

his knowledge and experience. As you might know, Senator BROWN is now President Brown, the head of the University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley, the Senator's hometown.

Recently, President Brown spoke at the Colorado Prayer Luncheon in Denver. He spoke on God's love, and our role in this world. His thoughts are, as always, particularly insightful and relevant.

I ask to have these inspirational words printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The remarks follow.

REMARKS OF HANK BROWN, COLORADO PRAYER LUNCHEON

Ladies and Gentlemen, today is a day of renewal. It is a renewal of our commitment to our Maker as well as a renewal of our commitment to each other. The fact that so many different faiths join together in this luncheon is a sign of our commitment to each other's religious freedom.

The incomprehensible tragedy at Columbine is on all of our minds. It will reshape our lives as well as the families of the victims. Its impact will be with us for many years.

Next month it will be 46 years since my brother died in a gun accident. He was only 16—not much younger than the children who were murdered at Columbine. The other day my mother said to me that not a day goes by that she doesn't think of him and miss him. I suspect that the parents and loved ones of the victims at Columbine will be the same. The memory of those children will be with them every day for the rest of their lives.

How do we explain it? How do you reconcile the tragedy in your own mind?

We believe our God is good, we believe our God, is love, we believe our God is all-powerful and capable of controlling everything. How could something this evil be allowed to happen? It's not a new question. It's been with mankind throughout history.

A few thousand years ago, a fellow by the name of Job had the same questions. He was devout, religious and pious. He was committed to carrying on the work of his Lord, yet great tragedies were visited upon him. He lost his home. He lost his fortune. He lost his health. He even lost his beloved children. But he didn't lose his faith. And throughout it, he asked "Why?" Was he being tested? Was he being punished? I'm not sure we know. His friends came and talked to him, and they suggested that he must be being punished, that he must have done something wrong. And yet, of course Job hadn't. He hadn't been evil; he hadn't sinned. He'd kept the faith. The attitude of his friends perhaps is parallel to the way many of us think. It is natural to think that if we are good, if we follow the rules, if we observe the mandates, good things will happen to us. And yes, if we sin, we'll be punished. And yet, Job hadn't sinned. I don't pretend to know the answer. But I want to speculate with you this afternoon, and I want to suggest that part of the answer lies in God's purpose for our lives in this world.

What if this earthly existence is not intended to be a paradise? What if our Maker's real kingdom is not of this world? What if the purpose of our earthly existence is to train us, to prepare us, to test us—not for this world, but for the next? What if the commandments of Moses and the admonition to love each other is not a checklist for prosperity in this world, but guidance for how we'll behave when we truly accept grace? Not a way to earn grace, but what we'll do if we accept it. What if those commandments

are the best advice in history on how to live a joyous life and find happiness on earth? It's a different thought, isn't it? If it's so, then our earthly existence may not be about earning our way to heaven or even enjoying a perfect life on earth. It may be about learning and preparing for the next life.

Parents face every day, something of the challenge that our Lord must experience. How do you prepare children for life? We love our children more than life itself. Do we do their homework for them? Perhaps some of you have faced that question. If you don't help them with their homework, they may fail and they may not have the chances you hope for them. But the story doesn't end there. If you do it for them, what do they learn? How do they learn that they have to prepare in advance for the next time? How have you helped them learn a lesson for life?

Growing up, I couldn't understand my mother. How could she be so tough? She never once bought the stories I brought home about how everyone did it, how it must be OK because everyone else got by with it. In fact, she was never even tempted by them. I recall a series of incidents of her forcing me to confess my sins—once to a storeowner a few blocks from here where I'd taken some gum, once to my grandmother, once at school. Those forced confessions resulted in unbelievable embarrassment. How could she do such a thing? If I wanted something, her answer was, "I'll help you find a job." I worked 20-40 hours a week while I was in high school, and, in the summers I had one or two full-time jobs, depending on the summer. My parents were divorced. She worked full-time. She didn't have a lot of time to supervise me. But her strength was to keep me busy, and she kept me so busy I almost stayed out of trouble. As I look back, I wonder whether I have been near as good a parent as she was.

