

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

April 4, 2004

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

Georgia Gets it Right

After weeks of debate, the Georgia Legislature has passed a constitutional amendment protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The amendment now goes to the voters for approval. Imagine that - elected officials and the voting public determining marriage policy, not four or five activist judges. Watch for similar action soon from the ten or so states currently working on their own amendments.

From Family Research Council 3/30/04

Lawmakers Blackmail People of Massachusetts

Massachusetts legislators passed an amendment yesterday that would force the people of Massachusetts to vote for civil unions in order to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman in their state. Legislators know the people want to vote on the definition of marriage but instead of giving them a clean bill, lawmakers are forcing the people to pass civil unions at the same time. That is nothing short of blackmail.

Since the majority of lawmakers abdicated their responsibility to stand up to the courts and have instead straddled the fence of political correctness, FRC now calls upon Governor Mitt Romney (R) to use his gubernatorial authority to protect marriage. The Massachusetts Constitution has a unique provision that states the governor and his counsel have original jurisdiction over marriage. Gov. Romney should use this power and issue an executive order telling clerks not to issue same-sex "marriage" licenses. The future of marriage - not only in Massachusetts, but in all of America - is at stake. Contact Gov. Romney by clicking on the link below and ask him to use his authority to protect marriage.

From Family Research Council 3/30/04

Virginia Budget impasse

Yesterday, the House of Delegates passed a one-year budget in an attempt to avoid a government shutdown. Smart.

The House's interim budget holds the line on taxes and leaves all of the tax increases up for debate, but without the threat of a government shutdown. As I said last week, no one wants a government shutdown, but the pro-taxers are using the threat of getting to June 30th without a new budget to try and force Virginia to accept their tax increases. Put another way, the pro-tax Senators and the Governor are holding the budget hostage and threatening a government shutdown in order to force their tax increases to be adopted.

If the State Government is forced to shut down in 3 months, it will be because the pro-taxers were unwilling to

even adopt a stop-gap measure. Right now, SB 5004 is sitting in the Senate Finance Committee, waiting for committee action. Hopefully they will not wait until June to take action, as our local governments need to know what they're getting to plan their own budgets.

Senator Ken Cuccinelli

Please Visit our anti-tax website at:

<http://www.NoTaxHike.net>

Action: Please take the time to call/write your House of Delegate member and congratulate them on holding the line on new taxes. While you're at it call/write your Senator (Wagner?) and thank him for not voting with the group that wants to raise our taxes. Ed.

More Ammunition for NO TAX HIKE

Arthur Purves, president of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance, has raised a consistent voice of alarm over the out-of-control spending for education and welfare in Virginia. In several of our meetings, he has discussed the societal problems we face that can be directly attributed to welfare, and the devastation it has wrought on families.

In regards to education, it was Arthur who brought to our attention the *Review of State Spending: June 2002 Update*, a publication of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission of the Virginia General Assembly, which shows that between 1981-97 spending for K-12 education in Virginia increased almost ten times faster than enrollment (inflation-adjusted dollars). The same report shows that between 1981-00 spending for 4-year public colleges and universities increased 4.5 times faster than enrollment (also inflation-adjusted dollars).

Today, the Senate of Virginia and Governor Warner are trying to put public pressure on our stalwarts in the House of Delegates concerning funding for the mentally disabled. I believe Arthur, once again, has the answer.

Delegate Gary Reese sponsored HB 1298 which proposed funding the state government on existing revenues. Though this bill passed the House on February 17th with a 62-38 majority, it was ignored by the Senate Finance Committee.

NO NEW TAXES

FROM John Taylor, Host, Tuesday Morning Group Coalition, 20461 Tappahannock Place, Potomac Falls, VA 20165-4791; e-mail: TMGCoalition@aol.com

Comment: This is one of the many good news sources that I receive almost daily. John Taylor is also president of the Virginia Institute for Public Policy. If you ever are in Richmond on a Tuesday morning you should make it a point to visit his meetings. Ed.

NEWS ITEM: The Unborn Victims of Violence Act will soon reach the desk of President Bush who is expected to sign it into law.

DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY

"Social studies textbooks used in elementary and secondary schools are mostly a disgrace that, in the name of political correctness and multiculturalism, fail to give students an honest account of American history, say academic historians and education advocates. Most textbooks, produced by a handful of giant commercial publishers, are exposing generations of children to cultural and history amnesia that threatens the very basis of American free institutions and liberties, warn leading historians who are calling for better-defined, more rigorous state teaching standards." - Washington Times, 3/28/04

Comment: Shouldn't we be teaching patriotism and Americanism. Perhaps it is time for the citizens to form a working group to review all the material our elite teachers unions and educators are using to educate our children. A few calls to the VB School Board might do the trick. Ed.

"No doubt one may quote history to support any cause, as the devil quotes the scripture." --Learned Hand

"CHRISTIAN NATION" VOTED DOWN BY CONGRESS

"On February 3, 1863, eleven Protestant denominations (including United Presbyterians and the Methodist Episcopal General Conference) organized the National Reform Association. Their aim was to 'reform' the Constitution and one of its principle purposes was to amend (the Constitution) to 'indicate that this is a Christian nation.' The association formally petitioned Congress to amend the preamble of the Constitution so as to read: 'We, the people of the United States, HUMBLY ACKNOWLEDGING ALMIGHTY GOD AS THE SOURCE OF ALL AUTHORITY AND POWER IN CIVIL GOVERNMENT, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS THE RULER AMONG THE NATIONS, HIS REVEALED WILL AS THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND, IN ORDER TO CONSTITUTE A CHRISTIAN GOVERNMENT, AND in order to form a more perfect union.' This change was not enacted."

- From the website of the American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative public interest law group, Best of the Web, 3/30/04

Comment: We missed a good chance there. Ed.

MARCH MADNESS AT CITY COUN.

During recent years, our real estate taxes have been pushed to worrisome heights by our city council. From 1986 through 1993 the rate in VB was raised from .80/\$100 to \$1.22/\$100 a gain of over 50%. Our lady mayor was appointed in 1986. Voter resistance has halted the direct raising of taxes but the inflation is hiking our assessments by large numbers. In just three years my indirect taxes have gone up 27% without a tax increase. In a below average house I am now paying over \$2000/year in taxes. When will it stop? The new budget announced just

Thursday the council is asking for \$1.4 Billion. This is a jump that will undoubtedly require a tax increase on top of the recent increases. My RE tax is now 3 times what I pay Virginia for income tax. When will it stop? Maybe when they get it all? I believe it is time for all of us taxpayers to march on City Hall on a Tuesday when the City Council is in session and fill the hall and protest, LOUD AND LONG. Editor.

A new tax form is coming out this year. It has only one question and one instruction. How much did you make last year? Send it in.

Virginia Withdraws Con-Con Application

Virginia has joined the ranks of states that have withdrawn their applications to Congress calling for a constitutional convention (con-con). The measure originated in the state's House of Delegates, passing with widespread support, 82-10. Senate passage was by voice vote. Final action occurred on March 10, when the House voted on the resolution a second time due to minor changes added to the final resolution by the Senate. The victory is the product of diligent teamwork by members of the John Birch Society.

A con-con is a never-before-used method of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Article V of the Constitution provides that when the legislatures of two-thirds (34) of the states apply to Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments, the Congress must call the convention. The danger inherent in the convention method of amendment is that the con-con has plenary power to propose any kind and number of amendments which it chooses. Neither the state legislatures which apply for the con-con nor the Congress which calls it can limit the subject matter of proposed amendments. A con-con could propose amendments that radically change the structure of both the federal government and state governments and jeopardize fundamental rights guaranteed to citizens under the present Constitution. All proposed amendments, whether the work of Congress or of a con-con, must be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the states. *THE NEW AMERICAN*. APRIL 5, 2004

Comment: Your editor was heavily involved in getting Virginia to rescind the Con-Con calls. Now if could just get the U.S. Out of the United Nations. Editor.

SCHEDULES:

? April 17, 0830 Mass meeting of RPVB at the Princess Anne High School to elect a Chairperson and delegates to the City Committee.

? April 20, 7 PM an important talk by a national speaker on how to STOP THE FTAA. This will be at the Philippine Cultural Center on Baxter Rd. Call Vernon for information at 495-1541.

? May 15, the 2nd District Rep. Convention at the Lake Taylor High School.

? June 4-5, Va Republican Party State Convention in Richmond, VA.

Become active, be a good citizen!!!