

Hearing held on December 5, 2006 at 11:00 am at the Madison
Loves Hotel, 1177 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 2005
before the U. S. Department of Education, Office of
Postsecondary Education, National Advisory Committee on
Institutional Quality and Integrity

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COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

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President Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania
Former White House Director, Office of Faith-Based and Community
Initiatives

Honorable Pamela P. Willeford
Development Board Member
University of Texas - Austin
Former Ambassador, Switzerland

what we're looking at.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMICO: Does that answer your question?

DR. KEISER: It answers my question, but I'm not agreeing with it.

[Laughter.]

MR. JAMES: I accept that.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMICO: Other questions from the Committee for the agency? Thank you very much. Could you shut off your microphone before you leave? Thank you. Thank you very much for coming today.

There was one third-party presenter, Mr. Sumner Scott. Mr. Scott, I believe you were here yesterday so you know that we have a five-minute rule and we do have a timer, so we will let you know when you're close to that five minutes. Thank you for coming today.

MR. SCOTT: Thank you very much. My name is Bill Scott. I'm with Judicial Equality Foundation. We're a public charity. We're interested in the use of formal education to achieve peace. As presented in our opposition

yesterday to the American Bar Association petition, the role of organized religion and world violence is not currently studied.

The Torah, Bible and Koran all come from the same verbal tribal history. If you doubt that, I commend Dave Anderson's *The Infidels* to you because he has done a thorough study of that history.

The teaching of Deuteronomy, chapter 13, verses six to nine that proselytizers of other religions must be put to death is the basis for the wars and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. The last time the Bible was involved in American war was when Abraham Lincoln was elected on the platform that included that this country had enough of Leviticus, chapter 25, verses 44 through 46, that grants permission for slavery.

Why the Bible has continued to be the word of God and the people who teach it aren't held accountable by committees like yours and by the Department of Education is beyond our belief.

The Civil War presented history that

teaches exactly where we are in today's situation. Formal education failed this country in 1860 just as it does today. Bible association members continue to teach that the sole word of God. Some believers in different sources of the word of God are willing to kill non-believers.

The murder of Theo van Gogh, abortion doctors, and Pamela Waechter in Seattle must not go unnoticed by academia. The President justified his veto of Federal funds for embryonic stem cell research by his religious view that the embryo is life.

The hearing that preceded that decision was less than the one that was afforded to Galileo. The source of the president's misguided action is the failure of academia to distinguish between organized religion and the individual right to believe as they choose.

The word "religion" has been abused to include the unregulated business of the views of people who want to teach us how to think and how to behave, that thinking and behavior should begin in

this room, it should not begin in a 2,000 year old book.

Once God is believed to be in agreement with whatever the thought process is religious abusers can look to Michael J. Fox in the eye and tell him the Federal government will not do all it can to cure Parkinson's and other similar diseases. We can go over and we can bomb innocent people and we can expose our people to retaliatory action from those who don't agree that our position is correct.

It's time to put a stop to this. Albert Einstein said the first line of defense to totalitarian action is our educational community. For the staff to tell you that this is beyond the scope, that you cannot examine the content of what these people teach is beyond the pale.

The correction of this abuse begins in this room. You've been charged with the responsibility to recommend who will get Federal funding to educate America's children. To continue to permit written history or myth including the Bible to be taught as the word of God would be a

dereliction of duty by this Committee.

It would also sanction a religion in violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

For the record, we ask that this Committee presentation be videoed. We thought all of you should be on YouTube. It was denied. I think a public hearing should include that all public communication be used. We can't do this in a vacuum anymore. We have to have people who are using 100 percent of their brains. You can't limit your thought process and take a word and make it stop you from thinking about what's being taught to our children.

We all have a right to our free belief and what we think about our own religion. We don't have a right to collect together and say other people are wrong and we are going to go bomb them.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMICO: Thank you for your testimony. At this time, are there other comments that the agency or the Department would like to