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GOD—America's National Treasure

God has ordained the State as a delegated authority; it is not autonomous. So when government violates what God clearly commands, it exceeds its authority. --Francis Schaeffer

The State of Washington takes great pride in the “gayness” of its workforce, declaring each June, “Gay Pride Month.” State employees are permitted to set up displays in public buildings depicting the history, the struggles and the accomplishments of the “gay” movement, as well as the benefits that accrue to the state when homosexuals are appreciated, recruited and promoted. Notably less-well regarded are state employees who think it is a good idea to observe “Christian Heritage Week” on state campuses.

Internal memos obtained by Christian Coalition from at least one state agency, indicate that any attempt to bring to the workplace an historical assessment of Christianity and its imprint upon the laws and customs of generations of Americans, will be met with resistance.

One state employee is facing possible disciplinary action for being an accessory to the delivery of Christian heritage materials to his office even though he was away on business. During his absence, a suspect grocery bag was turned over to security for inspection and escalation to higher levels of management due to the contents—brochures advertising *Christian Heritage Week* and several 10”x14” posters of the American Flag bearing our National Motto, “IN GOD WE TRUST.”

A department internal investigator suspects that the employee (Mr. X) may be in violation of agency policy that prohibits employees from receiving personal mail or other deliveries at work. A memo to Mr. X goes on to say:

“State law and agency policy also prohibit display or dissemination of any material that may reasonably be determined by management as offensive or unlawfully discriminatory toward any individual or group. The materials for which delivery was attempted could potentially violate both of these prohibitions.”

Simply stupid? Yes. But it is not just in Washington State that government tolerance for public acknowledgment of God is evaporating faster than water in the Atlanta municipal reservoir system.

Andrew Larochelle, a 17-year-old Eagle Scout in Ohio, wanted to honor his grandfather with a flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol. Flags are available to the public at a nominal cost through congressional offices. Accompanying the flags are certificates which usually include comments or language from the requestor. Andrew wanted the certificate to read, “In honor of my Grandfather, Marcel Larochelle, and his dedication and love of God, country, and family.” When the certificate arrived without the reference to “God,” Andrew was told that policy forbids political and religious statements on official certificates. Thanks to Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH), that [2003] policy has now been scrapped and Grandpa Larochelle’s love of God is duly noted.

In yet another abuse of power involving the American Flag, the National Cemetery Administration recently placed a ban on religious “flag” recitals at all 125 national cemeteries. At Riverside National Cemetery, a volunteer Memorial Honor Detail has conducted thousands of military burials where the significance of each of the 13 folds of the Flag is explained to survivors of those being laid to rest. An observer was evidently offended when the 11th fold was said to commemorate Jewish war veterans and glorifies the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, and the 12th mentions God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost (for Christians). Due to public outcry, FOX News just reported that the ban was lifted earlier today.

In another example of religious purging, U.S. Capitol Park officials think they have found a way to remove God from the capstone high atop the historic [George] Washington Monument—sort of. On three sides of the capstone, are names of officials and engineers who helped fund and construct the 555 foot obelisk that was completed in 1888. But the east-facing side is a problem. It bears the inscription *Laus Deo*, or “Praise be to God.” Since visitors cannot see the capstone for themselves, a replica of the capstone has long been in place inside the monument. Recently, the replica was repositioned against a wall so that the offending side cannot be viewed. But what about the prayers and scriptures inscribed in the stairwells? And, The Holy Bible that was placed in the monument cornerstone during special services held on July 4, 1848? Oops!

ARE THERE PLANS TO REMOVE GOD FROM OUR CURRENCY?

Congressman Dan Burton, (R-IN) thinks so. He is introducing legislation mandating that “In God We Trust” be retained in a prominent place on U.S. currency and coinage. “Recently,” says Burton, “there were thousands of coins minted without 'In God We Trust' on them, and now they're talking about putting 'In God We Trust' in an obscure place on coins so that people can't read them...Once you start turning your back on the good Lord, I think you are going to reap the whirlwind, and this is something this nation cannot afford to do right now.”¹

Although *Snopes.com* (Urban Legends) thinks what Rep. Burton says is a stretch, the fact is the Republican-led 109th Congress passed *The Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005*, allowing “In God We Trust” to be shifted to an “edge-incused inscription.” What’s behind that?

Experience should forbid us from thinking that religious liberties are guaranteed. They must be regularly exercised and rigorously defended. Be it prejudice against the display of our national motto, or mention of “God” on flag certificates, national monuments or at military burials, Old Deluder does not want the next generation to have eyes that see or ears to hear that *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD* (Psalm 33:12).

It is encouraging that hundreds of Christians came to Olympia for the start of “Christian Heritage Week,” (October 21-27) to pray, to confess, and to worship God openly and unashamedly under the dome at the Capitol Rotunda. Some sensed a spiritual shift as the sound of 12 shofars (the biblical number for government) was released into the heavens and all the people proclaimed “God is welcome in this place.”

Perhaps a signal of that shift, at least 20 employees at the Department of Health have committed to meet weekly for prayer outside their offices at the flagpole.

We think that is a good sign.

Rick Forcier

Executive Director

¹ John McCaslin, “Needing God,” (Inside the Beltway Column), *The Washington Times*, 9/12/2007