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## Letter from Gordon W. Bell to Representative Burdick Regarding Religious Education, January 18, 1950

Gordon W. Bell

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Lansford Methodist Church

Lansford, North Dakota

January 18, 1953

Hon. Usher T. Burdick, Rep.

Office Of The House Of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Honorable and Dear Sir:

We realize that the issue of public support for private institutions of learning is being brought before Congress at this time. We wish to express our desire that the fundamental relationship of Separation of Church and State be maintained. We believe that our national welfare as well as the spiritual welfare of our people lies in the decision made upon this issue.

We believe in the right for everyone to worship according to the dictates of his heart. The Methodist Church along with other sister denominations maintains her own private schools, 123 in number. We desire no public funds to aid us in their operation because we wish to have the right to determine what they shall teach and therefore we are willing to assume all financial obligations.

We believe that the strength of America lies in her non-sectarian free public school system. Therefore we are opposed to government action which would foster Parochial and divisive systems of child training. We would therefore appreciate your influence being used to maintain the Status Quo in this field. We believe it will be a great help to you.

Respectfully yours  
Rev. Gordon W. Bell