

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

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

Cradle-to-grave Medicare

ITEM: *Senator Edward Kennedy (DMass.), reported the North Adams (Mass.) Transcript for January 14, "sought to rally reeling Democrats Wednesday by prescribing a 'progressive vision for America'" The senator "also shed light on the upcoming congressional session... He'll propose a decade-long expansion of Medicare, called Medicare for All. It's intended to provide healthcare for all citizens, 'from birth to the end of life,' he said."*

ITEM: *Kennedy's remarks, said E.J. Dionne in the Austin (Texas) American-Statesman for January 18, amounted to "a State of the Union address for liberals." The senator, commented Dionne, "suggested that Democrats could prevail not by retreating from their core principles, but by demonstrating that those principles were consistent with the values held by many Americans who call themselves conservative. Most moderates and many conservatives, for example, have nothing against the Democrats' commitment to expanding health coverage....That's why Kennedy's bold proposal to open Medicare to all Americans regardless of age is likely to appeal beyond liberal precincts."*

CORRECTION: Even Teddy Kennedy doesn't pretend that authentic conservatives will jump on his womb-to-tomb Medicare bandwagon.

Achieving "Medicare for All" won't be easy, admitted the senator (though the wire services ignored this part): "Right-wing forces will unleash false attack ads ranting against socialized medicine and government-run health care."

No doubt some will be unkind enough to mention that the unfunded present-value liability of Medicare is a whopping \$62 trillion. This amount, the *Wall Street Journal* noted, "dwarfs even Social Security's \$10 trillion." How will Kennedy's expansion be funded? Well, the solon has a pipe dream. He foresees that by "moving to electronic records for all Americans when they go to the hospital or their doctor, we can save hundreds of billions of dollars a year in administrative costs..." Only in Big Brother's utopia.

One thing is sure: demagogues will not tire of spending other folks' money and overlooking the consequences of past government failures. Medicare is now so complicated that, according to a General Accountability Office study, physicians who questioned Medicare customer service representatives (CSRs) on proper billing procedures were given the wrong answers an astounding 96 percent of the time. The CSRs are not held responsible for providing wrong information.

Washington is already neck-deep into health care. The government, notes economist Walter Williams, "directly pays for 45 percent of health-care spending. Government intervenes in the form of tax subsidies and costly regulations on private insurers. Regulations imposed on medical practitioners are oppressive. According to a study by PricewaterhouseCoopers, for every four hours that a physician devotes to caring for a Medicare patient, hospital administrators spend 30 minutes on Medicare paperwork. For emergency room care, it's one hour spent on paperwork per one hour spent caring for a patient."

Further aggravating the problem, additional prescription drug benefits mandated by 2003 Medicare legislation will go into effect in 2006, making health care more complicated and expensive and creating pressure for additional price controls. Teddy Kennedy will be glad to "fix" this problem too. After all, he's a "progressive." *WILLIAM P. HOAR in the New American*

GPS Devices to be installed on New Cars

"Not only will the government track our mileage for tax purposes when GPS is mandated for all autos but the next step will be to ticket everyone speeding. Talk about a gold mine! The computers will generate the tickets and no human will need to be involved with the process. An email will advise of our infraction and we can pay with credit card or Paypal. What a deal." - News & Views reader Commander Jay D. Crouthers of Crownsville, MD

Comment: It's already in place in England my friends, it will be here soon. Ed.

Social Insecurity

"Letting Americans own some of their Social Security would be too risky, [Democrats] argue -- another way of saying that Americans are too dumb to be entrusted with their own money. Much better to continue entrusting it to Washington, which has managed Social Security so skillfully that workers younger than 50 know they will never get back in benefits what they are paying into the system now." --Jeff Jacoby

Comment: I think the best example of how this would work is to tell a story. A friend invested \$3000 in VEPCO stock in 1973. He left it alone to build up. In 2000 he sold off all but 200 shares for a gain of \$68,000. Now my friend is not too bright or he would have invested \$3000 every year but he didn't. He could be making \$68000 a year now or over \$5000 a month. The point is, even a conservative stock like VEPCO can make you money. Social Security meanwhile takes thousands out of your pay every year for what. A thousand a month? And no funds to pass on to your heirs. Ed.

Opportunity Knocking: Defeat Law Of The Sea Treaty

by Phyllis Schlafly

When Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) asked Condoleezza Rice during her confirmation hearings about the Law of the Sea Treaty, she replied that President Bush "certainly would like to see it passed as soon as possible." Assuming she was authorized to deliver that shocking news, George W. Bush can no longer claim the mantle of the Ronald Reagan legacy.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was a terrible idea when President Reagan refused to sign it in 1982 and fired the State Department staff who helped to negotiate it. It's an even worse idea today because of the additional dangers it poses.

The acronym for the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST) is apt. LOST is the correct word for our sovereignty that would be lost under LOST.

