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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 1996, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 13, 1996

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Rev. Richard B. Foth, Assemblies of God, Arlington, VA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Richard B. Foth, Assemblies of God, Arlington, VA, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, we come to You on this magnificent spring day with grateful hearts for the ways in which You speak to us. With all creation shouting "new life," we ourselves ask for refreshing and vigor from Your spirit as we begin a new week.

Each Senator here carries more burdens, personal and corporate, than most of us can fathom. The challenge of carrying a vision for the Nation, while holding in concert the philosophy of party and the needs of particular States is always with them. Help these chosen men and women, whom You have gifted, to be firmly grounded in principle while dealing on every hand with issues that insist on pragmatic solutions.

We acknowledge on this Monday in May that we cannot enact enough laws to solve the deepest challenges of every American, but we can have open hearts toward You and toward each other. In these Chambers, where battles of philosophy and budget can wear public servants out, let trust that nurtures life keep knocking at the door.

In the name of Him who gives us life and that more abundantly, we pray these things. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we thank the distinguished guest Chaplain for his prayer this morning.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 3:30 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2937, which is the White House Travel Office legislation. There will be no rollcall votes today. Senators are reminded that a cloture motion was filed on the pending Dole amendment to H.R. 2937, with that vote occurring on Tuesday at 2:15 p.m.

This week it is hoped that the Senate can complete action on the White House Travel Office bill, resolve the gas tax repeal issue, the minimum wage bill, and the TEAM Act issues, as well as consider the budget resolution. In order to achieve all of that this week, Senators should be on notice that there will be votes throughout the week, with the strong possibility of late-night sessions so that we can complete a very aggressive agenda.

Again, I know the distinguished majority leader has been meeting with the minority leader, and they are working to come up with a process whereby these very important issues can all be considered during this week.

Mr. President, I am prepared to yield the floor, and I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BYRD. What is the time limitation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 2 o'clock is under the control of the Democratic leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BYRD. Is the Senate in a period of morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it is, morning business.

Mr. BYRD. Are Senators permitted to speak therein?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I may take just a little longer than 5 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for not to exceed 10 minutes.

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

"TINKER" AND ELNORA ST. CLAIR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened by the recent death of Elnora Hall St. Clair, a loving mother, a doting grandmother, and the devoted wife of Arthur M. "Tinker" St. Clair, an important individual in our Senate family and a man whom I have been long glad to count as my friend.

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



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Elnora Hall was born in Waiteville, in southern West Virginia, deep in the heart of mining country. Like my own wife, Erma, Elnora was a coal miner's daughter. She grew up among solid, hard-working, faithful people—mountain people—in the hollows of my State. She graduated from Gary High School in McDowell County. On May 25, 1940, she married Tinker St. Clair, a lucky day for each of us whose lives that this couple has touched.

Elnora was a homemaker, and that is a noble occupation that is vastly undervalued today. In addition to her membership in the Eastern Star of Welch, WV, and the Parent Teachers Association, she was active in the Democratic Party. Her interest in politics—Democratic politics—was one of the many passions that she and Tinker shared.

With Elnora at his side, Tinker—after several years of driving a school bus and a company bus—became a deputy sheriff in McDowell County. He served as a court bailiff, the criminal investigator for the county's prosecuting attorney, and later became a justice of the peace.

In 1965, Tinker was elected county clerk of McDowell County and Elnora pitched in whenever she could be of help. In 1971, well satisfied with his performance of his duties, the people of McDowell County selected him again to serve another 6-year term.

But in 1979, Elnora informed Tinker that she wanted to go to Washington and she wanted to go to stay and she would not be coming back. "The grandchildren are there," she told him, and she wanted to be near them. So, in July of that year, Tinker retired as county clerk of McDowell County, and he was appointed by me to serve as a doorkeeper in the U.S. Senate. Thus, this pair of southern West Virginians ended up here in Washington, where they would be close to their grandchildren and could watch them grow.

While Elnora and Tinker set up house here, they never severed their ties to their West Virginia home. In all the years that they lived in the Washington area, Tinker rarely missed a Jefferson/Jackson Day dinner back in Charleston. He is a life member of the Brown's Creek Democratic Committee, and in election years, he still travels along the winding mountain roads of southern West Virginia, going up and down the hills and back into the hollows nailing up the campaign posters and spreading the Democratic word. Elnora accompanied him on many of those "politicking" trips. Whenever possible, they would drive back to Welch and visit with long-time friends, and when it came time to lay her to rest, Tinker took Elnora back home to West Virginia, back in Mercer County.

