

THE WHITE HOUSE

1984 MAR 14 AM 10: 24

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: SENATOR RUDY BOSCHWITZ (R-MINNESOTA)

DATE: Wednesday, March 14, 1984

RECOMMENDED BY: M.B. OGLESBY, JR. *M. B. Oglesby*

PURPOSE: To encourage Senator Boschwitz to vote in favor of your proposed school prayer amendment; S.J.Res. 73.

BACKGROUND: The Senate has entered its second week of debate on school prayer. Last week, Senator Baker called up S.J.Res. 73, your proposed school prayer amendment. Senator Baker has solicited his colleagues' comments on the language of this amendment. Various proposed changes have been suggested. White House staff has reviewed and commented on most of those proposed language changes. It is expected that votes will occur this week on S.J.Res. 73. The vote count remains uncertain. However, it is generally conceded that proponents of school prayer still fall short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage of a Constitutional amendment.

Senator Boschwitz has indicated his opposition to an oral school prayer amendment. He has, however, indicated recently some possibility that he might vote for an oral prayer amendment. His principal concern has been for the rights of students of minority religion.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

1. Rudy, I am calling you about the pending school prayer amendment, S.J. Res 73, on which I understand there may be votes this week.

2. As you know, I have advocated for many years the return of voluntary oral prayer in our public schools. I believe this is an extremely important issue, and I am delighted that the Senate is devoting a considerable amount of time to the current debate.
3. I am advised that votes may occur soon on S.J.Res. 73. I strongly urge you to support this amendment and to follow Howard Baker's lead on procedural and substantive votes.

DATE OF  
SUBMISSION: March 14, 1984

ACTION

Cont. being himself to support it.