problems with young people, such as alcoholism. There is so much more that can be said for the existence of our Christian schools throughout the United Pentecostal Church and other similar Christian denominational groups who feel that they have an obligation to train their children in Christian principles and in a climate of decency and order.

Apparently, Attorney General Paul Douglas is the initiator of many of the attacks on the private school enterprise. One Baptist minister is already in jail. Pastor Morey is threatened with the same.

We are appealing through you, Mr. Blackwell, to the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, for a thorough and careful investigation into a matter that could become exceedingly serious. The United Pentecostal Church represents some 6,400 ministers, 3,400 churches, and some 500,000 constituents in North America. There are another 350,000 constituents in other parts of the world. We feel as law-abiding citizens that we deserve better treatment from state governments as well as the national government.

The foregoing statements of abuse of a state government in connection with Pastor Morey and his church school, as well as other schools of similar nature that are threatened, reveal a gross and intense violation of human rights. If the President will help us, he will not just be helping a certain group. He will be contributing to the freedom in America that we have always known. Please help us stop the slide toward a fascist and Marxist government, which seems to be developing rapidly in some portions of our great nation.

Mr. Mortin Blackwell
September 17, 1982
Page 3

I personally have been a strong supporter of the Republican Party for many years. You can check my credentials, both in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, and in St. Louis, Missouri, as to my loyalty and zeal for the sake of the very principles that our dear President is now espousing, both in the tax areas and in governmental standards of ethics.

Please let me hear from you as soon as it is convenient to you.

Very respectfully,

Nathaniel A. Urshan

Nathaniel A. Urshan
General Superintendent
United Pentecostal Church International

NAU:db



COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 16, 1982

Honorable Ronald Reagan
President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Re: Presidential Intervention Urgently Needed in Nebraska School Crisis

My dear Mr. President:

I would like to call to your attention the crisis which exists in the State of Nebraska regarding the future of First Amendment rights for religious persons and future of the right of parents to determine the education of their children.

In Nebraska, eight pastors are being arrested and jailed for doing nothing more than what is perfectly legal under state law in Louisiana and in most other states — namely, conducting a church school without seeking state permission or approval.

These churches are conducting a church ministry, a school that operates Monday through Friday, in the same rooms, with the same teachers, and for the same students who attend their Sunday school.

To say that the State of Nebraska can regulate who these churches hire to teach in their Monday schools is no different from saying who they can hire to teach in their Sunday schools and constitutes a gross violation of religious liberty under the First Amendment.

I strongly support your efforts to enact tuition tax credit legislation. But please remember that a victory on tuition tax credits will be hollow indeed if, at the same time, the principle is established that the only schools that can exist are those that are approved by the state.

I earnestly urge you to take these steps immediately:

1) Place a personal call to Governor Charles Thone of Nebraska and ask him to intervene in these cases to put an end to the prosecution of pastors until the state legislature passes a bill recognizing the right of private and church schools which receive no government funds to be exempted from state regulation.

2) If Governor Thone refuses to cooperate, make a strong public statement in support of the Baptist and Pentecostal pastors who are so courageously standing up against religious persecution at great personal risk and hardship.

Legal appeals to the United States Supreme Court and many religious leaders believe that only your personal intervention can make a difference in this situation.

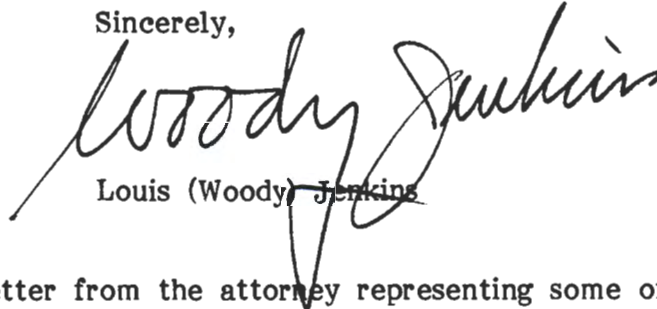
These deeply religious leaders are willing to go to prison to defend the rights of all of us under the United States Constitution.

Page 2

I trust that you will use this opportunity to once again stand up courageously for the rights of this and future generations of Americans.

With appreciation and kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Woody Jenkins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Louis (Woody) Jenkins

P. S. I am enclosing a letter from the attorney representing some of the pastors, as well as other relevant background information.

cc: Mr. Morton Blackwell, Special Assistant to the President —
Mr. Tom Ellis, President, Council for National Policy

CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

September 16, 1982

Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Re: Religious liberty in Nebraska is under seige

Dear Mr. President:

Mr. Everett Sileven has been in Cass County Jail since September 3, 1982, for failure to have a state license for the school ministry of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska.

The school was opened September 15, 1982, by a group of 140 pastors from 22 states. National leaders such as Roy Thompson, Jerry Falwell and Ed McAteer are ready to continue the school.

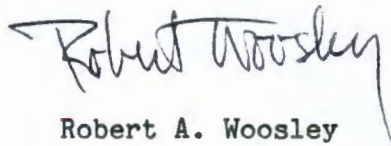
On September 15 the Good-Life Pentecostal Church School in York, Nebraska, was raided, children photographed and identified, the school records seized and church offices ransacked by a sheriff with a search warrant.

