

## SCARE AT THE CAPITOL



Chris Maddaloni/Roll Call

A Capitol Police emergency response team moves into position to arrest an unidentified man (in the background) suspected of hiding explosive devices in his suitcases. See story, page 3.

## Mollohan Firm On Ethics Fight Wed. Breakthrough Unlikely

By John Bresnahan  
ROLL CALL STAFF

With the standoff over the House ethics committee now entering its second month, the panel's ranking member, Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-W.Va.), is standing firm in his bid to overturn three controversial ethics rules changes pushed through the House by GOP leaders on the first day of the 109th Congress.

The ethics committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday, after a weeklong postponement due to Pope John Paul II's funeral and the resulting disruption of the House schedule. Though this week's meeting is likely to happen as planned, there is little sign of any movement

that could allow the panel to carry out its official duties.

The ethics committee meeting comes as White House officials reiterated President Bush's support for embattled Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) on Monday.

"Majority Leader DeLay is someone the president considers a friend.

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## Senate, House Jointly Whip K Street

By Kate Ackley and Paul Kane  
ROLL CALL STAFF

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and his Senate counterpart, Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), have

been forging a closer working relationship in the past several months. But on Thursday they're taking it to a new level, inviting 200 lobbyists, two Senate leaders and a collection of 50 Congressional and administra-

tion aides to a strategy session. Blunt and his whip team will convene a meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday in Room HC-5 of the Capitol for an hourlong, bicameral agenda-setting confab.

Senate Majority Bill Leader Frist (R-Tenn.) and Conference Chairman Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) will speak, as will McConnell, about issues on their side of the Capitol, while Blunt

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### ROADMAP

WHAT'S DRIVING THIS WEEK'S AGENDA

By Emily Pierce  
ROLL CALL STAFF

**A**s Capitol Police officers wrestled a bomb suspect to the ground Monday, Senate Republican leaders inside were trying to quell an intraparty scuffle over immigration.

As of press time, no deal had been reached to keep the \$80.6 billion supplemental Iraq war spending bill free of contentious immigration provisions during this week's floor debate on the measure. But Bob Stevenson, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), said talks between Frist's office, Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Sen. Jon

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By Mary Ann Akers  
ROLL CALL STAFF

**S**antorum and Jesus. No question — and not by accident — Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) had the best seat at Pope John Paul II's funeral. He sat next to Jesus.

Santorum and his wife, Karen, who were part of the official Congressional delegation to the pope's funeral, sat with actor Jim Caviezel, who played the crucified savior in "The Passion of The Christ."

Contrary to the rumor swirling around Capitol Hill on Monday, Caviezel did not travel with the Congressional delegation to Rome. Rather, Santorum

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## RFK: New Fundraising Venue

By Lauren W. Whittington  
ROLL CALL STAFF

When President Bush throws out the first pitch at the Nationals' home opener Thursday night, a host of dignitaries, politicians and Capitol Hill staff will be on hand to watch the official return of baseball to Washington, D.C., after 34 years.

None of them, however, will be

watching the game in luxury at an official Congressional fundraiser. But don't mistake the opening night's lack of trolling for campaign cash for a missed opportunity — there will be plenty of others during the 81 home games this season.

With the return of baseball to the nation's capital, fundraisers now have yet another venue for events —

one that is a quick hop from the Capitol.

So far, a handful of House Republicans are the only Members with Nationals fundraisers scheduled.

Rep. Robin Hayes (R-N.C.) will be the first Congressional lawmaker to hold a campaign event at new-

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## Quiet N.J. Senate Race Intensifies

By Erin P. Billings and Lauren W. Whittington  
ROLL CALL STAFF

As it appears increasingly inevitable that Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.) will be elected governor in November, the public and private maneuvering to succeed him has recently intensified within the Garden State's Congressional delegation.

The behind-the-scenes primary to win Corzine's appointment to the

seat he now holds reached a new level Friday, as Rep. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) raked in an estimated \$2.5 million at a major fundraiser in the state. The event was widely seen as confirmation that Menendez is running for the position.

Menendez, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, and



Menendez

fellow Democratic Rep. Frank Pallone appear to be the leading Members seeking Corzine's blessing, with both working to shore up key support throughout New Jersey. Rep. Rob Andrews (D) is also seen as a possible candidate.

If elected in November, Corzine will tap his successor to complete

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# Chabad Seeks Congress' Help in Book Dispute

By Megan King  
ROLL CALL STAFF

The books are overdue, and 100 Senators want them back.

For more than a decade, government officials, including Members of Congress, have been working to secure the return of the Schneerson Collection, a set of books and manuscripts being held in Russia, to the New York-based Chabad Lubavitch Jewish community.



Brownback

Members of the Chabad made an impassioned appeal to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, known as the Helsinki Commission, in a hearing last Wednesday to encourage the Russian Federation to return the books.

The group hopes to have the books returned to them before the May 9 anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

In February, all 100 Senators signed a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, authored by Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.), urging the Russians to return the collection to the Chabad community as an example of Russia's "commitment to justice, human rights and religious freedom."

The entire Senate signed a previous letter to then-Russian President Boris Yeltsin urging him to return the books, and the most re-

*'I don't know of another issue where all 100 Members of the Senate, every one, have signed the letter.' The support speaks to 'the clarity of this issue.'*

**Sen. Sam Brownback**  
Helsinki Commission chairman, on the unanimous Senate support for the Chabad

cent letter said only eight volumes in the collection had been released.

"I don't know of another issue where all 100 Members of the Senate, every one, have signed the letter," said Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), chairman of the Helsinki Commission, adding that the support speaks to "the clarity of this issue."

Coleman echoed that sentiment in a statement released when the letter was sent in February.

