

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT SESSION

MARCH 1, 1972

12:00 O'CLOCK NOON

THE HONORABLE W. ROBERT BLAIR,

SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR



A roll call for attendance was taken and indicated that all were present with the exception of the following:

- Representative George M. Burditt - no reason given;
- Representative Horace L. Calvo - no reason given;
- Representative James Y. Carter - no reason given;
- Representative Otis G. Collins - no reason given;
- Representative Bernard E. Epton - no reason given;
- Representative Raymond W. Ewell - no reason given;
- Representative J. Horace Gardner - death;
- Representative Thomas J. Hanahan - no reason given;
- Representative Thomas R. Houde - no reason given;
- Representative Louis Janczak - no reason given;
- Representative Harold A. Katz - no reason given;
- Representative Henry J. Klosak - illness;
- Representative James G. Krause - illness;
- Representative Robert E. Mann - no reason given;
- Representative W. J. Murphy - no reason given;
- Representative James D. Nowlan - no reason given;
- Representative Daniel M. Pierce - excused;
- Representative Matt Ropa - no reason given;
- Representative Edward J. Shaw - death;
- Representative Arthur E. Simmons - no reason given;
- Representative Harold D. Stedelin - illness;
- Representative John W. Thompson - no reason given;
- Representative Fred J. Tuerk - no reason given.



A roll call for attendance was taken and indicated the following:

Senator Arrington - not present;

Senator Baltz - present;

Senator Berning - present;

Senator Bidwill - not present;

Senator Bruce - present;

Senator Carpentier - present;

Senator Carroll - present;

Senator Cherry - present;

Senator Chew - present;

Senator Clarke - not present;

Senator Collins - present;

Senator Coulson - not present;

Senator Course - present;

Senator Davidson - present;

Senator Donnewald - present;

Senator Dougherty - present;

Senator Egan - present;

Senator Fawell - not present;

Senator Gilbert - present;

Senator Graham - present;

Senator Groen - present;

Senator Hall - present;

Senator Harris - present;

Senator Horsley - present;

Senator Hynes - present;



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(Continued);

Senator Johns - present;
Senator Knuepfer - present;
Senator Knuppel - present;
Senator Kosinski - present;
Senator Kusibab - present;
Senator Latherow - present;
Senator Laughlin - present;
Senator Lyons - present;
Senator McBroom - present;
Senator McCarthy - present;
Senator Merritt - present;
Senator Mitchler - present;
Senator Mohr - present;
Senator Neistein - present;
Senator Newhouse - present;
Senator Nihill - present;
Senator O'Brien - present;
Senator Ozinga - present;
Senator Palmer - present;
Senator Partee - present;
Senator Rock - present;
Senator Romano - present;
Senator Rosander - present;
Senator Saperstein - present;
Senator Savickas - present;
Senator Smith - present;



(Continued);

Senator Soper - present;

Senator Sours - present;

Senator Swinarski - not present;

Senator Vadalabene - present;

Senator Walker - present;

Senator Weaver - present.



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Doorkeeper: "All those who are not entitled to the floor, will you please retire to the gallery. Thank you."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "The House will be in order. The doorkeeper will see that the aisles are cleared of all those persons not entitled to the floor and that the hallways on each side of the chamber are likewise cleared of those persons not entitled to be there. The joint session will be in order. The invocation this morning will be given by Rabbi Sidney I. Lubin, Temple Israel of Springfield."

Rabbi Sidney I. Lubin: "Sovereign of the universe and father of all mankind. We invoke thy blessing and seek thy guidance upon all assembled here in this shrine of democracy and freedom. Thy faithful servants who have been chosen as representatives of the people of this state stand upon a pedestal of power and responsibility. Do thou oh gracious God in every direct their deliberations. That their vision and wisdom make Illinois a better state in which to live and thus strengthen the national foundations of our great and blessed republic. May all of us gather together here ever be reverent toward thee, our loving God. Lord, loyal in our obligations as Americans, honorable in our dealings with our fellow men, compassionate to the unfortunate in our midst and disport themselves as brothers to the oppressed, the persecuted and the homeless everywhere. Bless oh heavenly father all the people of our land during these soul stirring days in which we presently are living when freedom loving America is being challenged as never before.



