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Speech to the National Baptist Convention

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September 2, 1994

SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

DATE: September 9, 1994
LOCATION: Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
900 Convention Center Blvd.
New Orleans, Louisiana
TIME: 10:30 am
FROM: Alexis Herman
Ben Johnson

I. PURPOSE

To request support for your legislative initiatives and to thank Dr. T. J. Jemison and his organization for their unwavering support of the crime bill and health care reform.

II. BACKGROUND

The National Baptist Convention, USA, is the largest body of African American Baptists in the world, with membership numbering over 8.2 million. It was founded in 1880 when several African American Baptists organizations and churches united under the National Baptist Convention, USA banner. The organization promotes home and foreign missions, encourages and supports Christian Education, publishes and distributes Sunday School and religious literature world-wide.

The National Baptist Convention, USA has had 12 previous presidents including Dr. Elias C. Morris, a former President of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, who during his tenure (1893-1922) was instrumental in organizing the Arkansas Baptist College. The organization is currently headed by The Reverend Doctor Theodore J. Jemison, Pastor of the Mt. Zion First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Jemison is one of your most ardent supporters and played a pivotal role in galvanizing clergy support for the crime bill. He continues to be steadfast in his support of your efforts to reform our health care system. Additionally, several religious leaders in attendance have been rallying their church congregations in support of universal health coverage and were instrumental in passage of the crime bill.

This year's convention is expected to be the largest ever because of the retirement of Dr. Jemison, who is stepping down after 13 years as national president. On September 8, 1994, a new president will be elected and the closeness of the race between the two leading candidates is expected to boost attendance to maximum capacity. The two leading candidates vying to succeed Dr. Jemison are Dr. Franklyn Richardson of New York, and Dr. Henry J. Lyons of Florida.

III. PARTICIPANTS

30,000 religious and lay leaders

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

V. SEQUENCE

o Upon arrival you will be greeted by Dr. Jemison and three officers of the National Baptist Convention.

o Dr. Jemison will accompany you to a holding room where you will be introduced to 12 key religious leaders in the organization.

o Dr. Jemison and the three officers will escort you to the stage.

o Dr. Jemison will introduce you and you make remarks.

o You depart after your remarks .

VI. REMARKS

Prepared by speechwriters in conjunction with OPL

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