We appeal to you to exert your influence to resolve this conflict.

We will be happy to provide your office with sufficient details on the legal and political history of this situation.

Freedom-loving Christians appeal to you for relief for their persecuted brothers in Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Woosley
Regional Director

PASTOR SILEVEN AND STATE TYRANNY

by H. Edward Rowe

Louisville is a tranquil town of about a thousand people nestled among the cornfields of beautiful Eastern Nebraska. There the sounds of the songbirds and insects of summer blend with the bustle of happy people working their farms -- and others going about the tasks of the town.

A dozen miles down the road is Plattsmouth, a town of some nine thousand people. It is the administrative and judicial seat of Cass County, and it is the base from which an act of state tyranny was perpetrated against a man of God in sleepy Louisville. It happened on "Black Friday," September 3, 1982.

On that day Cass County Sheriff Fred Tesch and Deputy Larry Shelborn, acting on a bench warrant issued on September 2 by Judge Raymond J. Case, drove out to Louisville from Plattsmouth and arrested a man of God while ministering in the pulpit of his church and locked him in a jail tank with common criminals. The man of God is Dr. Everett Sileven, Pastor of Faith Baptist Church of Louisville.

The reason for the arrest and jailing of Sileven? He and the members of Faith Baptist Church had chosen to "obey God rather than men"

(Acts 5:29) and to open and operate a school for the education of their children in obedience to the Word of God. The problem was that this contravened a court order to close down the educational aspect of the church's ministry.

Behind the court order is the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA). It is the Nebraska branch of the National Education Association (NEA).

Successful lobbying by the NSEA had led to the enactment of legislation requiring all schools, including those operated as an integral function of the ministry of a church, to submit to state certification and approval of administrators and teachers, and to comply with "rules and regulations of the State Department of Education."

Inasmuch as it is an axiom of history that the power to approve is the power to control, and the power to control is the power to destroy, Pastor Sileven and Faith Baptist Church decided to continue educating their children in obedience to God, without the approval of the secular humanist establishment of Nebraska.

Sileven and Faith Baptist Church believe they are bound by Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and other biblical passages to assume full responsibility under God for the education of their children, as a direct and inseparable function of their church. They believe the State of Nebraska has confronted them with a clear choice: In order to obey Nebraska, they would need to disobey God. This they will not do.

Further, they believe they are protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution from governmental regulation of their religious faith and practice, and from any governmental limitation of its "free exercise."

The jailing of a Pastor for serving his God in accordance with the dictates of his biblically-directed conscience is an act of tyranny which is unthinkable in our supposedly free constitutional republic.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines tyranny as "oppressive and unjust government, cruel and unjust use of power or authority."

The long arm of State tyranny has brazenly interfered with the spiritual ministry of a church that is explicitly dedicated to the service of God and the betterment of man.

Needy people, the community and the nation have been deprived of the rich benefits of the wholesome and constructive services of a Minister of Christ.

State tyranny has deprived a good woman of her husband, a good man of his wife, a family of its head, a church of its Pastor, and children of spiritual leadership in obtaining a godly education.

State tyranny has imposed upon a good and godly man a fate which should be reserved for robbers, rogues and criminals.

State tyranny has dishonored an honorable man.

State tyranny has invaded the church, a sanctuary of the Sovereign God of the Universe. Uniformed and armed police of the State tyranny offended innocent little children, frightening them into tearful sobbing as their spiritual leader was arrested and taken away right before their eyes!

State tyranny has blatantly violated the supreme law of our Land, prohibited the free exercise of religion, and trampled on the Bible, the Flag and the Constitution.

State tyranny, emanating out of Lincoln and raising its ugly head in Plattsmouth, has reached out to peaceful Louisville, disturbing the tranquility of serene and harmless citizens by re-enacting the horrors of Nazi Germany in the fourth decade of this century, when uniformed men seized the most godly of men in their churches, hauled them away and locked them up.

Like the executioners who nailed our Lord Jesus Christ to the cross, the armed officers of a corrupt and degraded establishment acted on orders from a higher authority, trampling in ignorance or contempt the very founding principles of America.

Writing in the distinguished Nebraska Law Review (Vol. 61, No. 1), Timothy J. Binder has rebuked Nebraska for the heavy-handed treatment which Sileven and Faith Baptist Church have received at the hands of that state. According to Binder, such treatment of harmless people who are conscience-bound to obey God represents "a severe blow to religious freedom in Nebraska." Further, writes Binder, it is "contrary to the free exercise test which has evolved through United States Supreme Court decisions."

Author Binder proceeded to sound an enlightened warning, which should be heard and heeded by every tyrant from coast to coast: The action of Nebraska, writes Binder, "will unnecessarily place individuals in a position where they must make a choice between their God and their government; it will not be unreasonable for those individuals to choose to obey their God and suffer punishment at the hands of the government."

The Plattsmouth Tyranny will live long in the annals of shame and infamy. It has warned Americans everywhere of the overspreading horrors

of the police state.

