



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

October 14, 2005

“UNDER GOD” AND THE PLEDGE

While there has been no current news on the decision by a district judge in California declaring the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag unconstitutional because of the words “under God,” that does not mean there is no action here in Washington, DC.

The Religious Freedom Coalition from our offices just a few blocks from the Capitol Building continues to call on congressmen and Senators to immediately pass the Pledge Protection Act (HR-2389) which already has over 180 co-sponsors. We are also continuing to work with Congressman Ernest Istook in his bid to pass a comprehensive Religious Freedom Amendment to the Constitution.

Congressman Istook has been at the forefront of pushing for a Constitutional amendment to restore prayer to schools since he first came to Washington, DC as a congressman in 1992. We now have less than 18 months to work with Congressman Istook. Just this past week he announced that he would not run for reelection in 2006 for Congress and that he would run for governor of Oklahoma instead. He has been a great ally of the Religious Freedom Coalition as well as a personal friend, and the social conservative movement will miss having him here in Washington, DC.

PRAYER IN CONGRESSIONAL CHAMBER

On Wednesday, September, 28th former congressman Bill Dannemeyer, myself, and several others met inside the House chamber at 8:00 AM to pray for our Congress, our President and our nation. While praying I sat in one of the front row seats used by congressmen facing the podium. Directly behind the podium and over the Speaker's chair the words "one nation under God" are engraved in the wall. It is from that podium that the President delivers his State of the Union address each year.

The Capitol has many references to God and the Bible throughout the building. As I prayed I thought of the continuing attack against every public reference to God by the ACLU and various atheist and secularist groups. What would America be like if we did not hold God higher than government? How would a godless society treat its elderly, its sick, or its very young? For an answer look no further than today's atheist China or yesterday's atheist Soviet Union.

OUR FRIEND TOM DELAY ATTACKED UNFAIRLY

Majority Leader Tom DeLay has been a long time friend of the Religious Freedom Coalition and a personal friend of mine. He has on numerous occasions attended events sponsored by the Religious Freedom Coalition and his presence at those events brought us prestige, news coverage and contributions to our cause. Tom DeLay has never asked anything in return because he believes, as we do, that the United States exists by the grace of God. He believes in having prayer in school and displaying the Commandments in public. Tom DeLay has never wavered from his faith in Christ nor has he distanced himself from the social conservative cause.

Tom DeLay prays publicly and in fact has led prayers at events held by this organization on Capitol Hill. He is a deacon in his church and he and his family have reached out and adopted unwanted kids as their own. It is because of his faith, not his politics, that the left hates him so. The charges brought against him on Wednesday by a District Attorney in Fort Worth are trumped up and false. Indeed District Attorney Ronnie Earle is an extortion expert. He frequently files charges against companies and then drops the charges when those companies donate money to charities his family has an interest in. In the past he has attempted to jail Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) using the same set of false charges brought against Tom DeLay. If anyone involved in this case belongs in jail it is Ronnie Earle, not Tom DeLay.

ROY BLUNT - ANOTHER FRIEND OF RFC

Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) moved up to temporarily fill the shoes of Majority Leader Tom DeLay. DeLay was forced to step down because of Republican ethics rules that do not allow any indicted congressman to serve in a leadership position. This rule was instituted in 1994 by then Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich. When the Congress was controlled by the Democrats there was no such rule. I was at a meeting with Congressman Blunt just minutes before the indictment was announced and he was standing firm with his friend Tom DeLay.

Congressman Blunt is soft spoken compared to Tom DeLay, but no less a social conservative. All of us in the social conservative community were therefore stunned when Speaker Hastert announced that he intended to have Congressman David Dreier (R-CA) take up the duties of Tom DeLay. There was an immediate outcry against Dreier because he is known to those of us that actually work on Capitol Hill. We know he is not a social conservative and in fact calling him any kind of a conservative is a stretch. He is, however, intensely loyal to Speaker Hastert.

An immediate campaign was launched by the conservatives, including myself, to stop Congressman Dreier from moving into leadership. The outcry was so great that by the end of the day Speaker Hastert had retreated from Dreier and backed Roy Blunt. Keep in mind that Hastert was so sure his dictatorial approach would work that his office had sent out news releases with Dreier's bio to the media. The episode of Dreier and Blunt gave many on Capitol Hill a better insight into the mind of Speaker Hastert who is reclusive and rarely seen or heard from except at high dollar fund raising events. Hastert is an old fashioned back-room political boss, and in my view not a real friend of the social conservative movement.

RANDY GRAF, THE MINUTEMEN AND THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB

The last week of September the political action committee of which I am chairman, Government Is Not God, PAC held a reception at the Capitol Hill Club for Randy Graf who is running in the Arizona Republican primary against the incumbent, gay activist Jim Kolbe. Congressman Kolbe is the only Republican congressman to announce publicly that he is a homosexual.

Despite Arizona being overrun by illegals, Kolbe stands against defending the southern border of our nation. Randy Graf believes he can defeat Kolbe on the immigration issue alone. Several other receptions were being held in the building at the same time including one for Chris Simcox, the founder of the Minutemen . A vile protest was held by paid professional demonstrators in front of the Capitol Hill Club to protest the presence of Chris Simcox. Chris came over to the Randy Graf reception to lend his support.

