

# Mr. Attorney General of California:

## Congratulations! You did *mean what you were saying!*

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**WE** TOOK YOU at your word. And you kept it. While you were lobbying against the Petris bill in the California legislature, you were saying—and your deputies were saying—that if this bill passed you probably would find it necessary to drop your lawsuit against the Worldwide Church of God.

This statement was made to members of the California senate, to members of the assembly, to the governor, to newspapers and to news people of TV stations throughout the state.

In this nationally famous lawsuit you had been claiming, based on your interpretation of a formerly existing California law, that you, acting on behalf of the state, should own, supervise and monitor ALL CALIFORNIA CHURCHES, their properties and church activities! This, in violation of the United States



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Constitution and the First Amendment!

The Petris bill rescinded the former law on which you based your unconstitutional lawsuit and claim to ownership and control of all California churches. You lobbied vigorously against the Petris bill, which rescinded the law on which your contention and lawsuit were based.

The Petris bill was passed in the senate by a vote of 52 to 1. In the assembly 50 to 12. It was signed into law Sept. 30 by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. Apparently they took you at your word that this would cause you to decide to drop your unconstitutional lawsuit against this Church.

Your office had selected the Worldwide Church of God as its test case. We were to be the

first domino, and if we fell, all other churches would follow.

Although their doctrines and practices differ somewhat from ours—even as they do from one another—the major and minor church denominations came to our legal aid in this state vs. church lawsuit, as also did the American Civil Liberties Union.

We take no part in partisan politics.

We are grateful to the major and minor churches who came to our legal aid. We thank the lawmaking body of California for taking you at your word and giving you this MANDATE!

We too thank the living God for giving you, Mr. Attorney General, the courage and moral strength to KEEP YOUR WORD. You are, indeed, a man of your word!

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