

Couple wants Bible studies out of school

United Press International
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — In the midst of the Ozark mountains, where respect for the Bible is as strong as trust for outsiders, David and Diana Burns are fighting an admittedly unpopular battle to take Bible lessons out of the schools.

They have made little progress with the school officials in the tiny town of Mountain View where they have lived for the past six years and here their son is a second-grader. The school principal ignored them,

the school superintendent hung up on them and a "good American group" of 400 people cheered as school board members reaffirmed the Bible lessons.

But with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union they hope to do better in a federal courtroom today in Little Rock.

The Burnses — he grew up a Baptist and she was raised a Catholic — say they do not object to the Bible lessons because they want their son to learn some other religion.

"I just feel the place for religion is

in the church of my choosing or in our home," Mrs. Burns said.

At the hearing Wednesday the Burnses will ask federal judge Elsjane Trimble Roy for a temporary restraining order blocking the Bible lessons until a decision is reached on their request to stop the practice permanently.

"I feel very secure going to court on this issue," said Sandra Kurjiaka, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Little Rock, which is handling the suit.

"There's no way the Supreme

Court is going to say it's okay to have this practice going on. The rulings have always been very strong for separation of church and state, particularly any time it deals with school children, who are a captive audience."

School Superintendent Bill Rosa is equally adamant about continuing the practice. Rosa points to the school handbook that says students should "develop an appreciation for spiritual values."

"I really don't know how you're going to influence youngsters in a

spiritual way without some form of biblical reference," he said.

He also claims the overwhelming support of the 1,800 people of Mountain View, the county seat of Stone County.

Mrs. Burns said her son's teacher reads from a book of Bible stories written for children during the class's quiet time each day. Two women from the community also visit each elementary school class once a month to tell Bible stories and lead religious songs.

The Burnses started their cam-

paign against the Bible lessons last fall by writing a letter to the school principal. Next, they talked to Rosa.

"He hung up on me," Mrs. Burns said. "He said they'd done it for 20 years and they weren't going to change it. He told me if I had a lot of money to waste, to take it to court."

"I was pretty upset, and I looked up the number of the ACLU," she said. "They were interested in the case."

The ACLU first entered the case by writing letters, too.

"We trust," said a letter to the

school board, "that you will not continue to condone illegal activities within the classrooms of the district."

Rosa responded with a letter to the board, in which he said it was his "personal feeling" the board should "fight this and take a definite stand against the intrusion on a school board responsibility."

In January, the board voted to affirm the practice at a meeting attended by 400 vocal citizens, most of whom supported the board's action.

Anderson undecided on switch

United Press International
Amid indications the speculation about an independent race may be hurting his Republican presidential campaign, Rep. John Anderson says it will be several weeks before he decides whether to bolt the GOP.

"I believe it's such an important decision that I have to consult a broader spectrum of opinion than I have had time to reach," Anderson told a news conference Monday in Los Angeles, while campaigning on Ronald Reagan's home turf.

Anderson said last week he would use the long weekend to "sit under a eucalyptus tree" and consider the options. His remarks Monday were in the nature of an explanation for why his decision was not forthcoming.

All of the candidates were asked for reaction to President Carter's announcement that he was breaking diplomatic relations with Iran and imposing stern sanctions on U.S. exports — including even some food and medicines.

Reagan called it "more of the same and it's been wrong from the first," but Sen. Edward Kennedy, Anderson and former U.N. Ambassador George Bush supported it with some reservations.

Bush, however, accused Carter of playing politics with the issue.

Bush was in Washington to speak to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and was persuaded to do something he has sworn not to do — discuss his political fortunes.

He said he will do nothing to tear down Reagan, but he ruled out accepting the vice presidential spot on a Reagan ticket.

Reagan calls for coalition

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Tuesday, in a speech prepared for the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Ronald Reagan outlined his plan for success in the November election — "a coalition of shared values" by Republican, independent and Democratic middle Americans.

The GOP presidential frontrunner blasted President Carter's anti-inflation plan as a "recipe for recession" and scoffed at Carter's contention that productivity is lessening because Americans are losing confidence.

"Americans aren't losing their confidence. They're losing their shirts," Reagan said.

He said his coalition will draw independents and Democrats to the Republican Party.

"This is a new coalition of shared values and I believe its time has come," Reagan said.

"For too long your values — the values of the family, neighborhood, work, peace through strength and freedom through vigilance — have been mocked and ignored and exploited."

Reagan proposed a 30 percent income tax cut over three years, an adjustment of corporate tax rates for inflation, "indexing" income tax rates for inflation, abolishment of federal gift and estate taxes and restoration of a sound dollar at home and abroad.

White denies defense fee for officials

United Press International
AUSTIN — Potter County cannot legally pay the attorney fees for the defense of the sheriff and county attorney in suits filed to oust them from office, Attorney General Mark White said Tuesday.

The district attorney filed the suits to remove the sheriff and county attorney, and both the officeholders hired private attorneys to defend against the suit.

White said state laws were not intended to require counties to pay for private attorneys hired to defend public officials against suits to remove them from office.

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Tea Bags Scotch Buy 100 Ct. Pkg. \$1.39	Cottage Cheese Lucerne 24 Oz. Ctn. \$1.19	Pecan Twirls Mrs. Wright's 8 Count 9 Oz. Pkg. 59¢	Bel-air Pizza Low Priced 13 Oz. 99¢	Cake Mixes Mrs. Wright's, Except Pudding Mix 18.5 Oz. 89¢
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