

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Separation of church and state taken too far

Dear Editor,

Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, in his book "Slouching Towards Gomorrah," says the radical rejection of Western values in the sixties on the college campuses is a main reason why our country is morally decaying. Indeed, one month before I began my freshman year at Notre Dame a former neighbor (a good friend of my sister who was a student at Saint Mary's) and two of her friends blew up the Army Research building in Madison, Wis., in protest to the Vietnam War. Madison's ROTC building was burned down by other students.

I lived near Madison and that summer there was much excitement among my friends and relatives about a real revolution. The overwhelming feeling was that our government was so completely corrupt that we must change it. Fortunately for me I was able to rediscover my identity in Jesus Christ and thus find God's will amidst a people rejecting its Judeo-Christian heritage.

After I graduated from ND I tried to work within the system to help change it. For several years I was a social worker but became disenchanted with our welfare system. I went back to school to get a master's in theology. I began ministering God's Word many hours a week in the juvenile centers and the St. Joseph County jail. I supported myself by substitute teaching. Substitute teaching also provided me time to prepare myself for the jail ministry by reading God's Word during silent work periods.

Although I kept myself strictly within the guidelines of the so-called separation of church and state doctrine, the students recognized I was a Christian. I lived in their neighborhood, rode the city bus with them to school, played basketball with them, and preached the gospel to them after school. My students did not have many teachers that did what the Indiana Constitution requires of them: "to encourage by all suitable means moral improvement."

I found out the hard way why my fellow teachers were afraid to obey the constitution and the Indiana statute called "Morals Instructions," which stated: "Every teacher shall present his instruction with special emphasis on morality." The teachers knew they risked incurring the wrath of our Federal Judiciary if they were loyal to the oath they all made to uphold the Indiana Constitution. They knew if they encouraged the morality required by the authors of our state constitution, written in 1851, they risked losing their job.

This is precisely what happened to me. In the fall of '92 some students asked me to be the sponsor of a Bible Club they wanted to start. I sent a note to the principal asking about this possibility. Suddenly I was fired from his school. Without a single witness I had been accused of passing out Christian literature in my class. I continued to substitute in other schools until November of '93 when I was accused of bringing a Bible into the classroom and affirming student's belief in Creationism. I was permanently banned from teaching in all South Bend public schools for doing so.

For six months the School Corporation refused to grant me a hearing. Under law my only avenue of appeal was to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). It took the EEOC 18 months to get to my complaint. I entertained little hope of a fair ruling because during this time the EEOC had just passed rules restricting anyone in the workplace from proselytizing. That meant placing a Bible on one's desk or wearing a cross around your neck could subject one to a lawsuit. Fortunately the U.S. Senate intervened and stopped the EEOC from successfully passing such regulations.

The EEOC decision stated I violated the Roberts decision of 1990 made in the 10th Circuit Court of Colorado. The EEOC claimed that because of the Roberts decision teachers are forbidden to silently read a Bible in the presence of students. Such acts violate the First Amendment, the separation of church and state, they said. The EEOC also claimed the school fired me because my performance was substandard although the record showed that I received 99 positive teacher evaluations to every negative one!

I then filed a lawsuit in the Federal District Court in South Bend requesting my constitutional right to a trial by jury.

After I exhausted my savings on lawyers I then had to proceed pro se and put my case together myself. The federal judge, Robert Miller, a 33rd degree Freemason, illegally dismissed the case without a hearing. A Notre Dame law professor told me I would have easily won in a jury trial.

Notre Dame law school then helped me appeal the case to the Seventh Circuit Court in Chicago. A Notre Dame law student argued my case. Again, the Seventh Circuit agreed with the EEOC and the Federal District Court.

I prayed for a lawyer who was an expert in the First Amendment. Through a Notre Dame friend I secured a lawyer out of Atlanta who won one of the largest 25 verdicts in history, and argued the lead

Supreme Court case of 1986-87. He also had appealed the infamous Roberts decision in 1992 but lost. He said my case had much merit and believed we had a chance of winning in the Supreme Court. Congress had passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and I was protected under that law plus under the First Amendment.

Unfortunately in January of this year the Supreme Court turned down his appeal on my behalf.