Awake, Pastors! Awake, Christians! Awake, Americans! Arise in the power of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit! Sound the alarm! Spread the word! Shout from every village, city and farm the warning of impending state tyranny!

Remember Plattsmouth! Remember Louisville! Remember Faith Baptist Church! Remember Sileven! Remember the little children! Remember the evil day! Remember Black Friday when a man of God was arrested in his pulpit and hauled to jail rather than surrender to state tyranny!

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."
(Ephesians 6:10-13)

About the author: H. Edward Rowe is Executive Director of Coral Ridge Ministries, the organization which is responsible for the national television and radio ministry of Dr. D. James Kennedy, Senior minister of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Rowe also serves as Executive Director of the Coalition for Religious Liberty. He is author of a book entitled Save America -- the Power of the Christian Citizen (Revell, 1976 and 1980).

Minister arrested at illegal school

LOUISVILLE, Neb. (AP) — A sheriff arrested a minister in his church as he led a children's song session, and the pastor was taken to jail Friday for refusing to close an illegal school in the basement.

A hundred ministers from around the nation had gathered at the Faith Baptist Church to show their support for the Rev. Everett Sileven in his five-year battle against state regulation, and they lined up on the sidewalk and sang as he was taken away to serve a 3½-month term.

Then they followed the sheriff's car to the Cass County Jail, where some vowed to stay outside as long as Sileven is held.

"One little kid started crying" when Sileven was arrested at his Louisville church, said Cass County Sheriff Fred Tesch, who made the arrest. "But Reverend Sileven told him that the sheriff is a nice guy and that they shouldn't be mad at the sheriff."

Sileven was to have started serving the jail term Wednesday as ordered by Cass County District Judge Raymond Case in May. The pastor had been convicted of being in contempt of an order that the non-accredited fundamentalist Faith Christian School be closed. The school, with about 20 pupils, is held in the church basement. Sileven refuses to use state-certified teachers.

On Wednesday, Sileven announced that he would not turn himself in. To do so, he said, would be an admission of wrongdoing. A warrant for his arrest was issued late Thursday.

Phil Schmidt, the assistant pastor of the church, announced that the school will continue to operate.

"This school will be here today, tomorrow, five years from now," Schmidt said. Fall semester classes have already resumed, he said.

Teachers or parents of students at the school could find themselves facing contempt charges, said Cass County Attorney Ron Moravec.

"If the school stays open, we'll bring the responsible parties to court," Moravec said.

Tesch and a deputy walked to the church

doors through Sileven's supporters, who remained peaceful. There was no resistance from the crowd or from Sileven, Tesch said.

On Thursday, Greg Dixon, the national secretary for Moral Majority, a conservative lobbying group, had predicted that if authorities tried to arrest Sileven the church doors would have to "be battered down." But on Friday, there was no resistance.

Inside the church, Sileven was conducting a singing session with children. "I walked into the room where the singing was going on, and I said, 'Reverend Sileven, I'd like to talk to you.' And he said, 'Am I under arrest?' So I said, 'Yes, I do have a warrant for your arrest.' He came along without any problem," Tesch said.

"The ministers lined up along the sidewalk and sang songs as we led him away," Tesch said. A caravan of cars followed the sheriff along the 15-mile route to the county jail in Plattsmouth.

"This will probably be just another chapter for his book," Tesch said of Sileven. Earlier in the summer, Sileven said he would do some writing while in jail. That was before he changed his mind about surrendering to serve the sentence.

Sileven's current jail term is the remainder of a four-month sentence imposed last February. He served 13 days of the term at that time, but church members closed the school to free him. When the school was reopened in the spring, Case found Sileven in contempt and ordered him to finish his term starting Sept. 1.

Sileven's school has two non-certified teachers. He maintains that his school is an extension of his church's ministry and that the state has no right to interfere. He says such interference is a violation of separation of church and state.

The Nebraska Department of Education replies that all schools in the state must use certified teachers.

Sileven has taken his battle as far as the U.S. Supreme Court, which last year refused to hear the case, saying it was not a federal issue. The Nebraska Supreme Court also has turned down his appeals.

N.P. pastor says school will stay open

NORTH PLATTE (AP) — The Rev. Robert Gelsthorpe of North Platte says he will not seek state certification for his Christian school that opened Monday with 28 students.

Gelsthorpe told the North Platte Telegraph in a telephone interview from Louisville that he would not meet the county's deadline of Friday for certifying his school.

Gelsthorpe was in Louisville with supporters of the Rev. Everett Sileven. Sileven was jailed Friday for operating a church school in violation of state education rules and regulations.

Gelsthorpe has vowed to keep the North Platte Christian School open despite Lincoln County Attorney Charles Kandt's warning that court action would result if the school did not move to meet state rules.

Kandt said he expected to file an injunction in district court Tuesday to close the North Platte school.

"I have the rough draft written," Kandt said.

The county attorney said he did not know how long proceedings on the injunction would take, but he said he also planned to seek a temporary, immediate restraining order which, if granted, would close the school immediately.

York Academy faces court hearing

YORK (AP). — Motions seeking a permanent injunction to close down the York Christian Academy will be heard Sept. 17 before York County District Judge William Norton.

