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DEFINITIVE BIBLE COURSE RULING NEEDED

ALONG with the continuing expression of a popular opinion on the teaching of Bible in the public schools here, we invite your attention today to Attorney P. C. Whitlock's resume of two key Supreme Court rulings on the subject elsewhere on this page.

Mr. Whitlock points out the difficulty of drawing a precise line between "what is Caesar's and what is God's." He notes that the majority opinion in the McCollum case, in which religious instruction was given in the classrooms, stressed that "this is beyond all question a utilization of the tax-exempt and tax-supported public school system to aid religious groups to spread their faith." The Court held that the system violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

In the Zorach (New York City) case, however, the Court upheld, with three dissents, the "released time" program. Among other things, the majority decision emphasized that the Zorach case differed from the McCollum case because it "involves neither religious instruction in public school classrooms nor the expenditure of public funds."

Many of the expressions of opinion on this page in recent days have centered around the wisdom of the local program, and the good or harm that it does, and that it differs from conflicting viewpoints will ever be reconciled, for those who have written to The News on both sides are obviously motivated by deep sincerity and strong convictions.

The courts, however, are concerned only with the legality of the program. It is apparent that the Charlotte system is somewhere between those tested in the McCollum and the Zorach cases, and that it differs from both enough to raise the question of its constitutionality.

If the program is continued, despite the recent objections, or if it is discontinued, despite the evidence of popular support for it, one group or the other will remain dissatisfied. In this situation, it appears that a friendly test suit should be initiated and carried on up to the Supreme Court. That is the only way that a definitive ruling will ever be obtained.

A TRADITION OF AMERICAN JUSTICE IS UPHELD

YESTERDAY'S abrupt about face in the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg pointed out the most fundamental, and the most characteristic, characteristic of the American system of justice, i.e., that the protection of the law is extended to every American citizen, no matter how powerful the crush of popular opinion or how heinous the crime.

1946 statute because the alleged conspiracy lasted after that date, even though the alleged theft of atomic secrets had taken place earlier.

The Government, on the other hand, contends that the charges were properly filed under the older general espionage laws.

Justice Douglas, while not passing on these views, said that the Government's substantial one which should be decided after full argument and deliberation.

It had begun to appear that the fate of the Rosenbergs was sealed. On Monday, the Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, had declined to intervene and grant a stay of execution. On Tuesday, a group of ministers who asked clemency of President Eisenhower came away with the "impression" that the chief Executive would not act. On Wednesday, a little more than 24 hours before the Rosenbergs were destined to die, Justice Douglas sent the case back to a New York district court for a decision on a previously unexplored legal point.

Chief Justice Vinson, on petition of the Department of Justice, has called the Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, has declined to rule on the point raised by Justice Douglas. The Court can either uphold Douglas, or overrule him. In either event, the American people should also be the law is not written only to give the government power but to protect the citizen who may be falsely accused, its protection cannot be denied the one without being denied the other.

Under the Atomic Energy Act passed in 1946, the death sentence can be imposed for atomic espionage only on the specific recommendation of the jury, and when the offense was made with an attempt to injure the U. S. Two interested lawyers argued that the case should have been tried under the

The American system of justice, and the great power of the American people, are two of the things that set this nation apart from the totalitarian countries in the world's ideological market place. The eternal values that produced both have been preserved in the emotion-packed Rosenberg case.

SYNGMAN REE JEOPARDIZES ARMISTICE PLAN

FOR more than a year now, the fate of anti-Communist prisoners of war has been the major stumbling block to a truce and an armistice in Korea.

freed some 25,000 of the North Koreans. The prisoners faded into the night, finding shelter among South Koreans who were urged by Rhee to take them in.

From the first, the United Nations command, following instructions from the General Assembly, has stood firmly against forcible repatriation. The Chinese Communists, on the other hand, have demanded the return of all Chinese and North Korean prisoners.

This month the negotiations came to a conclusion. Agreement was reached on a plan for a five-month commission to screen the prisoners and to free those who did not want to return behind the Iron Curtain.

Last night, South Korean guards, carrying out the orders of President Syngman Rhee, opened the gates at prison compounds and

Rhee has seriously embarrassed the U. N. command and has jeopardized the true negotiations at the most crucial moment. It was a high-handed and arbitrary action, and one that has caused the American people to wonder particularly of President Eisenhower, who had asked Rhee repeatedly not to do anything precipitously that might endanger the armistice.

A TIME TO TIGHTEN THE SCREWS

AMONG students of communism there is a theory, and we think it a plausible one, that the stresses and strains in the Soviet empire are greater than those within the domain of any other empire. It is a theory, because these Red internal troubles, because news and truth escape with difficulty from Communist countries.

revolution implies. They do not mean that a Western "liberation" would be successful now. But they show that the Communists have big domestic problems. This is the first time the Communists have been forced to show, that it might be the Communist world that disintegrates because of its shortcomings, instead of the free world, whose downfall the Reds have long predicted.

Recent disturbances in Europe give substance to this theory. Yesterday tens of thousands of angry Hungarians, led by Red flags, stormed their Communist government headquarters, shouting "Ivan, Go Home!" In preceding weeks news of similar revolts seeped out of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and the Ukraine.

The question in Korea today seems to be "what now?" To the American people who have borne the heavy burden of the three-year war, only to have peace gravenly endangered by the nation they saved from conquest, the question has grim and ironical implications.

SQUARE HOUSES UNDER THE SUN

Heat vibrates above the black roads and the red fields and the patches of wheat, now golden brown, and the acres of corn waist-high, and their green marred here and there by a curling yellow blade.

printed lines or needles into the area of seams or even fingers over the hills of golden peas, but it complements a 22-inch patch of grayish light in the farthest corner of the room, and that is the thing that counts in the square house beneath the heat patterns.

It hovers too in never-silting wavelike, rising almost as high as the TV antennae above the flat roofs of the square houses that follow the roads of the outskirts of one town across the tobacco lands and the cotton lands and the corn lands, and the pasture lands, and into the outskirts of the next town.

Along rocky ridges sag old farm houses, slender, two-storied and with pointed roofs reaching into the upper branches of the bent oaks and heavy-sided cedars about their windows are but narrow slits. They are old-fashioned and prim.

Vandenberg Considered Senate Possibility

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Senator Charles McNichols today announced that he had received word from Senator Vandenberg that he was considering a return to the Senate.

McNichols said that Vandenberg had been in the hospital for some time, but that he was now feeling better and was able to move about.

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Manufacturers' Protest

WHEN general Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes today announced that he had received word from the manufacturers' association that they were considering a protest against the proposed power project.

Ickes said that the manufacturers' association had been in the hospital for some time, but that he was now feeling better and was able to move about.

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Washington Pipeline

THE mild, damp winter has left the South's cotton crop infected with boll weevil. Only a prolonged hot, dry spell could kill the pest and save the cotton from serious damage.

Moonsheers are moving down from the mountains into the cities where illegal gambling is rampant.

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Merri-Ground

NEW YORK Giants manager Leo Du-  
mont next time he beats Congressional Rep. Merri-Ground.

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