

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Richmond 16

May 18, 1948

Mrs. John D. Atkins, Jr.  
Hamilton  
Virginia

Dear Mrs. Atkins:

Your letter of April 26 addressed to Mr. Walter E. Rogers, Assistant Attorney General, has been referred to me for a reply.

The Attorney General stated in his opinion handed down under date of April 12, 1948, that he did not feel that the question of references made to the effects of religion on history and general living referred to in the elementary courses of study or the syllabi used in the teaching of biblical literature and history were effected by the Supreme Court's decision. He also stated that he did not feel that reading the Bible for opening exercises in schools or talks to pupils by visiting ministers at school assemblies would be effected by the decision.

The State Board of Education does not sponsor any program of Religious Education, and it would appear, therefore, that your best contact would be with your local school authorities who have absolute control as to whether or not any other plans for teaching Religious Education other than those mentioned above are introduced in the local public schools.

There is a question as to whether the present plan being operated by the Virginia Council of Churches is constitutional under the Supreme Court's decision, but this matter cannot be fully clarified until they present the Attorney General's office with a detailed outline of their plan so that he will be in a position to determine whether or not it has similar features to the McCollum case.

Yours very truly,

*R. C. Haydon*

R. C. Haydon  
Assistant Superintendent  
of Public Instruction

RCH/fg

Copy to: Mr. O. L. Emerick, Superintendent  
Loudoun County Public Schools  
Leesburg, Virginia

CERTAIN ASPECTS OF EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE ON  
TO SUPREME COURT DECISION