June 28, 1962

Honorable Hugo L. Black
Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
Supreme Court Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Justice Black:

Congratulations for rendering a wise decision concerning prayers in the public schools. The decision rendered is a proper protective measure which will make history because it preserves the necessary separation of church and state in a country and a world which still sponsors bigoted and superstitious theology and designed prayers to support debatable dogmas and doctrines which are to be imposed upon the people.

Our forefathers were conscious of the past history relating to racial and dogmatic religious practices which resulted in persecution. They made provisions in our Constitution to avoid the terrible consequences history has recorded. The attached article will be of interest to the Justices of the Supreme Court when they read the criticism of the innocent and selfish opponents.

With high admiration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Russell Forrest Egner

RFE:ee
enc.
301 Aurora Street
Hudson, Ohio
July 2, 1962

Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black
United States Supreme Court
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

I was so delighted with the Supreme Court ruling on the Regent's prayer because we lived in Orchard Park, New York, when my little girl was in fourth grade through sixth grade. We moved there from Missouri and she was so troubled when she came home from school the first day and told about the prayer she had to say that didn't sound right to her. We had always taught her to be grateful to God but not to ask Him for favors and the last part of the prayer sounded wrong to her. I told her just to be quiet and pray her own way but that's a little difficult when the prayer is coming over the loud speaker into the room.

Another aspect is that a little girl tries hard to please her teacher because she gives her the only grade for the year and promotes her, and if it pleases a teacher to have her say a prayer she'll say it, even if it conflicts with her Sunday School teaching and home training.

I didn't protest this injustice because there were so many other things to work out in the school system but I am so happy to see the Court's decision. It is a forward step in the history of our country and bequeaths one more freedom to our children.

With all good wishes to you and your fellow justices, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Ruth B. Howlett)
The Honorable Hugo L. Black
U.S. Supreme Court
1 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Justice Black: Re: Bible Reading in School and Prayer

I am enclosing a letter I wrote to John Sparkman regarding the Supreme Court Prayer Decision last summer, along with a copy of the President's Commission's Conclusions as set forth in Goals for Americans.

When asked how Hitler took over in Germany, one of our new citizens from Germany said, "We didn't know what was happening."

It is my considered opinion that the communists are waging an ideological war in this nation and accomplishing their purposes while we don't know what is happening. This move to get rid of the traditions of bible reading in schools and prayer in our public gatherings is as much of a Trojan horse in this nation, and can be the small thing that leads to our destruction.

As a fellow citizen of Alabama, I urge you to reconsider the N.Y. Prayer Decision, and to decide in favor of the American way of life which protects the minority, but lets the majority rule, as the constitution provides.

You have my prayers and best wishes. I am sympathetic with the problems all our people in public office face.

Sincerely yours,

Lucile Johnston

Mrs. James W. Johnston
1605 College Ave.,
May 13th 1964

Mr. Block:

Am enclosing you a clipping
which is one of a dozen or more I
read every day. Everyone I see, the
writer is disgusted with the ruling
of the Supreme Court going down
in the Socialist-Communist tainted line.

Recently, I saw where Earl Warren's
decision has been in favor of
the Communist 92% of the time.
He probably held back on the 8%
because he did not consider the
time ripe yet.

Now, the bad part for us
in Ala., is to find you go down
the same line almost 100%.

Pres. Roosevelt referred to Stalin
as being his best friend. Am wondering
if he told you on the same idea
before he appointed you to the job
you have?
I recall back in the twenties when I was traveling a country route for Swift & Co. and you were running for senator. I was told in favor of you and would stop along the road and put up your posters as well as leave your material in stores. In fact, I was risking losing my job because I thought you were a man we people in Ala. could trust.

Well, I guess a lot of us wake up and learn our lesson too late.

Respect,

R. L. Flowers
May 18, 1964

Mr. R. L. Flowers  
1605 College Avenue  
Jackson, Alabama

Dear Mr. Flowers:

I have your letter of May 13th enclosing clipping from the Mobile Register about certain Supreme Court decisions. I assume that the opinion referred to is the one I wrote in the New York Regents' Official State Prayer case. Since your letter seems to be based in part upon what you think that case decided, I would like to suggest that you read it. You will find it reported as Engel v. Vitale, volume 370 United States Reports at page 421. If you cannot find the United States Reports in a lawyer's office in Jackson, I am confident you will be able to find them at some law office in Grove Hill. If you do find the Engel case and read it, I would appreciate hearing from you again about it.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

H.L.B.

Hugo L. Black.