

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

1996 NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the transcript of the 1997 National Prayer Breakfast, held here in Washington, DC, was printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It has come to my attention that the transcript of the previous year's National Prayer Breakfast was inadvertently not submitted in the RECORD. The Challenging and moving message brought to us that morning by our former Senate colleague, Sam Nunn, should be available for everyone. Therefore, I request that a copy of the program and of the transcript of the 1996 proceeding be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

CHAIRMAN: THE HONORABLE BOB BENNETT

Pre-Breakfast Prayer: The Honorable DANIEL AKAKA, U.S. Senator, Hawaii.

Opening Song: Pine Valley Choir.

Opening Prayer: General John M. Shalikashvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

BREAKFAST

Welcome: The Honorable BOB BENNETT, U.S. Senator, Utah.

Remarks—U.S. House of Representatives: The Honorable PETE GEREN, U.S. House of Representatives, Texas.

Old Testament Reading: The Honorable TOM LANTOS, U.S. House of Representatives, California.

Remarks—U.S. Senate: The Honorable AL SIMPSON, U.S. Senator, Wyoming.

Solo: Mr. Van Cliburn.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

New Testament Reading: The Honorable SONNY MONTGOMERY, U.S. House of Representatives, Mississippi.

Prayer for National and International Leaders: Dr. Billy Graham.

Message: The Honorable SAM NUNN, U.S. Senator, Georgia.

Introduction of the President: The Honorable BOB BENNETT.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Closing Song: Ms. Ariel Bybee.

Closing Prayer: Dr. Dorothy Height, National Council of Negro Women.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

Senator BENNETT. Good morning. My name is Bob Bennett. I am the leader of the Senate Prayer Breakfast, and in the tradition of the National Prayer Breakfast, this is the year of the Senate to conduct this activity so that it becomes my happy lot to greet you here on behalf of both the Senate and the House to this special occasion.

General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will offer the opening prayer.

General SHALIKASHVILI. Today as we gather here in Washington, we are joined by countless and countless Americans all across our

nation in prayer and in fellowship. And on every base, on every post and on every ship, we are joined as well by our men and women in uniform who have answered our nation's call to serve.

Just across the Potomac on Ft. Myer, across the Pacific at Misawa Air Base, aboard the USS America, in Haiti and Kuwait, in South Korea and Bosnia, in all of these places and hundreds more, America's sons and daughters are taking to their knees and solemnly asking God for strength.

They are rededicating themselves to freedom, to the freedom that can be found in a nation loosed from the chains of oppression. They are rededicating themselves to peace, the peace that can now be heard in the silent hills of a nation that for years knew only war and destruction. And they are rededicating themselves to the love of God that you see in the eyes of a cold and frightened child, held in the reassuring arm of an American soldier in a faraway place called Tuzla.

And so I ask you now to join them and to bow your heads in prayer.

Almighty God, our Creator and Sustainer, we do affirm here and now how wonderful it is to join together today in Your name, for today we bow in prayer as those who, as individuals and as a nation, have been magnificently and prodigiously blessed. We are thankful for the opportunity we have been given to act as Your servants, and as servants of the people.

We are also grateful for this opportunity to pray as a nation for our sons and daughters in the United States Armed Forces here and around the world who represent our heritage and continued resolve to ever uphold what is right and to ever oppose what is wrong and would threaten liberty and justice, and of a certainty to do Your will.

Our Father, we join in prayer breakfasts throughout the world and we ask Your blessing upon all who have united in a spirit of genuine fellowship and kinship. We are grateful for all Your blessings and for our liberty, and we ask that You strengthen our hearts and give us a continued resolve to work together in the cause of freedom and peace throughout the globe. And in a world threatened by discord and fear, we ask that You watch over our President and all of our nation's leaders, that You continue to help them cope with the crucial problems of our time.

Father, we ask now that You bless our nation, our nation's leader and all leaders here today. We ask that You bless this breakfast gathering of fellowship, and we ask that You bless this food for Your honor and for Your glory.

In Your name we pray, Amen.

Senator BENNETT. Thank you, General Shalikashvili. We'll now enjoy the breakfast and pick up the program when presumably you're through eating. Thank you.

[Breakfast.]

Senator BENNETT. In the Senate prayer group we always bang the glass at the stroke of 8:30 and get started, whether you're finished eating or not, so we will follow that tradition here today.

We welcome you all here today and you should be aware of the fact that in addition to the President and his wife and the Vice President and his wife, there are in attendance members of the Senate and the House, members of the President's Cabinet. Of

course General Shalikashvili and other members of the Joint Chiefs and the military command. We have prime ministers and heads of state, leaders of giant corporations and organizations from all over the world and we welcome all of you.

Allow me to quickly introduce to you the people who are sitting at the head table, most of whom will participate and, therefore, will be introduced in their own right. But for those who do not participate, so that you know who is here, I will start with my colleague, Senator Akaka from Hawaii. Next to him, Ariel Bybee, who will sing to us later. General Shalikashvili, whom you've heard from in the opening prayer, and his wife, Joan.

Senator Simpson, who will represent the Senate prayer group, and his wife Ann. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, and I'll tell you why she's here at the appropriate time. Becky Geren, the wife of Congressman Pete Geren, who heads the House prayer group. Of course you know the Vice President and his wife. You know this fellow with a full head of hair next to me and his wife.

My wife, Joyce, next to Mrs. Clinton. Senator Nunn and his wife, Colleen, and we of course will hear from him. Dr. Dorothy Height, we will hear from her. Van Cliburn, who will provide music. Annette Lantos and Congressman Tom Lantos from California, and then Sonny Montgomery from Mississippi. So, those are the folks who are here before you. [Applause.]