Republicans who oppose this giant giveaway are looking at a stunning historical model. Ronald Reagan became the conservative standard bearer when he led the fight against the Panama Canal Treaty which was supported by incumbent Presidents Ford and then Carter.

We lost the battle to prevent the Panama Canal giveaway by one Senate vote in 1977. But that battle made Reagan the undisputed leader of the conservative movement and multiplied its activists. Hindsight teaches us that the battle was well worth fighting because it brought about the cataclysmic events of 1980: the election of a real pro-American conservative President plus the defeat of most of the internationalist Senators who voted for the giveaway.

Conservatives are currently searching for a man of pro-American principles whom they can support for President in 2008. The Republican Senator or Governor who steps up to the plate can hit a home run if he leads the battle against LOST's enormous wealth transfer to the unpopular United Nations.

The LOST is grounded in such un-American and un-Republican concepts as global socialism and world government. There is not much of a constituency today for giving more power and wealth to the United Nations, whose officials just committed the biggest corruption in history (oil-for-food) and continually use the UN as a platform for anti-American diatribes.

The LOST is so bad that it is a puzzlement how anyone who respects American sovereignty could support it with a straight face. LOST would give its own creation, the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the power to regulate seven-tenths of the world's surface area, a territory greater than the Soviet Union ruled at its zenith.

The LOST would give ISA the power to levy international taxes, one of the essential indicia of sovereignty. This ISA power is artfully concealed behind direct U.S. assessments and fees paid by corporations, but the proper word is taxes.

The LOST would give ISA the power to regulate ocean research and exploration. The LOST would give ISA the power to impose production quotas for deep-sea mining and oil production.

The LOST would give ISA the power to create a multinational court system and to enforce its judgments. The ISA courts would have even wider jurisdiction than the International Criminal Court (to which, fortunately, we do not belong) or the World Trade Organization (which has ruled against the United States a dozen times and forced us to change our tax laws and import duties).

There is no guarantee that the United States would even be represented on the ISA tribunals. The whole concept of putting the United States in the noose of another one-nation-one-vote global organization, which reduces America to the same vote as Cuba, is offensive to Americans.

In the post-9/11 world, the idea of signing a treaty that mandates information-sharing with our enemies plus technology transfers is not only dangerous but ridiculous.

Of course, Bill Clinton is for the LOST; he signed it in 1994. The LOST meshes perfectly with his speech to the United Nations in September 1997, in which he boasted of wanting to put America into a "web" of treaties for "the emerging international system."

Of course, Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar is for LOST. Like Clinton, he is a Rhodes scholar and an internationalist who never saw a United Nations treaty he didn't like. Vice President Cheney is an advocate of LOST. He doesn't have to listen to American voters because he will never again run for office.

Lugar's Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing about LOST, held without any publicity and with only advocates invited to testify, was an insult to the American people. Majority Leader Bill Frist will forfeit his chance to be in the running for the Republican nomination for President if he schedules a vote before all Senate committees affected by the LOST hold hearings with both sides represented.

The real purpose of LOST is to force the United States to use our wealth and technology to mine the riches of the sea and turn them over to a gang of Third World dictators who are consumed with envy of America. Opportunity is knocking for a Republican Senator or Governor who will lead the charge against the LOST.

Comment: Please write and call your Senators Warner and Allen right away and tell them you do not want this treaty passed. It is bad for our country. While you are at it tell them to get US out of the UN. Ed.

THE ARMED CITIZEN

As her ex-boyfriend proceeded to kick in her back door, a Manor Township, Pennsylvania, woman called police and then ran upstairs. Fearing help would not arrive in time, the woman locked herself in a bedroom and grabbed a rifle from under the bed. The man entered the home and raced upstairs where he began pounding on the locked door. When the woman's warnings to stop went unheeded, she fired a shot, injuring him. Police arrived as the man was leaving and placed him under arrest. Said one

investigator, "He wasn't there to deliver flowers. She was defending herself." (*Lancaster New Era*, Lancaster, PA, 05/06/04)

Studies indicate that firearms are used over two million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, immediate threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts - Send clippings to: "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. American Hunter, August 2004

Comment: Protect our Second Amendment rights. Protect yourself. Ed.

If **NAFTA** hasn't crushed you... the **FTAA** will.



www.stopthefaa.org 

Comment: Nice picture, notice the legs sticking out under the box. Check out the Website then Write and call our Senators Warner and Allen and tell them to STOP THE FTAA. Save our country. Ed.

Two really bad treaties, LOST & FTAA.

Note from the Editor's desk.

As I review dozens of stories and select ones for inclusion here, I am struck by the bias in the mainstream media. The choice of the words is so important. The sheer volume of news missed, not reported or not reported correctly is overwhelming. There are hopeful signs that this condition will improve. The Bloggers on the internet can take a lot of credit, and the alternative news sources. The biggest problem in all of this is finding the Truth. Editor.