

It is indeed a signal honor and a privilege for me to be permitted by the U.S. Senate to convene this honorable body today as its Acting President pro tempore, and a genuine personal pleasure to introduce my brother, the Reverend Dr. Abraham Akaka, to give the opening prayer.

Brother Abe, as our family knows him; or "kahu," meaning "shepherd" in Hawaiian, as many in our community in Hawaii know him, was born in Honolulu 74 years ago. He began his service to the Lord and our people after graduating from the Chicago Theological Seminary of the University of Chicago, with a bachelor of divinity degree.

He was the pastor of our Kawaiahao Church, the mother church of Hawaii, for 28 years. With brotherly love and family pride, I think I can fairly say that Brother Abe was Kawaiahao Church, and Kawaiahao Church was Brother Abe. He dedicated his life to serving our church and its parishioners and the greater Hawaii, and forgave me for my brotherly pride, but the church will not be the same again without him. In 1964, he lobbied here in Washington, DC, for the Civil Rights Act, was the first chairman of the civil rights commission for the State of Hawaii, and sent leis that were worn by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his supporters in the Selma, AL, march. He began to organize the Congress of Hawaiian People, Friends of Kamehameha Schools, and Council of Hawaiian Organizations. He served as regent of the University of Hawaii.

Among the honors bestowed on my brother are honorary doctoral degrees from the Chicago Theological Seminary of the University of Chicago, the University of Hawaii, Illinois Wesleyan University, the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, and Salem College in West Virginia. He served as the chaplain in our territorial senate, and subsequently, our State senate. He gave our statehood sermon on May 13, 1959, and inspired our Hawaii State Legislature to name our State, "the Aloha State." Following Henry J. Kaiser, he received the Hawaii Salesman of the Year in 1952.

Brother Abe has been most ably assisted in his calling by his bride of 47 years, Mary Louise Jeffrey Akaka. They share their love with five children and seven grandchildren.

In retirement, Kahu continues to serve through the Akaka Foundation.

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE FROM PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON TO MRS. ABRAHAM AKAKA

DEAR MRS. AKAKA: Hillary and I were saddened to learn of your husband's death, and we extend our deepest sympathy. We hope that the love and support of your family and friends will sustain and comfort you during this difficult time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

We weep with sorrow because he will no longer talk, walk, eat and play with us. We rejoice knowing that he is with God, with Ma, with Pa, and with members of our family in that Beautiful City of God in heaven—pearls, goldlined streets, river of life. He has left each of us a legacy of his life, his light and ministry to carry and bear here on earth. I can hear him speak in his velvety, soft voice. John 13:34, "A commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

A POEM FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE REV. ABRAHAM AKAKA

Abe, you are not dead;
Christ has but set you free.
Your years of life were like a lovely song;
The last poignant notes held strong.
Then you passed into silence, and,

We who love you feel that grief
For you would surely be wrong—
You have but passed beyond
Where we can see.
For us who knew you,
Dread of life is past;
You took life in its fullest to the last.
It never lost for you it's lovely look;
You kept your commitment to God's book.
To you death came no conqueror in the end;
You merely rose to greet Christ, your friend.

—Anonymous.

His Master said unto him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been good and faithful . . . now enter into the joy of your Master."

I will miss him. He was my inspiration. I will miss his mana' and loving spirit.

Aloha ke Akua!

Mr. AKAKA. I thank the Chair very much. I yield the floor.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to proceed as in morning business for up to 8 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNITED STATES-CHINA NUCLEAR COOPERATION

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to address the disturbing prospect that President Clinton will make the necessary certification to Congress that would permit so-called nuclear cooperation between the United States and China. I really believe we should be honest with each other. This is a political decision, driven by the United States-China October summit rather than the facts of China's weapons proliferation record.

The prospect of nuclear cooperation with China is perhaps the clearest illustration yet of the trust but don't verify approach behind the administration's China policy. The administration does not want Chinese President Jiang Zemin to return to Beijing empty-handed. But I question the need to make concessions to China in the first place.