York County Attorney Vince Valentino filed the motions on Aug. 19, seeking a default judgment and asking for a permanent injunction in continuation of the legal battle over the school operated by the Good-Life Pentecostal Church.

The academy opened in November 1980. A year later, Valentino filed suit to close the school for violating state education regulations, including failure to use certified teachers, failure to have certified administrators and failure to file required state education reports.

Named in the August motions are the Rev. Edward Morey, school administrator, and his wife and school teacher, Irene.

York Public School officials said the children enrolled last fall at the York Christian Academy are not enrolled at the public schools this year.

Contacted Tuesday, Morey refused to deny or confirm that classes have resumed at the school. Valentino said he hasn't determined whether the school is open.

York Superintendent Paul Toms said Tuesday morning that school officials began calling families of children previously enrolled at the academy, but not enrolled in public schools, to check their status.

a u p c school

Friday, Sept. 3, 1982

Editorially speaking

Is his martyrdom paying off?

Just when we had talked about the absence of open confrontations in the church school fight two days ago, one occurred at Louisville. The Rev. Everett Sileven decided not to voluntarily go back to jail, but to defy Judge Raymond Case's order that he serve the rest of a 3½-month sentence for contempt of court.

Our closing comment, written before the announcement of Sileven's intentions, proved to be somewhat prophetic. We said this was a fight that the church school backers "seem destined, and determined, to lose."

Mr. Sileven has obviously decided he wants to lose it on his

terms, winning what many would call a victory in the process. So he has publicly stated that officers will have to "trample on the ministry of Christ, the flag of the United States, the Bible, the parents and the members of this church and enter the sovereign embassy of the Church of Jesus Christ to arrest me." As almost everyone must know by this time, he has locked himself inside the Faith Baptist Church at Louisville, where he and supporters are awaiting the arrival of officers to make the arrest.

Just as the padlocking of the church to prevent operation of his unapproved school there brought national attention and an outpouring of support last

year, so would an arrest inside the church this fall. Nobody seems too anxious to be cast in the role of the bad guy occasioning such an arrest.

Certainly, the champions of the church schools such as those operated by Sileven would (and have been) flocking to his side in this latest dispute. Many — particularly those outside the state who have not followed this story from the outset and who do not fully know all the issues — will be aghast when and if that happens. And the national media will certainly guarantee that they learn of it.

But we also sense a growing disenchantment hereabouts among other observers who may have been somewhat sympathetic in the past, and a growing sense even among other Christians that Mr. Sileven is now misusing the Bible, the flag and the church sanctuary by making them the symbol of his fight. There'd have been more sympathy with his martyrdom had he quietly gone to jail as he originally said he would; some are now looking at his defiance differently.

Some of the reason for what we sense as a change of heart may have also come because the school is again apparently operating in further defiance of the contempt of court citations. That invites additional martyr-

dom of others. But it also stems from growing realization that the state imposes very minimal standards on church schools, and interferes not at all with their operation as long as they hire qualified teachers and meet attendance norms. We don't hear operators of long-time church schools doing any complaining. That's a story that isn't told by the national television media, which makes the state, the courts and the sheriff appear the bad guys with only superficial coverage.

But the moral, if there is one, is that nobody — least of all the children in the school — are going to win in this fight.

Christian school closed as lawyers prepare fight

By The Associated Press

The Faith Christian School in Louisville will suspend classes indefinitely while attorneys representing the Faith Baptist Church and its pastor prepare to take legal action, according to Earl Little, president of the Christian Law Association.

The association is a Dallas-based organization providing money for legal counsel.

The Rev. Everett Sileven was arrested Friday after he refused to turn himself in last Wednesday to serve a 3½-month jail term for operating the non-accredited church school in defiance of state regulations.

Little said the school "recess" probably will last a week to a week and a half. He said the attorneys, David Gibbs and Charles Craze of Columbus, Ohio, and S.J. Albracht of Omaha, need time to prepare for legal action.

"They have to have time to get papers ready to file," Little said. He said he didn't know what type of action will be taken.

Another reason the school will be closed, he said, is to avoid a possible confrontation with authorities.

Cass County Attorney Ron Moravec had said earlier teachers or parents of students at the school could find themselves in court on contempt charges.

"If the school stays open, we'll bring the responsible parties to court," Moravec said.

"There doesn't need to be any confrontation, especially with children, if they try to close the school now," Little said.

Daniel Loomis, a member of the Gibbs and Craze law firm, said the

attorneys met Monday at noon to discuss options for a lawsuit.

Loomis said, though the attorneys hadn't decided yet what exactly will be done, some form of legal action will be taken.

Sileven has fought a five-year battle with the state over regulation of his Christian school. He was ordered to start serving his present term Sept. 1 by Cass County District Judge Raymond Case following a conviction last May on a charge of being in contempt of an order that the school be closed.

The school, with about 20 pupils, is conducted in the church basement. Sileven refuses to use state-certified teachers. The current jail term is the remainder of a four-month sentence imposed on Sileven last February. He served 13 days of the term at that time, but church members closed the school to free him. When the school was reopened just weeks before the end of the spring semester, Case found Sileven in contempt and ordered him to finish his term.

