

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

Judiciary Committee will support the President, the Attorney General, Director Freeh, and the hundreds of law enforcement officials involved in this effort. We will provide them with any assistance, legislative or otherwise, that they may need in that regard. I want to compliment each and every one of them, especially Director Freeh and the FBI, for their leadership in the work they have done in uncovering all the things they have, thus far.

President Clinton was correct when he described the terrorists who committed this act as "evil cowards." If the barbaric individuals responsible for this venomous, wicked act believe they could intimidate, punish, or coerce the United States of America, they were wrong. Dead wrong. We must and we will guarantee that any terrorist, be he domestic or international, know that our Nation's policy will be one of swift and effective retribution.

For years, many in Congress have been fighting for passage of legislation aimed at enhancing our domestic and international counterterrorism efforts. I have been one of those. Much of this legislation is embodied in the Dole-Hatch crime bill that was introduced on the first day of this Congress. Recently, the administration forwarded to Congress its own counterterrorism bill that is similar to the Dole-Hatch proposal.

Since the tragic incident of last week, Senator DOLE and I have been working with Senators NICKLES and INHOFE on a comprehensive bill that will combine the better provisions from both the Dole-Hatch and administration bills into a single vehicle. Although this legislation is ready, we will delay its introduction until we can incorporate the additional provisions the President referred to last evening in his 60 Minutes interview. We will also hold hearings in the Judiciary Committee later this week to determine what can be done to fight terrorism.

The heinous attack on innocent men, women, and children underscores the need for tough, effective laws to fight the scourge of terrorism. We must ensure that Federal law enforcement officials have the tools to prevent and detect future terrorist attempts. Legislation is needed, and it is needed now, to give them those tools.

In addition to whatever recommendations the President may promulgate, our bill will certainly do the following:

It will increase the penalties for committing terrorist acts here in the United States;

Our legislation will add the crime of conspiracy to terrorism offenses, thus, permitting the Federal law enforcement agencies to stop terrorist organizations at their formation rather than waiting until after they have committed their terrorist acts;

Although the tragedy in Oklahoma appears to have been committed by individuals who are from the United States, it is important that we protect

our citizens from foreign terrorists as well. Our bill will provide law enforcement and courts the tools they need to quickly remove alien terrorists from our midst without jeopardizing national security or the lives of law enforcement personnel;

Our legislation also seeks to prevent individuals who support or engage in terrorist activities from ever entering the United States. The bill would permit the Secretary of State to withhold visas from certain individuals who come from nations that sponsor terrorism, or from individuals who are members of organizations suspected of terrorist activities;

Our bill further includes provisions making it a crime to knowingly provide material support to groups designated by a Presidential finding to be engaged in terrorist activities;

Finally, our bill provides for numerous other needed improvements in the law to fight the scourge of terrorism. I would note that many of the provisions of this bill enjoy broad bipartisan support, and in several cases, have passed the Senate on previous occasions.

We must, however, resist the urge to leap to conclusions and unfairly tar certain political minorities with recriminations for last Wednesday's tragic events. As President Clinton said last evening, "We must be careful not to stereotype people from other groups." Once all of the perpetrators of this act are apprehended, there will be time enough to ensure that justice is done.

As a final note, I want to commend President Clinton for his leadership that he has exhibited in the face of this tragedy. He and his administration have done a superb job in responding to this tragedy. The Department of Justice, the FBI, and all of the police and rescue workers in Oklahoma must be acknowledged for their efforts to date.

In closing, what is shocking to so many is the apparent fact that those responsible for this atrocity are U.S. citizens. To think that Americans could do this to one another, it is unbelievable.

Yet these killers are not true Americans, not in my book. Americans are the men, women, and children who died under the sea of concrete and steel. Americans are the rescue workers, the volunteers, the law enforcement officials and investigators who are clearing up the chaos that has occurred in Oklahoma City. The genuine Americans are the overwhelming number who will forever reel at the senselessness and horror of April 19, 1995. It falls on everyone as Americans in heart and spirit, to condemn this sort of political extremism. Anarchistic radicalism of this sort—be it from the left or the right—will not prevail in our freedom-loving democracy.

The rule of law and popular government will prevail. We intend by this legislation to see that it prevails, and that it prevails with the force that really should be behind the rule of law.

There are a lot of other things I will say about the bill we will file in the future, but suffice it to say these are some of the matters I wanted to cover in these few short remarks here.

Again, my lasting prayers, and that of my family, go out to those who have suffered so much through this ordeal, those who have suffered the loss of loved ones, those who have been maimed, and those who are related to those who have died or been maimed.

My love goes out to our Federal workers, too, for they are hard-working people who try to do the best they can. We want to make sure the Federal installations, as well as all other installations in this country, are secure from terrorism, terrorist activities, and from those who would subvert the very freedom fabric of our country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

AN UNSPEAKABLE TRAGEDY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me join my colleague, Senator DOLE from Kansas, and my colleague, Senator NICKLES from Oklahoma, and others, I am sure, who will today speak of the nearly unspeakable tragedy that occurred in Oklahoma City.

It is very hard to even describe the horror that has been visited on so many families, so many innocent victims. My hope is that in this period of national discussion and reconciliation dealing with this tragedy that we will find ways, again, as Americans, to speak of how we resolve differences and how we deal with grievances in our country without resorting to violence.

We have been offered as a people far too many sights and sounds on television of acts of terror visited on people living in foreign lands. Often it passes before the television screen and does not make much of an impact.

Obviously, this tragedy is more immediate. It occurs in the heartland of our country. It is the worst tragedy of its type in the history of our country. It comes at a time when there is a great deal of debate and unsettled feelings in our country about a lot of things. I hope it will require all of us again to decide that in our country, we make decisions in a process by which we debate and discuss and then peacefully resolve our differences in a democratic way and in a democratic system.

So my heart and prayers go to those in Oklahoma City, those who have lost family members, those victims who lost their lives, and those many others who devoted their lives in recent days and nights—often 24 hours a day—trying to help their fellow man and woman.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today marks the 80th anniversary of one of the most tragic events in world history—the genocide that brought death