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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 1998, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1998

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer this morning will be given by the Reverend Neal Jones, the former pastor for Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Virginia. We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Neal Jones, Falls Church, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Great God and Controller of the uncharted seas of tomorrow, grant us discernible signals for our voyage.

Save us from floods of arrogance that drown our better judgement. Raise us above the undertows of cowardice that postpone justice. Remove us from the cross currents of double motivations that destroy character. Scrape away the accumulating barnacles from our long season in strange waters. Guide us between the glaciers that threaten an icy grave. Keep us from the fickle waves of indecision causing stagnation. Rescue us from pirate patrols and their carefully planted mines that destroy our passengers.

Above all else, Great God and Controller of our uncharted seas of tomorrow, we gladly trust You. You are the Way where we sail. You are the truth by which we navigate. You are the Life that makes the voyage joyful, purposeful, and helpful. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Indiana is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, we were privileged to be led in our opening prayer today by Reverend Dr. Neal Jones, a fancy title for some of us who know him as "Pastor Jones." I think "pastor" is probably the most affectionate and endearing term that anyone can come up with in terms of someone that they feel close to and have had a relationship with. People know the Reverend Dr. Neal Jones as Pastor Jones because of his dedicated service as pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Virginia, for many, many years. He has been pastor to me and my family, the majority leader and his family, the President pro tempore and his family, and others of our colleagues in both the Senate and the House.

"Pastor" is the appropriate word because of his love and his affection and his endearment that he has displayed toward us and our families. And we feel exactly the same way about him.

Dr. Jones is a graduate of Texas Christian University, and Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Texas, but the primary focus of his ministry has been with Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Virginia going back as far as March of 1969.

He is currently retired. It is a loss to the people who have attended faithfully over the years Columbia Baptist Church.

But, again, to his dear wife, Betty, and his family and his grandchildren, and the many organizations that he has been associated with and continues to be associated with—I will just name

two of those: He is a member of the University Board of Regents at Baylor University in Texas, and has been on the Executive Board of Prison Fellowship from its very inception.

Reverend Jones has a gift of prayer, and, as we heard this morning, an eloquence in prayer. I hope someday, if he has not already, that he will publish those prayers because they are exceptional.

And he also has the gift of remembering those with whom he has come in contact with. Every once in a while I will receive a note with a prayer attached to it personalized to me and to our family, "Just thinking of you, wanted to share this thought, your friend, Neal." I think that speaks as much about Neal Jones as anything else that I can say.

I think the Senate is privileged and the Nation is privileged this morning to have had him lead us in our opening prayer.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Under the previous order, leader time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I, too, would like to join in extending my

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



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thanks to Dr. Neal Jones, and to express my appreciation to him for what he has meant in my own life and my family's life.

He was a pastor at Columbia Baptist Church. My family and I attended there during the years that our children were in their teens, and it was a wonderful experience. As a matter of fact, he baptized our daughter, our son, and even my wife. So I have a special feeling in my heart for that church and for the pastor. We are delighted to have you here today.

I, too, want to thank you for those little messages that I get at critical times in my life. Sometimes I am under certain pressure, and Dr. Jones seems to sense it. But he has a wonderful message always at the end: "No response necessary."

Thank you, Dr. Jones, for all you do.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will proceed to 2 hours of morning business with several Senators recognized for individual periods of time.

At 12 noon it is my hope that the Senate can consider the Ronald Reagan Airport naming bill and/or the Senate concurrent resolution condemning Iraq's threat to international peace and security. It was my hope that the minority leader would be able to enter into a reasonable time agreement on both of these issues which would allow for the debate to occur today and any amendments and votes on those amendments and final passage to occur on the morning of Tuesday, February 3rd. I am now informed at this point that will not be possible. Therefore, those votes could occur today.

Now, there are some ominous signs on the horizon that really bother me. This is the first week that we are back. It takes a little time to get back in the swing of things. I understand that. I know Senators didn't expect a lot to occur in terms of votes this week. But already I have had numerous Senators come to me and say, "Oh, could we not have votes on Thursday? Certainly we will not have them on Friday and Monday, and, by the way, I can't vote on Tuesday morning."