I will never forget the Clarence Thomas hearings, and I suspect some of you may have that feeling as well. One of the instances I recall was a question posed by a senator—a person of great integrity—who had very strong doubts about Clarence Thomas' judicial philosophy. When his turn came to ask questions, the senator said, "Clarence Thomas, I see two Clarence Thomases, not just one. I see one that seems so kind, generous, thoughtful and warm. And then I see one that is mean, cruel and hard. Which one are you?" Justice Thomas responded immediately. He said, "There is only one Clarence Thomas. And I am him. I used to wonder how my uncle could pretend to care for me so much and be so hard on me. It wasn't until later that I learned that he was the one who loved me the most."

I wonder if our Lord has in mind to prepare us for a life to come. Could tragedies and trials in this life prepare us for the next? It's a question worth asking. The year my brother died, I was 13. My grandfather gave me a book, It was written by Woodrow Wilson. It was a wonderful little book called "When a Man Comes To Himself." It had as strong an influence on me as any book I've read. Wilson, as you know, was an idealist. In the book he talks about what the real joys in life are. He observes that the real pay one gets from a job is not the paycheck at the end of the month, although that's important. The real joy comes from what you do. A bricklayer or carpenter can drive through town and see the homes they've built providing shelter and warmth for families. Others can look at the work they've done and see how it impacts lives and changes the people they know. Wilson's thesis was that you are what you do with your life. You've seen those ads where they say you are what you eat. I sincerely hope that's not true. His thesis was that you are the role you play among your

fellows. If that's true, ask what your life amounts to. Wilson's thought was that we are the sum total of how we help each other and the role we play amongst others. Perhaps that's a good guide for us to evaluate what we do in life. It's also a pretty good guide to examine whether you've found the real joy in life.

I don't know the answer to Job's question. Like you, I am troubled by the events and the currents of evil in the world. I, like you, suspect that our responsibility is to do what we can to make sure the tragedy never happens again. I'm not sure there's a surefire formula to prevent disasters. But I do believe that the freedom God gives us to live our lives and make our choices surely must be designed to prepare us for another world and help us understand that we have a role in making this world better. If we learn from this, and all of us go forth determined to make a difference from this moment on, the tragedy, in one way, will have served to make our world a better one.

Thank you.●

GUIDANCE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF EMERGENCIES AS A PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now turn to Calendar No. 89, S. 557, regarding the budget process to which the so-called lockbox issue is pending as an amendment.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. NICKLES. In light of the objection, I now move to proceed to Senate bill 557, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 89, S. 557, a bill to provide guidance for the designation of emergencies as a part of the budget process:

Trent Lott, Spencer Abraham, Jim Inhofe, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Pete Domenici, Paul Coverdell, Wayne Allard, Jesse Helms, Larry E. Craig, Mike Crapo, Chuck Hagel, Mike DeWine, Michael B. Enzi, Judd Gregg, Tim Hutchinson, and Craig Thomas.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, I regret the objection from our Democrat colleagues to allow the Senate to proceed to the very vital issue of the Social Security lockbox issue. With the objection in place, I had no other alternative than to file a cloture motion on the motion to proceed. This cloture vote will occur on Thursday, 1 hour after the Senate convenes, unless changed by unanimous consent. All Senators will be notified as to the exact time of the cloture vote.

CALL OF THE ROLL

In the meantime, I ask consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. NICKLES. I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-3

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent to proceed as if in executive session.

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

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on June 29, 1999, by the President of the United States:

1. Tax Convention with Venezuela (Treaty Document No. 106-3);

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, together with a Protocol, signed at Caracas on January 25, 1999. Also transmitted is the report of the Department of State concerning the Convention.

This Convention, which is similar to tax treaties between the United States and other developing nations, provides maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income and protection from double taxation of income. The Convention also provides for resolution of disputes and sets forth rules making its benefits unavailable to residents that are engaged in treaty shopping.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 29, 1999.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1999

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate complete its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30. I further ask that on Wednes-

day, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate then begin consideration of S. 1234, the foreign operations appropriations legislation.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. NICKLES. For the information of all Senators, Wednesday the Senate will convene at 9:30 and will begin consideration of the foreign operations appropriations bill. Amendments to that bill are expected, and therefore votes are to be expected throughout the day.

Due to the agreement reached regarding health care reform, it is hoped the Senate can complete action on a number of appropriations bills prior to the Fourth of July recess.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:30 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 30, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.