

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

February 1, 2004

The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor, Vernon Fix - On web at <http://hrcc.exis.net/>

"The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it. Only if every single citizen feels duty bound to do his share in this defense are the constitutional rights secure." - Albert Einstein

TAX REFORM?

By Rick Williams from the News Virginian, Waynesboro, VA.

Sen. Emmett Hanger's Dec. 29 op-ed piece on tax reform should raise a number of concerns for his supporters - particularly the senator's seemingly evolving philosophy of government. Perhaps the good senator had a little too much Shenandoah Valley cider over Christmas and is just feeling overly generous. I might suggest he put the cider away and remember that's not his money he's spending.

The bottom line for "tax reform" will be more income for the state and less for Virginia's families and businesses.

Virginia is currently headed down the same road that brought California to the brink of financial collapse. From 1997 to 2002, California's per-capita budget spending grew by a staggering 42 percent. Virginia's grew by 56 percent. During the same time, tax revenue went up 28 percent in California. But in Virginia, revenue was up by 37 percent. Moreover, Virginia's budget has risen at more than twice the rate of our population, allowing for inflation. In the 1990s, the per-capita general fund expenditures increased by 91 percent while personal income in Virginia grew only 27 percent.

Virginia is spending money like a drunken sailor. And though Gov. Warner has announced he cut the budget by \$6 billion, state spending in fiscal year 2004 will come in at \$26 billion - \$2.5 billion more than two years ago. Sounds like the governor might have been nipping at the (hard) cider as well.

Comment: Every conservative article I have read is vehemently opposed to a tax increase. The articles are written by some very impressive name too. I recommend we all take a hard look at the governor's increases and then urge our elected representatives to find ways to DECREASE SPENDING to balance the budget, NOT INCREASE TAXES. Ed.

Sen. Kerry is a Liberal's Liberal

A high-ranking Republican is describing Democratic presidential frontrunner John Kerry as a man out of the national mainstream and a liberal's liberal. Republican National Committee chairman Ed Gillespie says most people have no idea just how liberal Senator John Kerry is until they compare him to Senator Ted Kennedy. Gillespie notes that

Americans for Democratic Action, the premiere liberal rating organization, has given Kerry a lifetime rating of 93%, while it has given Senator Kennedy only an 88% rating -- five points less. "Who would have guessed it?" the RNC chairman quipped recently, "Ted Kennedy is the conservative senator for Massachusetts." A strong dominant showing by Kerry on Super Tuesday (February 3) could almost assure him of the party's nomination to the highest office in the land. URL: <http://www.agapepress.org>
Comment: It now looks like Sen. Kerry may be the Democratic nominee. So we need to start looking at his character and voting record. Ed.

Recess Appointments

President Bush made a recess appointment of Judge Pickering on Jan. 16, 2004. It is wonderful that he appointed him and I am sorry that he didn't appoint all four of the judges the Democrats were blocking. The appointment's term, which needs no Senate approval will last through the current congress or Jan. 2005. The Judge's big "crime", he was Pro-Life. Editor.

BRUSHFIRE ALERT

From the below official White House web site, you can weigh in on any subject, such as the President's illegal alien amnesty plan, his Man on Mars plan, his No Child Left Behind plan, his prescription drug plan, his \$1.5 billion "Healthy Marriages" plan, his increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts plan, his administration's obstruction of the armed pilots plan, or any other topic of interest to you.

If you'd like to contact President Bush on any of these subjects, you can call the White House at (202) 456-1414 and leave a voice message, or fax at 202-456-2461. Or send an email to the White House by going to:

<https://sawho14.eop.gov/PERSdata/intro.htm>. From URL: <http://www.chuckmuth.com/GOP-NEWS>

Comment: This is a good site to write to President Bush on any one of several hot topics. We need to all write once in a while to let him know of our "grass roots" opinion, otherwise only the high paid lobbyists will have his ear. He is up for election this year. Ed.

