

In order to insure that taxpayers are not subsidizing this type of unconscionable and illegal behavior, the Truth in Financing Act forbids federal funds from going to anyone who violates a federal law, regulation, or state or local law punishable by 6 months imprisonment or a fine of at least \$5,000. The prohibition would also apply to those who aid or abet serious criminal activity, or who lie on an application for federal funds.

Most importantly, the Truth in Financing Act allows any U.S. citizen to use the courts to force federal officials to cut off funds from those who violate the law. No longer will taxpayers have to sit silently by while federal bureaucrats shovel money to those who flaunt the laws of this country.

Providing federal funds to those who engage in illegal behavior undermines the rule of law and forces taxpayers to fund illegal behavior. If federal bureaucrats will not act to prevent taxpayer funds from going to organizations that violate the laws, then Congress has no choice but to give taxpayers the power to stop this outrage. I hope my colleagues will stand up for the rule of law and the American taxpayer by cosponsoring the Truth in Financing Act.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5422, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. I am greatly troubled by this vote.

I support the Amber Alert program as a vital means to prevent child abductions. I support improving the National Coordination of Amber Alert Communications to better track down perpetrators of these horrific crimes.

If this bill had simply been about this important effort to protect the safety of our children, I would have supported it. But, House Republicans added provisions I cannot in good conscience support and will ultimately doom this bill when it comes before the Senate.

I object to giving law enforcement unrestricted access to abuse fundamental privacy rights as this bill does. The Republicans added provisions giving the FBI unprecedented wiretap authority to engage in secret surveillance of our homes, even sexual acts between consenting adults.

The Republicans added provisions imposing new mandatory minimum sentencing requirements despite these having been shown to be ineffective in deterring crime.

Finally, Republicans added provisions expanding the number of crimes punishable under the death penalty. This is done despite evidence that many Americans have been wrongly sentenced to death.

By including these controversial provisions, House Republicans blew the chance to help protect our children from predators. It is inexcusable that they knew that these provisions would make passage of this bill impossible in the Senate. Yet, they added them anyway in hopes of making this a political issue.

Ultimately, the Republicans' aim was not to protect children. Their aim was to turn voters

against Democrats in the Senate who support the Amber Alert program, but won't vote for a bill that compromises our constitutional rights.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this legislation. Let's send a message to the House Republicans that the safety of our children and the protection of our Constitutional rights are more important than partisan politics.

DR. CLEON A. FLOWERS, SR.,
NOTED AFRICAN-AMERICAN PHYSICIAN AND COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a highly regarded Arkansan, Dr. Cleon A. Flowers, Sr. Dr. Flowers passed away in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on his 89th birthday after spending more than six decades caring for the health needs of Pine Bluff and Southeastern Arkansas. With Dr. Flowers' passing, Arkansas and the state's medical community lost an icon in medicine.

Dr. Flowers, described as the Godfather of Arkansas Medicine, was born in Stamps, Arkansas, a small rural town in the Southwest region of the state. After earning his undergraduate degree from Arkansas AM&N College, now the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, Dr. Flowers received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College, a historically black academic health center and preeminent medical school. Upon returning to Pine Bluff with a medical degree and after service in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a major, Dr. Flowers began practicing medicine with an emphasis on putting the patient's needs first. He would often accept chickens, pigs, or homegrown vegetables as payment and open his office after hours to accommodate the odd hours his patients worked. Living in the segregated South Dr. Flowers realized the challenges that African Americans faced and wanted to ensure African Americans received quality health care, regardless of income and "normal" business hours. During his private practice, Dr. Flowers owned and operated the United Links Hospital, a medical facility for Blacks. The hospital has since been renamed the Flowers Professional Building.

In addition to his professional milestones, Dr. Flowers was a community leader, becoming one of the first Black doctors on staff at what is now Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff, serving on the board of trustees of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and being a member of the National Medical Association and the National Association for Advancement of Colored People. Dr. Cleon A. Flowers, Sr. was an excellent physician and community leader. His presence in Pine Bluff and Arkansas will be missed.

