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## APPROVAL, BONDS OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, \$152,167.91, ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, March 7, 1923.

*Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Commission of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio.*

127.

## READING OF BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS NOT VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

## SYLLABUS:

*The provisions of House Bill No. 271 relative to the reading of the Holy Bible in the public schools are not in violation of any constitutional rights, or within any constitutional inhibitions.*

COLUMBUS, OHIO, March 8, 1923.

HON. C. H. FREEMAN, *Chairman, Committee on Common Schools, Ohio House of Representatives, Columbus, Ohio.*

DEAR SIR:—You have requested the advice of this department on the constitutionality of House Bill No. 271, Mr. Buchanan. This bill is entitled:

“A bill to provide for the reading of the Holy Bible in the public schools.”

The Federal Constitution does not control in the matter of public schools or in what instructions shall be given therein; but the regulation of public schools, as well as their support, rests with and devolves upon the several states. Nor is there any inhibition imposed by the Constitution of the United States in this respect on the states. (*Permoli v. New Orleans*, 3 How. 589, 11 L. Ed. 739).

The question, therefore, to be decided is:

Is the reading of the Bible in the public schools of this state prohibited by our state constitution?

The Bible is not mentioned in the Constitution, nor is there found therein any express inhibition against the giving of religious or moral instruction in the public schools, and it has been from the formation of our state government to the present time universally recognized by the people that there are certain fundamental principles of religion and morality which the safety of society requires should be imparted to the youth of our state, and that those principles may be properly taught in our public schools as a part of the secular knowledge which is their province to instill into the youthful mind.

The people were admonished by George Washington in these words: