

Language Proclamation Correspondence #3

Sioux City, Iowa
June 6th, 1918

Governor W.L. Harding
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Governor:

Forgive me for writing to you in regard to the proclamation regarding the language question here in Iowa.

My church here, the Swedish Mission church in Sioux City, has a membership of 290 about. The church is intensely [sic] loyal, and always has been. We have bought Liberty Bonds all of us, and W.S.S., and have an auxiliary Red Cross that meets every Wednesday to save for our dear soldier boys. Our church has invested this year [sic] building fund, which is approximately \$1500, in Thrift Stamps, and we are very proud of it. In every way possible have we helped the country, and will till our dying day.

My members have mostly immigrated [sic] when at an advanced age. They are therefore incapacitated to understand a sermon in English, i.e. most of them. It is very pathetic to see them weeping in their homes because they can not gather in church any more to hear the Word of God in their language. Now, my dear Governor I appeal to you, if it would be possible for me to use the Swedish language in the Sunday forenoon services. But Sunday evenings use the English, and thereby get used to the change. I feel so sorry for my members. It is very pathetic, and, therefore, I appeal to you as a man of justice to grant this favor.

Would you please answer me before Sunday. If the time does not allow to send it by mail, please wire me at my expense.

Your Humble fellow-citizen,
G.A. Gavert