

CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 11/29/07

TOPICS COVERED:

- News of the Day
- Housing Slump
- Moment of Silence
- One More Thing

JESSICA: HI EVERYONE IT IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2007. I'M JESSICA KUMARI AND CHANNEL ONE NEWS STARTS NOW.

CHRIS: MAINE WANTS TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 TO BUY CIGARETTES ON THE INTERNET.

CHRIS: BUT, SHIPPING COMPANIES COMPLAIN RESTRICTIONS PASSED BY THE STATE TO BLOCK THE SALES ARE COSTLY AND DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT.

CHRIS: THE TWO SIDES TOOK THEIR CASE TO COURT, AND NOW IT'S MADE IT TO THE TOP COURT OF THE U.S. YESTERDAY, THE SUPREME COURT CONSIDERED THEIR ARGUMENTS.

CHRIS: WHEN THE JUSTICES' RULE IT COULD HAVE BIG IMPLICATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AS 40 STATES HAVE LAWS THAT RESTRICT THE DELIVERY OF CIGARETTES BOUGHT ONLINE.

CHRIS: BANGLADESH CONTINUES TO RECOVER FROM THE SUPERCYCLONE THAT HIT ON NOVEMBER FIFTEENTH. HERE'S THE SITUATION BY THE NUMBERS.

CHRIS: ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT, MORE THAN SEVEN AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED BY THE CYCLONE.

CHRIS: 365 THOUSAND HOMES WERE TOTALLY DESTROYED AND 800 THOUSAND MORE WERE DAMAGED.

CHRIS: COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE PITCHED IN TO AID BANGLADESH. 25 COUNTRIES HAVE PLEDGED MORE THAN FOUR BILLION DOLLARS IN AID.

CHRIS: THE U.S. HAS SENT TROOPS, MONEY AND SUPPLIES TO BANGLADESH, INCLUDING MORE THAN 18 THOUSAND POUNDS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND 8 THOUSAND GALLONS OF WATER.

CHRIS: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP? THE AMERICAN RED CROSS SAYS THE BIGGEST NEEDS ARE FOOD, WATER, BLANKETS AND CLOTHING.

CHRIS: COIN COLLECTORS, LISTEN UP. ON TUESDAY, THE U.S. MINT UNVEILED THE DESIGNS OF THE LAST STATES TO RECEIVE SPECIALLY DESIGNED QUARTERS: OKLAHOMA, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, ALASKA AND HAWAII.

CHRIS: STATE QUARTERS WERE RELEASED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1999. DELAWARE, WHO'S NICKNAME IS THE FIRST STATE WAS THE FIRST STATE QUARTER RELEASED. THE NEW QUARTERS WILL BEGIN CIRCULATION IN JANUARY.

CHRIS: FOR NOW, PLANS CALL FOR QUARTERS MINTED AFTER 2008 TO GO BACK TO HAVING A BALD EAGLE PRINTED ON THE 'TAILS' SIDE. BUT THERE'S LEGISLATION IN THE WORKS TO GIVE WASHINGTON, D.C. AND PUERTO RICO THEIR OWN COINS TOO.

CHRIS: INDONESIA'S LOOKING A LITTLE GREENER. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT SAYS IT PLANTED 79 MILLION NEW TREES YESTERDAY.

CHRIS: THE MASS PLANTING IS PART OF A LARGER, GLOBAL EFFORT TO PLANT A BILLION NEW TREES.

CHRIS: ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS SAY INDONESIA IS LOSING ITS FORESTS FASTER THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. AND OFFICIALS HOPE THE PLANTINGS WILL SHOW THEIR COMMITMENT TO FIXING INDONESIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

CHRIS: IF YOU'RE ONE OF THE 400 MILLION PEOPLE WHO FLOCKED TO BOOKSTORES THIS SUMMER FOR THE LAST INSTALLMENT IN THE HARRY POTTER SERIES, THIS NEWS PROBABLY WON'T SURPRISE YOU.

CHRIS: MAGAZINE ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY HAS NAMED HARRY POTTER AUTHOR JK ROWLING ITS 'ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR.'

CHRIS: THIS MARKS THE FIRST YEAR AN AUTHOR HAS TAKEN THE TITLE EVEN THOUGH REPORTS SHOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SPENDING LESS TIME READING THAN EVER.

JESSICA: FOR MORE NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE, HEAD TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM. AND COMING UP WE'LL TELL YOU HOW THE SLUMPING HOUSING MARKET COULD AFFECT WHAT YOU DO AFTER SCHOOL.

JESSICA: SALES OF EXISTING HOMES FELL FOR THE EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH IN OCTOBER. THIS HAS SOME EXPERTS WORRYING THAT OUR COUNTRY COULD BE HEADING FOR A RECESSION. TONY ANDERSON EXPLAINS WHY THIS IS HAPPENING AND HOW IT COULD AFFECT YOU.