In our relations with one another may we ever remember that we are all thy children, equally dependent upon thee. Above and beyond difference of race, creed and social station, may we ever feel our common humanity and our common duties of justice and truth. Hasten the coming of the day when the millennial hope of universal peace will prevail throughout the world, for freedom and brotherhood for all people. Amen."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "We'll take two roll calls, the first will be a House roll call taken in the usual fashion, followed by an oral roll call for the Senate. All right, roll call for attendance for House members. All right, there'll be an oral roll call for the Senate, so Senators listen for your name."

Fredric B. Selcke: "Arrington, Baltz, Berning, Bidwill, Bruce, Carpentier, Carroll, Cherry, Chew, Clarke, Collins, Coulson, Course, Davidson, Donnewald, Dougherty, Egan, Fawell, Gilbert, Graham, Groen, Hall, Harris, Horsley, Hynes, Johns, Knuepfer, Knuppel, Kosinski, Kusibab, Latherow, Laughlin, Lyons, McBroom, McCarthy, Merritt, Mitchler, Mohr, Neistein, Newhouse, Nihill, O'Brien, Ozinga, Palmer, Partee, Rock, Romano, Rosander, Saperstein, Savickas, Smith, Soper, Sours, Swinarski, Vadalabene, Walker, Weaver."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Would you call the absentees, there's some that just came in from the Senate."

Fredric B. Selcke: "Bidwill, Bruce, Clarke, Fawell, Gilbert, Graham, Groen, Harris, Horsley, Hynes, Johns, Knuppel,



Latherow, Laughlin, Lyons, McBroom, Newhouse, Nihill, is he? O'Brien, Ozinga, Palmer, Savickas, Swinarski."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Mr. President Pro Tempore, is there a quorum of the Senate present?"

Hon. Cecil A. Partee: "There is a quorum of the Senate present."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "There is a quorum of the House present so the joint session is hereby declared convened. For what purpose does the gentleman from Union, Mr. Choate rise?"

Clyde L. Choate: "Mr. Speaker, only to have the record show that Representative Stedelin is absent because of illness and Representative Pierce has official leadership excuse for not being here today."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "All right, the Journal will so indicate. The gentleman from Cook, Mr. Hyde."

Henry J. Hyde: "Mr. Speaker. . . ."

Fredric B. Selcke: "Joint Session. . . ."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Ah, the Clerk let's have a little order."

Fredric B. Selcke: "Joint Session Resolution 11, Hyde. Resolved, that a committee of six be appointed, three from the House by the Speaker of the House, and three from the Senate, by the Committee on Committees of the Senate, to wait upon His Excellency, Governor Richard B. Ogilvie and invite him to address the joint assembly. On the part of the House, the members are Phil Collins, George Lindberg, Corneal Davis, and on the part of the Senate, Senator Kusibab, Senator Rock, Senator Soper."



Henry J. Hyde: "I now move, Mr. Speaker, adoption of Joint Session Resolution Number 11."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "All those in favor of adoption of Joint Session Resolution Number 11 say 'Yeas', the opposed 'No', the 'Yeas' have it and the resolution is adopted. For what purpose does the gentleman from Cook, Mr. Sevcik rise?"

Joseph G. Sevcik: "Ah, Mr. Speaker, will you have the Journal show that Representative Klosak is absent due to illness."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "The Journal will so indicate. All right, the committee that has been just appointed pursuant to Joint Session Resolution 11 will now retire and call upon the Governor and escort him to the chamber. Mr. Doorkeeper."