Moravec said the closing will have "no effect whatsoever" on Sileven's current jail term for contempt.

He said when Sileven was released last year, officials had promised to close the school permanently. This is a separate action, he said.

"Certainly the judge could rule to release him, but it's not an automatic thing," Moravec said.

Sileven maintains his school is an extension of his church's ministry and that the state has no right to interfere. He says such interference is a violation of separation of church and state.

The Nebraska Department of Education replies all schools in the state must use certified teachers.

Trial set for G.I. school

From staff and wire reports

Grand Island's non-accredited school will operate without interference until Oct. 18.

That is when a trial about closing accredited Calvary Academy is scheduled in Hall County District Court.

County Attorney Steve Von Riesen has said he does not plan to close the school down until after the legal proceedings.

The state has filed suit against the church school because no certified teachers were employed. The school, which is operated by Calvary Apostolic Church, opened in September of 1980.

Kevin Brostrom, Hall County Deputy Attorney, said in addition to not having certified teachers, the school

doesn't submit attendance reports or meet the compulsory attendance requirements of the state.

When contacted, Agnes Rich, superintendent, declined to comment on the charges or tell how many students were attending the church school which opened Monday.

In North Platte, a church school administrator vowed Monday he "will not budge" in his decision to shun state approval, despite the Lincoln County attorney's warning a lawsuit to close the school will be filed if state regulations are not met.

Dressed in red, white and blue uniforms, 28 students attended the opening day of classes Monday at the North Platte Christian School.

But County Attorney Charles Kandt said he will try to close the

school if the administrator does not seek state approval by Friday.

Pastor Robert Gelsthorpe, the school administrator, said he will not apply for state certification for himself or his school, which was established in January 1980 at the Baptist Church north of North Platte.

"Where I stand, I stand," Gelsthorpe said.

Elsewhere, teachers and parents from a Chadron church school have filed a class action suit in U.S. District Court challenging the constitutionality of state regulation of private church schools.

In the suit, filed Monday, the Bible Baptist Church group is seeking a declaratory judgment striking down statutes that allow the state to "approve, license, control or regulate educational ministries."

*Agnes Rich
308 384 1627
17 kids in class school*

Sileven Begins Jail Sentence; Officials Keep Eye on School

By John Whitesides

World-Herald Staff Writer

Supporters of the jailed Rev. Everett Sileven maintained a vigil outside the Cass County Jail in Plattsmouth Friday, while county authorities planned their next move against Sileven's Faith Christian School.

Sileven was arrested inside his Faith Baptist Church in Louisville about 9:30 a.m. Friday, ending a 48-hour standoff between Sileven and county authorities.

Sileven had secluded himself in his church with about 100 supporters, challenging authorities to arrest him.

Earl Little, president of the Christian Law Association of Dallas, said at least two people would remain outside the door of the jail for the rest of the day Friday.

Sileven's supporters placed an American flag and a flag bearing a Christian symbol on either side of the door.

Little said another rally was being planned to express support for Sileven, and a substitute was being lined up to preach sermons and handle communication between Sileven and the congregation.

"Most of the pastors are still very, very anxious about the fate of the school," Little said. "Uppermost in the pastor's mind is that the school continue."

Cass County Attorney Ron Moravec said that if the school did remain open, he would begin further court action against parents and others responsible for the school's operation.

"We'll make another determination next week whether or not the school is actually in session," Moravec said. He declined to say how the determination would be made. In past cases, Cass County Sheriff Fred Tesch has been sent to observe the church building during school hours.

If it is found that the school is operating, the legal papers could be filed within a few days, Moravec said.

Nevertheless, Sileven's supporters said the school would stay open despite the pastor's absence.

"The school will certainly continue to operate," Little said. "We're trying to minimize the shock of this whole thing on the children. They were in the sanc-



Richard Janda/World-Herald

Mrs. Sileven with supporters outside jail . . . Rally brought tears.

tuary when the sheriff came in."

Tesch and Chief Deputy Larry Shelbourn arrested Sileven as he stood in the pulpit addressing the youngsters. The two had entered the unlocked door of the church after walking through a line of Sileven supporters.

"I told him I'd like him to step outside," Tesch said. "He said, 'Am I under arrest?' When I said yes, he said, 'OK, I'm ready.'"

The arrest followed a late-night

Please turn to Page 3, Col. 1



The Associated Press

Sileven led to sheriff's car as supporters wave Bibles ... Photo came from film taken by Robert McCurry, pastor of Calvary Temple Church, East Point, Ga., and David Hyde of Fort Smith, Ark.

Officials Keep Eye on Louisville School

• Continued from Page 1

phone call from Sileven to Tesch. The sheriff said Sileven told him he would not meet any resistance if he came to the church.

"He said he had his pockets emptied and he was ready to come to jail," Tesch said.

Tesch said he called the church Friday morning from the outskirts of Louisville to warn Sileven and his supporters that he was coming.

After leading Sileven outside, the three walked through a cordon of Sileven supporters to the sheriff's marked cruiser for the 15-mile drive to Platts-mouth. Sileven was led away peacefully. No handcuffs were used.