In the New Testament it records an occasion where a lawyer came before Jesus in an attempt to tempt Him and trap Him in His words. As I read that, I realize that the behavior of lawyers maybe hasn't changed too much in the centuries from then until now, but just some lawyers, I assure you.

In an attempt to trip Him up, the lawyer asked Jesus a question that he was fairly sure Jesus would have trouble with because it was the question that has been widely debated, and certainly had been widely debated in that time: what is the greatest commandment in the law, and perhaps with a bit of derision in his voice, he prefaced the question by saying, "Master, what is the greatest commandment?"

Jesus was more than prepared and He quoted from Deuteronomy, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might." And then went further, quoting from Leviticus, said to the lawyer, "and to the second is like unto it." Quoting from the 19th chapter of Leviticus, he said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." And then He gave the lawyer this magnificent summary. He said, "On these two hang all the law and the prophets."

I can think of nothing better than that summary as the theme of the prayer breakfast. All of us have our own interpretation of who is the Lord our God. All of us strive to do the best we can to understand who that is and to love Him with all our hearts, souls and minds. But all of us, regardless of our religious tradition, can recognize the importance of learning to love our neighbor as ourselves, and it is in that spirit that we gather here this morning and in countless groups around the world.

We gather that way in the Senate of the United States every week. We also do that in the House every week and it is my privilege

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to introduce to you the Honorable Pete Geren, Congressman from Texas, who is the leader of the House prayer breakfast, to bring us their greetings.

Representative GEREN. Senator, thank you. I'm not sure your lawyer comment was in the spirit of the occasion but we'll let that one pass. [Laughter.]

Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Gore, and distinguished guests, one and all. I bring you greetings from the prayer breakfast of the United States House of Representatives. My charge today is to tell you about our prayer breakfast, with the hope and prayer that perhaps you can build on our experience in your nation, your state, your place of work, or perhaps even in your neighborhood.

In the book of Matthew Jesus told us, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Today those gathered in His name number in the thousands and we thank Him for His message.

Every Thursday morning that the House is in session we gather, 40 to 50 members strong, in His name. Our gathering is extraordinary by Capitol Hill standards, for so many reasons, and truly a blessing for those who have chosen to make it a part of their lives. I say extraordinary by Capitol Hill standards. In a supercharged environment where most all meetings are restricted by party membership, or even more narrowly by philosophical subsets within the party, by race, by religion, by region, by state, by cause, our meetings are interfaith, ecumenical, multiracial, nonpartisan, and about as diverse as this great land of ours.

The Irish brogue of south Boston, the syrupy drawl of South Georgia, the sharp and clipped tongue of Brooklyn, the twang of Texas, and the flat tones of the Midwest fill the room every Thursday morning. Extraordinary. There are no guests, not even family members, no camera, no press, no record of the proceedings. It is as private as Capitol Hill can be and members share their hearts.

I said no guests. Well, there is one exception. Legislators or parliamentarians from around the world will join us to learn about our breakfast and on occasion return years later to tell about the breakfasts that they have started in their land.

Today prayer breakfasts are held in over 100 countries around the world, in countries as far-flung as India, Peru, Mongolia, Japan. So, in a way, our breakfast engages in outreach to the world, but that's not our main purpose. Our focus is internal, on the lives and hearts and souls of our colleagues. It is fellowship. It is an eye in the storm of the swirling world of politics.

There is a saying in Washington that if you want a friend in Washington, buy a dog. Our breakfast belies that expression. Breakfast begins at eight, and I think it's the only three dollar breakfast left in Washington. It probably violates the gifts ban, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure.

We visit informally for most of the first half hour. When we are called to order, we begin our day's program with a scripture reading. Our very own general, Congressman Sonny Montgomery, then brings us to date on the lives, and too often of late, the deaths of our friends and House members, past and present. He shares with us celebrations such as recent births and the trials and tribulations of others.

We than life up our colleagues and their families in prayer with rejoicing prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for healing, for comfort, and for the blessing of our name and our leaders. We follow the prayer with a hymn, long on enthusiasm and sometimes short on harmony.

Congressman Jake Pickle of Texas used to regale us with the history of each hymn, or

at least the history according to Jake. Jake is now retired and we all miss him.

Following the hymn, a House member tells us about his or her life story, about the influences that changed his life, his values, his philosophy, his faith, his politics. On these occasions members offer a window into their souls that I suspect few others ever see. Through this sharing, each of us so often is surprised that beyond the accent, the geography, and the political label, surprised at how much we all have in common.

After hearing Joe Moakley of Massachusetts talk of his South Boston childhood, Charlie Rangel, who grew up in Harlem, said, "Joe, we really grew up in the same neighborhood. We just never knew it." Regarding our differences, and they are many, we grow to understand them and appreciate them.

We close with another prayer. We pray that we may be salt and light in this world. Each of us truly is blessed by our participation and pray that somehow our Congress and our nation, one nation under God, could be blessed as well. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. We will now hear an Old Testament reading by the Honorable Tom Lantos from California, after which Al Simpson, retiring but not really very retiring, Senator from Wyoming, will speak on behalf of the Senate prayer group.

Representative LANTOS. President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton, Vice President and Mrs. Gore, ladies and gentlemen. We all know why everybody is here at the head table. No one knows why I am here. I am here as a reminder that we are slow learners. Bob Bennett said, "Thou shall love thy neighbor." I am the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to the Congress of the United States, which I take as the most poignant reminder of how profoundly we have failed to learn that central, profound, and powerful message.

This is my birthday and I didn't expect it to be this elaborate. [Laughter, applause]. But as always, I want to express my appreciation to my wife Annette, and I want to tell all of you that as I blow out the candles tonight on my birthday cake, I will have a simple wish, that all of our 17 grandchildren and all the children all across the globe should have an opportunity to grow up in peace and dignity and friendship.

I'd like to share with you a psalm you all know, Psalm 19.

