

“IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME”

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In the ongoing effort to remove God and religion from our national life, opponents of the idea of “one nation under God” have now attacked our dating system. It was only a matter of time. A campaign has been under way for some time to rewrite our national history and “keep secret” the fact that the founding fathers were religious men who believed that ‘if a sparrow cannot fall to the earth without God’s notice, it is unthinkable to believe an empire can rise without His aid,” to loosely quote Benjamin Franklin. Authors of history textbooks and teachers of history can ignore the statements of faith that were made by the founding fathers, but that does not change the fact that they made them.. Those who would ignore the use of the name of God and references to the Bible by the founders and push for a godless society still have the problem of Scripture quotations on buildings in our nation’s capital, prayer before the opening session of Congress, and “God save this honorable court” as the Supreme Court opens its sessions. Now there are forces at work to replace B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini, the year of the Lord) with B.C.E. (before the common era) and C.E. (common era). This would eliminate any reference to the birth of Christ as being the dividing point of history. However, this brings up the question raised by Richard Ostling in an article that appeared in the Tyler Morning Telegraph on June 24, 2006: “What is common about the common era?” What happened between B.C.E. and C.E.? The answer should be obvious -- the birth of Christ happened! Try as one might, God will not be eliminated from history and it is extremely foolish for

man to live in God's world, to enjoy God's blessings and then to pretend that there is no place in our lives for him. Whether one says it or just lives like God is not, it is still true that "the fool has said in his heart 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1). (Note: because of a mistake in the calculations of Dionysius as to when Jesus was born, there is a four year differential in his calendar so that Christ was born in 4 B.C., but the fact remains that history is divided by the birth of Christ).