

November 25, 1966

Lawrence F. O'Brien  
The Postmaster General  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Sir:

The automatic stamp cancellation on U.S. mail which reads, "Pray for Peace" is, in my opinion, silly, offensive and conceivably unconstitutional.

"Work for Peace" might be a useful admonition.

"Demand your Leaders for Peace" would be a reasonable and refreshing slogan for international propaganda.

But "Pray for Peace" encourages passive reliance on an impersonal Higher Power which is not responsible for squabbles on our small planet, and makes no partisan decisions on their outcome. Rarely does the act of praying, itself, serve to reduce significantly the fears and hates of those who lead - or those who blindly follow - to war.

*to improve the judgement*

Rather, "Pray for Peace" helps assure no constructive action by the people; the essential concerted action against the diplomatic, economic, social, and psychological phenomena leading to war. Perhaps this is what Administrations desire?

At any rate, I question the effectiveness and the motives of this government propaganda and strongly protest its appropriateness.

Sincerely,

*Henry Blackburn*

Henry Blackburn

HB/lis

cc: Letter to the Editor  
Minneapolis Tribune