"The Heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hand. Day after day, they pour forth speech, night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their works to the end of the world. In the heavens, He has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect."

Senator SIMPSON. Mr. President and First Lady Hillary, and Vice President and President of our Senate, Al and Tipper. Distinguished guests, greetings to my fellow seekers and discoverers and wanderers, not necessarily in that order.

It is always a grand morning. One of the great honors of my life was to give the principal address at this National Prayer Breakfast in 1989. I was filled with trepidation that a seeker like me would be asked. The night before, the Reverend Billy Graham, one of the most loving, inspirational, caring men in this world, called and said, "Alan, we are praying for you." I said, "You're praying for me? I'm doing plenty of that for myself." But that's very typical of the Reverend Billy Graham.

Long ago in public life I learned where to turn when I didn't know where to turn. There's only one source for that.

The Senate prayer breakfast group gathers every Wednesday morning for a convivial hour between 8 and 9. Our leaders, Bob Bennett, Republican from Utah, Danny Akaka, Democrat from Hawaii, rare people, both of them. The presenter of the day, after an opening prayer, shares about themselves with us for 15 or 20 minutes, followed by a time of discussion and fellowship. Promptly at the hour of nine we close with a prayer as we stand with hands joined around the tables.

Sometimes the theme is the Bible. Sometimes it's public life. Sometimes it's about family and our jobs, but always it's about ourselves and the impact of that greater force in our lives, a higher being. All faiths there, all philosophies, all believers.

Those are always very moving times and we share much with each other and we gain much from each other. It helps us endure in the partisan and political world in which we have chosen to labor. Kindness, civility, tolerance, and forgiveness are all part of the essence of our gatherings. We try to put aside harsh judgment and criticism. I remember the words of a wonderful couplet that my mother used to share: "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, that it ill behooves any of us to find fault with the rest of us." I like that one. I knew you would.

We also talk about our human frailties. We talk about how easy it is to fall for the blandishments of flattery and be overcome by ego. I've often said that those who travel the high road of humility in Washington, D.C. are not troubled by heavy traffic. [Laughter.]

It is always a very uplifting time. And yes, actually too a time of sharing our own vulnerabilities. It was Will Rogers, our great American humorist, who said, "It's great to be great but it's greater to be human."

We are very privileged to be able to serve in the United States Senate, a special obligation. People do observe us. We are scrutinized, and we hope to do more than just talk a good game. We need to live the things we learn and share.

Let me close with a poem that is something we try to take from the weekly Senate prayer breakfast group and something we might hope to remember from this marvelous convocation today. That little poem, "We'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. We'd rather you would walk with us than merely show the way. The eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear. Fine counsel is confusing, but example always clear. We can soon learn how to do it if you all let us see it done. We can watch you well in action but your tongue too fast may run. And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true, but we'd rather get our lessons by observing you."

There's the word for the day. God bless you all.

Senator BENNETT. Senator Al Gore was a regular attendee at the Senate prayer breakfast. Vice President Al Gore gets there as often as he possibly can. We are poorer for the fact that that is not as often as it used to be, but we're always glad to see the President of the Senate when he does show up at our prayer breakfast and we're honored and pleased to hear from him now. The Vice President of the United States.

Vice President AL GORE. Thank you, Senator Bennett and Mrs. Bennett, and Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Speaker, Congressman Geren and Mrs. Geren, Senator Nunn, who will deliver the message, and Mrs. Nunn, other members of the House and Senate here at the dais, other distinguished

guests at the dais and in the audience and in the overflow room. Let me especially welcome the international dignitaries who are with us this morning.

As Tipper and I stood outside the hotel early this morning, it was so cold that those who didn't know me well thought I was frozen stiff. [Laughter.] Three years ago at Christmastime I received from one of my children a gift that almost drove me to distraction. It was a book of graphic designs generated by a computer technique that contain a hidden pattern. How many of you have ever seen such designs? Those of you who have not, what I'm about to say won't mean much to you, but ask your children. They will tell you about these designs.

You're supposed to hold them very close to your face and focus your eyes on a distant point beyond the page. Then after a little time has passed, slowly take them away from your eyes, and if you do it just right, a design will spring into view in three dimensions.

I don't think I was doing it just right, and it took a number of tries before I finally resolved the technique. My children, by contrast, would flip through the pages, yep, there's that one, yep, there's that one. I would still be on the first one, trying to bring it into view.

I think prayer is a little bit like that experience. We try to focus on a more distant reality that has a deeper meaning, but it's difficult to be still and be patient and avoid the distraction of the business in our lives.

Men see on the surface. We're taught God sees on the inside. Jesus taught the kingdom of God is within. In Ecclesiastes we find the passage, "I applied mine heart to know and to search and to seek out wisdom and the reason of things."

In a world awash in information and busyness, there is always so much more we can know: the reason a child is suffering ten blocks from this hotel, the dreams of a nation an ocean away, the condition of our planet as it circles the sun. We seek wisdom wherever it may be.

Ecclesiastes also reminds us that, "wisdom strengthened the wise more than ten mighty men." With wisdom we may glimpse the future and shape its contours. We can fulfill responsibilities to neighbors and honor obligations to our children. With wisdom we can protect our earth and preserve its treasures.

So we ask God to give us the wisdom and courage to act on that which we have learned and give us too the strength to move forward. Give us the grace to be still, to lift up our eyes unto the hills, to take the time to ask, what would Jesus do, and to remember that He said, "Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me." [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. As Congressman Geren indicated, Sonny Montgomery, Congressman from Mississippi, has been one of the pillars around which the House prayer breakfast group has been built over the years. Sonny has announced his retirement from the Congress, so we asked him to give the New Testament reading here at the National Prayer Breakfast.

Sonny, when you're through, don't leave because we have something we'd like to give you as a memento.

