



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

June 1, 2006

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT

The vote to protect "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance may come in the House of Representatives as early as June 14th, which is Flag Day. It was on Flag Day that President Dwight Eisenhower signed the bill into law that official placed "under God" in the Pledge. We at the Religious Freedom Coalition are not backing off our push for a vote. On June 12th, just two days before Flag Day I will appear live on the national TV program Celebration promoting the Pledge Protection Act. Celebration is the flagship program of the Daystar cable network which broadcasts Christian TV shows. To learn how to see Daystar in your area you can check the Internet at <http://ww2.daystar.com>.

On that same day I will be on Point of View radio show which is live on over 400 Christian and conservative radio stations throughout the United States. I will also be on numerous other individual radio and TV shows promoting the defense of "under God" in the Pledge.

In the House we have nearly 200 co-sponsors and we pretty much assured of a vote on Flag Day, however, anything could come up to change that. Regardless it is my belief that in the next Chairman's Report I will be telling you about a victory in the House for the Pledge Protection Act.

Meanwhile we are really moving forward in the Senate as well. In the last few weeks we added several co-sponsors to Senator Kyl's version of the Pledge Protection Act. Senators Saxby Chambliss, Trent Lott and Conrad Burns have become co-sponsors bringing our total to 15 Senators who have co-sponsored the Pledge Protection Act!

9th CIRCUIT COURT IMPOSES ISLAM ON CHRISTIAN KIDS

The threat of "under God" being removed from the Pledge came out of the 9th Circuit Court. That same court which found "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional has ordered children in the public schools of California to chant "Allah is the only true God and Mohammed is his messenger." The Court also ruled children can also be required to chant "Praise be to Allah" in response to a teacher prompting them. According to the court it is cultural "diversity" to force the kids to design Islamic prayer rugs, take on Arabic names and to "become a Muslim" for a two week period as part of required school assignments.

The case came to the 9th Circuit Court after parents of seventh-graders sued the schools claiming that the schools were promoting Islam. This is amazing considering that California school forbid the celebration of both Christmas and Easter.

Meanwhile Christianity is a two day course in California's public school system with a spotlight on the Inquisition which represents a very short period of Christian history. The religion classes are misleading and deliberately anti-Christian in nature. The course on Islam says that Jihad is a personal "internal struggle" and common practices of Islam like repression of women, slavery and polygamy are never mentioned. The consultant who produced the program for the California public schools is a devout Muslim who is on the payroll of the Saudi government. ([Click here](#) for full story.) We must pass the Pledge Protection Act which restricts wacky courts such as the 9th Circuit.

MARRIAGE

Some time ago Majority Leader Bill Frist set this June 5th for a closure vote on the Marriage Protection Amendment. A final vote on the actual Amendment should occur on the 7th. This Amendment to the Constitution would define marriage in the United States as being between one man and one woman. The Amendment has no chance whatsoever of passage. All Constitutional Amendments need a two-thirds vote to pass either chamber of the Congress. In the last Senate vote on a marriage amendment it received only 47 votes. Since then four more Republicans have taken office and all of them campaigned on a platform of protecting the institution of marriage. If everyone votes the same and these four Republicans vote for the Marriage Protection Amendment the vote will still fail with just 51 of the needed 67 votes.

This is a very bad precedent. In my opinion Congressman Hostettler's Marriage Protection Act which uses Article III of the Constitution to protect the institution of marriage should have been voted on in both Houses of Congress before the Constitutional Amendment was voted on. Hostettler's approach would have required only a 51% vote and would have given us an incremental victory that we will now not have. The web site posted by those organizations favoring a Constitutional Amendment only position can be found at www.religiouscoalitionformarriage.org.

IMMIGRATION

It gets worse! The Senate Immigration Reform bill protects the employers of illegal aliens from all penalties. The actual bill is now more than 600 pages long and includes Social Security for illegals based on income earned while they used false identification and phony Social Security numbers. Presumably the government will just take the word of illegals as to how much they should be credited toward Social Security benefits. In the same 600 pages is a provision that states, "Employers of aliens applying for adjustment of status under this section shall not be subject to civil and criminal tax liability relating directly to the employment of such alien."

This and other provisions of the bill would remove 31 different crimes related to illegal immigration that would be forgiven including the fraudulent use of Social Security numbers which is a felony. The current penalty for using a false Social Security number to obtain employment is five years in jail and a fine of \$250,000. That crime would be forgiven as would all other related crimes committed by illegal aliens and those who employ them.

The Senate Immigration bill transforms those who entered this country illegally into "guest workers" and gives them special rights that American citizens do not have. 1) The bill grants in-state tuition rates for illegals while citizens who cross state lines must pay the full rate. 2) Employers will be forced to pay illegals "prevailing" rates for a job regardless of their experience level while citizens can be hired at minimum wage. 3) Illegals in agricultural jobs can only be fired for "just cause" while citizens can be fired for any or no reason at all. 4) Illegals will be immediately eligible for Social Security and if they die here their kids will get full pop survivor benefits (over \$1,000 a month each) until age 18. This means citizen seniors will get less. 5) As mentioned above illegals and their employers are forgiven of all felonies committed against the tax code (and other felonies) while citizens will be jailed for the same crimes. 6) Radical "immigrant-rights groups" including the racist organization La Raza will receive millions of tax dollars to organize the illegals.

