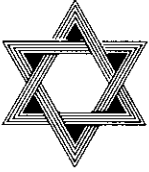


623 North
second street
Milwaukee
Wisconsin
53203
one
- 76-7920
Saul Sorin
executive director

Milwaukee Jewish Council



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Constituent
Agency
of the
Milwaukee
Jewish
Federation

February 9, 1972

Mr. Richard B. McConnell
District Attorney Waukesha County
515 W. Moreland Blvd.
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Dear Mr. McConnell:

The Milwaukee Jewish Council is the central organization of Greater Milwaukee's Jewish community working with problems of community relations and human rights. We have noted with deep concern the stories in the press which have reported that you have raised the possibility of prosecution of the Unitarian Church West because of their intention to offer a course in sex education to the children of their Congregation. It has been further reported that you have indicated that prosecution of the Church would be averted if the materials to be used were to be submitted for your review prior to their use.

We believe the threat to prosecute the Unitarian Church West is a violation of the right to freedom of religion and freedom of conscience of those members and parents of the Unitarian Church West who have made a conscientious choice of educational materials to be used in their Church school and which are rooted in their religious beliefs and values. Your actions may also constitute an intrusion into the very private relationship between parent and child.

We also believe it is a violation of the principle of religious freedom for you, a representative of the State, to ask for the prior right to review materials which the Church has selected in the exercise of its religious conscience.

We are aware that the materials which the Unitarian Church West plans to use in its course on human sexuality may not meet with the approval of many people in Waukesha County. Indeed, we do not intend by means of this letter to express any view on their educational value. But as a community profoundly committed to religious freedom, we believe that an attack by the State upon the rights of even the smallest minority to freedom of conscience, is an attack ultimately upon freedom of religion and conscience for all.

Richard B. McConnell
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We urge you to end the threat of prosecution of the Unitarian Church West. We hope that no Church will be coerced, in any way, into seeking approval of its educational materials by any arm of the State.

Very truly yours,

Irvin B. Charne
Irvin B. Charne
President

IBC/ib

CC: Rev. R. C. A. Moore