China has a weapons proliferation record that is unrivaled in the world. Chinese trade barriers continue to block U.S. goods and companies. In the last several years, Beijing has had a human rights record that has resulted in the most intense religious persecution in several decades, and of course it has also resulted in the silencing of all political dissidents in China, according to our State Department reports.

In spite of such behavior, nuclear cooperation with China could become a reality. Beijing has made a host of non-

proliferation promises to acquire United States nuclear technology, and the administration is applauding China's efforts. Sadly, China's promises of all new export controls and assurance that no nuclear technology will be sent to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities will do little to stem China's proliferation activity.

China has made and broken nuclear nonproliferation commitments for over a decade, and they have broken them with great regularity. Little confidence can be placed in China's new nonproliferation promises until Beijing backs up such commitments with action. Disregarding the issue of whether or not China can be trusted, each of China's nonproliferation commitments is deficient in important areas.

China's new export controls are untested, and will be administered by agencies with close ties to the China National Nuclear Corporation—that is the organization which has helped Iran prospect for uranium and that is the organization which transferred ring magnets used for uranium enrichment to an unsafeguarded nuclear facility in Pakistan. So we are alleging that we are going to have nonproliferation. Then we are going to put it in the hands of the organization which has been a massive proliferator of nuclear weapons technology and capacity.

The ring magnet transfer was in apparent violation of United States law, although the Clinton administration did not impose sanctions as a violation of China's commitments—so we had a violation of our law—it was a violation of China's commitments under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and our administration refused to impose sanctions. I just don't think we can continue to turn our head away from the violations and then turn our head toward this country and say, well, in spite of all that we'll wink and establish a new level of cooperation.

With regard to China, China has had great cooperation with Iran on nuclear issues. The administration is allowing China to use nuclear blackmail to obtain United States nuclear technology as it relates to Iran. China will consider forswearing new nuclear cooperation, it says, with Iran, such as the sale of a nuclear reactor and a plant for uranium conversion, if the administration will allow United States-China nuclear cooperation to proceed. They are threatening to proliferate more nuclear weapons and proliferate more nuclear technology if we don't give them additional nuclear information and additional nuclear technology with which they could violate agreements like they have regularly. China's pledge to join the Zangger committee says more about what China is unwilling to do rather than signaling a new commitment to nonproliferation. China has joined the Zangger committee and not the Nuclear Suppliers Group because Zangger members can continue to export nuclear technology to countries which keep some nuclear facilities

from international inspection. If they were to pledge to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group that would be a different thing. But the Zangger committee has the loophole necessary to proliferate nuclear technology with the potential of nuclear weaponry to places that don't have international inspection. China is the only nuclear weapons power in the world that has not joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group and they remain unwilling to do so.

The national security arguments for United States-China nuclear cooperation are far from compelling, and the economic rationale is exaggerated. As the Washington Post notes this morning, United States big business is lobbying hard for nuclear cooperation with China in hopes that this market will boost exports.

I want United States businesses to benefit from possible export markets, but China is seeking nuclear cooperation with the United States to increase the number of bidders for and to lower the price of Chinese power projects. Once China obtains nuclear technology, they will reverse engineer our products and they will start building those products themselves and be our competitors in other export markets.

As Dan Horner of the Nuclear Control Institute notes in the Post article this morning, China is only seeking enough technology to develop a domestic production capability.

The United States should not enter into nuclear cooperation with China until real and observable progress is made in China's nonproliferation record. Before we send our nuclear technology to China, Beijing should cut off all nuclear cooperation with terrorist states, such as Iran. Before we send our nuclear technology to China, Beijing should maintain at least for 1 year an exemplary nonproliferation record for all weapons-of-mass-destruction technology, including technologies other than nuclear—chemical technologies and biological technologies.

The threat of weapons of mass destruction has become a broader issue than that of nuclear-proliferation technology alone. Chemical weapons, biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver those weapons are all part of the weapons-of-mass-destruction threat. China's improvements in nuclear nonproliferation are questionable at best, but even the administration can't defend China's broader weapons-of-mass-destruction nonproliferation record.

