

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

February 26, 2006

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor, Vernon Fix. FBA on the Web at <http://hrcc.exis.net>

GOVERNMENT

"I am convinced that forcing hundreds or, if necessary, thousands of votes to strike individual earmarks is the only way to produce meaningful results for American taxpayers. Bringing the Senate to a standstill for as long as it takes would be a small price to pay for shutting down what Jack Abramoff described as Congress's 'earmark favor factory.' The battle against pork is crucial. Pork is the root cause of the unholy relationship between some members of Congress, lobbyists and donors. Inside Congress, the pork process is effectively a black market economy: Thousands of instances exist where appropriations are leveraged for fundraising dollars or political capital. It is delusional to claim Congress can redeem its relationship with K Street without eliminating earmarks. The problem is not lobbyists. The problem is us." —Sen. Tom Coburn in the *Federalist*

"We live at a moment of revolutionary change in the international order. The rise and violence of radical, possibly caliphate-forming Islam and the huge, culture-changing, unexamined consequences of rampant globalization make the present one of the least predictable moments to be alive. Both government officials and citizens are in desperate need of a national press corps that is alive to the change and digging to find factual hints of the near future. We need the kind of future-oriented intellectual vigor, curiosity and genuine iconoclasm that typified American reporters in the first half of the last century. Instead, as the shooting-party incident exemplified, we have in the White House at the most elite level of American journalism, self-absorbed, self-important men and women who stand on their prerogatives even over marginal and inconsequential matters. Should they ever have a truly daring, creative, productive, hard-researched idea about what is going on in this dangerous world—they should alert the media." —Tony Blankley in the *Federalist*

FOR THE RECORD

"[T]he truth is that George Bush's presidency has suffered precisely because he has failed to listen to the small-government guys... Earmarks have mushroomed during the Bush presidency from 6,333 to 13,999—and Republicans are taking the heat because of them. Education spending at the federal level has doubled, with the political payoff extremely hard to detect. The largest expansion of Medicare in four decades has occurred with Bush leading the charge. And Bush is heading toward an historic first: the only president in over 120 years never to have vetoed a single bill." —Allan Ryskind

From France: Vive la Difference!

A report commissioned by the President of France's National Assembly has taken a strong stance in defense of marriage! The authors of the report traveled extensively throughout the European Union and North America and concluded, in a 450-page *Parliamentary Report on the Family and the Rights of Children*, that homosexual unions should not be recognized as marriages, that homosexual couples should not be permitted to adopt children, and that homosexuals should not have access to medically assisted procreation. "Marriage is not merely the contractual recognition of the love between a couple," the report's authors said. The importance of this report cannot be stressed too much. French voters last year decisively rejected the new Constitution for the European Union. Here, apparently, is another move away from the policies being pushed by the Eurocrats in Brussels. A key to this entire report is a fresh understanding of the right of the child to be raised in a wholesome and stable family environment. So long as the rights of the child are understood in these terms, we can only applaud. That French phrase--*vive la difference*--is usually offered with a knowing wink. It

has always meant, "long live the difference between men and women." It's important to recognize the *secular* arguments that support the eternal truths embodied in this report.

Information Alert: Senate Ed and Health Defeats Pro-Life Bills

From the Family Foundation

The Virginia Senate Education and Health committee today killed bills dealing with the licensure of abortion clinics and the monitoring of health complications of women who undergo abortions.

Delegate Bob Marshall's (R-13, Manassas) [HB 189](#) would have required the licensure of abortion clinics. Specifically, it would have defined any facility, other than a hospital, in which 25 or more first trimester abortions are performed in any 12-month period, to be licensed and to comply with the same requirements currently in place for ambulatory surgery centers. Currently, abortion clinics are exempt from the licensure requirements of other surgery centers.

[HB 1274](#), patroned by Del. Bill Janis (R-56, Glen Allen), would have required physicians to report medical treatment for complications arising as a result of an induced abortion. Patient confidentiality was assured, as were other safeguards. Many other medical procedures are tracked for complications and if the abortion procedure is as safe as claimed by those who abortion clinics, they should welcome reporting as a way to validate

their claim. They should have nothing to hide. The bill would not have limited the procedure, but would have allowed the Virginia Department of Health to monitor women's health. The committee heard compelling testimony from Dr. Siobhan Dunnavant, the head of the OB-GYN department at Henrico Doctors Hospital in Richmond, who supported the bill.

