

Mike Turzai  
House Speaker  
September 2, 2018

Honorable House Speaker Turzai,

I read with amazement how the ‘nonbelievers’ won such an easily defensible argument against people who don’t believe in God being permitted to give the invocations at the start of each day’s legislative floor session (*The Sentinel*- 8/31/2018). How can such be when one considers what the Founding Fathers and early jurists\* wrote concerning the Christian religion while opposing all other beliefs such as Islam, Judaism, atheism, etc. ? Do constituencies redefine the true sense of our Constitution or does that clarification belong to the Supreme Court who are sworn to defend it short of legislating from the bench?

\*The ‘Father of American Jurisprudence’, Joseph Story, clarified the meaning of the First Amendment with regard to the priority of Christianity in 1833:

“Indeed, in a republic, there would seem to be a peculiar propriety in viewing the Christian religion, as the great basis, on which it must rest for its support and permanence, if it be, what it has ever been deemed by its truest friends to be, the religion of liberty”.

He continued that “the real object of the [First] amendment was not to countenance, much less to advance Mahometanism, or Judaism, or infidelity by prostrating Christianity, but to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects and to prevent any national ecclesiastical establishment which should give to a hierarchy the exclusive patronage of the national government”.

The word “religion” found in the First Amendment referred to Christianity since the Founders understood it as such. Their goal was to not establish one ‘Christian’ denomination over another as a state sanctioned religion as did England. And “prostrating Christianity” is exactly what the non-believers are attempting to do!

I have been to the capital and have seen Biblical words of wisdom painted and inscribed all over its interior. How can that not remind the legislature of its true roots? Will these inscriptions, as other monuments with reference to the God of the Bible have been erased from the public arena, be painted over, removed or destroyed in time by this cancer of atheism?

I fear that our Republic is slowly being eroded away by secular humanists who wish to eliminate anything pertaining to a moral conscience. Without such, how can our laws have any teeth to them in establishing true order?

Sincerely,  
Charles F. Yana II