

Rel Ed  
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May 5, 1948

Mr. Gillim C. Bentley  
Hamilton, Virginia

Dear Mr. Bentley:

At a conference of the Division Superintendents in Roanoke on April 28 to 30, State Superintendent G. Tyler Miller reported to the group that the State Board of Education had requested the Attorney General of Virginia to render an opinion in relation to the effect of the Supreme Court's decision upon Religious Education in Virginia. Superintendent Miller further reported that subsequent to the request of the State Board of Education, Mr. Minor Miller had talked to him and explained that attorneys to whom he had talked had advised that the Attorney General undoubtedly would rule that Religious Education as now managed could not continue legally in Virginia. For this reason, Mr. Minor Miller requested that the Attorney General delay his opinion, pending the working out of a new plan of Religious Education for school children and its submission to the State Board of Education. We have no way of knowing how long this will delay a decision in this matter.

The School Board of Loudoun County adopted a resolution on September 14, 1937 granting permission for the conducting of classes in Religious Education in the schools of Loudoun County as they are now being conducted. In view of the decision of the Supreme Court it seems to me important that our County School Board review its decision in adopting the resolution on September 14, 1937 and it is my plan to place this question on the agenda of the School Board for its meeting on May 11, 1948. Of course, it will be quite proper for any members of your committee or interested persons to attend the school board meeting for the purpose of discussing this problem. Our school board has a positive responsibility to the taxpayers of the county and is responsible for the expenditure of taxpayer's funds. They are not in a position to ignore the Supreme Court's decision.

Sincerely,

O. L. Emerick  
Division Superintendent