Representative MONTGOMERY. Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Gore, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Bennett, for giving me the opportunity to read two passages from the New Testament.

A few minutes ago Pete Geren talked about the House prayer breakfast group, and Thursday is the best day of the week for me because of the prayer breakfast. I could have not made it up here for 30 years without the House prayer breakfast being in the Congress.

Now, to do what I'm supposed to do, two readings from the New Testament. From the Living Bible, I Corinthians, chapter 13, verses 11 through 13. It is like this. "When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does, but when I became a man, my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away childish things. In the same way we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at His reflection in a poor mirror. But some day we are going to see Him in His completeness, face to face. Right now, all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart today. There are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."

Now from the King James version, II Timothy, chapter 4, verses 6 through 8. Paul is writing to his spiritual son Timothy. "I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only but to all who have loved His appearing." Amen, amen. [Applause.]

Representative GEREN. On behalf of the House prayer breakfast we have a presentation to make to Sonny. Sonny is truly the heart and soul of the House prayer breakfast. Sonny, I don't know what we're going to do without you. [Presents a Bible and reads the inscription]

"Sonny Montgomery, our wonderful friend and mentor for so many years. You help us with the things that count most in life. We are forever in your debt. Presented to Sonny Montgomery on the occasion of the 1996 National Prayer Breakfast by the House of Representatives breakfast group."

Sonny, thank you very much. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. After the program was printed, I received the following letter, addressed to the National Prayer Breakfast. "I deeply regret that my doctors, in spite of great improvement and the promise that I will be totally recovered within the next month, have urged me not to attend the meeting today. This will be one of the few times I have ever missed the National Prayer Breakfast since its inception, and I am going to greatly miss it."

"It is my prayer that uniting in the spiritual atmosphere will bring us together as a people, whatever our backgrounds, and strengthen the moral and spiritual values that we are dangerously close to losing. May God bless you all."

We assume, Dr. Graham, that you are watching on television, and we miss you. But we tell you you are in our prayers and thoughts and that we pray your recovery is as complete as you indicate the doctors have promised you it will be.

Now faced with this kind of a hole to fill, I did what you always do when you have a real problem. You go to your friends. Carol Moseley-Braun, Senator from Illinois, after her initial "whoa" at the suggestion that she would be standing in for Billy Graham, proved just how much of a friend she really is when she said, "Yes, Bob, I will do it."

In the tradition of the National Prayer Breakfast, where we always have a prayer for national and international leaders, we will now have the honor of having that prayer offered by the Senator from Illinois, Carol Moseley-Braun.

Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN. Thank you. Senator Bennett assured me that the charity of the people at the prayer breakfast would keep me from being run out of town while trying to substitute for the great Dr. Gra-

ham. Our prayers go out to him for his speedy recovery and full health.

Mr. President and Mrs. President, Mr. Vice President and Mrs. Vice President, Senator Bennett, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, let us pray.

Oh Lord, You have always called forth leaders in the world and we look to You to lift up among us those who will lead in righteous ways. Your servant Moses saw an oppressed people and, though he first fled from the path, led his people from oppression to freedom, from slavery into nationhood. Your servant David heard the taunting cry of an evil-spirited giant whose tyranny threatened to crush the struggling forces for good. Against such seemingly impossible strength but armed with your spirit, he brought justice.

Your servant, Your son, the Lord Jesus Christ, armed with only the truth of His teaching, showed His followers the light which has been the salvation of and the model for self-sacrificing and humble leadership for countless generations.

Lord, we seek Your face. Your world needs leaders who see oppression and lead us away from it, who can cut tyrants down to size and place their taunts behind us, who will offer not only their wisdom and their words but indeed, themselves in the service of people everywhere.

Clothe those who gather under the mantle of leadership in the world today with a proper scorn for tyranny, a priestly reverence for the lives of those for whom they speak, and the tender touch of the shepherd lifting up those who need him most.

Strengthen their eyes, make wise their minds, and fill their house with the resolve to seek and find an act upon the truth as they are privileged to know it in the service of the world You have created, and of the people whom You love.

Then shall the nations all rejoice in the reality of Your promise to heal this land and to grant peace on earth, good will to all. Father, we thank You for your grace and guidance and for Your many blessings. Make plain Your way and straighten our path, that our service and stewardship—that our stewardship of Your earth and our service of Your people may be pleasing in Your sight.

Bless the leaders here assembled, Your clergy, our President and Vice President, the leadership and membership of the Congress, the administration, the military, the international community all here assembled. May our prayers this day create an atmosphere for good all over your world, and the leaders of our time do honor to you.

These things in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Senator BENNETT. When the time came to make the decision as to whom we would call upon for the principal address at this prayer breakfast, we considered a number of names, and debated them and got excited about this one and that one, and then, well, maybe, and back and forth.

We would pray and then get back and talk again. Then in the midst of all of this conversation the name of Sam Nunn was mentioned, at which point we knew we didn't have to pray about it any more. He did, but we didn't. We knew we had the right fellow. It took a few weeks for him to decide that that was the case.

When I called the President to run the name by him—as a courtesy we always do that, to make sure that we get somebody that the President would feel comfortable with—I caught the President on a perhaps bad day. I'm not sure he has too many of the other kind, but while the President is always courteous, I could tell from the edge in his voice a little bit that there had been a lot of people who had been having that day. He

said after the pleasantries, "You called me," kind of a little bit defensive, like, what problem are we going to have now?

I said, "Mr. President, I'm calling to get your reaction to the possibility that we'll have Sam Nunn as the speaker for the National Prayer Breakfast." I could tell from the response in the President's voice that I had made his day; immediately he relaxed and said, "I think that's wonderful. I think that's remarkable."

So do all of the rest of us who know and love Sam Nunn. This is one of the outstanding public servants in America, and it is going to be our great privilege to hear from him now. [Applause.]

