

# Nation/Politics

## Inside Politics

By Greg Pierce

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### **Romney's plan**

Massachusetts **Gov. Mitt Romney**, often questioned about how his Mormon religion would affect a potential run for the Republican presidential nomination, said yesterday he envisions mimicking **John F. Kennedy** and explaining his religion to the public.

The Massachusetts governor said he imagines a speech evolving out of inevitable curiosity about his religion and its potential effect on presidential decision-making. He has already said that while his beliefs are integral to his life, they do not unduly influence his political judgments, the Associated Press reports.

"I think if I decided to go national, that there will probably be a time when people will ask questions, and it will be about my faith, and I'll have the opportunity to talk about the role of religion in our society and in the leadership of our nation," Mr. Romney said.

Mr. Kennedy, then a Democratic senator from Massachusetts, took the same approach in September 1960 when he was attempting to become the first Catholic president. He told the Houston Ministerial Association, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and my church does not speak for me."

Mr. Romney, who is not seeking re-election as Massachusetts governor this fall, has said he will likely announce whether he is running for president sometime next year.

### **Chaplain's plight**

Navy **Chaplain Lt. Gordon Klingenschmitt**, known for his 18-day hunger

strike in front of the White House in December for the right to pray in the name of Jesus Christ, faces a court-martial by the U.S. Navy.

He was given a choice between a trial by court-martial and an official reprimand for appearing in front of the White House along with former Alabama Supreme Court Justice **Roy Moore** on March 30. A reprimand could have meant eventual dismissal; a court-martial is similar to a jury trial, open to the public.

The lieutenant had been forbidden by his commanding officer, **Capt. Lloyd E. Pyle**, from making any media appearances while in uniform without first getting official permission. The one exception is if the chaplain is offering a prayer. Lt. Klingenschmitt says the only words he uttered, while standing next to Mr. Moore, was a prayer for the armed forces from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

The date of the trial has yet to be set, but the lieutenant is already fighting back with letters to **Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton**, New York Democrat; **Sen. James M. Inhofe**, Oklahoma Republican; **Rep. Thomas M. Reynolds**, New York Republican; and **Rep. Walter B. Jones**, North Carolina Republican. Late last year, Mr. Jones got several dozen members of Congress to sign a letter to President Bush asking for an executive order allowing military chaplains to express their faith more freely.

"It now appears that [**Navy Secretary Donald C.] Winter** fully intends to kick me out of the Navy over a minor uniform discrepancy, simply to avoid ruling on my original complaint," the lieutenant said in his letter. "This is Navy justice?"

### **Laura's stance**

First lady **Laura Bush** says any change to U.S. immigration laws should be "humane and sensitive."

"We need to have a humane and sensitive immigration policy, and we need to work on that to make sure people don't die in the desert as they cross Texas or Arizona because they are coming in illegally," Mrs. Bush told Fox News yesterday.

"We need to figure out a way to have legal immigration, including a guest-worker program like the president has suggested, that will give people a legal way to be in the United States so they can go back home to Mexico and they can come back in for jobs without worry of having to sneak in across the desert," she said.

However, the first lady also advocated a "legal and orderly" immigration and citizenship procedure to ensure that "people who have stood in line to become legal citizens ... not be pre-empted by other people."

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