TONY: HEY YOU, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU SITTING AT YOUR DESK. IMAGINE IF YOU GOT ON THE SCHOOL BUS TO GO HOME AND WHEN YOU GOT THERE YOU DIDN'T HAVE A HOME. WELL BECAUSE OF TROUBLE IN THE HOUSING MARKET IT'S HAPPENING TO PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

TONY: DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE HOUSING MARKET?

(SOT:) "The housing market? I don't really a lot. Can you help me out with that."

TONY: WHAT IS HAPPENING IS AMERICA IS IN ONE OF THE WORST HOUSING SLUMPS IN NEARLY TWO DECADES. AFTER A HISTORIC FIVE YEAR BOOM. LAUNCHED BY A STRONG ECONOMY AND LOW INTEREST RATES, THE REAL ESTATE MARKET PLUMMETED IN 2006, AND HAS BEEN FALLING EVER SINCE.

TONY: HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS PROPERTIES ARE BEING FORECLOSED AND THEY ARE BEING THROWN OUT OF THEIR HOMES AT AN ALARMING RATE.

TONY: HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN? WELL WERE GOING TO USE THIS MONOPOLY BOARD TO HELP EXPLAIN. WELL WHEN YOU FIND YOUR PROPERTY AND YOU SEE A HOUSE THAT YOU WANT TO BUY, THE FIRST THING THAT YOU DO IS YOU BORROW MONEY FROM THE BANK. THAT'S BECAUSE HOMES COST HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, EVEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

TONY: WHEN YOU BORROW MONEY FROM A BANK TO PURCHASE A HOME, THAT'S CALLED A MORTGAGE. ONCE YOU PAY THAT BACK AND THE INTEREST HAS BEEN ADDED YOU OWN THE HOME.

TONY: BUT WHATS BEEN HAPPENING IS BORROWERS ARE FALLING BEHIND ON THE PAYMENTS, STIFFING THE BANKS, GETTING THEM EVICTED FROM THEIR HOMES. THAT'S CALLED A FORECLOSURE.

TONY: THE LATEST REAL ESTATE TRADE REPORTS SAY THAT ONE IN EVERY 196 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE NATION IS IN FORECLOSURE, A 34 PERCENT JUMP FROM JUST THREE MONTHS EARLIER.

TONY: THE HOUSING SLUMP IS AFFECTING MORE THAN JUST REAL ESTATE. SOME RESTAURANTS IN FLORIDA, ONE OF THE STATES HARDEST HIT BY FORECLOSURES AND FALLING HOME PRICES, ARE SEEING BUSINESS DOWN TEN PERCENT. IT IS BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE LESS MONEY TO SPEND ON EATING OUT, WHICH IS CONSIDERED ENTERTAINMENT.

(SOT: Neal Barton) "It's just unfortunate that we're the first to go as far as their disposable income."

TONY: WITH A DROP IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUE, THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA HAS JOINED OTHER SCHOOLS IN CAPPING FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT. THEY JUST DON'T HAVE AS MUCH MONEY FROM THE STATE TO TEACH STUDENTS.

TONY: AND THE LOCAL FOOD BANK HAS SEEN A BIG SPIKE IN DEMAND FROM LAID-OFF WORKERS. THE LABOR DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES ALMOST 100,000 JOBS RELATED TO CREDIT AND LENDING HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST. THOUSANDS WHO WORK IN THE HOUSING INDUSTRY COULD FIND THEMSELVES IN TROUBLE.

(SOT: DAVE KREPCHO) "We don't see any light at the end of the tunnel in terms of this added demand for emergency food."

TONY: CONGRESS IS NOW LOOKING TO TRY AND HELP EASE THE PROBLEM. MAYORS ARE LOOKING AT WAYS TO MODIFY EXISTING LOANS TO MAKE THOSE WHO BORROW MORE ABLE TO PAY THE BANKS BACK, AS WELL AS STRENGTHEN COUNSELING SERVICES TO HELP HOMEOWNERS FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY FOR THEM TO DO IT.

TONY: SO HOW DOES ALL OF THIS AFFECT YOU? Well, IT MAY MEAN YOU HAVE TO MOVE OUT OF YOUR HOUSE, OR YOU HAVE LESS SPENDING MONEY TO BUY THE THINGS THAT YOU LIKE. TONY ANDERSON, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

ANNOUNCER: TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW FINANCES EFFECT YOU, TAKE THE FINANCIAL FLUNKIE QUIZ AT CHANNEL ONE DOT COM.