"To have every single Senator sign on to a letter like this is very rare. To have it happen twice on the same issue is virtually unheard of," Coleman said. "It's not often a cause gains enduring support across the political spectrum, but we all agree that Russia's withholding of these sacred texts represents a clear injustice."



Coleman

In addition to the members of the Chabad community who discussed the issue with the commission, actor Jon Voight testified for the Chabad.

"These books are the voices of the ancestors of the Hebrew Nation," Voight said. "For anyone else to claim them as their own is a reminder of all the anti-Semitic pollution through years of genocide and destruction of

human life. They do not serve you since you are not putting them to use, as they are meant to be."

The collection consists of a library that was maintained by the first five Chabad rabbis as far back as 1772.

The books contain writings from a succession of the Chabad's "rebbe" (rabbis), or spiritual leaders. The books and manuscripts contain Chabad philosophy on Jewish religious law and tradition.

Chabad's statement to the committee  
See SCHNEERSON, page 10



Courtesy Rabbi Chaim Cunin

Members of the Chabad Lubavitch community and actor John Voight (third from left) appear before the Helsinki Commission last week.

# UNREAL IDEA

*still*  
**H.R. 418** has something  
for everyone to hate.

Every piece of legislation has its detractors.

But this time, something different is happening. And that something is H.R. 418, the so-called "Real ID" law.

H.R. 418 is poorly conceived, overreaching and counterproductive. It's a legislative nightmare waiting to happen. That's why more than 600 organizations from across the political spectrum have jointly declared our opposition (visit [www.unrealidea.org](http://www.unrealidea.org) to see the list).

Last year, there was an unsuccessful attempt to attach this legislation to intelligence reform. Now it's back again, trying to piggyback on emergency funding for U.S. soldiers and tsunami victims.

Sweeping legislation like this ought to be fully examined in hearings and fairly debated on the floor, not rushed through the back door.

Unfortunately, the House has done just that. It's up to the Senate to say that "Real ID" is an unreal idea.

### Statue of Liberty toppled.

Asylum seekers will find no refuge in H.R. 418. A judge could deny asylum based solely on an applicant's "demeanor" rather than the evidence. Torture victims would be sent back to their torturers while waiting for their U.S. appeals to be heard.

### Checks unbalanced.

For the first time since the Civil War, H.R. 418 prohibits judicial review, including habeas corpus, for certain detentions or deportation orders. The Secretary of Homeland Security would be empowered to waive federal, state and local laws, including environmental laws, without court review.

### Stalked and battered women exposed.

Many states now permit battered women to use a non-residence address on their driver's license for

self-protection. H.R. 418 would overrule these state laws, making it much easier for an abuser to track down his estranged family.

### DMV lines extended.

Under H.R. 418, even ordinary Americans won't be able to get a driver's license until a DMV clerk verifies their residency documentation (like an electric bill or mortgage check) with the issuing bank or utility company. Of course, no funds are provided for additional staff. So everyone will have to wait. And wait.

### Law enforcement outsourced.

Private bounty hunters under H.R. 418 will be

given access to confidential law enforcement files on noncitizens. They'll also have a new financial incentive: The power to arrest noncitizens even when they meet the terms of their bonds, solely on the bounty hunter's opinion that they might flee.

Prime Minister Sharon,  
we support you and so do  
the American people.

“Israel’s decision to withdraw  
from Gaza is a bold step to move  
the peace process forward.”

**67%**  **agree\***  
\* ADL/Merrill Communications Group National Poll  
March 2005

Americans recognize your commitment to peace  
and the risks you are willing to take at this crucial time.

We salute your vision and your courage  
as you work to build a safer Israel  
and a more peaceful and democratic Middle East.

Barbara B. Balsler  
National Chair



Abraham H. Foxman  
National Director

Anti-Defamation League, 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

www.adl.org

# 100 Senators Sign Letter Of Support For Chabad

SCHNEERSON, from page 9  
called the books “priceless under any measure.”

The Russian government claims the collection was created in Russia and nationalized, but Russian courts have denied the collection is state property.

The Russian government seized possession of the volumes after the fifth rabbi sent them to Moscow for safekeeping during World War I. Today, the collection is housed in the Russian State Library in Moscow.

The archives of manuscripts contain more than 25,000 handwritten pages, most of which are held at the Russian State Military Archive in Moscow. The Soviet Army seized many of the documents after capturing Warsaw, and today they are also stored in the Russian State Military Archive.

Poland transferred the rest of the documents it had possessed to the Chabad in the 1970s.

After the Russian Supreme Arbitration Court found in the Chabad’s favor, the U.S. government reached an agreement that the

*The Schneerson Collection documents ‘were taken wrongfully — that is without question. ... There’s a moral clarity that’s attached to this issue that I think many people on the Hill gravitated toward it.’*

**Rabbi Chaim Cunin**

On the effort to get the Schneerson Collection returned to the Chabad

Russians would maintain the collection and make it available to Chabad members, while a selection was loaned to the Library of Congress.

Both sides claim the other is not living up to the agreement, and the Russian government claims the documents are national treasures.

In a statement provided to the Helsinki Commission, the Russian embassy said that the documents were “of great importance to the Russian nation” and that they are part of “Russian cultural heritage.”

The statement accused the Chabad of abandoning judicial options in favor of political pressure from the U.S. government, calling it “inappropriate and unnecessary under the circumstances.”

Through all the setbacks, this issue has found staying power on Capitol Hill.

“They were taken wrongfully — that is without question,” said Rabbi Chaim Cunin, who, along with his brother and father, has spearheaded the effort. “So there’s a moral clarity that’s attached to this issue that I think many people on the Hill gravitated toward it.”

Cunin’s father, Rabbi Boruch Shlomo Cunin, said his sons have “picked up the torch of freedom” and will continue the cause until the books are returned.