Senator NUNN. Thank you very much, Bob. President and Mrs. Clinton, Vice President and Mrs. Gore, fellow sinners—have I left anyone out? [Laughter.]

I say to my good friend Alan Simpson, Billy Graham called me also, Alan, and he said as he did in his message, he was praying for us all but he felt particularly compelled to pray for Alan Simpson and for me. Alan, I don't know what he meant by that, but you and I appreciate it.

A few years ago during the Brezhnev era, Dr. Billy Graham returned from a highly publicized trip to Moscow, and he was confronted when he returned by one of his critics with these words, "Dr. Graham, you have set the church back 50 years." Billy Graham lowered his head and replied, "I am deeply ashamed. I've been trying very hard to set the church back 2,000 years." [Laughter, applause.]

Today we represent different political parties, different religions, different nations, but as your invitation states, we gather as brothers and sisters in the spirit of Jesus, who lived 2,000 years ago and who lives in our hearts and minds even today. The first prayer breakfast was held in 1953, in a world of great danger. President Eisenhower was newly inaugurated and had just returned from Korea where our young soldiers were fighting desperately.

World communism was on the move. Eastern Europe and the Baltics were locked behind the Iron Curtain. All across the globe the lights of religion, freedom, and individual right were going out, and the specter of nuclear destruction loomed over our planet.

I wonder this morning how those who attended that first National Prayer Breakfast 43 years ago would have reacted if God had given them a window to see the world of the 1980s and the 1990s. They would have seen truly amazing things. Catholic nuns kneeling to pray in the path of 50-ton tanks, the power of their faith bringing down the Philippine dictatorship. The Iron Curtain being smashed, not by tanks of war but by the hands of those who built it and those who were oppressed by it. The Cold War ending not in a nuclear inferno but in a blaze of candles in the churches of Eastern Europe, in the singing of hymns and the opening of long-closed synagogues.

I believe that God gave Joseph Stalin the answer to his question: How many divisions does the Pope have? They would have also seen a black man in South Africa emerge from prison after 26 years and become President of his nation, personifying forgiveness and reconciliation; the first hesitant but hopeful steps toward peace between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East and between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. They would see that in 1996, we are blessed to live in a world where more people enjoy religious freedom than at any other time in history. Can we doubt this morning that a loving God has watched over us and guided us through this dangerous and challenging period?

During the early days of the Russian Parliament, known as the Duma, I joined sev-

eral other Senators in attending a meeting with a number of newly elected members of that body. The second day, a few of us were invited to a very small prayer breakfast with a group of Duma members who were just forming a fellowship. As in the larger meeting the day before, the breakfast discussion started with a degree of coldness and tension. One of the Russians, in obvious sadness and a little embarrassment, remarked that Russia was in great economic distress and that the United States was the only remaining super power. It was clear that this was a very sensitive point for them. It had been abundantly clear also the day before. Senator Dirk Kempthorne and I then pointed out that in a real sense there was only one real Super Power in the world, our Heavenly Father who watches over us all. The tension immediately eased, and the spirit of fellowship was built. And we prayed together to that Super Power, the God who loves us all.

Our world is a strange and tragic place. It's very ironic in many ways. The Cold War is over, but in a tragic sense, the world has now been made safe for ethnic, tribal and religious warfare and vengeance and savagery. Such tragedy has come to the people of Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, and Haiti and others.

At home, the pillar of our national strength, the American family, is crumbling. Television and movies saturate our children with sex and violence. We have watered down our moral standards to the point where many of our youth are confused, discouraged, and in deep trouble. We are reaping our harvest of parental neglect, divorce, child abuse, teen pregnancy, school drop-outs, illegal drugs and streets full of violence. It's as if our house, having survived the great earthquake we called the Cold War, is now being eaten away by termites.

Where should we turn this morning and in the days ahead? I believe that our problems in America today are primarily problems of the heart. The soul of our nation is the sum of our individual characters. Yes, we must balance the budget. And there are a lot of other things we need to do at the federal level. But unless we change our hearts, we will still have a deficit of the soul. The human inclination to seek political solutions for problems of the heart is nothing new. It's natural.

Two thousand years ago another society found itself in deeper trouble than our own today. An oppressive empire strangled liberties. Violence and corruption were pervasive. Many of the people of the day hoped for the triumphant coming of a political savior, a long expected king to establish a new, righteous government. Instead, God sent his son, a baby born in a stable.

Jesus grew up to become a peasant carpenter in a backwater town called Nazareth. He condemned sin, but he made it clear he loved the sinner. He befriended beggars and prostitutes and even tax collectors, while condemning the hypocrisy of those in power. He treated every individual with love and dignity and taught that we should do the same. He died like a common criminal on a cross and gave us the opportunity for redemption and the hope of eternal life. He also put the role of government in proper perspective when he said, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's."

Shortly after I announced that I would not seek reelection last fall, a reporter asked me, "You've been in this Congress for 24 years. What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?" I paused for a moment, and then I replied, "Keeping my family together and helping my wife Colleen raise two wonderful children, Michelle and Brian." [Applause.]

Well, upon hearing that, the reporter scoffed. He said, "Don't give me that soft, sound bite stuff. What laws did you get passed?" When he said that, I had several thoughts, only a couple of them I can share with you this morning. [General laughter.]

Four years ago, my daughter Michelle and a few of her friends started an organization in Atlanta called Hands On Atlanta, making it exciting and efficient and fun for young people to volunteer their time to help those in need. Now, about five years later, 10,000 volunteers each month render about 20,000 hours of personal one-on-one service. Now what laws have I passed that would have this impact?

I also thought about the difference between being a Senator and being a father. When we in the Senate make a mistake, we have checks and balances, 99 other Senate colleagues, plus the House of Representatives, plus the President, plus a final review by the Supreme Court. But when we as parents make a mistake, where are the checks and where are the balances?