Particularly interested in this decision were some of the 8,000 prisoners who go through our county jail each year. For several years I was the person chosen by our county government to be the person authorized to pass out Bibles and Christian books to the prisoners. In addition I was one of three persons allowed to come into the jail anytime of day to preach the gospel. During my 10 years of jail ministry the government never censored the content of my preaching or Christian literature in my efforts of reforming the prisoners.

Yet this government said I violated the separation of church and state when I silently read the Bible in the classroom in the presence of students. Many of these students were relatives of the 8,000 yearly prisoners I routinely visited. It was not a secret that some of the prisoners' deepest desires were to have their children believe the Bible so they would not end up in deep sin like they themselves.

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand the ruling of the EEOC, the Federal District and the Seventh Circuit Courts. My silent reading of the Bible could somehow contaminate the children. My lawyer, Wendell Bird, wrote the Supreme Court: "The Corporation's act of firing Mr. Helland, and the Seventh Circuit's approval, are nothing short of extraordinary given that broad latitude courts have given schools to advocate and even endorse activity as outrageous as sexually explicit, profane, and lewd language and activity during school time on school grounds. Brown v. Hot, Sexy and Safer Productions, 68 F. 3d 525 (1st Cir 1995). It is an odd world when condom distribution in public schools is not thought to encourage promiscuous activity, but when student mention of religion in public schools is thought to risk permanent contamination of all hearers."

Someone other than Robert Bork who has mastered the thinking of the Federal Courts is Paul Fisher. Mr. Fisher is a classmate and friend of my dad, Class of '43. He was president of his 50-year Notre Dame Alumni reunion in '93. He was counter intelligence in both WWII and Korean War. He wrote a 350-page book entitled: "Behind the Lodge Door: Church State and Freemasonry in America" and an 80-page book entitled "Their God is the Devil: A Study Of Papal Encyclicals Regarding Freemasonry And Allied Secret Societies." These books document that the Supreme Court from 1941 to 1971 was dominated by Freemasons. They also document that the Catholic Church since 1739 has repeatedly declared that the Freemasons are subversively anti-Christian and anti-free government.

Fisher's explanation helps us understand why the Supreme Court so boldly distorts the meaning of the words of our Constitution. Almost every Founding Father wrote or agreed that the Bible ought to be the main textbook in our schools! Thomas Jefferson, a deist and the alleged creator of the separation of church and state doctrine, was president of the Washington, D.C. school board. He used two books as the primary reading material in his government schools, the Bible and Watts Hymnal!

Robert Bork wrote: "There seems no possibility of retrieving democratic government from the grasp of the Supreme Court, which now governs us in the name of the Constitution in ways not remotely contemplated by the framers and ratifiers of that Constitution." Bork later added that a constitutional amendment might deliver us from the tyranny of the



judiciary.

The Federal judges know full well that Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence wrote, "If we ever take the Bible and God's principles out of our schools we will have a crime explosion on our hands." They also know that Fisher Ames helped pen the First Amendment. Ames wrote that the Bible needs to be the main textbook in schools if we intended on preserving our nation as a true Federal Republic. The Federal judiciary, comprised almost exclusively of lawyers, ordered the destruction of the morals of our youth when they ordered out all religious influences from government schools. They did this using the names of our Founding Fathers as their authority. Their motives were evil.

The word "lawyer" in Greek can trace its meaning to "society devourer," and in the Latin dictionary "lawyer" can mean "shyster." Combine this with membership in the Freemason secret society and we are dealing with dangerous and crooked "Federal" judges. Jesus knew what he was talking about when he said in Luke 11:52, "Woe to you lawyers, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering." The Federal Judiciary will suffer greatly for disobeying our Lord's command written three times in the gospels: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Because of evil Supreme Court decisions there is an increasing need for bigger government and more lawyers to handle all the crimes now being committed. Because the Supreme Court has kicked God out of school statistics reveal that 65 percent of all crime is committed by school age children. Tragically, this country has many people willing to take our tax dollars as wages in exchange for prostituting themselves by working to help further the evil designs of a corrupt government, a government operating in open rebellion to its creators, the framers and ratifiers of the Federal Constitution.

My friends in the 60s wisely discovered that our government had become very corrupt. However, most failed to discover that an even greater corruption lay in their own hearts. Only faith like that of our Founding Fathers in the Blood of Jesus can cure the corruption in the heart. Jesus said, "First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."

St. Peter said, "Save yourself from this corrupt generation." St. Paul told us how to do it: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

PETER S. HELLAND
Local resident