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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, You have made of one blood all the people of the Earth. You are the God of our weary years and silent tears.

Lord, American history contains triumphant and tragic chapters. We read about freedom, justice, liberty, and equality, but also about slavery, injustice, violence, and racism. Thank You for the seasons in a nation's life that enable it to admit mistakes and seek to right wrongs.

Forgive the negligence and passivity of our lawmakers that nurtured thousands of documented and undocumented American lynchings. Forgive the failure to act that permitted more than 99 percent of the perpetrators of these sins to escape punishment.

In these challenging days, help our Senators to remember that all that is necessary for evil to thrive is for good people to do nothing. Transform our contrition into service that will today bring liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and comfort to the bruised.

Bless the descendants of those who were lynched. Remind them that You can transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows and make the crooked places straight. Give them the wisdom to see that in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You.

Lord, empower all of us to continue to strive for right, until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BURR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURR thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will debate Executive Calendar No. 66, the nomination of Thomas Griffith to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit. The vote on confirmation will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow. I am pleased we will be able to have a vote on this nomination, the sixth circuit court judge to be confirmed in the last couple of weeks.

Following the debate on the Griffith nomination, the Senate will then debate S. Res. 39, the antilynching resolution, under a 3-hour time agreement. As was announced last week, there will be a voice vote on the adoption of the

resolution. We will have no recorded votes during today's session.

Tomorrow, following the vote on the Griffith nomination, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 6, the Energy bill. Chairman DOMENICI will be on the Senate floor ready to start the amendment process tomorrow morning. I encourage Senators to work with the bill managers so we can make significant progress on that important bill this week.

As a reminder, there will be no votes this Friday, June 17, to accommodate the Democratic retreat.

With that, Mr. President, I am going to turn to the Democratic leader, and then I will have a longer opening statement following his remarks.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a statement of a few minutes. Does the Senator want me to do that now?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let's proceed with the Democratic leader, and I will follow with my statement.

Mr. REID. I appreciate the courtesy of the distinguished majority leader. I do have something to do, so I appreciate that.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SENATOR JAMES EXON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am terribly saddened by the death of Jim Exon. Those of us who had the opportunity to serve with him are so troubled by his death. He was an outstanding Senator. He was fair. He worked on both sides of the aisle. He protected the State of Nebraska and our country so well.

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



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I have so many fond memories of him. His enthusiasm for the work he did here was contagious. His sense of humor was wonderful. Jim Exon loved Nebraska football. He cared about a lot of issues, but other than his family, Nebraska football came first. He is going to be buried in Lincoln, NE, on this Wednesday. He died, I believe it was Friday night. BEN NELSON called me Saturday morning. Jim Exon was certainly a mentor of BEN NELSON. We will all miss him very much.

I hope those who have some knowledge of Senator Exon will recognize we hope to take an airplane trip to Nebraska Wednesday afternoon to attend his funeral. He was a wonderful man. I miss him so much.

ANTILYNCHING LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this past Friday, I was in Cincinnati. I had some business to conduct there, but my plane got in early, and I had some time on my hands. My staff said: Would you like to go to a new museum that opened in August of 2004? I said: Sure, I will be happy to. It is a museum that is dedicated to forcing us to remember what went on in the dark days of the history of this country dealing with slavery.

The museum is done so well. You walk in, and the first thing you see is this large facility—big, tall—and it is a facility that was used in the late 1700s, 1800s for holding slaves. The upper story—using that term loosely—was for the men and the bottom for the women. They still have the shackles there, the chains that were used to hold these people. They have the writing on the walls used to describe what these human beings were worth, how much money, and for what they could be used.

So it is very appropriate that I returned to Washington today since we are going to debate some legislation that is very pertinent.

In this body's two centuries of history, we have done many great things. We sent men to the Moon, created schools for our kids, fed the hungry, and lent a helping hand to struggling families. But today I rise to speak about one of this institution's great failures—its shameful refusal to enact antilynching legislation in the first half of the 20th century.

Today, one of the saddest chapters in our Chamber's history will come to a close when we apologize for the Senate's inaction. I join my colleagues in apologizing to the deceased victims of lynchings and their surviving loved ones. I pray this Chamber will never fail to see this injustice that was done. We must realize and understand what it was. It was an injustice.