Sileven's supporters followed the sheriff in their own cars, then held a

rally on the steps of the jail.

Sileven's wife, Tressie, sobbed as she listened to the speakers at the rally. She declined to answer questions about the arrest.

Sileven had been scheduled to enter the jail by noon Wednesday, but refused. A bench warrant for his arrest was issued Thursday evening.

He was charged with operating the school in violation of state regulations requiring accreditation of teachers.

Cass County District Judge Raymond Case originally sentenced Sileven to four months in jail. Sileven was released when the school was closed by the congregation after Sileven had served 13 days of the jail term.

The school later reopened, and Case ordered Sileven back to jail Sept. 1 to

finish his sentence.

Sileven was booked into the jail Friday morning and placed in a holding cell with six other prisoners. Tesch said Sileven would remain with the general jail population throughout his sentence.

Little said Sileven's attorneys were studying the possibility of further appeals of the sentence, and said something might be filed within the next few days.

He described the arrest scene as peaceful. "It wasn't a big invasion scene," he said. "They were very gracious."

He said Sileven had accomplished his goal in resisting the court order.

"There was a point that needed to be made," Little said. "Our religious freedoms are at stake."

Coral Ridge Ministries

P.O. Box 5555, Fort Lauderdale, Florida • 33310 (305) 782-5885

September 8, 1982

Hon. Charles Thone
Governor of Nebraska
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Governor Thone:

Re. Pastor Everett Sileven Case

This case is rapidly becoming a national issue as the tyrannical policies of the State of Nebraska are becoming known.

The Ad Hoc Committee for The Freedom of the Church and Pastor Sileven is expanding rapidly as men of God, angered by the persecution of Faith Baptist Church and the brutal jailing of Pastor Everett Sileven, are spreading the word of this outrageous action.

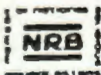
You will find enclosed copies of open letters to Judge Raymond J. Case and Sheriff Fred Tesch. You will also find enclosed an article titled Pastor Sileven and State Tyranny. These three items are being distributed widely to the press of the nation.

This morning the ABC network carried an item involving action by Edward King, Governor of Massachusetts. Governor King commuted the three-month contempt of court jail sentence of a reporter who refused to disclose certain information desired by the courts. Some of the factors involved in the decision to commute were:

1. The reporter was not a threat to society.
2. His family needed him.
3. He was not in need of rehabilitation.
4. A public outcry against the jailing of the man had been heard.

There were no deals. The man was not required to recant and reveal the information which he had withheld from the court -- even though the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a landmark case in recent years that reporters in such cases must reveal information concerning criminal cases to the courts.

Governor Thone, many of us are wondering why Pastor Sileven's sentence cannot be commuted immediately by your office. I respectfully suggest that you call for a review of your prerogatives as Governor with commutation in view. Possibly a phone call to Governor King would be



Seeking to fulfill the Great Commission through the media

productive in suggesting relevant similarities.

We call upon you to act decisively now and commute this unjust and wicked sentence that has been imposed upon Pastor Sileven, a man of God who has done nothing but good to anyone, and whose church and ministry is constitutionally protected against governmental regulation. You owe it to Sileven's community, the State of Nebraska and the nation to see that this godly Pastor is released to return to the ministry of Christ through Faith Baptist Church, including the teaching ministry of the Church.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



H. Edward Rowe
Executive Director

P.S. Must truth be forever on the scaffold, and wrong forever on the throne? In many instances the state "certified" and "approved" public schools are moral cesspools in which children can hardly learn to read and write. As you know, churches which are educating their children are producing a higher level of competency than are the tax-supported public schools. When the prince of darkness is called upon to approve the work of Christ, the world is truly out of joint!

OPEN LETTER TO HONORABLE JUDGE RAYMOND J. CASE
Cass County Courthouse, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048

September 5, 1982

Dear Judge Case:

You have jailed a good and godly man for no other offense than the legitimate, constitutionally-protected practice of his religious faith and commitment.

In so doing, Sir, you have perpetrated a monstrous evil against this excellent man, his family, his church, his ministry, his profession, his honor, his community and our nation.

You have brazenly violated the Constitution of the United States of America, which you have sworn to uphold. You have scorned and trampled the most elementary principles of religious liberty which were basic to the founding concept of America.

We refer to Dr. Everett Sileven, Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville. He and the parents and members of Faith Baptist Church are conscience-bound by the instruction of the sixth chapter of Deuteronomy and other biblical passages to educate their children, and this is an inseparable and irrevocable commitment of their religious faith.

Further, they are protected by the First Amendment from governmental regulation of their religious faith and from any governmental limitation of its free exercise. That, Sir, is the supreme law of our Land, and you have no right whatever, under any circumstances, to act in a manner contrary to it.

In jailing this man of God for his refusal to disobey his God, you have relied upon the arrogant brute power of the state as a means of dealing with biblically-based Christian conscience.

You seek by force of the police state to accomplish what the lions of the Coliseum, the cross of execution, the sword, the axe, the guillotine, the burning stake and the torture chamber were powerless to accomplish long centuries ago.