In addition to my CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement, I have also submitted an article from Jet magazine's September 16, 2002 issue, which discusses Dr. Flowers' life.

DR. CLEON A. FLOWERS SR., 89, NOTED PINE BLUFF, AR, PHYSICIAN, SUCCEDES

Praised as an old-fashioned physician more interested in serving his patients than filling his pockets, Dr. Cleon A. Flowers Sr. re-

cently was remembered by family and friends during services at New St. Hurricane Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, AR.

Flowers, born in Stamps, AR died at his home in Pine Bluff on his 89th birthday, ending a nearly 60-year career that began in 1943 after he graduated from Meharry Medical College.

"It did not matter to him if a person had money to pay for his service or not. He only wanted to be sure the needs of his patients were met," his son, Clifford Flowers, told the Pine Bluff Commercial newspaper, which interviewed Dr. Flowers in 1999.

During that interview the popular physician fondly recalled his early days as a doctor, citing his fees: Two dollars for an office visit, \$3 for a house call and \$35 for a home baby delivery. "I even got paid with pigs, chickens, homegrown vegetables and wild game. Those were the good old days," he said.

Dr. Flowers made national news in 1954 when he delivered the first Siamese twins born at home. But he did not rest on his laurels.

Retired Jefferson County Coroner Havis Hester told the newspaper: "I remember him opening his office until 3 a.m. in the morning just to accommodate his patients who had to work and could not get there during normal office hours. I never knew any other doctor to do that..."

The second son of three born to Alonzo and Beulah Flowers, Flowers, borne in 1913, graduated from Arkansas AM&N College (now University of Arkansas Pine Bluff) in 1939. He completed studies at Meharry Medical School in 1943. During his internship at Meharry he was drafted by the U.S. Army Air Corps and later was commissioned as a major.

Dr. Flowers opened his private practice in Pine Bluff in 1945 and in 1946 he bought the building occupied by the United Links Hospital, a medical facility for Blacks, which he continued to operate until 1950. Today it is the site of the Flowers Professional Building.

In 1950, Dr. Flowers became one of the first Black doctors on the staff of what is now the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff.

His numerous medical and civic affiliations included service on the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College/University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Board of Trustees, the Arkansas Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Assn., where he served as president, and memberships in the National Medical Assn., Prince Hall Masons and NAACP.

"Most doctors retire after 20 or 30 years, after they think they've gotten rich. I've seen fellows quit and then they go home and shut down. They just wasted away. I'm going to keep chugging along," he told the Commercial. Dr. Flowers did just that. He worked well into the his 80s.

In addition to his wife, Martha, he is survived by six children: sons Dr. Cleon A. Flowers Jr., Dr. John A. Flowers, Clifford Flowers Sr., Clyde Flowers, and Randall Flowers, and daughter Dr. Martha Flowers.

REAFFIRMING REFERENCE TO ONE NATION UNDER GOD IN PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this legislation prohibiting the words

“under God” from being removed from the official Pledge of Allegiance as it is written in Federal law.

Earlier this year, I voted against the Congressional resolution condemning the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for ruling the use of the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. I believe the Court was right.

The Court ruled on a case in which children were required to recite the pledge. Just as we

should not bar anyone from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, we should not force anyone to recite words they do not believe. The Court was clear in affirming that the term “under God” was more than a casual colloquialism. The meaning of these words is only proven by Congress’ religiously inspired crusade to chastise and even undo the Ninth Circuit’s opinion.

Congress ought to heed the Ninth Circuit Court and our Constitutional responsibility to

respect the diversity of religious and personal belief in America. We should not legislate use of the term “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance when many proud Americans do not share this belief.

We ought to instead reaffirm the notion of a “nation indivisible,” and a pledge that fully recognizes the shared beliefs and common aspirations of all Americans. I urge my colleagues to embrace this ideal, honor a basic principle of our Constitution, and vote no on this bill.