

connection between the tragic ending to her life and the earlier detention. Mrs. Abiola had been an outspoken critic of Gen. Sani Abacha's regime. For nearly 2 years, she had been working tirelessly—both in private and in public for the release of her husband. She had become a prominent individual in her own right, working to bring democracy to her country. Just last week, she met with John Shattuck, our Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights.

The assassination of this leading figure, following the executions last year of a group of human rights activists, including the renowned playwright, Ken Sara-Wiwa, has drawn international condemnation and rightly so. According to press reports, thousands of university students marched yesterday in Ibadan, joined by many others. Over 3,000 people attended Ms. Abiola's funeral yesterday, including representatives from a number of nations.

Mr. President, Nigeria is an important country in regional and international politics. It is the most populous country in Africa and an active member of many international bodies. Nigeria's fate is thus of great significance. It has the potential to become a major world trading partner and an influential member of the international community. Yet its leadership continues to squander this potential through this horrific behavior. The military regime of Gen. Sani Abacha continues to be associated with rampant corruption, brutal policies of repression and execution and severe economic mismanagement.

I spoke yesterday with the Nigerian Ambassador to the United States and communicated my own concern that the most recent assassination is a matter of grave concern and urged that his government conduct a full and transparent investigation of the circumstances leading to Mrs. Abiola's assassination and take steps to bring her murderers to justice.

The Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa, on which I serve as the ranking minority member, recently held a hearing on United States policy on Nigeria. As I said then, and as I have said many times on this floor, the track of decline and violence in Nigeria causes great pain and instability in all of Africa. The brutal assassinations and executions underscore this problem.

The situation in Nigeria today stands in stark contrast to the trend in many African countries toward pluralism, transparency, and constitutional guarantees of fundamental human rights. Nigeria continues to move in the opposite direction. The international community needs to send very strong messages that this course of action will make Nigeria an international pariah, shunned by all nations and all people committed to human rights and democracy.●

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PRYOR

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the first 8 years of my time as Republican leader coincided with the administrations of Republican Presidents. And one of my jobs as leader was to do everything I could to support the agenda of those Presidents.

Though Senator PRYOR is not the Democrat leader, he has made it his job the past 3 years to do everything he could to support President Clinton, his long-time friend and fellow Arkansan.

And no doubt about it, President Clinton could not have asked for a better friend than Senator PRYOR. While we have disagreed on many issues—especially over the last 3 years—I have admired his loyalty to the President.

I have also admired the special interest that Senator PRYOR has taken on issues of importance to senior citizens. When he was in the House of Representatives, he was the driving force behind the establishment of the Aging Committee, and has chaired that committee here in the Senate.

Senator PRYOR will also be remembered for his longstanding crusade against overly harsh enforcement methods of the Internal Revenue Service, and he is due a great deal of credit for the passage in 1988 of the taxpayers bill of rights.

I would close by saying to Senator PRYOR that it is my hope that come next January, I will have the privilege of having Senators who are as good of friends to a Dole administration as he has been to the Clinton administration.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BRADLEY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as I look back at my years in the Senate, one accomplishment of which I am very proud was the passage of tax reform legislation in 1986, when I was serving as Senate majority leader.

This bill was a very important first step in making our tax system fairer, flatter, and simpler. And one of the guiding forces behind its passage was Senator BILL BRADLEY of New Jersey.

Senator BRADLEY is retiring from the Senate at the end of this year, and he leaves behind a record of accomplishment and innovation.

From the future of Russia to international trade to the state of our cities, Senator BRADLEY has been in the forefront of debates, providing both leadership and original proposals.

Senator BRADLEY and I have not agreed on every issue over the years, but one matter on which we see eye-to-eye is the need to restore civility and a sense of decency to American society.

I have no doubt that Senator BRADLEY will continue to contribute a great deal to the debates of our time for many years to come.

Elizabeth joins with me in wishing all the best to Senator BRADLEY, and to his wife, Ernestine.

Senator Bradley has been a good friend. We have been on the Finance

Committee together. We have agreed on a lot of issues and, as I said earlier, disagreed on some. I think he has added a great deal of civility to this body, and I know he has a bright future as he leaves the Senate in whatever he may do in the private sector.

SENATOR BENNETT JOHNSTON

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, like many Members of this body, I learned a great deal about how to succeed in the Senate from our former colleague, Russell Long of Louisiana.

Senator Long knew this institution. He knew how to get things done. And he knew how to fight for the interests of his State. And during the 14 years they represented Louisiana together, Senator Long had a willing student and an effective partner in Senator J. BENNETT JOHNSTON.

And when Senator JOHNSTON leaves this Chamber at the end of the year, he will leave with a reputation as someone who knows the Senate, who knows how to get things done, and who knows how to fight for people of his State.

Energy, water development, agriculture, and national defense are all issues that matter to Louisiana, and they are matters that have been on the top of Senator JOHNSTON's agenda.

