

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

be done to assist the victims of this terrible tragedy. He stated that in his speech to Oklahoma City at the prayer service that we had yesterday. I appreciate the President doing that, as well as the Reverend Billy Graham who also participated in the service.

It was a time for coming together. We had over 20,000 people in the State of Oklahoma—many people came from outside the State as well—who wished to express their sympathies and condolences to the families, to the victims, but also their outrage at such a violent and terrible tragedy.

This is the deadliest terrorist attack on our Nation's soil in our history. The death toll continues to climb. The latest figures I heard were 81 that are confirmed dead, 150 still missing and now presumed dead, and over 400 injured.

I visited some of those injured people. I visited Children's Hospital and saw some of the children who were very significantly maimed. Hopefully and prayerfully they will recover and recover fully.

Mr. President, this becomes very, very personal when you tie it down to families. When you talk to a couple and they lost both children, it becomes very, very personal. Or when you talk to a couple and they lost their daughter, it becomes very personal. Or when you talk to an individual and they see their daughter or their son maimed almost beyond recognition, it becomes very, very personal. And it certainly almost takes adjectives to where they are not significant because you can use the word "terrible" and you can use the word "outrage," but they really do not describe the horror that happened in Oklahoma City to some individuals.

So, Mr. President, shortly we will be submitting a resolution condemning this act of violence, condemning it in the strongest manner possible, and also expressing our support and our sympathies and our prayers for the families of the victims of this terrible crime.

Mr. President, maybe one of the blessings that might help us overcome this very difficult tragedy is the outpouring of love and support that we have seen from thousands and thousands of people, not only in Oklahoma but all across the country. I have had individuals call me and offer support—dollars, prayers and comfort—for those families. We have seen gifts that are very large and gifts that are very small but very, very precious. We have seen children donate their lunch money. We have seen individuals and corporations donate a million dollars. We have had people say, "I'll do anything I can do to assist the families."

It does make you feel good, and it is so striking to think that out of such a tragedy you can see so much generosity, so much love, so much sympathy invoked by Oklahomans and by Americans everywhere. It does make you feel good. Reverend Graham, in his comments yesterday to not only the families but really to the American people, when he called for a time of

healing, was exactly right. Mr. President, I want to compliment not only Reverend Graham but also Governor Keating and Cathy Keating for their outstanding leadership at this time of crisis.

I want to compliment the organizations who have done such a responsive, outstanding job in helping to assist those people who really needed help. The volunteers that have come together—I am talking about the firefighters and the policemen, the Red Cross volunteers, the people to assist people who are hungry—have just been phenomenal.

I was in Dallas when I heard this fateful news and caught the first plane I could back and was sitting next to three firefighters who were flying up from Dallas on their own time on their own money to assist the victims. My guess is they are still there crawling through the rubble. And this is extremely difficult.

It is estimated something like 150 people are still trapped in that building, in all likelihood deceased. There is very little hope of survival at this late point, and yet you have volunteers coming from I do not know how many different cities who are crawling over the rubble and, in some cases, doing it by hand to recover those victims.

I have had the pleasure of meeting some—not all. But I just want to say thank you to them because they not only work 10 hours a day or 12 hours a day, they are working 24 hours a day. They are working all night long. They are working in the rain. They are working in the wind. They are working in the cold. We just want to say thank you.

It has really been a blessing to see the outpouring of love from so many people, not only the rescue workers, but so many other people throughout this country, and for that we are very, very grateful. All Oklahomans say thank you for, indeed, the generosity and the love we have seen in the last few days.

Mr. President, we condemn this act of violence, this act of terrorism in the strongest possible language, and that is what this resolution will do.

That is what it states. We compliment the President for taking his swift action to lend the law enforcement personnel, and they have responded with a great deal of expertise and professionalism—to date, with some real success—although, there is still a lot of work to be done. So my compliments to the FBI, to the Drug Enforcement Agency, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and the city police, because they have worked together. This has probably been one of the largest and best coordinated efforts both on the rescue side and also on the efforts to apprehend those people who were responsible for this terrorist act. I compliment all the Federal, State, and local officials for putting this effort together.

Mr. President, there is still a lot of work to be done. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of bodies to be recovered. There are buildings to be repaired. There is a lot of damage, a lot of damage, not just in one building. I might mention there are several buildings that have significant damage and, unfortunately, there were people that worked in other buildings that also lost their lives or were severely injured.

So, Mr. President, I pray for those victims and for the families of the victims. This resolution states that we support them, that we are going to do everything within our power to help them, that we are going to do everything within our power to apprehend those people who are responsible and that they should be punished to the maximum extent of the law.

As the President, Attorney General and Senator DOLE stated, they also should pay the maximum price. The death penalty is warranted in this case, and this resolution states that as well.

I appreciate the majority leader's willingness to let us bring this up at the first possible moment. I appreciate the fact that he is willing to let the Senate vote tomorrow at 12 o'clock on this. I appreciate the support of our colleagues.

This resolution also says that the Senate should act as expeditiously as possible in enacting antiterrorism measures, both domestic and the international. I know Senator HATCH has scheduled hearings later this week on this subject. I hope the Senate and House will concur and pass that legislation as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. I thank my colleagues from Oklahoma, Senator NICKLES and Senator INHOFE. I know they have been under a great deal of stress. They have performed outstanding service for their constituents. All of us in this Chamber appreciate that very much.

