



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

April 4, 2007

THE HOUSE, PRAYER AND THE PLEDGE

ONE NATION UNDER GOD - We are moving forward on three fronts to protect “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. The last week of March I talked with Congressman Todd Akin who is the sponsor of the Pledge Protection Act. He is still diligently working on obtaining co-sponsors of the bill that would protect the words “under God” in the Pledge from being removed by federal courts. Currently the new lawsuit by atheist Michael Newdow is resting in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. We are at the point that literally any day the court could rule that “under God” in the Pledge is unconstitutional. When that happens we can expect real movement on the bill.

Because the House Judiciary Committee is now led by a radical socialist who is a dedicated secularist there is little hope of the Pledge Protection Act passing out of the Committee and a discharge petition to move it directly to the floor will be needed, or the vote must be called by leadership. In the current situation the leadership is San Francisco radical Nancy Pelosi who is the Speaker of the House. We must continue to beat at Nancy Pelosi’s door reminding her that she is second in line for the presidency after Vice President Dick Cheney and that she must represent all the people, not just her radical base in San Francisco.

In March the Religious Freedom Coalition mailed more than 50,000 letters to Christian activists across the United States asking them to write to Nancy Pelosi and ask her to allow a vote on the Pledge Protection Act. In April another 50,000 will be mailed. I have asked that the letters to Nancy Pelosi be mailed to me so that I can deliver them in person to her. I will start delivering the letters supporting the Pledge Protection Act to Nancy Pelosi at the end of this month. I don’t want to make the first trip with less than 25,000 letters.

NEW BOOK - I have been holding off telling you that I have actually written a book on the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. The book details the Christian heritage of our nation leading up to the Pledge of Allegiance being adopted by Congress. I also cover the court fights over the years against the Pledge and against the words “under God” in the pledge. The book is title The Pledge: One Nation Under God and will be available in just a few months. I will let you know as soon as the publisher has it available for the general public.

THE ATHEIST CONGRESSMAN - Congressman Peter Stark (D-CA) has announced that he is an atheist. Stark represents the 13th district on the eastern side of the San Francisco Bay including all of Alameda County. This announcement comes as no surprise to those of us who have watched Stark's voting record over the years. He had previously reported his "religion" as Unitarian. The Unitarian/Universal Church holds the position that there is no personal deity. Generally Unitarians are atheists who just do not like to use the word atheist.

CONGRESSMEN WHO PRAY - Congressman Randy Forbes of Virginia organized some 40 members of Congress from both parties to stand on the steps of the Capitol and issue a call to "bring America back to prayer." "Every politician says 'God bless America.' But do you really mean that?" said Mr. Forbes, a Republican. "If you don't, maybe we should start saying, 'Have a good day,' or something like that."

LETS ALL COME TOGETHER - With the entry into the presidential race of Mayor Rudy Giuliani there is a growing gap between the social and economic conservatives. The Washington reality is that the economic conservatives who mainly operate from lush lobbying offices on K Street are never at the same meetings with congressional leaders as are social conservatives. In March, I approached majority Leader Boehner, Majority Whip Roy Blunt and Chief Deputy Whip Eric Cantor with the concept of a summit of social and economic conservative activists. I believe it is a grave error for congressional leaders to "work" the two groups separately. I will keep you informed as to my progress.

PORK IS NOW A "SWEETENER" - President Bush requested an "emergency" supplement of about \$100 billion dollars to fight the war in Iraq. The House Democrats then added \$21 billion in pork to the emergency bill that has nothing to do with the war including \$120 million for shrimp and menhaden fishing industries; \$100 million for citrus growers and \$74 million for peanut storage. Money is even reserved for 16 states that failed to manage health care costs properly. Congress even granted themselves \$16 million for additional office space for the House of Representatives.

Why all this extra cash? San Francisco liberal Nancy Pelosi did not have the votes to add a troop withdrawal plan to the bill so she had to buy the votes. All of these pork add-ons are going to congressmen's districts to buy their votes for her plan to force Bush to declare the war lost and return the troops to the USA by August of 2008. BUT ... according to the mainstream liberal media these add-ons are not "pork;" they are sweeteners. When the Republicans were in control the media called these pork, but now that the Democrats are in charge the mainstream media calls them sweeteners.

THOUGHT CRIMES - Nazis, communists and liberal congressmen all have one thing in common; they want to jail people for what they think. House Judiciary chairman John Conyers (D-MI) who is a member of the Progressive Caucus (read Socialist Caucus), has introduced his Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2007 (LLEHCPA). The actual bill number assigned for the 110th Congress is HR-1592. The most dangerous aspect of the bill is that it would pay local police departments to make ordinary crimes such as assaults, into hate crimes. The police departments wouldn't get more federal money unless they could find "hate crimes" in their communities. The bill would also add "homosexual and transgender" as a special category that is protected by the federal government. If passed, the public reading of certain passages from the Bible will be illegal. It is very important that you contact your congressman and tell him your opinion of HR-1592.

THE SENATE, WHAT HAPPENS AND WHAT COULD HAPPEN

REAL STEM CELL MIRACLES - Just about every week I am at a meeting of social conservative group representatives hosted by Senator San Brownback (R-KS). I rarely mention the meeting because most of what is said there is "off the record," meaning it is for the information of the participants and not for the press. People from all over the world with sometimes startling stories come to the meetings on occasion, and with their permission what they say can be reprinted.

