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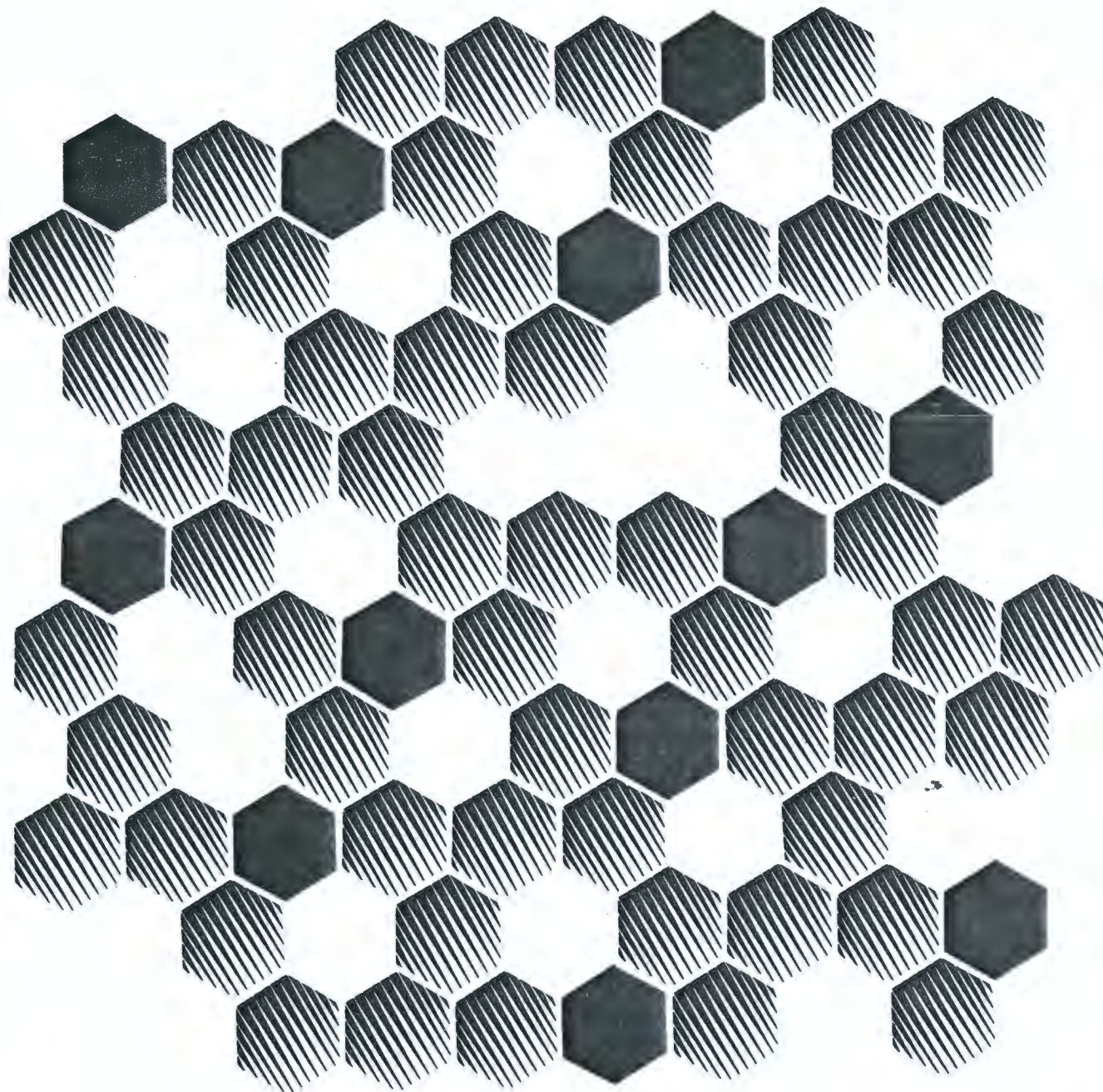
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Report of the White House Science Council

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FEDERAL LABORATORY REVIEW PANEL

May 1983



OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 11, 1983

BRIEFING PAPER

MEETING WITH PRO-SCHOOL PRAYER LEADERS

DATE: Tuesday, July 12, 1983

LOCATION: Roosevelt Room
The White House

TIME: 4:15 p.m.

FROM: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

I. PURPOSE: To thank major supporters of voluntary school prayer and explain a change in your proposed Voluntary Prayer Amendment.

II. BACKGROUND:

Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to mark-up School Prayer on Thursday, July 14th.