There is a limit to how much the Democratic leader and I can cooperate with Senators in protecting their schedules. I certainly have a record that shows that I am sensitive to that. I would like for the Senate to work during the daylight instead of night, for instance, and we achieved that to some degree. But if every Senator thinks that he or she can inconvenience 99 Senators because they have some little bit they want to do somewhere, that is not the way it is going to work this year. They should not start out that way.

So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, don't do this. Don't even come to leadership on both sides of the aisle and say, "Can you defer a vote on

Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday?" or, for that matter, late Monday afternoons or Friday mornings. We have legislative days this year that will probably add up to around 100 days and a lot of work to do—a lot of important budget issues, infrastructure issues, foreign policy issues that we can't ignore or delay.

So I am not threatening. I am not complaining yet. This is the kickoff. We will get going here pretty quickly. But I am having difficulty getting Senators to be ready to go to work. I have at least four bills that we should consider this week or next week, and for one reason or another I am being told, "Well, we are not quite ready."

The recess is over. It is time for the class to get back to work, and let's work to do that.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. I would be glad to yield to the Senator from South Dakota, the Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I sympathize with the majority leader's problem and tell him that I share the same frustration. I have had Senators come to me this week who indicated that they can't be here on a particular day this week. I have noted, while we will try to accommodate those problems this week, that people need to be here. They need to be prepared to vote. They need to recognize that we have very limited time and that we have a lot of work ahead of us. We are not going to be able to do it if all we have is Wednesday afternoon. But that in essence seems to be the attitude: we will try to do all of our work on Wednesday afternoons. That isn't going to work around here.

Whether you are in the minority or the majority, we have a lot of things we know we must do. We can't afford the luxury of having more and more of these scheduling conflicts and relegate the Nation's business and the Senate's business to Wednesday afternoon.

So I want to assure the majority leader of my determination to see that we put in a full week, that we get the work done, and that we try to accomplish all that I know he and the rest of us would like to accomplish this year. I thank him for yielding.

Mr. LOTT. I thank Senator DASCHLE for his cooperation in this. This is not just on one side of the aisle. We are both working this problem. We will fulfill our obligation as leaders in ways that have not always been the case around here.

Senators have already been told when they can expect to be in session or have recess periods for the whole year. We will indicate as far in advance as we can when we may not have a vote on Friday or Monday if we know for sure, for instance, that there is a conflicting conference. We will also try to have a legislative calendar that really shows the bills we are going to be dealing with all year.

So we will give everybody as much advance notice as we possibly can, and

then we would expect cooperation in return.

On the Iraq resolution, this is an important resolution. This is a sensitive time. I think we should think about it carefully. There is no need to rush to judgment. We ought to talk about it. We ought to think about it. We ought to make it clear what our concerns are about Saddam Hussein and the fact that the inspectors are not in Iraq. We need to think about its ramifications not only for the region but the world. We need our allies to be with us—not just the British but the French, the Russians, and the Chinese, and everybody else because this is a threat to the whole world. We need to make it clear that the present situation will not stand.

This resolution that Senator DASCHLE and I have been working on, as always you have to craft it with words of art. You have to make sure that you have the right words in there. And we do not want to go beyond what is responsible. But I think that it is timely. I think we would have been doing this resolution sometime in the first 2 weeks at the beginning of this year regardless of other events unrelated to this. This is something that the Senate usually does.

So again, I urge Senators to look this resolution over. Let's do the responsible thing and let's do it very quickly. We need to have a full discussion. We need to do it today. And we can do it again on Monday. But we should vote on it on Tuesday. If not, it could be overrun by other events maybe not as important. But we already have the schedule set for Tuesday in terms of some debate and some votes on nominations. We have a couple of other bills that we are considering for next week.

Senator DASCHLE will work with me. And let's just talk today about how we can proceed today and whether or not we know we are going to have votes today or when we can be assured we will have votes on Tuesday morning.

Thank you, again, and I thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators to speak for not to exceed 5 minutes each. However, under the previous order, the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL, is recognized to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, thank you.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM OSBORNE

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, this morning I come to the floor to recognize a man who has lived the American ideals of integrity, courage and leadership. This man, Mr. President, is Dr.