Congress can pass laws cracking down on those who refuse to support their children, but we cannot force husbands to honor their wives, wives to love their husbands and both parents to nurture their children. Congress can pass laws on civil rights and equal rights, but we cannot force people of different races to love each other as brothers. Congress can promote fairness and efficiency in our tax code, but we cannot force the rich to have compassion for the poor. We can join with our NATO allies to separate the warring factions in Bosnia, as we're doing, and give them a breathing space as we're doing; but we cannot force Muslims, Croats and Serbs to live together as brothers in peace.

I recently heard a story on the radio. It happened in Bosnia, but I think it has meaning for all of us. A reporter was covering that tragic conflict in the middle of Sarajevo; and he saw a young, little girl shot by a sniper. The back of her head had literally been torn away by the bullet. The reporter threw down his pad and pencil and stopped being a reporter for a few minutes. He rushed to the man who was holding the child. He helped them both into his car. As the reporter stepped on the accelerator, racing to the hospital, the man holding the bleeding child said, "Hurry, my friend. My child is still breathing." A moment later, "Hurry, my friend. My child is still warm." Finally, "Hurry. Oh my God, my child is getting cold."

When they got to the hospital, the little girl had died. As the two men were in the laboratory, washing the blood of their hands and their clothes, the man turned to the reporter and said, "This is a terrible task for me. I must go tell her father that his child is dead. He will be heartbroken." The reporter looked up in amazement. He looked up at the grieving man and said, "I thought she was your child." The man looked back and said, "No, but aren't they all our children?"

Aren't they all our children? Yes, they are all our children. They are also God's children as well, as He entrusts us with their care. In Sarajevo and Somalia, in New York City, in Los Angeles and my home town of Perry, Georgia, and right here in Washington, DC, they are all our children.

In the book of Micah, the prophet asked, "Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" The cruelest aspects of our wars and our sins is what they do to our children. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of God." Too often today we shorten that commandment to: Suffer, little children. Mrs. Clinton, thank you for the great emphasis

you have put on children and the spotlight you have shined on our challenges. We are grateful. [Applause.]

And so the world is watching America today. People around the world are not just watching our President or our Congress or our economy or even our military deployment. They are watching out cities and our towns and our families to see how much we value our children and whether we care enough to stop America's moral and cultural erosion.

Do we in America in 1996, love our neighbors as ourselves, as explained by Bob Bennett as our theme for the morning and by Tom Lantos and his personal example? Now, I don't have the answer to these questions this morning, and I don't pretend to. These problems can only be solved in the hearts and minds of our people and one child at a time. I do have a few, however, observations.

The Cold War provided us with the clarity of purpose and the sense of unity as a people. Our survival as a nation was at stake. We came together, often in fear. The challenges that confront us today are different, far different; but the stakes are the same. I pray that our children, all of our children, will be the bridge that brings us together as a nation, not in fear, but in love.

Each year millions of our children are abused, abandoned, and aborted. Millions more receive little care, little discipline, and almost no love. While we continue to debate our deeply held belief as to which of these sins should also be violations of our criminal code, I pray that we as parents, as extended parents, and as communities, will come together and find a way to provide love and spiritual care to every mother and to every child, born or unborn. Government at every level must play a role. But I do not believe it will be the decisive role.

What then are our duties as leaders, not just in the world of politics and government, but in every field represented here this morning and through our land? Like basketball stars Charles Barkley and Dennis Rodman, we are role models whether we like it or not. I believe that the example we set, particularly for our young people, may be the most important responsibility of public service. We must demonstrate with our daily lives that it is possible to be involved in politics and still retain intellectual honesty and moral and ethical behavior. We are all sinners, so we will slip. And, yes, we will fall. But I have felt God's sustaining hand through every phase of my life, growing up in Perry, Georgia, raising a family, my relationship with my wife, Colleen, in Senate floor debates, in committee meetings, visiting our troops in war, or being a part of the mission for peace.

In the years ahead, when I think back on my public service, I am certain that the most cherished memories will be those moments spent with my colleagues in the Senate Prayer Breakfast and in my meetings with leaders from around the world in the spirit of Jesus.

I've also been blessed by many friends in the Senate and a small fellowship with a group of Senate brothers, like the late Dewey Bartlett, Republican of Oklahoma; Lawton Chiles, Democrat of Florida; Pete Domenici, Republican of New Mexico; Harold Hughes, Democrat of Iowa; and Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon. No one can accuse that group of being of like minds, politically. But these brothers have listened to my problems, they've shared in my joys, they've held me accountable, and they've upheld me in their prayers. Fellowship in the spirit of Jesus does amazing things. It puts political and philosophical differences, even profound differences, in a totally different perspective.

I believe that 2,000 years ago Jesus was speaking of each of us when He delivered His

Sermon on the Mount. And my prayer this morning for our leaders, and indeed for our whole nation, is the spirit of His words then. May we who would be leaders always be aware that we must first be servants. May we who compete in the arena of government and politics remember that we are commanded to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. And I can't find any exception for the news media or for our opponents. May we who seek to be admired by others remember that when we practice our piety before men in order to be seen by them, we will have no reward in Heaven. May we who have large egos and great ambition recall that the kingdom of Heaven is promised to those who are humble and who are poor in spirit. May we who depend on publicity as our daily bread recall that when we do a secret kindness to others, and when we don't try to tell everyone, then our Father, who knows all of our secrets, will reward us. May the citizens who we serve as stewards of government be sensitive to the fact that while we need their critiques, we also desperately need their prayers. May we never forget that the final judgment of our tenure here on earth will not be decided by majority votes and that an election is not required to bring us home.

God bless each of you. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. We did all right, didn't we? [Applause.]

Thank you Sam, You have left us all in your debt.