A new alternate proposal by Senator Hatch would allow only silent prayer. The vote is very close in the Senate Judiciary Committee on both proposed amendments, although hearings two weeks ago showed the Hatch silent prayer proposal is opposed by virtually all interested groups, including the major supporters and the major opponents of your amendment.

Many major religious leaders who want to restore voluntary school prayer have not fully endorsed your amendment because they so strongly oppose the idea of "state drafted prayers."

To unite behind one proposal all those who favor voluntary school prayer you are asking that your proposed amendment be altered specifically to prohibit the Federal or state governments from composing the words of any prayer to be said in a public school.

All guests at this meeting are strongly supportive of restoring voluntary school prayer, but several present will now enthusiastically support your Voluntary Prayer Amendment because of the revision.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

(See attached listing.)

IV. PRESS PLAN: White House Press Corps photo opportunity.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

4:15 - You enter Roosevelt Room

4:16 - You make remarks

4:20 - You respond to questions

4:25 - Guests circle table for individual photos

4:30 - You depart room

Attachments:

1. Listing of Attendees
2. Talking Points

LISTING OF ATTENDEES

July 12, 1983

- Dr. Ben ARMSTRONG,
Director
National Religious Broadcasters
- Mr. John BECKETT,
President
Intercessors of America
- Reverend Theodore CHELPON
Greek Orthodox Church
- Dr. Jerry FALWELL,
President
The Moral Majority
- Reverend Robert GRANT,
Chairman
Christian Voice
- Rabbi Menachem LUBINSKY
Agudath Israel of America
- Mrs. Connaught MARSHNER,
Chairman
National Pro-Family Coalition
- Mr. Edward MCATEER,
President
Religious Roundtable
- Dr. Billy MELVIN
Executive Director
National Association of Evangelicals
- Mr. Theodore PANTALEO,
Executive Director
Freedom Council
- Bishop J. D. PATTERSON
Presiding Bishop
Church of God in Christ
- Dr. Pat ROBERTSON,
President
Christian Broadcasting Network
- Mr. Grover REES,
Professor
University of Texas School of Law

Dr. Seymour SEIGEL,
Professor
Jewish Theological Seminary

Mr. Demos SHAKARIAN
Founder and President
Full Gospel Businessmen

Jimmy SWAGGERT
Jimmy Swaggert Ministries

Archbishop Joseph TAWIL
Roman Catholic, Melikite

Dr. Herbert TITUS,
Dean, School of Public Policy
CBN University

Mr. Bob WEINER,
Founder and Director
Maranatha Ministries

Bishop Thomas WELSH,
Presiding Bishop
Diocese of Allentown

Mr. Paul M. WEYRICH,
President
Free Congress Research and Education Foundation

Dr. Thomas ZIMMERMAN
General Superintendent
Assembly of God

TALKING POINTS
FOR
MEETING WITH PRO-SCHOOL PRAYER LEADERS
July 12, 1983

- Welcome to the White House and first let me say thank you for all the help you have given our fight to restore voluntary school prayer.
- I think we are very close to victory now if we all pull together.
- The status of our Voluntary Prayer Amendment is this, on Thursday, the full Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a mark-up session. The vote will surely be very close.
- I realize that Senator Orrin Hatch, who supports my amendment, has also put forth, as a possible alternative, a silent prayer amendment. Frankly, I don't believe we have been fighting this prayer battle for the right to remain silent. My friend, Senator Hatch, does have a valid point, though, about the need to change the original wording of our amendment.
- The Senate hearings and the communications I have received from many leaders have convinced me that we can unite all supporters of school prayer only if we can end the fears that government officials will be drafting prayers for school children. Therefore, I have asked the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Thurmond, Senator Hatch and other supporters of

voluntary school prayer to revise the amendment they have submitted at my request for the past two years.

- The change I am requesting is this: at the end of the second sentence, add these words -- "nor shall the United States or any state compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."
- This wording solves the sticky problem of state-drafted prayers without endangering currently acceptable and praiseworthy practices such as inviting clergy to offer invocations at high school graduations.
- As revised, our amendment will assure the constitutionality of voluntary student religious groups, children voluntarily saying grace before meals, voluntary devotional periods and silent prayer periods.
- This is still a local option Amendment. Each state and local jurisdiction would still have the right to permit spoken prayer, silent prayer, or no periods for prayer at all. The Federal courts would have to stay out of regulating local decisions except to make sure that no one could be required to participate in prayer and that the government could not draft prayer for use in public schools.
- I need your help to pass this badly needed amendment. If things go as I hope, we can convince a majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee to pass our revised

Amendment this week. Then we could aim for full Senate passage in the Fall and getting a vote in the House of Representatives early next year.

-- The first step, though, is winning in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. I know you can help there.