As Republican leader, I have appreciated Senator JOHNSTON's willingness to set partisanship aside, and to do what is best for America. His support of President Bush during the Persian Gulf War, his opposition to the Clinton tax increase, and his leadership in the effort to achieve true regulatory reform are three examples that come to mind.

I note that Senator JOHNSTON will celebrate his birthday next week, and I would say to him that he is still a very young man, and that he still has much to contribute to Louisiana and to America.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session.

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

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me indicate before I make any request here that I have had a phone discussion today with Senator DASCHLE, the Democratic leader. I hope there is still some way before I leave here on Tuesday that we can dispose of, if not all the nominees on the calendar, most of the nominees. It has never been my practice to hold up nominees because they have families; they have plans to make; they have moves to make.

I know that we are sort of caught in a crunch here because we have objections from both sides. And I did say on May 24, 1996, that I would be happy to call up these nominations one at a time. If we cannot agree on a package, if we cannot agree to do all or part, then it seems to me that we ought to—

we are talking more about judicial nominees than anything else at this point—go one at a time.

Now, whether or not that will be satisfactory—I do not want to make the request if it is not satisfactory, because I know the Democratic leader has obligations too, to his Members.

I am not going to ask you to object if you prefer to work this out some other way, but I am prepared and I think the Democratic leader is, if we can find some way, to sort of break this logjam. We are in a position to clear at least 5 nominees, not judges but other nominations. So we are making an effort, a serious effort. I am aware the leader is making an effort to try to accommodate the concerns of the President expressed to me this morning by the Democratic leader. So rather than make the request, I ask the Democratic leader if he knows of any other way we can deal with this that might resolve the problems we both have?

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me say first I very much appreciate the manner in which the majority leader has attempted to resolve this issue. No one has been more fair than has he, with regard to finding a way to resolve the matter and, as he indicated some time ago, he indicated his desire to take these matters up one by one. Under the circumstances, I think, were we to not have any understanding as to how to resolve it, we would not be in a position to agree tonight to any one particular element of the Executive Calendar relating to judges. But I share the majority leader's view that our best opportunity would be, perhaps, to take these matters up one by one. I would want to work with him to see if we can resolve it in the next few days.

Mr. DOLE. As the Democratic leader knows, the Senators are coming to me and they are coming to you. They say, "Just work out my problem," which I would be happy to do. But there are others who say, "Not until you work out my problem." And therein lies the problem.

So I hope we could accommodate. The judges I had in mind were Joseph Greenaway of New Jersey and Walker Miller of Colorado. We could go down the whole list one time. Maybe everybody would cease to object, because then we would have a vote up or down or somebody would have to stand up here and say I want to speak however long it takes to sidetrack this nominee.

Perhaps we can, between now and Monday, and we are here at least for 2 or 3 hours tomorrow morning. I will be happy to visit with the Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Very good.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DOLE. I now ask we proceed en bloc to the following nominations on

today's Executive Calendar, 481, 484 through 489, 493 and 494, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service and Public Health Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. I further ask consent the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating to nominations be placed at this point in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and, further, that the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

David Finn, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2000.

Speight Jenkins, of Washington, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2000.

Townsend D. Wolfe, III, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2000.

Patrick Davidson, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2000.

William P. Foster, of Florida, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2000.

Wallace D. McRae, of Montana, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 1998.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

Marca Bristo, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 1998.

Kate Pew Wolters, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 1998.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Foreign Service nominations beginning Suzanne K. Hale, and ending Robert J. Wicks, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 1996.

Foreign Service nominations beginning Alfred Thomas Clark, and ending David Jonathan Wolff, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 18, 1996.

Public Health Service nominations beginning Richard J. Hodes, and ending Cheryl A. Wiseman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 9, 1995.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

EXTENDING THE SERVICE OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1634, relating to the

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S.1634) to amend the resolution establishing the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission to extend the service of certain members.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The bill was considered read three times and passed as follows:

S. 1634

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first section of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a commission to formulate plans for a memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt", approved August 11, 1955 (69 Stat. 694) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: "A Commissioner who ceases to be a Member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may, with the approval of the appointing authority, continue to serve as a commissioner for a period of up to one year after he or she ceases to be a Member of the Senate or the House of Representatives."

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1996

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 7; further, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for the transaction of morning business for a period of 2 hours, with the first hour under the control of Senator COVERDELL, the second hour under the control of Senator DASCHLE or his designee, with 15 minutes of the minority time under the control of Senator LEAHY.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will conduct morning business. I do not believe there will be rollcall votes. I cannot say that for certain. If we work out something on judges we may have a vote or two, but they will be minimal, if any. And we may be asked to turn to any executive or legislative items cleared for action.

Let me just indicate, I have been working, as I know the Democratic leader has, trying to figure out something on the budget, perhaps get a time agreement.