Those who know me know that I am the son of a Senator. My father served for 24 years, and I ran his last two campaigns. When the time came for me to run for the Senate, I thought I understood what that was all about. I'd been all over the state. I'd spoken in every little town. I had shaken all the hands. And I'd done all of the things connected with managing a senatorial campaign. Well, one of the great discoveries that came to me when I became a candidate is that there is no experience that can prepare you for what happens when you are the candidate. It's entirely different. The pressures are different. The circumstances are different. The hurts, perhaps, are deeper when it's your name on the ballot than when you're campaigning for somebody else.

I have participated in a number of presidential campaigns. I think I know a little bit about what it's like to manage a presidential campaign. But from my own experience, I know that there can be only one person in this room who understands what it's like to be the President of the United States. The pressures, the challenges, the difficulties, the rest of us can only guess.

And so, I share with you my memory of President Clinton at his first National Prayer Breakfast, when I was sitting there as the brand new Senator, wondering what this was all about. He said something that I have hung onto ever since, and I think has great value for all of us. He referred to his oath of office, and then said when the oath was completed, he felt like saying, "So, help me, God."

That is a legitimate reading of that particular phrase, that only the President can fully understand. It's a great pleasure and honor for me now to pronounce the appropriate words of introduction: Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States. [Applause.]

President CLINTON. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Senator Bennett, Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Mr. Speaker, Senator Nunn and the Members of Congress who are here, the Members of the Supreme Court, the Joint Chiefs, the other public officials, to our guests from around the world, and my fellow Americans.

Let me begin by saying that most of what I would like to have said on my best day was said better today by Sam Nunn. [Applause.]

All during his speech, I kept saying to myself, I'm more glad today that I prayed for him not to leave the Congress than I was the day I prayed for it, but I also know, with a heart and a mind and a spirit like that, there is a great, powerful service still awaiting Senator Nunn in whatever he should decide to do.

I thank Sam Nunn and Alan Simpson and my neighbor, Sonny Montgomery, and all those who are here retiring from the United States Congress this year for the service that they have rendered to their constituents and to the American people. [Applause.]

Hillary and I join all of you in praying for Billy Graham and for his wonderful wife, Ruth, and for their family.

I'm still glad to be here even though I don't think I need to say much now. I know one thing. We've got a lot to pray about here in Washington. We've got a lot of conflicts, we've got an abundance of cynicism, we have to worry about a loss of trust in public institutions all across the country. I disagree with Pete Geren. I think it was Harry Truman who said, "If you want a friend in Washington, you need to buy a dog." I think it was Benjamin Franklin that said, "Our enemies are our friends when they show us our faults." Well, as someone who has had more of his faults shown, real and imagined, than anyone else—[laughter]—I think we all have a lot of friends here in Washington. [Laughter and applause.]

I was thinking last night about what we really want out of this Prayer Breakfast, and I was up late reading, and I came across something that King David said in the 4th Psalm. You know, David knew something about leadership and courage and human failing. He said in his psalm to God, "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress."

So I pray that when we leave here today, by the words of Senator Nunn and the readings of the Scripture, the remarks of others, we shall all be enlarged in spirit, not only for our public work, but for our private trials. I look out here and I see friends of mine in both parties whom I know today have trials in their own families and challenges of the heart they must face. And we leave here in the prayer that we will be enlarged.

Sam Nunn talked about the family and what government cannot do. I ask that when we leave here, we say a prayer for our families, to lift up those who are working hard to stay together and overcome the problems they face, to lift up those who are helping others to make and to build families. It is a rewarding thing to see the divorce rate leveling off and the teen pregnancy rate going down, and the first indications that America may be coming back together around the values that made this a great nation. But we need to support those efforts.

There may not be much we can do here as lawmakers. Hillary said in her book that, " * * * till death do us part" has often become, "till the going gets tough." It may be that it ought to be a little harder to get a divorce where children are involved. But whatever we do with the law, we know that ultimately this is an affair of the heart, an affair of the heart that has enormous economic and political and social implications for America, but most importantly, has moral implications because families are ordained by God as a way of giving children and their parents the chance to live up to the fullest of their God-given capacities. And when we save them and strengthen them, we overcome the notion that self-gratification is more important than our obligations to others. We overcome the notion that is so prevalent in our culture that life is just a series of responses

to impulses, and instead is a whole pattern with a fabric that should be pleasing to our God.

I applaud what Senator Nunn said about our children, for with them it is more true than in any other area of our life that it is in giving that we receive.

I ask that we pray for those who are trying to make strong our communities and our nation and our nation's connection to people of like minds and real needs around the world, for that, too, is a part of family life. We would be a better country if our communities and our country acted more like the best families, where we all played our part, including the government, where we all did for ourselves and tried to help each other.

Humanity's impulse is to reach outward to the poor and homeless in need; to the striving who seek a hand up, not a handout; to the stricken from here to the Middle East to Haiti to Bosnia; to the earth, which needs our help in preserving the temple God gave us.

Sometimes I think we forget in America how privileged we are to be looked to to extend the bonds of family beyond our border. When Hillary and I were served breakfast here today, the gentleman who was serving us leaned over and he said, "Mr. President, I am so grateful for what the United States did in Haiti. I came here 30 years ago from Haiti, but it is still my country and now it's free."

When I met the foreign dignitaries as I was going through the line, there standing before me was the mayor of Tuzla. For every American in uniform, he is now our mayor and we are a part of his family efforts to bring peace and freedom to all the people of Bosnia.

Galatians say, "Let everyone bear his own burden," and then just a couple of verses later says, "Bear one another's burden." Would God through St. Paul have given us such contradictory advice? No, I don't think so. I think being personally responsible and reaching out to others are the two sides of humanity's coin, and we cannot live full lives—we cannot be enlarged—unless we do both.