When will tyrants ever learn that they cannot change biblically-guided Christian conscience by means of imprisonment and other forms of physical brutality?

When will tyrants ever learn that the application of brutal and coercive measures to the anointed of God only confirms their commitment to the purpose and service of the Supreme Lord of the universe?

When will tyrants ever learn that God Himself has promised special rewards to those who are the objects of their evil acts?

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they shall revile and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12).

Imprisonment offers no inducement to violate the will of God. Death holds no terror to those who would rather die free than live in bondage under state tyranny.

We plead with you, Sir, to ponder well your wicked act of locking up a righteous man in a pen with common criminals.

Timothy J. Binder in the distinguished Nebraska Law Review (Vol. 61, No. 1) has rebuked such evil deeds as "a severe blow to religious freedom in Nebraska," and has exposed the Nebraska tyranny as "contrary to the free exercise test which has evolved through United States Supreme Court decisions."

Further, Mr. Binder sounded the following enlightened warning, which should be heard and heeded by every tyrant from coast to coast: "The decision will unnecessarily place individuals in a position where they must make a choice between their God and their government; it will not be unreasonable for those individuals to choose to obey their God and suffer punishment at the hands of the government."

In fact, every genuine Christian is duty-bound to "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29) whenever the ordinances of men are in conflict with the clearly-expressed will of God.

The immortal First Amendment, which forbids laws regulating religion and prohibiting its "free exercise," was written into our Constitution to preclude any such conflict. Those who voted to adopt this provision on September 17th, 1787, had heard the unanimous voice of history that the sword and the gun, wielded by the tyrant State, cannot possibly subdue and dominate biblically-based Christian conscience.

Viewed from the perspective of the framers of our U.S. Constitution, your act of jailing Pastor Siliven is at once the height of folly and the zenith of futility.

Your honor, how many men and women of God are you prepared to commit to the dungeon in your determination to shackle Christian conscience pertaining to the rearing and education of children?

Will you persist until Nebraska has been reduced to a Nazi-style police state?

Will you sleep well to the clanging of iron jailhouse gates and the crying of wives and little children?

You, Sir, are personally responsible for the monstrous act of depriving a man of God of a part of his life, and for all the unrighteous deeds attendant thereto. You cannot pass the buck to any higher authority.

We plead with you to repent publicly, before the King of Heaven, and to remove this black and horrible stain from your life and conscience.

Remember that you, yourself, will one day appear before the judgment bar of the Sovereign God of the Universe to give an account of your deeds.

In that terrible day of judgment for all who have spurned God's gracious provision of eternal salvation and righteousness through our Lord Jesus Christ, all of the evils which you have perpetrated against Pastor Everett Sileven, his family, his church and ministry, will be multiplied a thousandfold upon your own head -- unless you repent and commit your life to Christ before it is too late.

Sincerely and prayerfully yours,

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE FREEDOM OF
THE CHURCH AND PASTOR SILEVEN
(Composed of a rapidly-growing
national movement of Pastors,
Parents, Teachers, Church members,
Telecasters, Broadcasters and
other leaders)

OPEN LETTER TO SHERIFF FRED TESCH
Cass County Sheriff
Cass County Jail, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048

September 4, 1982

Dear Sheriff Tesch:

You appear to be old enough to have read news accounts of the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals at the close of the Second World War.

If you read those accounts, Sheriff, you will recall that the stock excuse given by those who had perpetrated atrocities against harmless and helpless people was, "I was acting under orders from my superiors; therefore I am not to blame for what I did."

The Nuremberg judges, who were regarded as the preeminent legal minds of that era in the field of criminal law, refused to accept the "orders from the boss" cop-out as a justifiable excuse for the perpetration of monstrous evils against harmless and helpless persons. The lives of those who perpetrated those evil acts were squeezed out by the hangman's noose, pursuant to the processes of justice.

While no reasonable person would allege that your action in arresting Pastor Everett Sileven on September 3, 1982 ("Black Friday"), was in the same league with those of the war criminals, multitudes will maintain that it was the same in principle. If this seems to you to be an unwarranted conclusion, perhaps it will be helpful to take a look at what you in fact did on September 3:

1. You interfered with the spiritual ministry of Faith Baptist Church -- an institution dedicated to the service of God and the betterment of man.
2. You deprived needy people, the community and the nation of the rich benefits of a wholesome and constructive ministry.
3. You deprived a good woman of her husband.
4. You deprived a good man of his wife.
5. You deprived a family of its head.
6. You deprived a Church of its Pastor.
7. You deprived children of spiritual leadership in obtaining a godly education.

8. You deprived a good and godly man of a part of his life, since imprisonment in fact inflicts a degree of death on its victim. The proven criminal deserves this; the faithful and honorable man of God does not.
9. You cast a shadow of shame, in the eyes of the public, over the life of a man of high character; you dishonored an honorable man.
10. You frightened innocent little children into crying and sobbing, right in their own tiny domain of serene, loving and peaceful life. For this, Sir, we are genuinely angry. Imagine the image of America that you left with those impressionable young minds!
11. You blatantly broke the supreme law of the United States of America which explicitly forbids you to prohibit the free exercise of religion (First Amendment). You trampled law and justice without a twinge of conscience, as all tyrants do.
12. You violated your own oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution.
13. You brought a cloud of shame over your community and over America by your own personal re-enactment of the horrors of Nazi Germany between 1934 and 1940, when uniformed men seized the most godly of men in their churches, hauled them away and locked them up.

