

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

**This document is from the files of the Office of
the Maine Attorney General as transferred to
the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference
Library on January 19, 2022**

March 6, 1967

Kermit S. Nickerson, Deputy
Commissioner

Education

John W. Benoit, Assistant

Attorney General

Distribution of Bibles in Public Schools; Addendum to April 1, 1964
Opinion.

On April 1, 1964, this office submitted an opinion to you on the reference subject following your inquiry as to whether the opinion of this office dated April 28, 1953 continued in force following the decision in Schempp v. Murray and the November 7, 1963 opinion of this office declaring R. S., c. 37 § 127 to be null and void in view of Schempp v. Murray. In our April 1, 1964 opinion, we stated that the April 28, 1953 opinion was no longer effective since the 1953 opinion had been based upon the presence of R. S., c. 37 § 127.

You have now inquired whether the subject of the distribution of Bibles in public schools may be left to the determination of the local superintending school committee or school directors, whatever the case may be. It is our understanding that the Bibles are to be left at the school by the Gideons and that the pupils may pick up one of the Bibles if they choose to do so. This manner of distribution will not require any student to openly manifest his intentions concerning the distribution of the Bibles. A public school committee, such as a superintending school committee or school directors, may choose to authorize the Gideons to place a supply of Bible at the school so that students who desire them may pick them up. The decision is one for the local school officials.

Thank you for your attention.

John W. Benoit
Assistant Attorney General

JWB/eh