Doorkeeper: "Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Governor of the State of Illinois, Richard Ogilvie, and his party awaits without admission to this chamber."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "All right, let's get the center aisle cleared and get these side aisles cleared and everybody that's on the floor that's not supposed to be there remove themselves. Admit the Honorable Governor and his party. Members of the Assembly, the Honorable Richard B. Ogilvie, Governor of the State of Illinois."

Hon. Richard B. Ogilvie: "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. President, Members of the 77th Illinois General Assembly and Ladies and Gentlemen. Today I present



for your consideration the fourth annual budget prepared under my administration. It is the fourth affirmation of our pledge to make government in Illinois more efficient, and more responsive to the needs of the people. For the third straight year, I am pleased to announce that the budget calls for no new taxes. And let me repeat, I am opposed to any increase in any taxes. The budget I am recommending to you is a tight budget. It is a sound budget. Three years ago, when I recommended the income tax, I said that it was the price of excellence. That has proved correct, and this new budget carries forward our commitment to excellence in state government and to prudent management of the public's money. The budget extends our commitments across the whole range of needs of the people of Illinois - commitments to education, to the mentally ill, to child care, to the needy, to health services, to corrections, to law enforcement, to all forms of transportation, and to environmental quality. This budget also initiates a special new commitment to the elderly, and it reaffirms our continuing commitment to a program of responsible tax reform. Now, we are able to do this - without raising taxes and with expanded support for vital human services - because of the foresight and courage of the men and women of the 76th General Assembly who passed the income tax. It is easy to talk about tax reform. But you you know that real tax reform, like all reform, is difficult and often painful. It requires vision and determination. Tax reform takes more



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than an announcement, or the introduction of a bill in the legislature. It cannot be completed in one or two legislative sessions. And if you are honest in your efforts, you cannot be all things to all men. You must face the pain of the changes that have to be made. Many of you have been doing exactly this for three years - with impressive results. The greatest achievement in our income tax, for it provides the revenue to do the things the people want done and it raises that revenue more fairly than any other way. It has a low flat rate, high personal exemptions, and no loopholes benefiting special interests. The income tax is simple and equitable. It reduces the regressiveness of other components of the tax structure. And it has taken much pressure off the property tax. The income tax has enabled us to proceed on other aspects of tax reform. With local property tax replacement and revenue sharing from the state sources, we have been able to provide a homestead exemption for the elderly and to initiate property tax exemptions for disabled veterans. Even though total personal property tax relief for individuals has been delayed in the courts, we have achieved relief for most individuals through the exemption for one car and household of furnishings. And we have been able to recommend that farm goods and machinery be relieved from the personal property tax - a reform that I urge you to enact into law at the earliest possible moment, together with state replacement of the local revenues which will be lost. You you can redress the property tax



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discrimination which our rural citizens have faced for too long. Another important element of tax reform is the use we are making of prudent bond financing for basic capital improvements. This is tax reform in a real sense because it calls on future taxpayers to pay for their fair share of the benefits from long-term capital improvements being built today for use tomorrow. Because of our low debt ratio and sound fiscal management, we are obtaining interest rates as low as 4.6 and 4.9 per cent. We are able to avoid the far higher costs of delay due to spiraling construction and land costs, which have averaged more than the interest we are paying. We also avoid the economic, social, environmental and human costs of further delay and deterioration. This reform enables us to revitalize the state's most basic economic and governmental structures after years of neglect; its facilities for the mentally retarded, corrections, universities and junior colleges, its sewage treatment works, its park system, its roads, its mass transportation systems, and its airports. In this budget, you will be challenged again to reject the glib and shortsighted suggestion that major long-term projects can be financed on an immediate cash basis - that we can responsibly meet the needs of today and tomorrow with such a narrow, halting approach. The people know better. With such a philosophy, virtually nobody could buy a home, or own a farm and the equipment to run it, or build a new plant or a new school. Let me emphasize that I am dedicated to tax reform - broad,



