

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997  
4 By: Senator Lewellen

S.R. 8

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 COMMENDING INTERNATIONAL PAPER, ITS EMPLOYEES AND CHAIRMAN  
9 AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JOHN T. DILLON, FOR HELPING  
10 REBUILD CHURCHES WHICH HAVE BEEN DESTROYED DUE TO ARSON.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 COMMENDING INTERNATIONAL PAPER, ITS  
14 EMPLOYEES, AND CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF  
15 EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JOHN T. DILLON.

16  
17 WHEREAS, on Thanksgiving Day, 1994, an arsonist apparently torched the  
18 Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Proctor, Arkansas, which was one of  
19 the first in a series of deliberately set fires that spread through  
20 predominately black churches across the South; and

21 WHEREAS, many of the congregations of the churches that were burned were  
22 poor and did not have the financial resources to rebuild; and

23 WHEREAS, on June 27, 1996, Mr. John T. Dillon, Chairman and Chief  
24 Executive Officer of International Paper, the worlds largest wood products  
25 company, informed the National Council of Churches that his company would  
26 donate lumber and building materials to rebuild the churches burned by arson;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches estimates that this  
29 magnificent gesture will cost International Paper over \$2 million at wholesale  
30 prices, not counting the considerable costs of delivery; and

31 WHEREAS, even the rank-and-file employees have been most generous by  
32 donating \$37,787 to the cause, an amount which has been personally matched by  
33 Mr. Dillon; and

34 WHEREAS, the generosity of International Paper and its employees and Mr.  
35 John T. Dillon should be recognized and commended for helping to restore these  
36 churches and for exemplifying citizenship toward their fellow Americans,

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NOW THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE  
OF ARKANSAS:

That International Paper and its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,  
Mr. John T. Dillon, and the employees of the company are all hereby commended  
for the overwhelming generosity extended to the congregations of these  
churches destroyed by cowardly acts of arson. The Senate hereby extends a  
heartfelt "THANK YOU" for your actions.

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