

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

ANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530
AREA CODE 316
BW 3-5423

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

KARTON	HODGEMAN	RAWLINS
CHEYENNE	JEWELL	REPUBLICAN
CLARK	KEARNY	ROOKS
CLOUD	KIOWA	RUSH
DECATUR	LANE	RUSSELL
EDWARDS	LINCOLN	SALINE
ELLIS	LOGAN	SCOTT
ELLSWORTH	MEADE	SEWART
FINNEY	MITCHELL	SHERIDAN
FORD	MORTON	SHERMAN
GOVE	NESS	SMITH
GRAHAM	NORTON	STAFFORD
GRANT	OSBORNE	STANTON
GRAY	OTTAWA	STEVENSON
GREELEY	PAWNEE	THOMAS
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		WICHITA

Congressman Bob Dole, in a speech in the House of Representatives on August 1, 1967, urged President Johnson to use the powers of his office to encourage passage of the Dirksen Prayer Amendments pending before Congress. The text of his remarks is as follows:

PRAYER OR POLITICS?

Mr. Speaker. With great fanfare and much nationwide publicity, President Lyndon Baines Johnson declared Sunday, July 30, 1967, as a national day of prayer, urging, and I quote, "citizens in every town and city in the land to go into their churches to pray for order and reconciliation among men." The President evidently has faith in the power of prayer.

At the same time the President made this statement last week, bills to allow voluntary prayer and Scripture reading in public schools were pending in the Constitutional Amendments Subcommittees of both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

President Johnson has not taken a stand in favor of these bills. In each year since the Supreme Court struck down school prayer in the 1962 case of Engel vs Vitale and the 1963 case of Murray vs Curlett, Members of Congress have attempted to overturn these decisions and permit voluntary prayer in our public schools. The President of the United States has remained silent.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask where does the President stand on the subject of prayer? I fervently believe that our nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles and that it is of utmost importance that our children be reminded of these principles in our schools as well as in our homes. Perhaps the moral environment of laxness and disdain for authority, the very climate that has encouraged the riots the President asked the nation to pray to prevent, would not exist if these principles were recognized in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully urge the President to use the powers of his office to encourage passage of the Dirksen Prayer Amendments pending before Congress to show that he does, in fact, believe in the importance and the necessity of prayer in these troubled times.