



HJ0071

LRB098 13670 GRL 53328 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On February 10, 1954, Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan introduced a bill in the United States Congress to amend the Pledge of Allegiance by adding the words "under God" to the text of the pledge; and

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WHEREAS, February 10, 1954 was chosen as the date to introduce the bill by Senator Ferguson to recognize the five-year anniversary of the imprisonment of Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty of Hungary, who was imprisoned and tortured by Communists for his sermons exposing the goal of communism to eradicate all religion; and

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WHEREAS, Speeches were delivered in Congress by members of both political parties honoring Cardinal Mindszenty and emphasizing the threat posed to America by communism; and

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WHEREAS, Upon introduction of the bill, Senator Ferguson commented, "I believe this modification of the pledge is important because it highlights one of the real fundamental differences between the free world and the Communist world, namely, belief in God"; he continued with, "Our nation is founded on a fundamental belief in God, and the first and most important reason for the existence of our government is to protect the God-given rights of our citizens. Spiritual values

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1 are every bit as important to the defense and safety of our
2 nation as are military and economic values."; and

3 WHEREAS, The vote to add "under God" to the United States
4 Pledge of Allegiance was a unanimous vote; and

5 WHEREAS, On February 7, 1954, President Dwight D.
6 Eisenhower became convinced that adding the words "under God"
7 to the United States Pledge of Allegiance would be the right
8 thing to do after hearing Reverend George Docherty preach that
9 the phrase "nation under God" was first used in the Gettysburg
10 Address and that the words were appropriate to be added to the
11 United States Pledge of Allegiance because freedom "is defined
12 by a fundamental belief in God"; and

13 WHEREAS, The first time the United States Pledge of
14 Allegiance was recited was on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

15 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the members of the General
16 Assembly to recognize and honor such an important date, which
17 strengthens the ties of history that bind us to our Christian
18 heritage; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize February 10, 1954

1 as the anniversary of the addition of the words "under God" to
2 the United States Pledge of Allegiance; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the members of this body are urged to
4 reflect upon the importance of the words "under God" each time
5 it is recited within the chambers.