We take the trouble to write you and to recite all these acts of yours not because we despise you, but because we care for you. We plead with you to stand tall and face up squarely to the implications of what you are doing. We ask you to face up to truth and reality, for your own temporal and eternal good.

Sir, you are using your life, your position, your energy and your influence to perpetrate serious and destructive evils against harmless and helpless people whose lives are dedicated to nothing but godliness and goodness.

Like the executioners who nailed our Lord Jesus Christ to the cross, you took your orders from a higher human "authority" and sinned shamefully against the King of Heaven. You also trampled the very founding document and principles of your nation.

Whether intentionally or unintentionally, you have personally contributed to the current alarming trend to deny Americans their constitutional rights and freedoms, and to bring on the heads of our helpless and harmless citizens the overspreading horrors of the police state. This is a pervasive trend, and you are aiding and abetting it personally.

Sheriff Tesch, There is no possible way for you to escape personal responsibility for what you personally do. You cannot pass the buck along to Judge Raymond J. Case. He is personally responsible for what he does in the very same way that you are responsible for what you do. Likewise, Deputy Larry Shelborn cannot escape personal responsibility for the evil which he has committed under your authority. The Almighty God and Judge of the universe holds each of you responsible for your own wicked deeds.

There is no question that you have violated the holy and sovereign will of God. You have laid hand on a man anointed and appointed of God. You have interfered with the purpose of God through him and through Faith Baptist Church. You have acted wickedly against the very throne of Heaven, and a vast body of biblical revelation attests that the God of all justice will deal in judgment with all who persist in standing against his purpose, unless they repent and call upon Him for mercy. This we urge you to do, and we stand ready to assist you to this end if you desire spiritual counsel. Better still, there is a man of God right in your jail who stands ready to point you to the way of salvation, righteousness and eternal life.

Because of our understanding of Scripture and our sense of history, we fear that God Himself will call you to account for the severe wrongs which you have inflicted against peaceful, harmless and helpless people. We plead with you, we beg you, to wake up and commit your life to Jesus Christ before it is too late.

Sincerely and prayerfully yours,

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE FREEDOM
OF THE CHURCH AND PASTOR SILEVEN
(Composed of a rapidly-growing
national movement of Pastors,
Parents, Teachers, Church Members,
Telecasters, Broadcasters and
other leaders)

P.S. In case you are wondering, no, Pastor Everett Sileven had no knowledge of this letter or input of any kind to it. Do not hold him responsible for what we have written here. According to press reports, you have already punished this man of God by locating him in the "tank" with prisoners who are criminals. Thus you have exercised your power over his life to place him in a situation which precludes or severely inhibits his ministry of writing. You also demeaned him, if press reports are accurate, by calling on him publicly to "surrender himself like a man" and report to the jail. By means of this low and contemptible aspersion you impugned Pastor Sileven's manhood. In locking this good and godly man in the tank to make life especially miserable for him and to silence his voice through his writings, and in making degrading remarks about his manhood, you have displayed a level of arrogance that befits the petty tyrants of the police state.

May God Almighty have mercy on your soul.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1982

F.Y.I.

From: Morton C. Blackwell

I clipped this Sunday from the New Orleans "Times-Picayune."

Reagan expresses support of prayer by lighting candles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Saturday decried the "drive to eliminate God" from the classroom and then lit three candles in support of voluntary prayer in public schools.

"No one is suggesting that others should be forced into any religious activity," said Reagan, urging the Senate to act on a constitutional amendment to allow prayer in schools.

"But to prevent those who believe in God from expressing their belief is an outrage. And the relentless drive to eliminate God from our schools can and should be stopped," he told about 50 people gathered in the State Dining Room.

"If the president of the United States can pray with others in the Oval Office — and I have on a number of occasions — then let's make certain that our children have the same right as they go about preparing for their futures and the future of this country," he said.

Asked when Reagan prays in the Oval Office, deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said he thought the president once prayed with an anti-abortion group that visited him. Reagan rarely attends Sunday church services.

The candles that Reagan lit were to be used Saturday during a rally near the Capitol for School Prayer Day.

After he finished speaking, the president and his wife, Nancy, spent several minutes shaking hands and chatting with the audience, which included singer Pat Boone, former football player Rosie Grier, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., and the Rev. Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority.

Helms led a long but unsuccessful Senate fight for school prayer legislation.

Reagan, who pledged Friday to stick with the New Right in its crusade for anti-abortion and prayer legislation, said the school prayer issue is "as vital to the future of this country as any we face."

The president turned aside arguments that allowing prayer in public schools would violate the rights of those who do not wish to pray.

Instead, he said, it "infringes on the freedom of those who choose to pray, a freedom taken for granted since the time of our founding fathers."