Even though the administration argues that China has honored its May 1996 pledge not to transfer nuclear material to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, doubts persist about China's recent nuclear-proliferation activity. A June 1997 CIA report released this year states that:

During the last half of 1996—

After its assurances of May 1996—

During the last half of 1996, China was the most significant supplier of [weapons of

mass-destruction]-related goods and technology to foreign countries. The Chinese provided a tremendous variety of assistance to both Iran's and Pakistan's ballistic-missile programs. China was also the primary source of nuclear-related equipment and technology to Pakistan, and a key supplier to Iran during this reporting period.

Clearly, the Chinese record does not develop a sense of confidence in those who observe her objectively, and it certainly does not justify a bill of good health that nuclear cooperation would signify.

Therefore, I hope the President does not accord to China a standing it does not deserve in a way that would jeopardize our capacity to restrain the proliferation of nuclear technology.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended by 5 minutes and that I be permitted to speak therein.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND. I thank the Chair.

CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTHIER BABIES MONTH

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today on a very, very important mission, and that is to highlight the important work of the March of Dimes and its over 3 million dedicated volunteers across America. I thank and congratulate them on the most worthwhile of endeavors.

During the month of October, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation is celebrating Campaign for Healthier Babies Month by stepping up its efforts to reach more women of childbearing age with valuable information which will give every baby a better chance of being born healthy.

These efforts are critical to prevent birth defects, low birthweight and prematurity, which are the leading causes of infant death and morbidity and also a tremendous cause of heart-break and tragedy for so many families in the United States today.

As all of us know, the March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. Through its campaign for healthier babies, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy. To enhance these efforts, the foundation has started the March of Dimes Resource Center.

The resource center provides accurate up-to-date information and referral services to the public. It consistently offers high-quality, reliable, and

prompt responses. It is staffed by highly trained professionals. The March of Dimes helps people one on one to address personal and complex problems relating to maternal and child health. The center provides information on numerous topics in which the March of Dimes has been in the forefront, such as the dangers of drug and alcohol use and other hazards during pregnancy. And most important, it is promoting the use of folic acid by women of childbearing age.

We know now that 400 micrograms of vitamin B folic acid taken regularly by women of childbearing age before they become pregnant can reduce by one-half, or even 70 percent, the incidence of neural tube defects in babies born in America today. I don't know how many of my colleagues know of a family that has been afflicted with the loss of a child who was born with a severe and fatal neural tube defect. Many of us know good friends who were born with spina bifida and other problems which could be substantially reduced if women of childbearing age regularly take 400 micrograms of vitamin B folic acid every day.

The March of Dimes professionals and the resource center answer questions from parents, health providers, students, librarians, Government agencies, health departments, social workers—people from all walks of life. The good people at the March of Dimes estimate that through the resource center, they will provide information to almost half a million individuals in the first year alone.

The center is a state-of-the-art facility which can be contacted by people around the world through both a toll free number and e-mail. March of Dimes is shortened to MODIMES, M-O-D-I-M-E-S, MODIMES. The toll free number is 1-888-MODIMES, or by e-mail, the Web site is www.modimes.org. I urge people to take advantage of the toll free number or the Web site.

I congratulate the March of Dimes on the success of the resource center, and I thank them for the years of dedicated work to prevent birth defects and to reduce infant mortality.

Mr. President, we rank far too high in infant mortality in this country. Many, many countries do better than we do because we don't provide the care and the attention that expectant mothers need.

Many of my colleagues in this body know that I have been a long-time supporter of a particular priority, the March of Dimes and the Birth Defects Prevention Act I first introduced in 1992. It has been passed time and time again by the Senate. In June of this year, this vital piece of legislation passed the Senate by a unanimous vote. A House companion bill currently has over 130 cosponsors. Both bills have strong bipartisan support in our body, the majority leader and the minority leader both, along with most of the people on all the relevant committees.