



Mr. Byrd delivered an eloquent speech before Congress in support of school prayer in 1962. There are five observations that stand out from Mr. Byrd's speech (from the Congressional Record):

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION RESPECTING PRAYER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 27, 1962

(from the Congressional Record)

MR. BYRD:

Underneath the statue of History in the Library of Congress are Tennyson's prophetic lines:

*One God, one law, one element
And one far-off divine event,
To which the whole creation moves.*

Additional proof that American national life is God-centered comes from this Library of Congress inscription:

The light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not (John 1:5)

On the east hall of the second floor of the Library of Congress, an anonymous inscription assures all Americans that they do not work alone -- "*For a web begun God sends thread.*"

Benjamin Franklin, at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, stood to his feet one day, the oldest man in that illustrious gathering, and addressed the chair, in which sat General George Washington. Franklin said:

Sir, I have lived a long time: and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see that God still governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without our Father's notice, is it possible that we can build an empire without our Father's aid? I believe the Sacred Writings, which say that: Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

Supreme Court Justice Stewart wrote:

The Court has misapplied a great constitutional principle. I cannot see how an "official religion" is established by letting those who want to say a prayer say it. On the contrary, I think that to deny the wish of these schoolchildren to join in reciting this prayer is to deny them the opportunity of sharing in the spiritual heritage of our Nation.

The following statement from General Omar Bradley, a lifetime soldier is the most profound of all. General Omar Bradley said:

This country has many men of science, too few men of God. It has grasped the mystery of the atom, but rejected the Sermon on the Mount. This shocking apathy to the conditions of their schools and the sterility of the curriculum is responsible even today for the political immaturity, the economic ignorance, the philosophical indifference, and the spiritual insolvency of so many young men.

*All quotes taken from the Congressional Record.
A speech delivered by Mr. Byrd before Congress June 27, 1962.*