



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

September 21, 2005

PLEDGE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton (Carter appointee) has declared the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional. He declared that the words “under God” violate a child’s right to be “free from coercive requirement to affirm God.” The “right” does not appear in the our Constitution or in any law passed by Congress. This is a new “right” out of the mind of a judge who is out of his mind.

The Judge has stated that he would issue a restraining order against all schools in his area of jurisdiction in and around Sacramento, California. In 2002 a previous lawsuit to ban the Pledge by atheist Michael Newdow won in the 9th Circuit Court, but the Supreme Court took the easy way out and found against him because he “lacked standing.” He refiled the case with other parents and this is the result. The case will now be appealed to the full 9th Circuit which by its very character will probably agree with Judge Karlton. The 9th Circuit court is so out of sync with the rest of America that a majority of their appealed decisions are reversed.



William J Murray and
Congressman Istook
announce Religious
Freedom Amendment

The Religious Freedom Coalition was been at the forefront of protecting the religious traditions and the rights of Christians for decades and will once again rise to the occasion. From our offices just a few blocks from the Capitol Building we will call on congressmen and Senators to immediately pass the Pledge Protection Act (HR-2389) which already has over 180 co-sponsors. In addition, we will continue to work with Congressman Ernest Istook in his bid to pass a comprehensive Religious Freedom Amendment to the Constitution.

Unlike other constitutional amendments previously introduced which concern only the pledge or the Ten Commandments, the RFA is much broader in protecting the traditions and religious heritage of our nation. The RFA already has more than 100 co-sponsors.

THE ROBERTS NOMINATION

On Thursday, September 8th the Religious Freedom Action Coalition (RFAC) organized a rally for the confirmation of Judge John G. Roberts in front of Senator Hillary Clinton's office on Capitol Hill. Democrat New York state Senator Ruben Diaz led more than 150 pastors in calling for both Senators Clinton and Schumer of New York to vote for the confirmation. Senator Diaz is one of the most powerful politicians in New York City and the president of the New York Hispanic Clergy Association.

Four Senate Republicans joined in a press conference announcing Senator Diaz's support for the confirmation of Judge Roberts. Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) introduced Senator Diaz, after which Senator George Allen (R-VA) spoke highly of Senator Diaz's efforts on behalf of Judge Roberts. Senator Allen is widely known as a contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) also spoke. To the surprise of his colleagues Senator Inhofe addressed the group of Hispanic pastors in Spanish.



William J. Murray speaks. NY Senator Diaz in white jacket, Senators Allen, Allard and Inhofe

The presence of this large group of New York pastors and a state Senator may have swayed the vote of Senator Schumer (D-NY) who now says that he is undecided about Roberts. Previously Schumer had been very negative about the confirmation of Judge Roberts. The event, with myself and Senator George Allen as moderators, was covered by many news outlets including FOXNEWS.

After the press conference outside the Russell Senate office building, Senator Rev. Dr. Diaz led the 150 pastors to the steps of the Supreme Court for a prayer vigil. What a sight it was to see 150 pastors waving "Confirm Roberts" signs and wearing "Roberts Yes" T-shirts praying before the Supreme Court. During the prayer vigil many of the pastors asked God to intervene and bring godly men, not secularists, to the Supreme Court bench.

The group then walked to the Dirksen Senate office building for a box luncheon arranged by the Religious Freedom Action Coalition in one of the larger hearing rooms. During the lunch Congressman Ernest Istook, (R-OK) spoke about the Religious Freedom Amendment to the Constitution that would allow prayer back into the public schools. Shortly after the congressman spoke, the group of Hispanic church leaders were paid a surprise visit by Majority Leader Bill Frist. When Dr. Frist was introduced the entire room of pastors stood to their feet and applauded him. Dr. Frist thanked Senator Diaz for his support of Judge John G. Roberts and outlined the reasons that Roberts must be confirmed before the Supreme Court reconvenes the first week of October.

THOSE GREEN T-SHIRTS WERE PURCHASED BY OUR SISTER ORGANIZATION



Peggy Birchfield displays Roberts shirt. Smaller photos of volunteers

Every time you saw on the TV news someone supporting the Roberts nomination and wearing a green T-shirt, that shirt was designed and furnished by the Religious Freedom Action Coalition! The Religious Freedom Action Coalition is one of the key groups with offices in Washington, DC that worked to confirm John Roberts, who is very conservative, to the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. If you saw a US Senator drinking from a ROBERTS YES bottle of water, you know that our office had something to do with it!

Our executive director, Peggy Birchfield is on the core planning committee to raise the noise level for Roberts. She was a leader at the demonstrations. As for myself, I was placed on the "Alpha Team" for media contacts. Special text messages were sent to my cell phone from inside the Senate hearings so I could make comments to reporters stationed at various locations.

This is the first Supreme Court nomination by President George W. Bush, and the pro-abortion and pro-homosexual lobbies are desperate to stop him from being confirmed. Yes, there have been one or two pro-life groups demanding that Roberts promise to overturn Roe v. Wade, or they will not support him. However, I have spoken to those who go to church with the Roberts family and I believe I know what is in this man's heart. I believe he will steer the court to a more rational social conservative view.