fundamental reform that makes the fiscal structure of Illinois stronger and fairer. This is a continuing process, and I will devote my energies to seeing that it does continue regardless of the desires of the special interests. I am recommending another concrete step today - property tax relief for the elderly. I expect additional recommendations relating to the property tax to result from the work of the Governor's Commission on Schools and other efforts. In highlighting the impact of this year's budget, I would like to review where we were at the beginning of this administration, what we set out to do then, how far we have come, and what this means for the future. Only in that context does the budget reflect our continuing goals. As most of you will remember, the fiscal facts of January, 1969 presented a bleak picture of the people of Illinois. State government was in the midst of a fiscal crisis, with bankruptcy not far away. Local schools, cities and counties were hard-pressed for funds sufficient even to maintain minimum services. The property tax was skyrocketing, as the taxpayer knew then and the statistics show now. During the three-year period of 1967 through 1969, total property taxes grew more than 11 per cent a year, double the average increase from 1960 to 1967. State services were in sad disarray. Several of the state mental hospitals and schools for the mentally retarded were little better than warehouses for the afflicted. Our prisons were grossly overcrowded and lacked all but the rudiments of necessary edu-



cational and training programs. The state's program to care for neglected and abused children lagged far behind other states. Our parks and outdoor recreation areas were rundown and inadequate in number, dead last in the nation in area per population. Together in 1969, we faced up to that crisis. The keystone of our response was the enactment of the Illinois income tax, a step that took courage and honesty. With that solid new revenue base, we were able to act. Of first importance in that response was our increase in state financial support for schools and local governments. The first year, grants to common schools were increased by 50 per cent and \$100,000,000.00 in new general purpose revenue was provided to cities and counties. These critically needed funds permitted the schools, cities and counties to maintain services without continuing the intolerable rise in property tax levies. In the three years following, support has grown to the point where school grant levels recommended in this budget are more than double the amount spent in 1969, and the new general purpose revenues provided to cities and counties - with no strings attached - have reached \$161,000,000.00 a year. To measure the importance of this revenue for Illinois cities and counties, let me point out that it is nearly 25 per cent of their total property tax levy in 1969. The second half of the agenda in 1969 called for establishing better services in state-operated programs. On this front, great progress has been made - in mental health, children and family services, cor-



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rections, environmental protection, public health, manpower and law enforcement. We put the state back on track and we moved ahead. Performing these tasks required two related efforts: overhauling the management of state government and an aggressive pursuit of federal funds. I am proud of our achievements in both of these areas. The building of the Bureau of the Budget and reorganization of state agencies to create the Department of Corrections, Law Enforcement, Local Government Affairs, and Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency and Pollution Control Board have permitted us to use our scarce resources much more effectively than ever before. Our success in capturing this state's share of federal funds has been truly remarkable. In social services alone, nearly \$200,000,000.00 in new federal funds have been obtained for the years 1971 through 1973. These funds have been crucial in enabling us to meet our immediate and pressing needs. The expansion of federally funded programs in the State of Illinois has had another significant effect. The number of state employees paid for with federal funds has doubled from 6,426 in 1968 to 12,845 or so in December of 1971. In the last three years, the number of employees under my jurisdiction has grown by 4,537 or less than three per cent per year. This is less than half the average percentage growth in the number of employees in the previous eight years. Our success in obtaining federal funds has actually resulted in a reduction of nearly two thousand in the number of employees paid for with state



