

## CONTROLLING LEGAL PRINCIPLES

*Free Exercise Clause Decision – The “Contemplation of Justice”*  
*Machinists v. Street, 367 U.S. 740, 789 (1961)*



**The very reason for the First Amendment is to make the people of this country free to think, speak, write and worship as they wish, not as the Government commands.**

**And whether there is such abridgment depends not only on how the law is written, but also on how it works.** [Footnote 3/13] See, e.g., *Giboney v. Empire Storage & Ice Co.*, 336 U. S. 490. (Emphasis added)

**And Thomas Jefferson said that**

**"to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical. [Footnote 3/15]"**

These views of Madison and Jefferson authentically represent the philosophy embodied in the safeguards of the First Amendment. **That Amendment leaves the Federal Government no power whatever to compel one man to expend his energy, his time or his money to advance the fortunes of candidates he would like to see defeated or to urge ideologies and causes he believes would be hurtful to the country.**