

PREPARED STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT

DECISION re SCHEMP & MURRAY CASES

The Supreme Court in its ruling on the Schempp and Murray cases has reiterated the principle of religious freedom which is guaranteed to all Americans by the United States Constitution. The Milwaukee Jewish Council believes strongly that religious freedom is best protected when the state does not compel religious worship. We urge that this decision be carefully studied by all Americans.

Religious freedom under the United States Constitution is an individual right and the Court's decision, which is designed to protect this individual right, cannot be interpreted as an issue of a majority vs. a minority. The individual religious freedom of all Americans is involved.

In our own state the present Supreme Court decision was preceded by 67 years when the Supreme Court of the state of Wisconsin ruled compulsory Bible reading in the public schools unconstitutional. Thus, the United States Supreme Court has affirmed the law of our own state.

It is important that there be communication between all religious groups with respect to the meaning of the decision that we continue to seek interfaith understanding of our priceless heritage of religious freedom.