

NATIONAL news

up-or-down vote on the existing amendment language and not allow any alterations.

GOP leaders rejected that offer. They wanted to vote on the amendment and, if that failed, as was anticipated, to be able to offer just the first sentence of the amendment—defining marriage as between a man and a woman—in a second vote. The Democrats returned to their filibuster strategy.

No form of the amendment was voted on in the Judiciary Committee, where it likely would have failed. It was brought to the floor through extraordinary parliamentary rules. "I think it is outrageous and frankly surreal that at the 11th hour in this debate, they are literally rewriting the Constitution on the back of a napkin," Jacques said.

Guerriero added, "It is irresponsible and reckless to demand a vote on a constitutional amendment that was proposed less than 24 hours ago."

Kerry and Edwards

"We are casting this, as are our enemies, that this is absolutely a vote on the amendment, this is not a procedural vote, this is a substantive vote," Jacques said in a July 6 telephone news conference. "It isn't just about narrowly defeating this measure, it's about winning soundly, sending a clear message to the House and to the states [considering state constitutional amendments] that discrimination is wrong."

When asked whether U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., the presidential candidate HRC has endorsed, will be present to vote on this measure, Jacques strongly asserted, "He will be there."

The Hill, in its issue the day before the scheduled vote, said Kerry and his running mate, U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., would return to vote on the measure. "Ducking the vote would have opened Kerry and Edwards to charges of political timidity from within their own party," the newspaper reported.

However, later in the day, campaign spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said the pair would not participate in the debate or vote on the amendment. Kerry would be in Boston preparing for the Democratic National Convention; Edwards would be starting his first solo campaign swing.

Both Democrats have said they support traditional marriage but oppose amending the Constitution. They were the only two senators who did not vote on the amendment.

Bush Offensive

President Bush pushed the amendment in his weekly radio address to the nation July 10. He began by asserting the social conservative contention that "this difficult debate was forced



Dick and Lynne Cheney agree that marriage should be a states' rights issue

upon our country by a few activist judges and local officials who have taken it on themselves to change the meaning of marriage. If courts create their own arbitrary definition of marriage as a mere legal contract and cut marriage off from its cultural, religious and natural roots, then the meaning of marriage is lost and the institution is weakened."

The previous day, campaigning by bus in Pennsylvania, Bush declined to get pulled into the argument of some religious conservatives that homosexuality is a sin. He said: "What they do in the privacy of their house, consenting adults should be able to do. This is America. It's a free society. But it doesn't mean we have to redefine traditional marriage."

As governor, he strongly defended the Texas same-sex sodomy law that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional in 2003.

Vice President Dick Cheney's wife, Lynne, offered a different take on the amendment during a July 11 appearance on CNN's *Late Edition*. She urged that a way be found to "keep the authority of the states intact" with regard to marriage laws. The Cheneys' daughter Mary is in a long-standing relationship with another woman.

CNN played a video clip of the vice president during the 2000 campaign in which he said that states may decide to handle same-sex relationships in different ways and that that was fine with him. Log Cabin Republicans have been using that clip in a commercial to build opposition to the amendment.

Mrs. Cheney said: "I thought the formulation he used in 2000 was very good...first of all, to be clear that people should be free to enter into their relationships that they choose, and secondly, to recognize what's historically been the situation—that when it comes to conferring legal status on relationships, that is a matter left to the states." □

BOB ROEHR is a free-lance reporter based in Washington, D.C.

Beautiful Trees
Through Knowledge
and Caring Service

Emerald Tree

LLC


Professional Tree Care and
Lessons in Maintenance Pruning

503.310.5046

licensed, bonded, insured, ISA certified arborist PN1314
ccb#141020

HILL & WREN, LLP

Attorneys at Law



Geoffrey G. Wren

Personal Injuries
Motor Vehicle Accidents
Workers' Compensation & Work Injuries
Employment Law & Discrimination
Unpaid Compensation
Social Security & Disability Law
Civil Litigation



Edward J. Hill

www.HillWren-law.com
phone: 503.281.6362 fax: 503.288.8046
1826 NE Broadway Portland, OR 97232-1430

"I'm AVAILABLE when you are!"

*Careful and energetic handling of
all your home financing needs*



MORTGAGE Advocates

6700 SW 105th Ave., Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005
Toll Free (877) 826-9900 Fax (503) 297-0824
E-Mail: colleenw@mtgadvocates.com www.mtgadvocates.com



Colleen Weed
Office 503•297•9900 Cell 503•780•1561



Beautiful Heat without Electricity since 1977

- Wood, Gas, Electric
- Advice & Full Service
- Free In-Home Estimates
- 27th Anniversary Sale

2729 NE Broadway, Portland
503-282-3615
www.homesteadstove.com



"We can turn your fireplace into a beautiful heat source."



Support Groups Available For Women who Partner with Women

The Hambleton Project and the Susan G. Komen Foundation have collaborated to provide these free resources to our community:

- ✦ Bi-weekly support group for lesbians/bisexual women with cancer and their partners/caregivers
- ✦ 8-week bereavement group for lesbians/bisexual women who have lost a loved one

These groups are currently held in both Portland and Salem.

For specific meeting times, locations and more information call the Hambleton Project: 503.335.6591 (PDX) or 503.581.8356 (Salem)



The Susan G. Komen
Breast Cancer Foundation
Oregon & SW Washington Affiliate