

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Senate Resolution No. 3—By Senator North:

Senate Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in order to reverse recent decisions of the Supreme Court concerning freedom of religion and to restore the First Amendment to the Constitution to the intent and purpose of its draftsmen.

WHEREAS,

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States adopted in the late eighteenth century as part of the Bill of Rights provided in its terms that the Congress "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ."

Abundant and detailed documentary evidence may be cited from the several State Constitutions in the late eighteenth century, the writings of contemporary political theorists, and the historical background of the period to demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt that in the proposal of this amendment by the Congress and in the adoption of this amendment by the people, all that was intended was that the Congress should in no manner attempt to establish a state church in the sense in which the Church of England then was the established religion in the British Isles.

All these sources from the eighteenth century, as well as generations of writers on the meaning and intent of the Constitution, made it abundantly clear that the First Amendment was not intended ever to apply to the states of this Union and that it was never intended as a bar to the free exercise of religion by the people.

During recent years, there has been a series of opinions by the Supreme Court of the United States which have completely distorted and misapplied the original intent and meaning of the First Amendment. These opinions are well known. One of them provided that a simple non-sectarian prayer could not be drafted and applied by school officials in the State of New York for use in the schools there. A later opinion negated the requirements that the Bible be read and the Lord's Prayer be recited in classrooms.

Still another and very recent Supreme Court opinion had the effect of outlawing the simple and universally known:

"God is great, God is good
"And we thank Him for our food."

There have been other rulings in the field of religion which vastly disturb our people. One of them, for example, declared invalid the conviction in a homicide case on the ground that the prospective jurors had been required to attest to their belief in a Supreme Being.

These and other comparable decisions of the Supreme Court are well known. The intent and purpose of our people in adopting the First Amendment are well known. What is less easily understood is the intent and design of the Supreme Court of the United States in turning its back upon the clear purpose of our people and in effect