

CHRISTIAN LIFE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS INFO PAGE –Jan. 2012

GAIL M. HARDING, consultant, 667-4899, gmbharding@att.net

MORE MERRY CHRISTMAS (AND EVEN HAPPY NEW YEAR) PROHIBITIONS

According to a Dec. 12 memo sent to members of the House of Representatives, none could use their official franking privileges — using taxpayer dollars to pay for postage — to send Christmas greetings to their constituents. Moreover, the Franking Commission — the six-member bipartisan group officially known as the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards — told legislators they couldn't use the phrases "Merry Christmas" or "Happy New Year" in any mail sent to voters this year.

In addition, the memo also noted that congressmen can't use their official social media pages to wish constituents "Merry Christmas" or "Happy New Year." It cited the **Rules of Practice** which also states **congressmen cannot use "colors that give the impression of a holiday greeting."**

"Currently, incidental use of the phrase Happy Holidays is permissible but Merry Christmas is not," said Salley Wood, a franking commission spokesman. These rules do not apply to Senators.

BOYCOTT THE RED KETTLE? Groups supporting special rights for homosexuals urged people to boycott the red kettle campaign because the Salvation Army supposedly has a history of "discriminating" against them. But Peter LaBarbera, who heads **Americans for Truth About Homosexuality** (AFTAH), believes such protestors are missing the charity's goal.

"The homosexual activists are saying that The Salvation Army is anti-gay. It's sort of strange -- it's not like The Salvation Army gives an orientation test every time it wants to help the poor; The Salvation Army just helps the poor," he points out. "So I think people should go on supporting The Salvation Army. They should disregard the homosexual lobby and just give in the spirit of Christmas."

Pro-"gay" activists have a history of taking on The Salvation Army because of its biblical view on homosexual conduct.

"The homosexual lobby is at war with religion, and they're also at war with people's right to express their religious viewpoint that homosexual behavior is sinful," LaBarbera notes. "And they're fighting for the right to basically criminalize the practice of Christianity as it applies to homosexuality."

GAYS PROTECTED AT HOME AND ABROAD The *Associated Press* reports that Barack Obama issued a memorandum Dec. 6 ordering the State Department "to promote rights for gays and lesbians abroad, including combating attempts by foreign governments to criminalize homosexuality." According to other reports, the Obama Administration may condition foreign aid on a country's gay rights record.

A "Global Equality Fund" will pay for "human rights" groups to advance the interests of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced to the United Nations that the fund is starting with \$3 million seed money from America's taxpayers. Federal agencies will offer moral, legal, and financial support to national and international organizations that support LGBT advancement – while preferential expedition and asylum must be offered to LGBT people allegedly forced to flee persecution in their home countries. Yet the administration is downplaying Christian persecution overseas.

In many nations, sodomy and homosexuality are considered not only a sin, but a crime! A number of leaders from these nations have already voiced their strong opposition to President Obama's subtle threats and imposition into their laws and culture.

EXERPTS FROM PROPOSED STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT – defining terms used.

Note the words actual or perceived.

A BILL (HR 998, S.555) Student Non-discrimination Act

To end discrimination based on actual or perceived **sexual orientation** or **gender identity** in public schools, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,...

(2) **GENDER IDENTITY**- The term 'gender identity' means the gender-related identity, appearance, or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, with or without regard to the individual's designated sex at birth.

(3) **HARASSMENT**- The term 'harassment' means conduct that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from a public school education program or activity, or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment at a public school, including acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility, if such conduct is based on--

(A) a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity; or

(B) the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of a person or persons with whom a student associates or has associated.

5) **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**- The term 'sexual orientation' means homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality.

WE SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED A court in Hawaii has refused to exempt churches from being forced to allow their property to be used for civil union ceremonies. The Emmanuel Temple and the Lighthouse Outreach Center Assembly of God requested a restraining order to block a law that permits same-sex couples to enter civil unions. It exempts clergy from performing the ceremonies, which are the equivalent of marriage, but there is no provision to protect church property. They argued that they would face civil penalties and fines if they refused to rent their property for same-sex civil unions, but U.S. District Judge Michael Seabright denied the request.

Matt Barber of **Liberty Counsel Action** explains: "There is no exemption for religious institutions, for churches, houses of worship from being subject to fines and to sanctions as provided in the legislation for refusing to allow their houses of worship to be desecrated through the use of a so-called 'civil union' ceremony," he explains.

THE U. S. SUPREME COURT will address several major issues in its next session, including:

- 1) May a state (Arizona) secure its borders and protect its citizens when the federal government fails to?
- 2) The constitutionality of Obama Care. The Supreme Court will hear arguments on President Obama's healthcare law over a three-day span in late March and issue a ruling next June, at the height of the 2012 campaign.

LEGISLATIVE GOAL FOR 2012 Passage of **Life at Conception Act which has 128 cosponsors in this last Congress.**

Resources: Citizen Link 12/19; AFA Action Alert 12/20; OneNewsNow.com 12/8; End of Day 12/6 and Liberty Counsel 12/20; OneNewsNow 1/4

