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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 1995, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1995

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, our hearts are at half-mast with grief over the catastrophic bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City. We mourn for the victims, especially the children, of this senseless crime and reach out with profound empathy to their families. We ask You to strengthen them as they endure incredible suffering. Graciously grant physical and emotional healing to those who survived. Most of all, comfort the children who ask "why?" and give wisdom to parents as they search for words to answer. We all need help in understanding an ignominious act of tyranny like this.

We only can imagine the agony of Your heart, Father. If our indignation burns white-hot, it must be small in comparison to Your judgment. You have given us freedom of will and made us responsible for the welfare of our neighbors. Our hearts break with Your heart over those who willfully cause suffering. Therefore, we boldly ask for Your divine intervention for the speedy capture and punishment of these traitors against our Nation and the sacredness of human life. As You have given us victory in just wars, now give us a strategy to defeat the illusive and dangerous forces of organized terrorism.

Lord God of this Senate, we are never more of one mind and heart than when dealing with a threat to our national

security or in responding to a catastrophe in any one of our States. We rally in support of Senators NICKLES and INHOFE as they continue to care for their people.

We press on to the issues of this day with the strong inspiration of the 40 years of leadership of John Stennis in this Senate. May the memory of his faith in You and his courage in conflict give us determination to seek, as he did, to do our best. In the Lord's name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank the Chaplain for his timely and comforting words.

TRAGEDY IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, on behalf of all the Senate, I extend my sympathies to Senator NICKLES, Senator INHOFE, Members of the House Oklahoma delegation, Gov. Frank Keating, and, through them, to all the citizens of Oklahoma for the loss they suffered last Wednesday.

Kansas and Oklahoma share a common border. And our citizens also share common values. Values like love of God. Love of family. Perseverance through tough times. And a commitment to help those in need. The citi-

zens of Oklahoma displayed these values time and time again this past week, and in doing so, they inspired America and the world.

While all the people of Oklahoma deserve our admiration, the citizens of Oklahoma City are worthy of special praise. It is their friends and family members who were lost as a result of this brutal crime. But while many of Oklahoma City's buildings were shattered, its spirit has stood strong.

I am reminded of the words of the great World War II journalist Ernie Pyle, who once wrote, "Oklahoma City is an especially friendly town. People there have a pride about their town * * * They just wouldn't live anywhere else." That pride has never left the people of Oklahoma City, and it will guide them during the difficult days ahead.

I salute the firemen, the paramedics, the rescue workers, and all those who have generously volunteered their time and their labor to the relief effort; the members of the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

I commend President Clinton for the way he and his administration have responded to this tragedy. The criminal investigation has been thorough and swift, and the tone set by the President right on the mark: Those who have perpetrated this unspeakable evil are cowards. There is absolutely no justification, no excuse, for what took place last Wednesday in Oklahoma City. Killing innocent children and other defenseless citizens is the depraved act of depraved minds.

I also want to commend Attorney General Reno for publicly stating that

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



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