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dollars. The plan for overcoming the 1969 crisis was soundly laid. We have remained fiscally solvent in spite of massive problems that were only dimly seen in 1969. In the intervening years, welfare costs in Illinois literally exploded, nearly tripling from 1969 through 1973. Increases in case-loads and medical costs have been the great contributing factors. Families receiving benefits for dependent children, for example, numbered 76,000 in June 1969. At latest count their number had grown to 173,000. Expenditures for medicaid, a program that did not exist in 1966, have shot up from \$183,000,000.00 in fiscal 1969 to an estimated \$537,000,000.00 in fiscal 1973. The welfare problem has been compounded by the twin problems of inflation and recession. We estimate that we in the period 1971 through 1973, the economic slowdown will cost the state more than \$350,000,000.00 in real purchasing power as a result of lost revenues and higher prices for purchases. The combination of the welfare crisis and recession created a very difficult fiscal problem which was felt most acutely this past fall. In September, the state faced a \$180,000,000.00 deficiency in public aid. With prospective revenues and spending at that time, the deficiency would have led to a general fund budget deficit of \$116,000,000.00. In confronting that crisis, I directed that fast action to be taken. First, I instructed the director of public aid to move ahead full speed with steps to eliminate existing serious abuses in the general assistance program, and with



measures to control the spiraling costs of medicaid. Second, I ordered agency directors responsible to me to tighten down further on spending, to augment the reductions in their budgets that I requested from them in July. Third, I intensified my efforts to influence the Congress and the federal government to get on with the urgent job of providing fiscal relief to Illinois and all states. I believe we have no right to shift our fiscal problems onto the helpless. My highest single priority in welfare has been to avoid grant cuts for families, the aged and the disabled. The fact is that we met and overcame that crisis and were able to do so without the cruel welfare cuts that so many other states resorted to in the past year. In spite of severe legal complications, we were able to reduce the spending rate in welfare. And my request to agencies to limit spending has been fruitful in saving additional millions. Federal aid has played a critical part in helping us meet this crisis. We have been extremely successful in obtaining federal aid. As a result of my joint effort with Senator Percy, final approval has been obtained for our social services funding plan that now will yield \$102,000,000.00, some \$27,000,000.00 more than our original budget estimate. Further, the national administration has agreed to advance cash payments to the states that will provide up to \$60,000,000.00 to Illinois to meet our immediate needs in 1972. The national administration also has agreed to support Senator Percy's amendment to the wel-



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fare reform bill. This amendment will aid Illinois by \$82,000,000.00 in fiscal 1973, an amount that will more than offset the necessary repayment of the federal cash advance. It has been a difficult time, but through resolute effort, we have succeeded in achieving our objectives. Significant reforms have been made in the welfare system, grants have not been cut, and we are moving to a balanced budget to end the fiscal year. In the budget, I offer for your consideration a program that will meet Illinois needs in the coming year and that lays a base for many years to come. As I have stated repeatedly, education has the highest priority. That commitment continues this year. I am recommending \$90,000,000.00 in additional appropriations for elementary and secondary education grants this year. This new allocation of current revenues, exceeded only by our unavoidable increase for welfare, will enable most districts to meet their pressing needs. The 1973 budget provides an increase of \$27,000,000.00 for mental health care. This will permit the department to move ahead aggressively with its community mental health program. Particular emphasis will be given to the drug abuse program. The budget will allow continued upgrading in the quality of care given to the mentally ill and mentally retarded in state institutions. With the funds in the recommended budget, the Ludeman Center for the mentally retarded will be operational, the construction will move ahead on the other new centers for the mentally retarded, the Horner Center



Children, the Security Hospital at Chester and the medical facility at Lincoln. The corrections program for 1973 expands the emphasis on reducing crime - and ultimate public costs - through rehabilitation efforts. I am particularly heartened by our continuing progress in reducing recidivism rates, which have shown a steady downward trend. The budget provides funds for the operation of six work release centers, four halfway houses, and at least twelve community group homes. Funds also are available to strengthen educational, training and counseling programs within our institutions. The creation of a school district within the Department of Corrections and the request of funds for four new medium-sized satellite institutions are major initiatives in our efforts to improve the rehabilitative function of the correctional program. This year the Department of Public Health is undertaking a program with great promise for the future health and well-being of our children. As part of a public health budget of \$43,000,000.00, I am recommending that \$7,000,000.00 be allocated to an early screening and preventive health care program for pre-school children. In addition, we will expand our programs of lead poisoning detection, sickle cell anemia control, and hearing conservation. I am recommending \$27,000,000.00 for day care within the Department of Children and Family Services alone, a 43 per cent increase over this year. One of the largest increases recommended in the children and family services budget is in grants to private institutions