Mr. President, on May 25, Tinker and Elnora would have celebrated 56 years of marriage. How blessed they were that God would give them so many years together. Indeed, how blessed many of us have been by their long union.

They made quite a pair. Elnora was lively and animated. She loved to hear a good joke and she had a knack for telling them. She complemented Tinker very well. He, the more serious, you would think, more reserved of the two, delighted in her ways. They cajoled and kidded each other. She would tease him about his thrifty ways. He would tell folks of his plans to hand her a toothpick and take her to the Price Club for Sunday brunch. They looked after each other. She would fiddle with his twisted suspenders. They loved each other.

In addition to Tinker, Elnora is survived by two daughters, Patty St. Clair and Linda Pence, and three grandchildren, Kimberly George, and Eddie and Mack Pence. Also surviving is one great grandson, Nicholas George, in whom Elnora revelled.

And so Erma and I extend our sympathies to this wonderful family, and especially to Tinker, a diligent and loyal Senate staffer—one who reveres this institution—a solid citizen, a compassionate, honorable man, an outstanding West Virginian.

And on a personal note, I would say to Tinker, you have the promise of seeing Elnora again. She knows of your grief today. I lost a loving grandson about 14 years ago, and I felt that Michael knew of my grief and I was sustained, as I walked through the deep valley, by the hope that some day I might see Michael again, because we are taught by the Bible to believe in a life beyond the grave.

William Jennings Bryan perhaps said it best when he said:

If the Father deigns to touch with divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn to make it burst forth from its prison walls, again the mighty oak, will he leave neglected in the cold and silent grave, the soul of man, made in his own image? And if he stoops to give to the rosebush, whose withered blossoms float upon the Autumn breeze, the sweet assurance of another springtime, will he refuse the words of hope to the Sons of Men when the frosts of winter come? And if matter, mute and inanimate, though changed by the forces of nature into a multitude of forms, can never be destroyed, then will the imperial spirit of man suffer annihilation after a brief visit like a royal guest to this tenement of clay? No, I prefer to believe that He, who, in His apparent prodigality, created nothing without a purpose and wasted not a single atom in all of his vast creation, has made provision for a future life in which man's universal longing for immortality shall achieve its realization. I am as sure that we will live again, as I am sure that we live today.

That was William Jennings Bryan in his book "The Prince of Peace."

I should like to think, in closing, of a bit of verse written by someone—I know not whom—which conveys a comforting thought that I would like to dedicate to Tinker and his daughters and grandchildren.

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and night.
As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,

Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall,
Through which there shone a beam of light.
Onward it crept with added strength,
With never a thought of fear or pride.
It followed the light through the crevice's length,
And unfolded itself on the other side.
The light, the dew, the broadening view
Were found the same as they were before,
And it lost itself in beauties new,
Spreading its fragrance more and more.
Shall claim of death cause us to grieve,
And make our courage faint or fall?
Nay! Let us hope and faith receive:
The rose still grows beyond the wall.

Scattering fragrance far and wide,
And just as it did in days of yore,
Just as it did on the other side,
And just as it will forevermore.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. BINGAMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1743 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, it was on Friday, February 23, 1996, that the Federal debt broke the \$5 trillion sound barrier for the first time in history. The records show that on that day, at the close of business, the debt stood at \$5,017,056,630,040.53.

Twenty years earlier, in 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$629 billion, after the first 200 years of America's history, including two world wars. The total 1976 Federal debt, I repeat, stood at \$629 billion.

Then the big spenders really went to work and the interest on the Federal debt really began to take off—and, presto, during the past two decades the Federal debt has soared into the stratosphere, increasing by more than \$4 trillion in two decades—from 1976 to 1996.

So, Mr. President, as of the close of business Friday, May 10, 1996, the Federal debt stood—down-to-the-penny—at \$5,092,815,215,705.75. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,230.19 as his or her share of that debt.

This enormous debt is a festering, escalating burden on all citizens and especially it is jeopardizing the liberty of our children and grandchildren. As Jefferson once warned, "to preserve [our] independence, we must not let our leaders load us with perpetual debt. We