

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
87th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

10th Legislative Day

February 13, 1991

Speaker Madigan: "The First Special Session is hereby called to Order. And let me emphasize that this is the First Special Session. There may be more. Alright, the Clerk has received a proclamation from the Governor's Office and Mr. Clerk could you read the Governor's Message."

Clerk O'Brien: "Proclamation: Whereas, skyrocketing property taxes have created a nightmare for the homeowners of Illinois. Since 1984 Illinois Property Taxes have increased at twice the rate of inflation. The time to put the brakes on skyrocketing property taxes is now. If we fail to take appropriate legislative action, property tax...action immediately we will see property taxes increase to even more intolerable levels. And, whereas, beginning with the property taxes paid in 1991 legislation should be enacted which limits the increase in property taxes, extension Bills to 5% or the the percentage increase in the National Consumer Price Index, whichever is less. And, whereas, in order to limit property tax bills paid in the Spring of 1991, this proposal should become law by the end of March. And, whereas, the property tax limit in this legislation should apply to all taxing districts but may be modified by voter approval, local referendum. And, whereas, debt service on general obligation bonds, approved by referendum are issued prior to the effective date of this Act. Should be included from the...excluded from the limitation. And, whereas, failure to properly adopt this Act will cause, unnecessarily, delays in the year's property tax bills. Therefore, I, Jim Edgar, Governor of the State of Illinois pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Constitution of 1970, hereby convene the General Assembly into Special Session on February 13, 1991 at 6:00 p.m., to consider the aforementioned specific points of a

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Property Tax Exemption Limitation Act. Signed, Jim Edgar, Governor."

Speaker Madigan: "You have all heard the Governor's Proclamation. The next order of business would be the Attendance Roll Call. And let me inform the Members that the taking of this Attendance Roll Call will have no impact upon the per diem allowance. You will be paid your per diem allowance based upon the Roll Call of this morning and so everyone should record themselves at this time. This is the Attendance Roll Call. So, if everyone would record themselves on the Attendance Roll Call. Has everyone recorded themselves? Has everyone recorded themselves? Mr. Matijevich."

Matijevich: "Mr. Speaker, let the record show on this Attendance Roll Call, excused absentees are Lou Jones, Al Ronan and Mike Rotello who was here earlier but has an illness in the family."

Speaker Madigan: "Are there any excused absences from the Republican side? Mr. Black? Mr. Black? Okay. Let the record show the excused absences as recited by Mr. Matijevich. The Clerk shall take the record. On this question there are 111 'ayes' recorded as 'present', there is a quorum present. The Chair recognizes Mr. Daniels."

Daniels: "For the purposes of a Motion when it's appropriate, Sir."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk, would you read House Resolution #2. And the Clerk informs me that that has been renumbered as House Resolution #1."

Clerk O'Brien: "House Resolution #1, resolved that the Clerk inform the Senate that a Majority of the House is assembled pursuant to a Proclamation of the Governor convening a Special Session of the General Assembly and are now ready for the transaction of business."

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Speaker Madigan: "Those in favor of that Resolution say 'aye', those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The Resolution is adopted. Please be advised that relative to rules for the Special Session, our regular rules provide the rules for a Special Session and that is covered in the regular rules. So there may have been some of you who felt that we would need to adopt a set of rules for the Special Session. I'm told by the Parliamentarian that that is not the case, that our regular set of rules provide for rules in the Special Session. Now at this time does anyone seek recognition? Mr. Daniels."

Daniels: "Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We have filed House Bill 1 in Special Session at the request of the Governor. You all know what House Bill 1 contains, it contains a provision...Sir."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Daniels, I'm told the Bill has not been introduced because we have not had that order of business. Shall we proceed to that order of business?"

Daniels: "Sure."

Speaker Madigan: "So on the Order of Introduction of Bills, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk O'Brien: "House Bill #1, offered by Representative Daniels, et al, a Bill for an Act to limit property tax extensions and amend named Act. First Reading of the Bill."

Speaker Madigan: "Okay. Mr. Daniels, the Bill has been introduced."

Daniels: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Bill 1 in Special Session has now been introduced at the request of the Governor. For purposes of information, we invite any person that would like to join in the sponsorship of that Bill to bring over a slip. We'd be happy to have you join as a Cosponsor of this most important piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker

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and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, you all listened with great detail the Governor talking about a most important subject, that is the subject of property tax, reform and relief. We all know that there's no one thing that can be done to cure some of the ills in the various parts of the state. House Bill 1 is a step forward in property tax limitations and is a step that takes an essential and necessary ingredient to start curing some of the ills that the people throughout Illinois are suffering from in increase tax rates due to increased assessed valuations. The Governor has studied this carefully and we think it is a reasonable limitation. Mr. Speaker, let me just remind the Members of this Assembly that this Bill was introduced in similar form in 1990 and in...prior to that in 1989 was discussed at length in a portion of other Bills, so this is not necessarily new. What is new is that we are now in a Special Session and for that purpose, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the cooperation of your side of the aisle in moving this and bypassing committee today and placing this on the floor on Second Reading. The Motion is in writing. It's in accordance with Section 33...or Rule 33, assignment of Bills subsection (b), that allows for this House to move to the Order of Second Reading without reference to committee an adoption of an affirmative vote of 71 Members of the House. I know there are many ways in which this legislation, as important as it is, can be derailed or can be stopped or can be delayed. The Governor's message to us says that we must act before the end of March of this year in order to make sure that property tax limitations become real for the overburdened property taxpayers of this state. And what we are asking here in accordance with the Governor's request and the spirit of compromise in an effort to deal with this problem

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now, is for the other side of the aisle, the Majority side of this chamber to join with us in placing this on the floor so we can start consideration of this matter. And for that I would move my Motion that is in writing and ask for a favorable consideration of vote."