As a Christian I have compassion for those in need. I also have a fear of God and respect his Commandments. I do not believe that those who bear false witness, steal and commit other illegal acts

should be rewarded while those who are honest are punished. In my mind and heart this is an issue about the rule of law. The Senate is sending a message to Americans, to our children and our grandchildren that those who break the law are rewarded and those who obey the law are punished. Most Senate Republicans voted against the Immigration Bill and most virtually every democrat voted for it. In the final analysis the Democrats favored the approach President Bush proposed and the Republicans were against it.

Here is the best part: At least six of the Senators voting for these special rights for illegals, including Bill Frist, John McCain and Hillary Clinton, want to be our next President.

OUR TAXES GO DOWN

In late May President George W. Bush won a major victory in Congress with the passage of tax cut extensions including a 15% cap on capital gains. However, the AMT (Alternative Minimum Tax) deferral was extended for only one year. The AMT was devised in the 1960's to stop millionaires from avoiding taxes by way of exemptions; however, with inflation it began to affect middle class Americans. While the tax relief does favor those in the top brackets, virtually all economists believe these cuts will continue to stimulate the economy and create jobs.



**Peggy Birchfield,
William and Nancy
Murray in White
House south lawn**

On May 17th Conservative leaders of all stripes were invited to the signing of the bill on the South Lawn of the White House including myself, my wife Nancy and our Executive Director, Peggy Birchfield. Before and after the signing ceremony the Marine Corps band played for those present. Many of our friends that we work with on a daily bases were present including Lanear Swan of Concerned Women for American, Rev. Lou Sheldon of Traditional Values, John Holmes of the Association of Christian Schools International. Various economic conservative groups were also represented.

INTERNATIONAL

CHRISTIAN CHILDREN KIDNAPPED AND ENSLAVED IN PAKISTAN

On May 21, 2006 the Times of London ran a heart wrenching story about 20 young Christian boys kidnapped by a leader of the Jamaat-ud Daawa (JUD) in Punjab Province on Pakistan. The JUD is associated with Osama Bin Laden's Al-Qaeda. The boys were treated as subhuman because they were not Muslims as was their capture, wealthy Muslim businessman Gul Khan. He planned to sell the boys to the highest bidder for domestic work or the sex trade. They were rescued in a ruse by a Christian missionary who raised the funds to purchase them.

This is an astonishing story which truly defines the difference between Christianity and Islam as practiced in the 21st century. I seriously doubt that anyone on the 9th Circuit Court read this before demanding that American Christian children praise Allah in California's public schools.

Christian are repressed and enslaved by Muslims all over the world. Many "missing" young American women are in the harems of Saudi Arabian sheiks. In virtually all Muslim nations multiple marriage is permitted. Western women and young kidnapped boys are often sold on the sex slave markets in Arab nations. It is because of the repression of Christians that the Religious Freedom Coalition has sought of the last two years to become a recognized NGO at the United Nations.

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THE UNITED NATIONS STATUS DENIED

In the last issue of the Chairman's Report I mentioned that a hearing was to be held on our request for official NGO status at the United Nations for the Religious Freedom Coalition on May 11th. Our application has been on file since 2004 and the only reason we received a hearing in May was because of the direct intervention of John Bolton, our new ambassador to the United Nations who is actually a conservative.

Of the dozens of groups set for a hearing that day only the Religious Freedom Coalition translated documents could not be found. All applications must be translated into the six official language of the United Nations. Two days later the translations were "found." Iran began the process of asking detailed questions that required written answers from us delaying the process. This continued for two weeks until the session ended on May 18th. The committee reviewing applications does not meet again until January, 2007 which means our application process will enter its 3rd year.

Keep the enslaved Pakistani Christian kids in mind and you can pretty much figure out why certain nations do not want a group called the Religious Freedom Coalition at the United Nations.

BETHLEHEM

Last month I pushed fairly hard for donations to our Bethlehem Project to help the Christian children in Bethlehem attend Christian schools. I need to be honest up front and tell you that we did not meet the needs of the project.

The Vacation Bible School team we support will still leave for the Holy Land on June 5th. The VBS is scheduled at the Hope School complex from June 6th to June 25th. We have ten volunteers total led by Gary Gordon who is Christian High School teacher from Colorado. Christian materials in Arabic for about 50 children have already been purchased and additional English materials will be taken with the team.

I had told you that would I personally fly to the Holy Land to deliver payments to schools and students in need. Because we did not raise the required funds I will not make the trip this year and Gary Gordon will distribute what funds we have raised. As stated in the last Chairman's Report the money is given only to unemployed families who have children in Christian schools. At the First Baptist Church of Bethlehem, where the pastor has been shot three times, we hope to be able to help as many as twenty unemployed families. Again this year we will also help children at the Talitha Kumi School and Hope School as well as at an Orthodox Kindergarten. They given the families are for school lunches, uniforms and transportation to the schools.

You can learn more about our work in Samaria (what the media refers to as the "West Bank") by visiting a special Internet site we have set up at www.thebethlehemproject.org. Contributions to assist Christian kids with their tuition to Christian schools in the Bethlehem area can be mailed to: The Bethlehem Project, PO Box 77511, Washington, DC 20013. Gifts can also be given at the Internet site.

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William J. Murray, Chairman