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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 1995, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1995

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, our hearts are at half-mast with grief over the catastrophic bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City. We mourn for the victims, especially the children, of this senseless crime and reach out with profound empathy to their families. We ask You to strengthen them as they endure incredible suffering. Graciously grant physical and emotional healing to those who survived. Most of all, comfort the children who ask "why?" and give wisdom to parents as they search for words to answer. We all need help in understanding an ignominious act of tyranny like this.

We only can imagine the agony of Your heart, Father. If our indignation burns white-hot, it must be small in comparison to Your judgment. You have given us freedom of will and made us responsible for the welfare of our neighbors. Our hearts break with Your heart over those who willfully cause suffering. Therefore, we boldly ask for Your divine intervention for the speedy capture and punishment of these traitors against our Nation and the sacredness of human life. As You have given us victory in just wars, now give us a strategy to defeat the illusive and dangerous forces of organized terrorism.

Lord God of this Senate, we are never more of one mind and heart than when dealing with a threat to our national

security or in responding to a catastrophe in any one of our States. We rally in support of Senators NICKLES and INHOFE as they continue to care for their people.

We press on to the issues of this day with the strong inspiration of the 40 years of leadership of John Stennis in this Senate. May the memory of his faith in You and his courage in conflict give us determination to seek, as he did, to do our best. In the Lord's name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank the Chaplain for his timely and comforting words.

TRAGEDY IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, on behalf of all the Senate, I extend my sympathies to Senator NICKLES, Senator INHOFE, Members of the House Oklahoma delegation, Gov. Frank Keating, and, through them, to all the citizens of Oklahoma for the loss they suffered last Wednesday.

Kansas and Oklahoma share a common border. And our citizens also share common values. Values like love of God. Love of family. Perseverance through tough times. And a commitment to help those in need. The citi-

zens of Oklahoma displayed these values time and time again this past week, and in doing so, they inspired America and the world.

While all the people of Oklahoma deserve our admiration, the citizens of Oklahoma City are worthy of special praise. It is their friends and family members who were lost as a result of this brutal crime. But while many of Oklahoma City's buildings were shattered, its spirit has stood strong.

I am reminded of the words of the great World War II journalist Ernie Pyle, who once wrote, "Oklahoma City is an especially friendly town. People there have a pride about their town * * * They just wouldn't live anywhere else." That pride has never left the people of Oklahoma City, and it will guide them during the difficult days ahead.

I salute the firemen, the paramedics, the rescue workers, and all those who have generously volunteered their time and their labor to the relief effort; the members of the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

I commend President Clinton for the way he and his administration have responded to this tragedy. The criminal investigation has been thorough and swift, and the tone set by the President right on the mark: Those who have perpetrated this unspeakable evil are cowards. There is absolutely no justification, no excuse, for what took place last Wednesday in Oklahoma City. Killing innocent children and other defenseless citizens is the depraved act of depraved minds.

I also want to commend Attorney General Reno for publicly stating that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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she will seek the death penalty. If ever there was a crime deserving of the ultimate sanction, this is it.

As the rebuilding process continues in Oklahoma City, we must also begin looking to the future. Although there is no such thing as absolute security in a free society, we have an obligation to do everything within our power to minimize the chances that other, similar tragedies will occur elsewhere in the United States.

Last week, I wrote to President Clinton to tell him that Senate Republicans stand ready to work with the administration to develop a comprehensive antiterrorism plan for America. Senate Republicans have sponsored a variety of antiterrorism proposals, ranging from the Alien Terrorist Removal Act, to increased penalties for certain terrorist-related activities, to proposals designed to give our law enforcement officials the tools they need, such as expanded wiretap authority.

I am also familiar with the administration's own antiterrorism package, as well as the ideas mentioned by the President last night on television. These ideas will be fully considered.

Republican staff have also been working closely with the FBI on a comprehensive antiterrorism initiative, and we are prepared to give this initiative the fast-track consideration it deserves.

Mr. President, during World War II, the great Senator Arthur Vandenberg often repeated his belief that "partisanship stops at the water's edge."

Terrorists—both foreign and domestic—should have no doubt that partisanship also stops at evil's edge—an edge those responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing have clearly stepped over. I know I speak for all Members of the Senate when I say that we stand with the people of Oklahoma, committed to doing all that is needed to protect America from the terrorist threat.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, following the leaders' time, there will be morning business until 1 o'clock, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

Shortly, Senator NICKLES will submit a Senate resolution regarding the bombing in Oklahoma City.

It is also my intention to begin consideration of H.R. 956, the Product Liability Act.

I am prepared to say there will be no rollcall votes today, but that will be up to the managers on the product liability bill. There will be a vote on the Nickles resolution, if agreeable, at noon tomorrow.

ORDER TO PROCEED TO H.R. 956

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, this has been cleared by the Democratic leader.

I ask unanimous consent that at 1 o'clock today, the Senate proceed to H.R. 956, the product liability bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BILL READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1380

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I inquire of the Chair if H.R. 1380 has arrived from the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will be advised it has arrived.

Mr. DOLE. I, therefore, ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1380) to provide a moratorium on certain class action lawsuits relating to the Truth in Lending Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and, on behalf of the Democratic leader, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN STENNIS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I will just take a moment to talk about our departed friend who served here for many, many years, Senator John Stennis. When he left the Senate in 1989, he had served in this Chamber for 41 years—nearly one-fifth of the Senate's history. And those of us privileged to serve with him knew that he was one of the true giants of that history.

Senator Stennis passed away yesterday at the age of 93, and I join all Senators in expressing our condolences on the death of our former colleague and in extending our sympathies to members of his family.

Senator Stennis and I came from different regions of the country, from different political parties, and we had different views on many issues. But no one could know or serve with John Stennis without admiring his character, his integrity, or his patriotism.

John Stennis loved the Senate and worked to make it a better place. He was the first chairman of the Senate Committee on Standards and Conduct and was the author of the Senate's first code of ethics.

John Stennis also loved America, and as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he never wavered from his belief that America's national defense should be second to none.

John Stennis was also a man of remarkable courage. In his seventies, he was shot and left for dead by robbers outside his Washington home. And in his eighties, he lost a leg to cancer. On both occasions, he not only recovered, but he was also back at work long before anyone thought possible.

Those of us who were here at the time will always remember the days

when Senator Stennis returned to the Chamber and the outpouring of respect and admiration that he received.

Mr. President, during his final years in this Chamber, Senator John Stennis was asked in an interview how he would like to be remembered, and he responded: "You couldn't give me a finer compliment than just to say, 'He did his best.'"

Today, his family, friends, and former colleagues can take solace in the fact that he will be remembered exactly how he wished—as a man who always gave nothing less than his best.

Mr. President, if no other Senator is seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

CONDEMNING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, first, I wish to thank the majority leader for allowing us to consider a resolution condemning the acts of violence and terrorism that occurred in Oklahoma City last Wednesday.

Also, I want to thank the majority leader, Senator DOLE, for his support of this resolution and for his help in putting it together, as well as his personal friendship in calling me and offering whatever support he could do to assist the families and the victims of this terrible, violent and criminal act. Senator DOLE is not the only colleague who has offered his support. I have had several of my colleagues who have called to express their outrage over this violent act as well as their concern for those affected.

I appreciate the fact that President Clinton called me early on and expressed his support for whatever could