DISORDER IN THE COURTS

"While some malpractice suits are obviously legitimate, studies show as many as 80 percent are hogwash. Not a few are wholly outlandish but bring in multimillion-dollar awards anyway. It's because insurance companies can't be sure when luck will be with them in this roll of the dice that they settle cases they think they should be able to win." - Columnist Jay Ambrose

DEPENDS ON YOUR DEFINITION OF "POOR"

".(A) new study suggests the poor (in the United States) aren't so poor. According to a recent study by the Heritage Foundation, 46 percent of the technically 'poor' live in their own homes, most with more living space than the average person in Paris, London or Vienna. While 73 percent own at least one car, 30 percent own two or more, and 76 percent have air conditioning. Also, according to the study, 65 percent have a washing machine, 97 percent have a color TV and 78 percent have a DVD player or VCR." - FoxNews.com, 1/23/04

HEAD START COURTS MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT

The dubiously effective but highly expensive Head Start program lost a round in court this week when a federal judge ruled its leaders had to provide Congress with a detailed report itemizing the salaries and travel expenses of its state-based executives. News reports popped up last year exposing whopping salaries in the \$200,000-300,000 range plus generous bonuses for luxury cars and out-of-state travel. Head Start funding is slated to receive an additional \$148 million this year, added to a staggering budget of \$6.7 BILLION to service 912,000 poor children.

Now, I went to publik skoolz for a few years and don't have a calculator handy. How much does that come down to per child? And wouldn't it be a lot cheaper to just give each of those poor kids a voucher to attend the day care center of their parents' choice instead of running this as a government program?

From the GOP-NEWS & VIEWS...

Comment: Do the math---it works out to \$612 and change per month---for CHILD CARE???? I think something here is more bloated than salaries!" Ed.

NO STATE'S RIGHTS LEFT BEHIND

In a backlash to President Bush's signature education program, Virginia's Republican-controlled House of Delegates approved a resolution calling on Congress to exempt the state from the requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act. 'The act represents the most sweeping intrusions into state and local control of education in the history of the United States' and will cost 'millions of dollars that Virginia does not have,' the resolution says. In passing the resolution 98-1, Virginia lawmakers loudly echoed concerns in other states about the effects of No Child Left Behind, which became law in 2002. . . . In Utah, the Republican-led legislature is considering voting to try to opt out of the program entirely." - Associated Press, 1/24/04

BILL TO OVERTURN ROE v WADE

An attorney with a pro-family law firm is applauding a South Dakota lawmaker for attempting to save lives and right a three-decades-old wrong. With the assistance of the Thomas More Law Center, South Dakota State Representative Matt McCaulley introduced a bill last week that makes abortion a crime unless medically necessary to

save the life of the mother. House Bill 1191 was introduced on January 22 -- the 31st anniversary of the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision overturning the ban on abortion. The bill, already supported by South Dakota's House and Senate majorities, directly confronts the Roe v. Wade ruling. If approved, the legislation would go to Governor Mike Rounds, who has previously vowed to protect life under all circumstances. Richard Thompson, the Thomas More Law Center's president and chief counsel, acknowledges that a court battle will likely follow if the legislation passes. He calls the 1973 Supreme Court ruling an exercise of raw judicial power, not based on any reasonable interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. He compares the decision to lift the ban on abortion with the infamous Dred Scott decision that upheld slavery by regarding a segment of the population as non-persons. "The court was wrong then, and the court is wrong now," Thompson says. He feels citizens have a moral responsibility to confront the lawless decision. The bill would make abortion a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

URL: <http://www.agapepress.org>

Comment: Don't you think it is about time. I sure hope the bill gets signed into law. Ed.

THE ARMED CITIZEN

A 73-year-Old **St. Louis County, Missouri, man** looked up from his television one night to see an armed man holding 4.-inch .shears to his .Wife's throat. The intruder had broken into the couple's basement through a window and tied a curtain around his face as a mask. The man grabbed the homeowner's wife when she came downstairs and forced her into the living room where he demanded money from her husband. The homeowner managed to keep his wits about him and told the bandit that he needed to retrieve his wallet from the bedroom. He returned instead with a gun and, as his wife pulled away, shot her captor. The man was able to pull the woman outside with him, but finally succumbed to his wounds and collapsed. (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, St. Louis, Missouri, 11/20/03)

Get the U.S. Out of the United Nations

Since 9/11 the UN has ceased to be harmless, and the Democratic presidential candidates' enthusiasm for it has ceased to be amusing. The United Nations has emerged at best as irrelevant to the terrorist threat that most concerns us, and at worst as an obstacle to our winning the war on terrorism.

The UN has become an obstacle to our national security because it purports to set legal limits on the United States' ability to defend itself. If these limits ever made sense at all, they do not make sense now. Yet the UN's assertion of them forces presidents and policy-makers into a horrible dilemma. If we obey the UN's rules, we compromise our national security. If we defy them, we expose ourselves to accusations of hypocrisy and lawlessness. *Editor.*

**FEEL FREE TO WRITE/CALL/FAX/EMAIL
YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TODAY.**