At one such meeting I met a man who had completely recovered from heart disease after receiving an adult stem cell transplant in Thailand. Doug Rice had less than 10% flow from his heart and was given less than six months to live. He flew to Thailand where some of his own stem cells were extracted and shipped to Israel. In Israel they were grown and then shipped back to Thailand where they were injected into his heart. Before the treatment he could not even stand; now he leads a normal life. The treatment, which cost him \$40,000, is not available in the United States, where adult stem cell research is neglected in favor of killing embryos for stem cells which do not work.

Every year about 500,000 people die from different diseases in the United States who could be treated with this therapy. A British doctor told me that the embryonic stem cells the Democrat liberals want to experiment with could never work because of the lack of genetic matches for treatment. Democrat leaders such as Speaker Nancy Pelosi are so into debt to the abortion and embryonic cell industry that they actually want to pass a bill to provide federal funds to experiment on human embryos although the research is totally useless.

COST OF ADOPTION - Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY) has begun a push to make permanent the tax credits to help families who have adopted children. Many of the tax reductions granted under the Republican Congress the last decade have sunset clauses and will end unless extended. In the case of the adoption credits, the end date will be December 31, 2010. Senator Bunning, whose daughters have both adopted special needs children, has introduced S-561 to make the tax credits permanent. Please contact your Senator about S-561.

GLOBAL WARMING CIRCUS - Movie star and former Vice President Al Gore presented his "planet has a temperature" case to the House and Senate last week. He refused to present his testimony to either body in advance which is customary. In the House hearings he just kept talking, not allowing congressmen to really question him. Then he ran into Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) at the Senate Hearings. (NOTE: Chairperson Barbara Boxer (D-CA) lied to the media that Gore had given his testimony in writing in advance and Inhofe pointed this out at the hearings.)

While Gore looked and acted like a buffoon, the true green believers loved every minute of his testimony until Senator Inhofe asked him to pledge not to use more energy at his homes than the average American. Gore refused. He uses more energy per day at his houses than the average American uses in a year.

JERUSALEM RESOLUTION - Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) is urging other Senators to cosponsor the Jerusalem Resolution which he will soon be reintroducing in the 110th Congress. This will be essentially the same as S.J.Res.14 in the 109th Congress – it would provide for the recognition of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel before the United States recognizes a Palestinian state. The United State is virtually the only Western nation that continues to have an embassy in Tel Aviv instead of Jerusalem. Please contact your Senators about the Jerusalem Resolution.

INTERNATIONAL - OUR IRAQ AND SUDAN MISSIONS

RFC MISSION TO IRAQ - On Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007, the Religious Freedom Coalition's legislative director, Bob Armstrong, is personally going to Iraq to set up radio transmitters for Christian Prayer Radio in Arabic. He will also speak with and encourage some of the 22 evangelical pastors among the Kurds in the northern region of that war torn nation. While there, he will personally meet with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani for three days at a summit conference of various religious leaders.

SUDAN AMBASSADOR A CHRISTIAN - The last week of March I met with Ambassador John Lueth Ukec of Sudan. As a teenager he fought the Muslim government of the north before coming to the United States where he obtained his doctorate and became a professor of government studies. As the war raged in the south and millions of Christians were killed he returned as a tribal leader and general in the Christian armies until the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed just a few years ago. He is now a part of the coalition government and has been appointed as ambassador to the United States. He tells me that the conditions in the south are improving but that help is needed.

The Christian south was decimated over a period of thirty years of fighting with more than five million Christians killed. Ambassador Ukec lost seventeen (17) members of his own family in the massacres that occurred. In our conversations he expressed a great fear that the Muslim on Muslim fighting in the Darfur region could destabilize the entire Sudan and cause its collapse, bringing more bloodshed to Christians in the south.

As a result of my conversations with the Ambassador and with Christian Sudanese leaders I am attempting to organize Christian businessmen in the United States to go to the southern Sudan to look at investment opportunities that can help build the infrastructure there and make better lives for the Christians that remain.



**Ambassador John Ukec
and William J. Murray**

UN OFFICIALLY AGAINST FREE SPEECH - Today the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution that bans freedom of speech for religious minorities. The resolution, presented by Pakistan for the Organization of Islamic Conference countries, endorses laws to combat the "defamation of religions." These laws are passed under the guise of promoting religious tolerance, but in fact harm the freedom of religious minorities, particularly in Islamic nations.

OTHER RFC ACTIVITIES

PRAYER BREAKFAST IN MARYLAND - On Friday, March 23, 2007 I spoke at a prayer breakfast for members of the Maryland State Legislature. Among those present were Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and about 60 State legislators and State senators. My address for the breakfast was titled "First Freedom" and centered on how religious freedom came about in the United States and why it is threatened both here and abroad.

CABLE CHOICE - More organizations are pushing for ala carte programming on cable and satellite TV. In my letter to the FCC I made the point that a single mom who wants Nickelodean and Disney for her kids must pay almost \$50 for ESPN channels that she never watches. More letters are needed to the FCC calling for action. My former letter to FCC chairman Kevin Martin can be read on the Internet at <http://rfcnet.org/pdfs/pdf2007/fccmarch2007.pdf>.

TONY SNOW'S CANCER - The mood at the White House was almost depressing when Tony Snow arrived as President Bush's new press secretary in 2006. His enthusiasm was contagious and his influence on how the media was handled changed the way business was done around the White House. Within days of his arrival I was at the signing of a bill on the lawn of the White House with the Marine Band playing, instead of in a small room off the Oval Office where previous bill signings had been done. That is the way Tony Snow wanted to change the White House mood, and he did it. He had beaten colon cancer, but it has now returned and spread to his liver and he will be forced to take weeks off, if not more. The news had an obvious effect on President Bush who asked everyone to pray for Tony Snow.



**William J. Murray
and Tony Snow**

A

William J. Murray, Chairman