

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

March 14, 2004

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

Mass. Gay-marriage ban backed but uncertainty remains

By Rick Klein, Globe Staff)

The Massachusetts Legislature voted three times yesterday to ban gay(Sodomite) marriage and establish civil unions, but it was unclear whether the constitutional amendment would ever get to the voters. They needed one more vote. More later.

Comment: What really worries me is that it is so close. It would seem that this issue is a NO-BRAINER. It should be banned by a 100% vote. What are they thinking? Wake up Church!!! Ed.

"No Child Left Behind" Rebellion

"From Utah to Virginia, a revolt is building in classrooms and legislatures against the biggest education reform in a quarter century," observed the February II *Christian Science Monitor*. "The rebellion, in some cases led by GOP lawmakers, could endanger a signature achievement of the Bush administration in an election year" - specifically, the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) education reform act, created by the Bush White House in consultation with ultra-leftist Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.).

NCLB is essentially "a morass of complex requirements on everything from who's tested to who can teach," continues the *Monitor*. "Schools can land on a watch list for something as simple as testing only 94 percent of students - or 94 percent of a subgroup, like non-English speakers. Many districts don't understand what they're trying to implement."

In Vermont and Connecticut, some districts "have refused federal funds rather than comply with all [NCLB] mandates," the *Monitor* reports. "A district in Pennsylvania is suing the state over what it sees as inequities in the law. At least

In Utah, a measure calling for the state to opt out of the program entirely passed the state legislature's house education committee. However, as the *Deseret Morning News* pointed out on February 11, "Utah's shot across the bow at the No Child Left Behind Act went from that of a rifle to a pop gun" when the house passed a substitute measure preventing school districts from participating in NCLB "except where there is adequate federal funding." This revision, reported the *Deseret Morning News* on February 12, followed "a daylong meeting with Bush administration officials, who flew to Utah... for some legislative arm-twisting."

The Republican-led Utah legislature found itself in a dilemma, political analyst Kelly Patterson told the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

"This is one of those issues where there's a tension between what a party would like to do and what its

ideological roots are," Patterson noted. "Local control. That's the rub. [President Bush] had to show national leadership, and that means treading on states."

What's truly remarkable about the anti-NCLB rebellion is this: In both conservative Utah and liberal Vermont, state legislatures are gagging on a grandiose social engineering program devised by a "conservative" Republican president, and passed by a "conservative" Republican-led Congress.

From THE NEW AMERICAN, MARCH 8, 2004.

Comment: This is a great example of Republican Socialism. Write your elected reps. Ed.

CBN FOUNDER SAYS CHRISTIANS NEED TO GET EDUCATED, GET INVOLVED

Not one to back away from controversy on matters of faith and freedom, Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson has some advice for believers on two hot topics: the religion of Islam and judicial tyranny. More details:

<http://headlines.agapepress.org/archive/3/112004c.asp>

REPUBLICRATS

Both Parties the Same, Socialistic

An examination of Democratic and Republican Party politics in recent decades shows that, no matter how far to the left the Republicans move, the Democrats move even further to the left, enabling both the liberal-left politicians and the major media to continue portraying the Republicans as conservative. Each new bipartisan "compromise" becomes the new "conservative" position justifying future "compromises" that will move the country even further to the left. In fact, over time it has become increasingly difficult to detect any substantive differences between the two major parties.

Political rhetoric and appearances aside, the U.S. government has become more socialistic and more internationalist during periods of both Republican and Democrat administrations. The voters may vote one president out in favor of another, but the basic policies remain intact even when the political leadership changes.

For 75 years no Republican President has reduced the size of government. *Editor, excerpted from NA.*

INTELLIGENCE?

