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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We have a guest Chaplain today, Rev. Kenneth Lyons, Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, Jasper, TX. He is a guest of Senator HUTCHISON.

We are glad to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Kenneth Lyons, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, Your name be exalted above every name. Welcome in the name of Your Son, Jesus. We thank You for Your infinite love. You have looked beyond our faults as a government and a people and allowed us to enjoy the blessing of freedom, spiritually and physically.

Dear God, guide the minds of these Your ministers in the government of our country. Keep them ever mindful that they are instruments in Your service and for Your people, so that their lives may be peaceful in the world.

Lord, keep these Senators of this body and their families under Your wing. Grant them courage and boldness in this period of the history of our Nation. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator HUTCHISON is designated to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, a Senator from the State of Texas, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader this morning, I make the following announcement to the Senate:

This morning the Senate will debate cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 557 for 1 hour, to be followed by a cloture vote at 10:30 a.m. If cloture is invoked, the leader will file a cloture motion on the pending amendment to S. 557, the Social Security lockbox legislation, and that cloture vote will occur at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 16. Following that action, Senator SPECTER will be recognized as if in morning business for up to 30 minutes.

The Senate will then resume consideration of the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, with the hope of completing the bill during today's session of the Senate. Under a previous unanimous consent agreement, all amendments must be offered by 11:30 a.m. today. It may also be the intention of the leader to debate and vote on the Y2K conference report and to begin consideration of any other appropriations bills cleared for action. Therefore, Senators can expect votes throughout the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The Senator from Texas is recognized.

REVEREND KENNETH LYONS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wish to make a comment about Reverend Lyons, who just opened our Senate session with a prayer, because he is a very special person to me and to the State of Texas and really to all Americans.

A little over a year ago, a heinous crime was committed in the small town of Jasper, TX, when James Byrd, Jr., was brutally murdered simply because of his race, dragged to death by three men in a pickup truck. The senseless killing riveted the Nation and many feared the outbreak of civil disorder. But Rev. Kenneth Lyons helped still the troubled waters. He is pastor of Greater New Bethel Baptist Church where James Byrd's family worshipped every Sunday.

Pastor Lyons spoke fearlessly to people of all races. He said, ''This must have been a divine wake-up call to the consciences of men. You can't fight fire with fire.'' He urged not vengeance but harmony and peace.

Reverend Lyons' wise leadership personified Abraham Lincoln's call to the ''better angels of our nature.'' He helped unite the people of Jasper, TX, in their commitment to equality and justice, to rise above hatred and despair.

Millions of Americans watched that small town of Jasper, TX, as it came together because of Reverend Lyons' plea for redemption and healing. Because of his faith and eloquence, we are better people.

RESPONSE IN JASPER, TEXAS

There are other heroes in Jasper, TX, and it was one of the great moments of my life to be able to go to Pastor Lyons' church and attend the burial ceremony for James Byrd, Jr., and to meet the kind of people who make this country what it is. I met James Byrd, Sr., and Mrs. Byrd, Renee Mullins, James Byrd, Jr.'s daughter, and his son. I met people who had just endured something that none of us ever want to have any of our family or friends ever endure. James Byrd, Sr., was saying: There is no hate here; there is love in this family.

That was the beginning of the healing process not only in Jasper, TX, but a model for America—when something we cannot possibly understand happens, someone steps forward and says we can't let this tear all of us down. James Byrd, Sr., started that process.

I want to talk about Billy Rowles, the Jasper County sheriff, who did not let one minute pass when he got that call on that fateful Sunday morning and he heard the beginning of what was

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

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