JESSICA: SCHOOLS ACROSS ILLINOIS ARE DEALING WITH A LAW REQUIRING A MOMENT OF SILENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY SCHOOL DAY. BASICALLY, STUDENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO USE THE TIME TO REFLECT UPON THEIR UPCOMING DAY OR EVEN PRAY.

JESSICA: AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING ONE VOICE SERIES ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT, WE SPOKE WITH ONE TEEN WHO SAYS THIS LAW VIOLATES THE SEPARATION BETWEEN CHURCH AND THE STATE.

TONY: DOES IT FEEL LIKE YOU NEVER CATCH A BREAK AT SCHOOL? GO TO CLASS, TURN IN HOMEWORK, TAKE NOTES, REPEAT. WELL A NEW ILLINOIS LAW IS GIVING STUDENTS A LITTLE TIME TO PAUSE & REFLECT, BUT NOT EVERYONE IS HAPPY.

TONY: THE "SILENT REFLECTION AND STUDENT PRAYER ACT" REQUIRES PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO SET ASIDE A BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY DAY FOR REFLECTION OR PRAYER.

(SOT: Dawn Sherman) "It's an endorsement of prayer because the primary choice is prayer."

TONY: FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD DAWN SHERMAN AND HER FATHER ROB, AN OUTSPOKEN ATHEIST ACTIVIST, ARE TAKING DAWN'S SUBURBAN CHICAGO SCHOOL DISTRICT TO COURT OVER THE LAW, SAYING IT VIOLATES THE FIRST AMENDMENT'S MANDATE FOR A SEPARATION BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE.

TONY: CALLED THE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE, THIS SECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION SAYS, THE GOVERNMENT SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION.

(SOT:) "The separation of church and state is important to me because I'm an atheist so I'm the minority. So I still think that I should be treated fairly."

TONY: THE LAW RESTRICTS OVERT RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY, LIKE PRAYING OUT LOUD BUT DOES ALLOW FOR SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION.

TONY: AT BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL WHERE DAWN ATTENDS FIFTEEN SECONDS FOR SILENCE WERE INCLUDED IN THE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

TONY: BUT MOST RECENTLY A FEDERAL JUDGE CALLED THE PRACTICE "UNCONSTITUTIONALLY VAGUE" AND HAS ORDERED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PUT IT ON HOLD UNTIL DAWN'S LAWSUIT IS RESOLVED.

TONY: STILL, MORE THAN THIRTY STATES HAVE SIMILAR LAWS THAT ALLOW FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. SOME HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED IN COURT, BUT JUDGES HAVE RULED THE EXISTING LAWS COMPLY WITH THE FIRST AMENDMENT.

(SOT:) "As long as the wording of the law is genuinely neutral towards the issue of whether or not students will be using this moment of silence for prayer or some other type of secular activity, then the law passes constitutional muster."

TONY: AT PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL IN THE BRONX, NEW YORK, STUDENTS DEBATED ON MOMENT OF SILENCE LAWS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

(SOT:) "If you're in a public school where you know that prayer is not allowed because they're so many different religions and they are making you take a moment of silence don't you think that that's a little suspicious?"

(SOT:) "If you constantly keep thinking of school, school, school when you get to your next class your just going to be like, your not going to be focused. I think it kind of makes you focus a little more on school."

TONY: BACK IN ILLINOIS, DAWN IS FOCUSING ON HER CASE. IF THE COURT RULES IN HER FAVOR, THE LAW MAY BE OVERTURNED ACROSS THE STATE AND NO MORE SCHOOLS WILL HAVE TO TAKE TIME OUT FOR SILENCE.

(SOT:) "The whole time that I will be spending at Buffalo Grove High School, it will have taken away four hours out of my class. In algebra, you can learn a lot in four hours."

TONY: TONY ANDERSON, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

JESSICA: A RULING ON THE CASE IS EXPECTED IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS AND YOU CAN GO TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND CLICK ON THAT'S A LAW to DISCOVER other LAWS you may not know about.

JESSICA: ALRIGHT EVERYONE, THAT DOES IT FOR CHANNEL ONE NEWS, I'M JESSICA KUMARI BUT BEFORE WE GO HERE'S ONE MORE THING.

JESSICA: A TRUE SIGN OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON THE ROCKEFELLER CHRISTMAS TREE WAS LIT UP FOR THE 75TH STRAIGHT YEAR.

JESSICA: THIS TREE IS CONSIDERED A "GREEN" TREE, AND NOT JUST BECAUSE OF ITS COLOR. THE THIRTY THOUSAND ENERGY EFFICIENT TREE LIGHTS WILL BE POWERED BY 363 ECOFRIENDLY SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF OF A NEARBY BUILDING. IN JANUARY, THE TREE COMES DOWN AND THE WOOD WILL BE USED FOR LUMBER TO BUILD A HOME FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.