for the care of children. This increase of \$6,000,000.00 will permit adjustments in reimbursement rates; in addition to covering expected caseload growth. And finally, funds are recommended to allow the opening of emergency-care institutions for children in Chicago and St. Clair County and the new 200-bed nursing facility at the Soldiers and Sailors Home at Quincy. Public aid continues to be a problem, though not quite so severe as last year. The total budget recommended for the department is \$1,451,000,000.00, an increase of \$232,000,000.00 over the amount we estimate will be needed this year. While huge, this figure reflects a smaller growth rate than we have experienced in the last two years. Our expectations of lessened severity of the welfare problem comes from an improving general economy and from reform measures we have begun this year, and will continue next year. The review of general assistance cases in Cook County thus far has reduced the monthly expenditures for general assistance in Chicago from a high of \$9,600,000.00 in November to \$5,400,000.00 in February. In 1973 we expect three basic reforms to be fully operational: The Hospital Admissions and Surveillance Program, a pioneering development in the entire nation, will have a great effect on reducing unnecessary hospital utilization and subsequent costs. A system for negotiations of prospective reimbursement rates for hospitals will hold down one of the primary factors leading to high costs. In this system, the state will recognize only those cost factors it has negotiated



before-the-fact, and the hospitals will be obliged to live within these rates, in contrast to the present system of paying all costs after-the-fact. A special unit will specialize in placing current welfare recipients in jobs. We expect this effort to have a dramatic impact on public aid caseloads as the economy improves. This effort will be supported by our planned expansion of the WIN Work Incentive Program. In addition, the staff of the Department of Public Aid will be strengthened and redeployed to specific assignments. This should enable us to cover the larger caseloads, to put into action an efficient system for timely processing of welfare applicants, and to separate the income maintenance function from the social services function. All of these measures should help us gain greater control over the cost of welfare. We are continuing with an aggressive program of preserving and enhancing the natural resources of Illinois. I am recommending for your consideration: An operating budget of \$9.6 million for the Environmental Protection Agency. \$200 million in new appropriations for anti-pollution bond funds for grants to local governments for pollution control projects. \$39 million in appropriations to the Department of Conservation for recreation land acquisition. \$25 million in appropriations to the Department of Conservation for park development. I am proud of the accomplishments we have made in these programs and I support them strongly. We have been catching up for three years. It is now time to move ahead to meet the



needs of coming decades at today's prices. Otherwise, prohibitively expensive costs in future years will deny vital economic and recreational benefits to all of Illinois. One of my great concerns is the farm community of Illinois. Agriculture is a vital part of our economy, and its economic health affects us all. This bill in the House of Representatives that will exempt farm personal property from taxation must be enacted into law, in my judgment, to ease the terribly inequitable tax burden on farmers. I intend also to support a tax replacement bill to ensure that the exemption will not lead to lessened support of schools and local governments. In the Department of Agriculture appropriations I am recommending to you, there are funds to initiate construction of an animal diagnostic laboratory at Kewanee, to permit the opening of a meats chemistry laboratory in Chicago, and to increase the inspection programs for feeds and fertilizers. These steps are of great importance for the continuing vitality of our agricultural economy and for the protection of the consuming public. We are moving forward on a broad front in transportation, with a new Department of Transportation able to plan and direct a comprehensive and balanced program. I am recommending total appropriations of one billion seven hundred and seventy three million dollars for transportation. These funds will provide aid for urban mass transportation and rail passenger systems. Support development of aviation facilities at the many local airports throughout the state. Initiate