While the exact number is impossible to determine, records indicate that since 1882—the best records we have—4,749 individuals have died from lynching, men and women, mostly men, and most of them by far African Ameri-

cans. These Americans were killed, tortured, mutilated, and maimed with near impunity. Most were denied due process under the law, and their killers rarely—very rarely—faced consequences for their actions, as indicated by the prayer offered today by our Chaplain which indicated little less than 1 percent who saw some retribution in the courts. The Senate's inaction helped create a culture of acceptance toward these heinous crimes against humanity.

Photos from this book—"Without Sanctuary" is the name of the book—a book of lynchings that occurred in America, and it is depicted in photographs—photographs that are so hard to accept—is the principal reason we are here today, this one book.

This book shows men, women, children donning their finest clothing and gleefully posing in front of deceased people who had been hanged and, prior to being hanged, often mutilated. Even worse, many photos were turned into postcards, until 1908, when the Senate at least amended U.S. Postal Service regulations to forbid the mailing of lynching photographs made into postcards. Think about that.

American history is rich with stories of heroes and heroines, as well as patriots, of patriotism. However, the lynching of so many Americans will always be a stain on our great democracy. Only after passage of time, only after growing pressure from civil rights organizations, only after over 200 antilynching bills, condemnation by foreign nations, petitions from seven U.S. Presidents, and outcries from the African-American press and some mainstream publications did the occurrence of this horrible act decline. But this book, published in 2000, is the real reason we are moving today.

It is my sincere hope that the relatives of the victims of these horrible acts will accept this body's sincere apology and take solace in the Senate finally recognizing its shortcomings.

It is also my sincere hope that the Senate does not stop with its apologies. There is much more to be done. We can honor the legacy of these victims by continuing to confront the challenges in civil rights before us in enacting legislation that will protect, for example, voting rights and improve the lives of so many Americans.

First, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand strong in support of reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act.

Second, disparities between African Americans and Whites in health care and education are still too great. I encourage this body to support legislation that will improve health care among African Americans, improve educational resources, and provide opportunities for African Americans in many different avenues.

Finally, I ask the families of the victims of these terrible crimes to accept the Senate's apology, and I pray that my colleagues will act positively on

upcoming legislation to honor the souls of those passed and that they may finally rest in peace.

Mr. President, again, I extend my appreciation to the majority leader in allowing me to go before him this afternoon.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

AFRICA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, President Bush, accompanied by the Presidents of five African States—Botswana, Ghana, Niger, Mozambique, and Namibia—announced the African Growth and Opportunity Act forum that will be held in July of this year in Senegal.

At that joint meeting and announcement of the Senegal meeting, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with each of these African leaders, the Presidents of their respective countries, about the particular challenges their countries face and how the United States of America, working in partnership with them, can help.

We discussed our continuing efforts to help the nations of Africa fight disease and hunger and to develop sound, healthy, and accountable governance.

In our conversations, I underscored the need for continued political reform, for economic development, for investment in human capital, especially as we combat an issue the President talked a lot about earlier in the press announcement, and that is the tyranny of HIV/AIDS. We also discussed the President's plan to offer additional emergency aid to Africa at the upcoming G8 summit in July. This money is in addition to the \$674 million the President announced last week during Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit to Washington.

Needless to say, the African Presidents were overwhelmed by these initiatives. They were impressed by the leadership of Prime Minister Blair and President Bush and by the generosity of the American people.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, in what Treasury Secretary John Snow called an achievement of historic proportions, the G8, led by the United States and the United Kingdom, agreed to cancel more than \$40 billion in debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries, including 14 African nations.

Two hundred and eighty million African citizens will no longer labor under massive debtloads that have been crippling their ability to grow and prosper. This agreement wipes the slate clean. Their governments will see a combined savings of an estimated \$1.5 billion a year. As we discussed this morning, their challenge now is to invest those savings wisely and effectively.

If this money is used wisely, the people of these countries will see better education, cleaner water, less disease, and live better and more productive lives. Countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique—all will be