Speaker Madigan: "The...Mr. Daniels has moved to advance House Bill 1 to Second Reading without reference to committee and on that question the Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. I object to the Gentleman's Motion on its merits. We created today a House Revenue Committee, that seems to me the appropriate place to debate and discuss this measure. While other Legislatures may have seen somewhat similar proposals in times past, this is a new General Assembly with a lot of new faces, a lot of new people who haven't been around the road on this or any other kind of property tax relief proposals. But, I actually rise not on the merits but on a point of order. Mr. Speaker, under Rule 33(b), I believe the Gentleman's Motion has to be on the calendar and while his Motion is in writing I don't believe that it is on the calendar and I think that the only recourse he would have without the Motion on the calendar is unanimous consent for his Motion to proceed and I object to unanimous consent."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Daniels."

Daniels: "Respectfully, Sir, I think that since we are in Special Session and this is a unique event in Illinois' history with the Governor of the state asking us to deal with a most important matter, there is nothing new about this. This has been discussed and debated in your elections for campaign and I would venture to say that most of you on that side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle and

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this side of the aisle said, we need to reduce our property taxes. For that reason, I've put the Motion as it is. Secondly, I think you will find that it pretty much is up to the Chair as to the calendar requirements in Special Session. So I would ask, Sir, for your indulgence in an effort to move this matter forward and to cooperate with our new Governor who is asking for our assistance."

Speaker Madigan: "Alright. So relative to the point of order by Representative Currie, the Chair rules that the point is well taken. Therefore, our next order of business will be the Adjournment Resolution. Mr. Daniels."

Daniels: "Well...Mr. Speaker. Let me say, I'm surprised. I...it is a new General Assembly. It's a new time for us in Illinois. We have a new Governor and I was hoping that we could move this along, but I respect the Chair's ruling. I don't agree with it but I think we can still accomplish what we need to accomplish and it's important that we go to the alternate result and that is, to move this matter for hopeful action by this Assembly before the end of March. Now having said that and your ruling as it is and recognition that we can't do much about it and I respect that, Sir, I would ask you if we could have an understanding that we could have some committee hearings. I assume you are going to assign this Bill to the Revenue Committee. Committee Hearings...I know she's waving her hands over there. In some of the higher property tax impacted sections, I know Lake County is the number one taxed area of the state now, so maybe in some of the collar counties, obviously Chicago and downstate and...move forward and hopefully be ready when we come back to take some action."

Speaker Madigan: "So in that regard the Chair does recognize Representative Currie. Representative Currie. And I would

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ask all Members to listen to Representative Currie who I believe will give us a schedule for consideration of the Bill."

Currie: "Right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Representative Daniels, we do want to cooperate. We do want to work with you and with the Governor and with all comers on issues of property tax relief and reform. I've scheduled a meeting of the House Revenue Committee for Wednesday, February 20th, one week from today at 10:00 in the morning at the State of Illinois Center in Chicago, Room 16503. All Members whether they are assigned to...to Membership on the Revenue Committee or not, are welcome to join us. I hope, Leader Daniels, that you will have appointed Republican Members to the committee by the date of that first hearing so that they might participate in the committee deliberations. But we will certainly try to do other hearings in other parts of the state and I chose the early date, February 20th, precisely so that we could do the kind of debating and discussing, the kind of heartfelt look at Governor Edgar's proposal that we want to do to stand in cooperation and hard work together for the people of Illinois."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Daniels."

Daniels: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Madam Chairman. Let me just say that I thank you very much for setting a hearing date as requested and I appreciate that very much. We will be there. I have had so many people ask me to become part of the Revenue Committee when they found out you were Chairman. And I don't know if that's because they had some things to say to you or because of the importance of the subject, but we will have our appointments completed by then. They'll be are sharpest, wittiest and toughest adversaries to make sure that this issue moves forward. I

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thank you very much for your cooperation."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Black."

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just a point of information, if I might. It's just been pointed out to me that on the Attendance Roll Call for the Special Session, Jane Barnes should be excused due to illness. I was told that just a few seconds ago. So, if that could be so indicated we would appreciate it."

Speaker Madigan: "Let the records show that excused absence. Mr. Clerk, would you read the Adjournment Resolution."

Clerk O'Brien: "Senate Joint Resolution #1, Resolved that when the Senate adjourns on this date, they stand adjourned until March 5th at 1:00 p.m., and when the House of Representatives adjourn they adjourn until March 5, 1991 at 12:05 p.m., allowing for Perfunctory Sessions on February 15, 19, 21, 26 and 28 at 10:05 a.m."

Speaker Madigan: "The Chair would like to explain that in providing for Perfunctory Sessions of the House, we have provided that if events develop such that we would want to convene the House quickly, why we would be able to do that because we would be standing in Perfunctory Session. So you have been given a schedule of Sessions, both Regular and Perfunctory, but you should understand that if there is a need to bring us back quickly we would be in a position to do that. I know that's something that is a very vital concern to Mr. Daniels, that he be able to get back here quickly. Now if there's nothing further to come before the Body we're prepared to adjourn. And on the Resolution read by the Clerk, those in favor say 'aye', those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The Resolution is adopted. Is there anything further? There being nothing further, Mr. McPike moves that the House do stand adjourned. Those in favor say 'aye', those opposed say 'no', the 'ayes' have



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it. The Motion is adopted and the First Session of the  
First Special Session is hereby adjourned."

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FEBRUARY 13, 1991

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