Both bills died on identical [9-6](#) votes - with the same nine senators voting to kill both measures. The usual collection of opposition groups, including the ACLU, Planned Parenthood and NARAL testified against the bills.

Victory Alert: Senate Ed and Health Passes Two Pro-Family Measures

From the Family Foundation

The Virginia Senate Committee on Education and Health today overwhelmingly, and unusually, passed two pro-family bills: [HB 493](#), patroned by Del. Jeff Frederick (R-52, Woodbridge) and [HB 1242](#) patroned by Del. Tim Hugo (R-40, Centerville).

HB 493 allows school divisions to promote high school baccalaureate services among prayer-oriented school activities. It passed by a vote of [11-3](#) with one abstention. Among those voting for the bill was committee chairman Russ Potts (R-27, Winchester) who admitted to Delegate Frederick that he ought to put this vote in his "memory book" so unusual was his support for such a measure. During committee deliberations Senator Potts said he remembered the days of chapel service and that "it didn't hurt me."

HB 1242 passed [15-0](#). This bill prohibits local school boards from administering questionnaires or

surveys requesting sexual information to public school students below the sixth grade and only allows surveys in 6-12th grades if a parent is notified in writing at least 30 days in advance to its administration. The bill provides parents the right to review the questionnaire or survey and to decide whether to allow their child to participate in the survey. This legislation is a priority for The Family Foundation!

Both bills previously passed the House and are headed for a vote on the Senate floor.

Because of today's unusually busy docket, the committee did not hear [HB 164](#), patroned by Del. Scot Lingamfelter (R-31, Woodbridge). HB 164 strengthens Virginia's Family Life Education curriculum by including information about the consequences of teenage sexual activity, including the lost educational and career opportunities caused by teenage pregnancy, as well as the proven academic disruptions and psychological problems caused by premarital sexual activity. HB164 now is scheduled to come before the committee on Thursday, March 2.

ACTION: Thank Sen. Potts for voting for HB 493 and HB 1242 and ask for his support of HB 164.

Comment: Great bills from the House end up in the grave yard of the Senate. Ed.

CALL YOUR VA ELECTEDS, DO IT NOW!

Sen. Stolle-486-5700; 1-804-698-7508
Sen. Rerras-855-7044; 1-804-698-7506
Sen. Wagner- 671-2250; 1-804-698-7507
Sen. Miller-627-4212; 1-804-698-7505
Del. Tata-340-3510; 1-804-698-1085
Del. Welch-340-2800; 1-804-698-1021
Del. Cosgrove-547-3422; 1-804-698-1078
Del. Suit, Terrie-421-3309; 1-804-698-1081
Del. Iaquinto, Sal-430-0102; 1-804-698-1084
Del. Miller, Paula-587-8757; 1-804-698-1087
Del. Wardrup, Leo- 490-8383; 1-804-698-1083
Del. Purkey, Harry- 481-1493; 1-804-698-1082

Get the US Out of the United Nations!

Get US out of NAFTA, CAFTA and don't even think of FTAA. Ed.

THE ARMED CITIZEN

Orlando, police say that a pair of would-be robbers chose a 37-year-old man as their victim because they thought he looked like an easy target. Apparently they forgot that Florida is a Right- To-Carry state. According to police, the armed duo approached the victim and said, "You know what's up; then threatened to kill him if he didn't give them money. Fearing they would spot his pistol, the man started emptying his pockets until the alleged robbers backed off a bit, then he drew his gun and fired. The assailants fled, but were apprehended by police shortly thereafter and charged with armed robbery. (*The Orlando Sentinel*, Orlando, FL, 12/15/05)

"When language in common use in any country becomes irregular and depraved, it is followed by their ruin and degradation." —John Milton

TREASON?

"For [Al] Gore to make his anti-American remarks in Saudi Arabia is at least as bad as what Nazi sympathizers said in this country and abroad leading up to and during World War II. One definition of 'treason' is: Violation of allegiance toward one's country or sovereign, especially the betrayal of one's country by waging war against it or by consciously and purposely acting to aid its enemies. By any objective standard, Al Gore's remarks in Saudi

Arabia appear to fit the definition."
—*Cal Thomas*

Comment: Both of the above remarks are from the Federalist, one of my favorites on-line news services. Ed.