development of the East Side airport serving the St. Louis metropolitan area. Provide aid to local governments for road construction and maintenance. Allow the continuation of our aggressive road construction and repair programs. This commitment to transportation is an investment in our future, both in terms of economic benefits and greater mobility for people and goods. In my budget message last year, higher education was one of my first topics, and I addressed it as a problem. This year, I have saved it for last, not because it is less important, but rather because the response of the higher education community to our fiscal limitations in 1973 has been so positive. This year the higher education community in Illinois, under the leadership of the Board of Higher Education, took the initiative in assessing educational priorities and in recommending the exchange of old programs for new. Approximately \$26 million in existing programs was identified for reallocation to help support such higher priority tasks as health education, improved undergraduate instruction, the expanding community college system, merit salary increases for faculty members, and funding for the Illinois State Scholarship Commission. I applaud higher education's efforts in this direction and I wholeheartedly endorse the program priorities and recommendations of the Board of Higher Education, which provide the indispensable framework upon which the budgetary recommendations are built. I am particularly gratified that within our resources we have been



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able to provide full funding for the Illinois State Scholarship Commission. This year there are sufficient funds to ensure that every one of our Illinois college students who can demonstrate need will receive substantial financial aid, and frequently full tuition and fees. My recommendation for all of higher education is \$967 million, including capital projects. Earlier, I stated that we are making a new commitment to the elderly, and, as part of this program I have earmarked \$16 million for relief from excessive property taxes. The tax relief program will be administered through the income tax system in the form of grants for all those over 65 whose property tax payments or rent payments exceed specified percentages of their income. The credit will provide 'circuit breaker' protection on property tax overloads paid by the elderly, covering both excessive taxes paid directly and borne indirectly by renters. When property taxes exceed the specified percentage of cash income, the coverage will be triggered and the senior citizen will qualify for a grant. Renters will be included in the program by allowing them a percentage of their rent to cover indirect property taxes. These are citizens who have paid taxes for a lifetime, supporting our schools and social programs and all the other costs of government. As they near retirement, they are the most restricted in their ability to expand earnings power and they are the most hardhit by inflation and rising taxes. It is gross inequity to add to the disproportionate tax burdens of people in such



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circumstances, as we have continued to do. In my judgment, this proposal is the best way possible for us to help the elderly taxpayers with the funds we have available. The amount of tax relief, to individuals and couples, is sizable. For many persons, this relief will make it possible for them to remain in their own homes and apartments in their own communities. This program is but one of the steps that we must take to enhance the ability of older persons to lead fuller lives. In my first budget message to you, I said that the fiscal program of a government 'expresses the discipline, the will and the vision of the government, and of the officials responsible for its course'. I emphasized that the reality of promises and the depth of commitments are revealed in a fiscal program. And I made it very clear that I expected to be judged by the realities, just as you will be. This is again a balanced and progressive budget, constructed to address the needs of all the people of Illinois. It will take responsibility to keep it that way: To hold the line against spending for the sake of expediency in an election year. To maintain a sound, balanced response to the needs of all the people of this diverse state. To move forward with a progressive capital improvement program. And to avoid any increase in the tax burden of our citizens. Ladies and Gentlemen, we can carry out reform, we can do it well, and we can do it without having to ask the people of Illinois to shoulder new tax burdens. I welcome your consideration, and await your constructive action on the issues



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of public policy and responsible government which this budget presents. Thank you very much."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "For what purpose does the gentleman from Cook, Senator Cherry rise?"

Robert E. Cherry: "Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce a Democratic caucus of the members of the Senate thirty minutes after we adjourn here, on the sixth floor of the Senate House."

Hon. Cecil A. Partee: "Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of this body."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "All those in favor of the motion to adjourn this joint session say 'Yeas', the opposed 'No', the 'Yeas' have it and the joint session is adjourned."

Adjournment at 12:50 O'Clock P.M.

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