So I ask all of you, beyond praying for our families, to pray for us here in Washington to make the right decisions about how we should enlarge and strengthen the family of our communities, our nation and our ties to the world.

Finally, I ask you to pray for us to have a more charitable attitude toward one another, leaders and citizens alike. I was aghast and deeply saddened yesterday when I read in one of the newspapers all of us read around here, probably one we shouldn't some days, that a citizen of a state of this country had described one of his representatives in Congress as a heathen, a representative who is a genuine, true national hero. But I must say that the citizen would get a lot of ammunition for that just by watching the fights here.

What I want to say to all of you is that the disagreements we have had here in this last year have been very important and not just political and not just partisan. They have been part of the debate America must have as we move into a new era. But we need to conduct them with a great sense of humility. We need to show the right attitude toward those with whom we disagree, even when we feel wronged.

I received a letter a few days ago from a very devout Jew who is a good friend of the Vice President's and mine, and he was talking about injustice. He said, "In the matter of injustice, as awful as it is, it is always, always better to endure it than to inflict it."

We have to reach across these divisions. In these 50 hours of budget discussions the Speaker and I had with the Vice President

and Senator Dole and Senator Daschle and Mr. Gephardt and Mr. Armey, in some ways I wish all of you could have seen it because they were remarkably free of cant and politics. And I learned a lot; I owe them a lot. Believe it or not, we're not supposed to talk about what happened, but there were two different occasions where I found myself in the minority, but in agreement with Mr. Armey—on two issues. And I thought to myself, I can't let this get out, he'll lose his leadership position. [Laughter.]

Our friend Sonny Montgomery read that wonderful passage from Corinthians in his first reading. I would ask you to remember, all of you, how that passage is worded in the King James Bible. "Now we see through a glass darkly. Now I know in part." Every one of us is subject to error in judgment as a part of the human condition, and that is why the last chapter of that magnificent verse says, "Now abideth these three—faith, hope and charity, and the greatest of these is charity." We need a charitable outlook in our feelings and our dealings toward those with whom we disagree because we do not know, as we are known by God.

So let us pray that our families will be stronger. Let us pray that the impact of our families and these values will help us as leaders to make our communities, our nation and our work in the world stronger. Let us pray for a stronger sense of humility in our own efforts and a much stronger sense of charity toward the efforts of others. Let us know always that the spirit of God is among us when we permit it to be.

When Hillary and I went to Ireland a few weeks ago and saw the yearning for peace there in the eyes of the Catholics and the Protestants, we had the honor to meet the Irish Nobel-Prize winning poet, Seamus Heaney, and I had the honor of quoting one of his wonderful lines in hoping that I really was there at a time when, to use his words, "hope and history rhyme."

This can be such a time, I am convinced, only—only—if we are charitable, if we are family and if we act according to the spirit of God. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Thank you. [Applause.]

Senator BENNETT. Thank you, Mr. President. We are honored by your words as well as your presence and your wisdom, and we will try to live within the spirit of your counsel.

Let me be sure I get this correct because this may be the person with the most credentials of any of us in the room. Dr. Dorothy Height is the president of the National Council of Negro Women. Some study history, others debate it, but few represent it with the dignity and grace and magnificence of this living legend. She has been a close friend of both Eleanor Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr. And she is unique in her ability to work with the poor and the oppressed while moving with grace and dignity among the leaders of our time.

DOROTHY HEIGHT. Let us all join hands and lift our hearts in prayer.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way, Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray, lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand true to our God, true to our native land.

Lord God, we thank You, for as we have gathered this morning in the spirit of Jesus Christ, our hearts have been touched, our souls invigorated, our lives challenged, our minds renewed, and our vision made clearer of Your great love for us all. Teach us to

practice every day that same love with one another across every line that for too long has separated and divided us. We need each other. Help us to know that we are of many nations, languages, tribes, cultures, but one race, the human race, which You alone have created.

Make us to see that if one of us is hungry, hurting, impoverished, malnourished, or the victim of war and violence, then as one people, that is where we all are. For as Martin Luther King, Jr., once reminded us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Instill in us this day, oh Lord, an even greater commitment to love You, to love every neighbor as we love ourselves, and to beat our plowshares into pruning hooks as we study war no more.

And for this day and for this experience and for this challenge, we give You all the glory, the honor and the praise, and shall we all say Amen.

ALL. Amen.

TRIBUTE TO JACK M. STACK, M.D.

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, throughout his personal and professional life, Dr. Jack M. Stack has made significant contributions to promote the health and well-being of the people of Michigan.

Dr. Stack is board certified by both the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the American Board of Family Practice. A great deal of his practice in both specialties has been dedicated to caring for women, children, and families. But in addition to providing valuable primary health care for more than 30 years in Michigan's rural communities, Dr. Stack has taken a leadership role on national and international committees dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.

As a member of the Michigan State Medical Society, Dr. Stack has served on the Committee on Child Abuse Prevention, Committee on Health Insurance for the Uninsured, and Committee on Governmental Legislative Affairs. He has served as chairperson of Governor Milliken's first statewide Health Consumer's Conference and was keynote speaker at the Governor's Child Abuse Prevention Conference. Among his many other notable achievements, Dr. Stack has also served on the board of directors for the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health, is the past treasurer for the International Michigan Mental Health Advisory Council, and is the past vice president for the Mental Health Association in Michigan.

In addition to his many leadership roles, Dr. Stack has made significant contributions to the study of pregnancy loss and its impact on women and families. He has published more than two dozen articles relating to women's health and has shown great activism in supporting the many causes of the family.

Dr. Stack exemplifies the values and ethics we need within our medical profession. He is a committed doctor and has demonstrated outstanding leadership within the Michigan community. Throughout his career Dr. Stack has shown great courage and his work and dedication has had a profound impact on