We do have permission to go to the liability bill at 1 o'clock. I indicated earlier there would be no votes before 3. I am now advised that there are a great number of Senators who are not here. Because of that, I will say that there will be no votes today.

I urge my colleagues that we have to catch up with the House. We are not going to be able to do that if we come back after a 2-week vacation and only half of us show up. It is pretty hard to have much meaningful happen. This time, OK; next time we will have votes. I want to give everybody advance notice on both sides of the aisle that when we say no votes before 3, it means probably votes after 3. But, also, there might be an amendment that might take the rest of the day. I do not like to have Sergeant at Arms votes to see who is in town and who is not at town. I know many of my colleagues are at work wherever they may be. We need

to finish this bill as quickly as we can and move on to either telecommunications, or maybe because of the urgency, the antiterrorism bill will be ready by next week. I think we can move very quickly on that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR JOHN STENNIS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, we in the Senate were shocked to hear the news of the passing of a cherished friend and a former colleague: former Senator John Stennis from Mississippi.

Senator Stennis served in this Senate Chamber for 40 years—from the time of his election to the Senate in 1947, through his retirement in 1989. During that time, he dedicated himself to giving our Nation the gift of wisdom and leadership.

Senator Stennis was greatly admired by all who had the honor to serve with him. As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he served with several Presidents; during that time he led the committee through the darkest days of the Vietnam war. Although he often saw his position on that war opposed by some of his fellow Democrats, he always did what he believed to be correct and in the best interest of our Nation.

For many years, Senator Stennis and I were neighbors in the Russell Building. I recall with great fondness the kindness and good cheer he showed to me and my office staff on the many occasions he stopped in to say hello. Senator Stennis completed his Senate career by serving with great distinction as President pro tempore of the Senate.

I had the honor of serving with Senator John Stennis for almost my entire Senate career. Throughout the years, I came to appreciate and respect his qualities of integrity, ability, and dedication.

Mr. President, John C. Stennis was a great American. He was a dedicated Senator who proudly represented the people of Mississippi with great distinction. We have lost a colleague, we have lost a leader; but most of all, we have lost a friend.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, last week, when most of us were home visiting our constituents, our two colleagues from Oklahoma faced a terrible disaster in their State. A 4,000-pound bomb detonated outside the Murrah Federal Office Building in Oklahoma City, not only destroying that structure and killing dozens of innocent men, women, and children, but taking a tremendous toll on the psyche of all Americans as well.

For years the United States has largely been spared the indignity of terrorist acts within its borders, but all that seems to have changed re-

cently. In the last 2 years, we have suffered two deadly bombing attacks in the United States, one in New York City and last week's in Oklahoma City. While the images of injured and shocked people stumbling through the streets of Manhattan were disturbing, there was perhaps no sight as unsettling as seeking the near lifeless body of a young baby that was caught in last week's blast being passed from a police officer to a firefighter. Tragically, the child died and with it died a piece of our innocence. For the bomb that destroyed that building was not built by the hands of cold-hearted, calculating, and well financed foreign terrorists. Quite the contrary, the man who authorities believe is responsible for the bombing is a young American.

How, we all wonder, could an American do this to his fellow citizens? While we despise those responsible for bombing the World Trade Center, the attack in Oklahoma City, America's Heartland, seems so much more disturbing. When we think of terrorist actions against the United States, we think only those outside our borders would wish to do us harm. It is inconceivable to us that a fellow countryman would possess a hatred so deep and inflamed that he would be motivated to act against our Nation. How could one American commit an act that equates with premeditated, mass murder against other Americans? There is no answer and perhaps that is what is so disturbing to us.

The events of the last several days have happened at a breakneck pace and it is sometimes hard to maintain a focus and perspective on just what has occurred. We must remember, that as of this morning, 78 people, many of them Government servants, too many of them children, lost their lives for no logical or explicable reason. That thanks to tireless efforts of hundreds of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, suspects in this crime were quickly identified and are being rapidly brought to justice.

We discovered that there is a whole subculture of people who are fearful of their lawfully elected representatives. Some of these people believe that the Government is involved in the conspiracy to go to war against the citizens of the United States, and that they must protect themselves from their own Government.

While we truly do live in a world that is filled with dangerous people, it is also a world where the good outnumber the bad. Volunteers and relief supplies continue to pour into Oklahoma City, and people throughout the United States have banded together in shows of faith and sympathy for those who died or lost loved ones.

Most of all, we were reminded that America is still a very unique place, and it is a shame we must literally fear one of our neighbors might wish to destroy what is so special to all.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, 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.

CONDEMNATION OF THE BOMBING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that it be considered at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 110) expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the bombing in Oklahoma City.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, this resolution is one that I referred to earlier in my comments, cosponsored by Senator INHOFE and myself, Senator DOLE, and many other Senators.

We are going to hotline this and ask Senators if they wish to cosponsor it. I very much appreciate the cooperation of the majority leader in allowing us to bring up this resolution. The majority leader has already mentioned his intentions that we vote on the resolution at 12 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATION'S RESPONSE TO THE OKLAHOMA BOMBING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's kindness in this matter. I just have a few words to say here this morning following the Oklahoma bombing.

Today, we all continue to mourn the senseless loss of life in Oklahoma City. My heart and my prayers go out to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured in this tragic bombing. This vicious destruction of human life, particularly of the lives of so many innocent children, is tragic beyond belief.

We must not rest until all of the perpetrators are discovered and punished. I have full confidence in the ability of Federal law enforcement officials to bring the perpetrators to justice. The