

# Church Leaders Divided Over Praying In School

"To be or not to be, that is the question" — with emphasis on religion in our public school system that is now being discussed with fervor among the people of this nation. Should we or shouldn't we include prayer in the daily activity of the public school.

The inquisitive mind of a reporter discussed this matter of religion with members of various faith to discover if there was a general opinion among the leaders of our religious life. Here are a few whose ideas were expressed as personal:

Rev. J. C. Austin of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist church, summed up his feelings to-

wards the question in these words.

"The great beginning of our democratic way of life is our acknowledgement of God's existence. Our great assurance and only security of life is our faith in God.

"The great claim of this nation if founded in the name of a Christian nation. We strongly profess in our existence as far as our economic, spiritual, physical and otherwise is based on in God we trust. "This nation should always be on speaking terms with God. I strongly feel that above all else, o u r school should start its day with the

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recognition of a Divine presence and a confession of gratitude for God's eternal care."

Hugh Chance, secretary of the Baha'i Faith in Winnetka, believes that prayer is a very personal thing and should be kept that way.

Rev. Niketas Kessess, of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, feels that one's own beliefs should be taught, and recognition of a Supreme Being ex-

pressed. However, laws are made to be kept.

Rabbi Rosenbahr, executive vice president of the Jewish faith in Chicago, quotes his personal feelings as those of President Kennedy, whom he feels summed up his ideas exactly.

Father S. J. Martin, of St. Edmunds Episcopal church, has mixed emotions in regards to the question. While he favors the daily prayers, he believes that the church and the state should be kept separate. He was extremely pleased with the opinion of Justice Black.

He further stated that it seems ion that there should be no before long, attempts will be legislation of religion in any made to give the state a set form in America. Our country religion. The home should be was founded on the basis of the seat of determining religi-religious freedom a n d this ous directions. right should not be subjected

Pastor E. W. Moore, of the in our public schools. T h e Hyde Park Seventh Day Ad-home should be the basis in ventist church, is of the opin-Christian education.

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