Speaking of intelligence-gathering, our side did wonderfully compared to Saddam's intelligence-gathering. His CIA equivalent had to convince him that the U.S. would not attack, and if the U.S. did attack it would lose, and if the U.S. happened to win, that it would quickly tire of the whole thing and leave, leaving Saddam in charge. Now is that bad intelligence-gathering or what?" *From GOP-NEWS*

Uncle Sam a Fiscal Wreck

ITEM: *The Philadelphia Inquirer for February 1 reported that President Bush had met with GOP strategists, promising "fiscal restraint" and seeking "support for his election-year agenda." Said the President: " At home, we've got to make sure that the economy keeps growing. One clear signal we need to send to the American people and the markets is: 'We're going to be wise when it comes to the expenditure of the people's money.'"*

BETWEEN THE LINES: This can't even pass the straight-face test. After all, it was just a year ago that Mr. Bush predicted there would be a budget deficit of \$307.4 billion for fiscal 2004. A deficit of that size would now be considered relatively good news. Amazingly, the estimated budget deficit for fiscal 2004 is now higher by more than \$200 billion. Here are a few other facts about fiscal irresponsibility:

- Since 2000, federal spending has risen at about three times the rate as under the profligate President Clinton.
- Annual "discretionary" spending jumped by a staggering 27-plus percent since President Bush assumed office.
- The latest proposed budget amounts to triple the cost of fighting World War II.
- Washington's expenditures this year, reports the Club for Growth, is more than *combined* federal spending from 1787 to 1990, even adjusted for inflation.
- The projected 10-year cost for the new prescription-drug entitlement took just two months to grow from \$400 billion to \$530 billion, and even that is likely a vast underestimate.
- The latest budget anticipates it will cost \$178 billion just for debt interest.

Thus, we see demonstrated once again that if Washington is the seat of government, the harassed taxpayer is the pants pocket. By WILLIAM P. HOAR

Comment: We must, somehow get this spending under control. We, the taxpayer, have less and less to say about how almost half our money is spent. Half! Anyone for a Tea Party. Editor.

STOP THE FTAA

Avoid the EU Trap!

From an article by Larry Greenley, New American Mar. 04.

The American nations are now committed to achieving free trade for the entire hemisphere, a free-trade agreement of the Americas (FTAA), by the year 2005....

The new requirements of an FTAA will demand a new framework for hemispheric cooperation similar to that in Europe during the early years of the European Community....

[We should] implement a program of functional collaboration among the American nations in the field of energy. In the same way that the European

Coal and Steel Community paved the way for the transformation of Europe, collaboration among nations in specific sectors will set the pattern for the Americas....

- *Greater America* (2003) by L. Ronald Scheman the director general of the Inter American Agency for Cooperation and Development (an agency of the Organization of American States).

Comment: Avoid the EU Trap by Opposing All Free Trade Agreements.

ACTION: Contact your representative and senators in opposition to the U.S.-Australian Free Trade Agreement and the Central American Free Trade Area (CAFTA) as well as the culmination of this whole series of free trade agreements, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The FTAA is clearly intended to develop into a supranational government for the Western Hemisphere, just as the European "Common Market" was intended to develop into the European Union (EU). This means that the FTAA would be only the first step in the development of a regional government for the Western Hemisphere, which would override our Constitution and negate our Bill of Rights. This would amount to national suicide. We must use constituent pressure to encourage our representatives and senators to learn about the FTAA threat by studying the EU precedent. Congress must avoid the EU trap!

According to *Congressional Quarterly* for February 6, "Members of both parties agree that Congress has little appetite for politically sensitive trade legislation this year, making it increasingly likely that two major free-trade agreements will remain on hold until after the elections.

Please write your Congressman, your Senators and the President and tell them in no uncertain terms that we, the U.S., do NOT want to join the FTAA treaty. Ed.

About the Family Bulletin Alert

The FBA started out as a few notes to speak to the "Faith Freedom and Citizenship" Sunday class every Sunday. Then it morphed into a weekly newsletter. I have been writing it for over 2 years, covering news items that never make it to the main stream media. We also try to cover important family issues, ie; laws and actions by the governments that affect families. We are Christian, Conservative, and a lover of the Constitution. We believe in the rule of law.

The FBA is also on the Web at <http://hrcc.exis.net>, thanks to Al Wallace.

Submit any remarks to Vernon Fix at 495-1541, I am solely responsible for the content.

REGISTER NOW IF YOU ARE >=17 YEARS OLD,
VOTE IF 18 ON MAY 4th AND NOVEMBER 2nd