I later attended the Minutemen reception which was visited by more than a dozen congressmen including Trent Franks (R-AZ), Walter Jones (R-NC), Phil Gingrey (R-GA) and Virgil Goode (R-VA). I have met with Chris Simcox on numerous occasions and believe him to be a true patriot.

ROBERTS TAKES COMMAND

Just a few weeks ago Democrats stood shoulder to shoulder vowing to sink the nomination of Judge John G. Roberts to the Supreme Court. Special interest groups that pour huge dollars into the Democrat Party coffers including Moveon.org, People for the American Way, National Organization for Women, NARAL and the entire homosexual activist camp, vowed to unseat any Democrat Senator who voted for Roberts. At the end of the battle most Democrats sided with Republicans as the Senate voted to confirm Roberts 78 to 22. Showing how outside the mainstream the two states are, all four Democrats representing New York and California voted against Roberts. Because most of her money to run for president will come from the extreme left, Hillary Clinton had no choice but to vote against the Roberts confirmation.

Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) did not distinguish herself by being one of the few who voted against the confirmation of Judge John Roberts. This is a man of obvious superior intellect who has an unbelievable grasp of constitutional issues and she voted against him to pocket dollars from extremists such as George Soros. While this will make it even easier to obtain the Democrat nomination for President in 2008, it will also label her as an extremist during a period when her advisors are doing their best to paint her as a moderate Democrat.

THE MIERS DILEMMA

President George W. Bush's nomination of Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court has presented a huge dilemma to many in the conservative movement including myself. Although I did not know exactly the position of John G. Roberts on some social issues, I was simply awed by his giant intellect and knowledge of constitutional issues. He will be a powerful voice on the High Court for decades to come and he will leave an indelible mark on it. This man had such intellect and depth that even his elementary school teachers remembered him.

Harriet Miers is no John Roberts and this is a real problem for her and for President George W. Bush. During his confirmation hearings John Roberts made the Senators questioning him look like small children. Harriet Miers does not have that ability. She has relatively no legal experience other than working in a law firm under someone else. She has always been an employee, not a major player in everything she has done. For the last fifteen years she has worked with George W. Bush while he was governor of Texas and now as President. She works in the White House as his legal advisor.

During her relationship with President Bush she has sort of taken on being a second mother to him as she has no children of her own. Personal notes to him indicate a close relationship that is almost maternal in nature. Most in Washington view her nomination to the High Court as more of a return of the favor of her loyalty rather than one based on qualifications. Some conservatives have gone so far as to say her appointment is "nepotism."

But there is an even larger problem with her nomination coming on the heels of that of Chief Justice Roberts. Following this great man this closely in time to his confirmation hearings will be devastating to her image. Intellectually she will have the appearance of an amateurish lightweight at her hearings when the press compares her to John Roberts.

Although there is no record of her opinions because she has never been a judge, she is probably pro-life and probably conservative, or President Bush would not have appointed her. The real question is of her intellectual ability. Can she understand and rule on issues on her own without someone such as the President telling her what to do? Can she understand the depth of constitutional issues? These are unknowns and the reason many thinking conservatives have not come forward to make comments supporting or rejecting her nomination.

Some "band wagon jumpers" who live to be patted on the head by the White House are out in front promoting Harriet Miers. I care about my country and I care about having a Court that is made up of Justices who have the ability to make wise decisions for decades. I am not going to jump on the Miers bandwagon because of the promise of yet another photo with the President.

CHRISTIAN POLITICAL PARTY!

For several days this week I escorted Peruvian presidential candidate Humberto Lay to meetings on Capitol Hill. Humberto Lay is the pastor of a 10,000 member Assembly of God church in Lima, Peru. He has been a pastor for 25 years and before that he was an architect for 23 years. After corruption and violence nearly destroyed the nation over the past several decades he was asked by the current president to serve on a commission of "truth and reconciliation." While serving on that commission he learned the truth about the toll political corruption was taking upon the Peruvian people and was led to form a Christian based political party. As leader of the National Restoration party he will be its Presidential candidate in the April, 2006 election.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COALITION REDUCES STAFF

On September 30, 2005 the Religious Freedom Coalition was forced to reduce staff. The primary effect of the staff reduction was on our international operations including the Bethlehem Project. The level of our funding to Christian schools in the Bethlehem area will not be reduced at this time. A large number of the donors to the Religious Freedom Coalition live in the Gulf area affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In addition, the increase in gasoline prices caused by these storms has greatly reduced the funds available to our donor base.

On October 1st the Religious Freedom Coalition was forced to borrow money from existing credit lines to continue operations. Our payroll obligations could not have been met had we not borrowed funds. Understandably, billions of dollars are being given to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other relief organizations because of the disasters on our nation's Gulf Coast. Unfortunately this has caused a drastic drop in donations to this organization. We urgently need your help! Please send a tax deductible gift today to help us during this crisis period. Please send your check to Religious Freedom Coalition, PO Box 77511, Washington, DC 20013.

A

William J. Murray, Chairman