

To that effort, I pledge all my strength and every power of my office. I ask the Members of Congress here to join in that pledge. The American people returned to office a President of one party and a Congress of another. Surely, they did not do this to advance the politics of petty bickering and extreme partisanship they plainly deplore.

[Applause.]

No, they call on us all instead to be repairers of the breach and to move on with America's mission.

America demands and deserves big things from us—and nothing big ever came from being small.

[Applause.]

Let us remember the timeless wisdom of Cardinal Bernardin when facing the end of his own life. He said, "It is wrong to waste the precious gift of time . . . on acrimony and division."

Fellow citizens, we must not waste the precious gift of this time, for all of us are on that same journey of our lives, and our journey, too, will come to an end. But the journey of our America must go on.

And so, my fellow Americans, we must be strong, for there is much to dare. The demands of our time are great, and they are different. Let us meet them with faith and courage, with patience and a grateful, happy heart. Let us shape the hope of this day into the noblest chapter in our history. Yes, let us build our bridge—

[Applause.]

a bridge wide enough and strong enough for every American to cross over to a blessed land of new promise. May those generations whose faces we cannot yet see, whose names we may never know, say of us here that we led our beloved land into a new century with the American dream alive for all her children, with the American promise of a more perfect Union a reality for all her people, with America's bright flame of freedom spreading throughout all the world.

From the height of this place and the summit of this century, let us go forth. May God "strengthen our hands for the good work ahead"—and always, always bless our America.

[Applause.]

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we thank you for that strong and inspiring message at this very important time in our history.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce the Immanuel Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra of Little Rock.

The choir and orchestra, under the direction of Reverend Lynn Madden, will present "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

(The Immanuel Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra sing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic.")

Mr. WARNER. Thank you for the singing of that most inspiring of American music.

As he did for his first inauguration in 1993, President Clinton has asked a distinguished American scholar to compose a poem for this historic day.

Please welcome writer, editor, poet, Mr. Miller Williams.

[Applause.]

OF HISTORY AND HOPE

We have memorized America,
how it was born and who we have been and
where.

In ceremonies and silence we say the words,
telling the stories, singing the old songs.
We like the places they take us. Mostly we
do.

The great and all the anonymous dead are
there.

We know the sound of all the sounds we
brought.

The rich taste of it is on our tongues.

But where are we going to be, and why, and
who?

The disenfranchised dead want to know.

We mean to be the people we meant to be,

to keep on going where we meant to go.

But how do we fashion the future? Who can
say how

except in the minds of those who will call it
Now?

The children. The children. And how does
our garden grow?

With waving hands—oh, rarely in a row—
and flowering faces. And brambles, that we
can no longer allow.

Who were many people coming together.

cannot become one people falling apart.

Who dreamed for every child an even chance.

cannot let luck alone turn doorknobs or not.

Whose law was never so much of the hand as
the head

cannot let chaos make its way to the heart.
Who have seen learning struggle from teach-
er to child

cannot let ignorance spread itself like rot.
We know what we have done and what we
have said,

and how we have grown, degree by slow de-
gree,

believing ourselves toward all we have tried
to become—

just and compassionate, equal, able, and free.
All this in the hands of children, eyes al-
ready set.

on a land we never can visit—it isn't there
yet—

but looking through their eyes, we can see.
what our long gift to them may come to be.

If we can truly remember, they will not for-
get.

[Applause.]

Mr. WARNER. Santita Jackson will lead the
singing of our National Anthem. She will be
accompanied by the Resurrection Choir, a
group composed of singers from the choirs of
American churches tragically destroyed by
fire in recent months.

This choir's performance is a befitting
commemoration of this day on which we
honor also Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Before we sing our National Anthem, the
Reverend Gardner C. Taylor will deliver the
benediction.

Ladies and gentlemen, please stand for the
benediction and remain standing to sing our
National Anthem.

Reverend Taylor.

BENEDICTION

Reverend TAYLOR. Let us lift up our spirits
before our Creator, eternal God, brooding
over the days of our years. In sovereign judg-
ment, and yet with tender mercy, now close
to the end of this solemn but joyous occa-
sion, we lift our hearts and our hopes before
Thee.

We pray for our President, William Jeffer-
son Clinton, that Thou will give to him ever
increasing vision and vigor and voice, that
he might speak tellingly to the American
promise in history.

We pray for the gracious and gallant lady
at his side, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and for
their daughter.

We ask Thy blessings upon the Vice Presi-
dent of the United States and upon his wife,
Mrs. Tipper Gore. Grant, we pray, that he
may ever be more a partisan of what is best
in our American tradition.

And now, our God, we hold before Thee this
Nation so richly endowed, so grandly blessed,
and yet imperiled, apparently often, by the
very richness of its diversity. Deliver us
from pettiness of heart, from harshness of
speech and from violence of action. Make us
worthy of our history, of patriots' sacrifices
and martyrs' blood, in the vanguard of which
stand Lincoln and King, Thy servants Abra-

ham and Martin. Give us ever a greater dedi-
cation and commitment to the grand defin-
ing words of our democracy—liberty, justice,
equality, opportunity.

And now let the words of our mouths, all of
our mouths, in the meditations of our
hearts, all of our hearts, be acceptable in
Thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Re-
deemer, and now unto the old, wise God, our
Deliverer, be glory and majesty, dominion
and power both now and evermore. Amen.

Mr. WARNER. Now, Miss Santita Jackson.
(The National Anthem was sung by Santita
Jackson and the Resurrection Choir, audi-
ence standing.)

[Applause.]

The inaugural ceremonies were concluded
at 12:48 p.m.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest
the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The
clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to
call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unani-
mous consent that the order for the
quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know of
no Senator having indicated that he or
she desires to make a statement at this
time. No request being given to the
Cloakroom, I ask unanimous consent
that the Senate now stand in recess
until the previous order until 2:15.

There being no objection, the Senate,
at 12:20 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m.;
whereupon, the Senate reassembled
when called to order by the Presiding
Officer [Mr. COATS].

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr.
COATS). The majority leader is recog-
nized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unani-
mous consent that the period for
morning business be divided as follows:
The first 30 minutes under the control
of the majority leader, the second 30
minutes under the control of the
Democratic leader, with the next hour
under the control of the majority lead-
er or his designee, to be followed by 1
hour under control of the Democratic
leader or his nominee.

I do not believe there is a problem
with this. We have cleared it with the
other side of the aisle.

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

SENATE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I think we
have the opportunity here today to get
off to a good start, a fast start. It is
one about which we have commu-
nicated with our colleagues on the
other side of the aisle. We have in-
creased the number of bills that we of-
ficially introduce at the start of the