The Religious Freedom Coalition (RFC), as a non-profit, cannot fight this battle because of the political nature of the issues raised. All the expenses of this battle to nominate a conservative to the Supreme Court must be borne by the Religious Freedom Action Coalition (RFAC) because it is chartered as a 501(c)4 and under the IRS rules can lobby for Judge Roberts' nomination. There is a huge difference between the RFC and the RFAC, even though I am the chairman of both of these groups. I could not do much of what I do in Washington without the RFAC name!

In the confirmation battle for Judge Roberts, more is at stake than just this one nominee. If the wacky left can block him, they will be able to block the next Bush appointment to the Supreme Court as well. That is why I personally put so much effort into helping the Roberts confirmation process.

WE ARE BEATING NARAL, NOW and the ACLU on this nomination. We have drawn a line, we are standing on it and we are winning!

THE LEFT AND ROBERTS

As incredible as it sounds, the far left group, Moveon.org, actually planned to run a TV ad blaming not only President George W. Bush, but Judge John G. Roberts for the hurricane damage in New Orleans. According to one of its spokesmen, the group was going to run a TV ad next week against Roberts showing the image of "African-Americans" suffering in New Orleans according to USA Today. After criticism from virtually every corner of the political spectrum, moveon.org then announced that it had no plans for such an ad and that their spokesperson was in error. (We are supposed to believe this!)

Moveon.org is financed by hedge fund operator George Soros and four of his country club liberal buddies. Last year they handed \$79 million to Moveon.org to help destroy the moral fabric of our nation. Yes, five men gave that one left-wing nut case of a 501c4 organization \$79,000,000 in just one year!

In contrast to the big money liberal groups get from billionaires, the Religious Freedom Coalition gets by on a budget of less than \$1 million a year and the Religious Freedom Action Coalition, the 501c4 of which I am president, operates on a total budget of less than \$100,000 a year. The average gift to the RFC and the RFAC is about \$27.00. While liberals are willing to spend big bucks to destroy the traditional values of this nation, conservative businessmen keep their wallets for the most part shut.

GODLY CONGRESSMEN

Very often I mention that there are many godly men serving in Congress despite the picture the media portrays of our leaders. One of those men is Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), who spoke at the press conference for Judge Roberts. Earlier this month I had the opportunity to spend an entire Sunday with Congressman Franks and his wife Josey in their home state of Arizona. I have never been at an event with Congressman Franks at which he did not mention the Lord. At home in Arizona he acts and speaks no differently than he does on Capitol Hill.

After a reception on Sunday we had dinner together at one of those high-flyer exclusive restaurants (Denny's) and then went to an evening service at a Phoenix church. At the service I met the congressman's brother Lane for the first time. Lane is a part time evangelist in the Phoenix area trying to win the lost to Christ.

FOX NEWS TO BE BOUGHT OFF BY ISLAMISTS?

As soon as I learned the ominous news that Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal has become the fourth-largest voting shareholder in News Corp., the parent company of Fox News, I called for a Congressional investigation. There are at least two problems with ownership of a major American broadcasting company by a foreign enemy national:

First: FOX News reporting may become compromised if Saudi ownership is significant. The prince has already said he may buy even more shares. When Middle Eastern governments such as Saudi Arabia became the biggest advertisers on CNN International, their reporting became slanted against Israel to the point of being anti-Semitic, and news stories began to strongly favor the Islamic world view. We don't want that to happen to FOX News.

Second: The prince owns an Arabic broadcasting company called Rotana, which operates several TV stations in the Middle East. Rotana has a huge library of Arabic movies and music. Arabic produced movies and TV programs contain vicious anti-Semitism and anti-American views. Nothing can be broadcast in Saudi Arabia without it first being approved by the Wahabbi religious police. As part of the investment deal the Prince has, his company Rotana will be allowed to broadcast directly into the US market on DirectTV which is also a subsidiary of News Corp. Fanatical Islamic propaganda will come straight into American homes, perhaps creating more home grown terrorists.

Congress should be as just as alarmed by this Saudi-FOX deal as they were when a company owned by the the Chinese government attempted to buy American offshore oil assets.

CHRISTIAN VILLAGE NEAR BETHLEHEM BURNED

In one of the worst attacks against Palestinian Christians in recent years, a rampaging Muslim mob burned at least twelve Christian homes to the ground on September 5, in the village of Taybeh near Bethlehem. Palestinian Authority policemen did little in this West Bank town as Muslims attacked and torched Christian homes over an alleged affair between a Christian man and a Muslim woman. However, it is likely that the woman was actually raped by a member of her own family and then murdered to cover up the crime. Often, an "honor killing" in which an affair with a Christian man is alleged is actually a rape by a male relative. The accused Christian is from one of the few remaining wealthy families in the Palestinian Authority controlled areas. His house and those of all his relatives including his cousins were destroyed.

In the West Bank, this is the kind of fear in which Christians live, and it is the reason we started the Bethlehem Project to come to the aid of Christian families.

We cannot continue with our work either on Capitol Hill or in the Holy Land without your continued help. Please help this month with our Capitol Hill and International projects.

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William J. Murray, Chairman