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Editorial Comment

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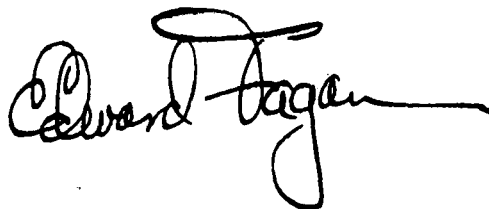
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Editorial Comment

On June 26, 1962, the day following the Supreme Court decision outlawing prayer in public schools, New York Congressman Frank J. Becker introduced a resolution before the House of Representatives to amend the Constitution and permit prayer in the public schools on a voluntary basis. The Judiciary Committee has recently concluded hearings on this amendment, officially entitled H.J. Res. 693, but as yet has taken no further action.

The Catholic Lawyer has, therefore, devoted the main portion of this issue to a consideration of the controversy generated by this proposed legislation. With the world in its present state of chaos, it may well be reasoned that we need God today more than ever before in our history. On the other hand, it has been argued by many that the restoration of prayer and bible reading in the public schools through a constitutional amendment will, in the long run, serve only to endanger that principle of religious freedom which guarantees to every man the right to decide freely, and according to his own conscience, regarding his own destiny.

Elsewhere in this issue we have reprinted in its entirety the editorial by Father Bauman, O.S.B., entitled "Bottleneck in Marriage Cases." The widespread comment which it provoked from canonists and lay attorneys throughout the country following its original publication last March in the *Saint Joseph Magazine* inspired *The Catholic Lawyer* to seek the viewpoint of a Tribunal Judge on the same subject. The resulting article by Right Reverend Marion Reinhardt, entitled "Lay Attorneys in Canonical Marriage Cases," appears in this issue immediately following Father Bauman's statement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Tegen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

EDITOR