

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

44th Legislative Day

4/9/2003

Speaker Madigan: "The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We would like all of you to turn off your cell phones and your computers. Turn off all cell phones and computers. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor Joe Daniels of the Heights Church of God in West Frankfort. Pastor Daniels is the guest of Representative Gary Forby. The Members and the guests in the gallery are asked to stand for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Pastor Daniels: "Shall we bow our heads for prayer. Our gracious Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this day and for our health and strength that Thou hast given us. We thank Thee for America and for the freedom that is ours to enjoy. We would pray today for the leaders of our country and especially for the men and women serving in the armed forces. We ask, dear God, that You would help this war to soon be over. We also thank Thee for the privilege to live in this great State of Illinois. We pray for our Governor Blagojevich, for we realize the weight of the problems of this state must weight heavily upon his shoulders. We think of the tremendous financial deficit. We pray, God, that You would grant him wisdom beyond his years that will enable him to make the right decisions. And we pray, God, for this governing Body of Representatives, that there would be unity and harmony among them as they work together in finding the solutions that are needed. We pray now for today's agenda that You would grant wisdom in every order of business. In Jesus name we ask this. Amen."

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Speaker Madigan: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative ChapaLaVia."

ChapaLaVia: - et al : "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Madigan: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representative Rita is excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that all Republicans are present today."

Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There being 117 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Rossi: "Committee Reports. Representative Currie, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Wednesday, April 09, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'to the floor for consideration' Amendment #2 to House Bill 1521, Amendment #2 to House Bill 3399, Amendment #1 to House Bill 3429 and Floor Amendment #1 to House Joint Resolution 12. Representative Reitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Tuesday, April 08, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'do pass

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Short Debate' Senate Bill 257, Senate Bill 1085, Senate Bill 1521 and Senate Bill 1804; 'recommends be adopted' House Joint Resolution 20. Representative Brosnahan, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Tuesday, April 08, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'do pass Standard Debate' Senate Bill 243; 'do pass as amended Short Debate' Senate Bill 244. Representative Joe Lyons, Chairperson from the Committee on Financial Institutions, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Tuesday, April 08, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'do pass Standard Debate' Senate Bill 562. Representative Flowers, Chairperson from the Committee on Health Care Availability & Access, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Tuesday, April 08, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'do pass Short Debate' Senate Bill 460. Representative Hamos, Chairperson from the Committee on Housing & Urban Development, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Tuesday, April 08, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'do pass Short Debate' Senate Bill 414. Representative Hoffman, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation & Motor Vehicles, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Tuesday, April 08, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'do pass Short Debate' Senate Bill 330,

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Senate Bill 563, Senate Bill 685, Senate Bill 1093, Senate Bill 1149, Senate Bill 1581; 'do pass as amended Short Debate' Senate Bill 272. Representative Mautino, Chairperson from the Committee on Insurance, to which the following measures were referred, action taken on Tuesday, April 08, 2003, reported the same back with the following recommendation: 'do pass Short Debate' Senate Bill 1104."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Hultgren."

Hultgren: "Mr. Speaker, a point of personal privilege."

Madigan: "State your point."

Hultgren: "Mr. Speaker, on this very important day I want to take a moment before things got started. I want to welcome... we've got a lot of visitors down to Springfield today, but there are some very special visitors that have come throughout the state. We've got about 700 individuals, parents, and children who have come down who are involved in homeschooling throughout the state. And I just want to take a moment to thank them for coming. They come down each year, they are an important part of our state and our education system. The students that do go through homeschooling have some of the highest test scores throughout our state. I am very proud of the work that they do. They are also very generous in bringing down desserts and pies for us to enjoy tonight. So, I wondered if the rest of the House would join me in welcoming the 700 or so individuals and families that are down today who are involved in homeschooling in the state. Thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Lang."

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Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For an announcement before the day gets away from us. I need to announce that the Gaming Committee scheduled for 2:00 this afternoon will be canceled."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Bailey."

Bailey: "Mr. Speaker, point of personal privilege."

Speaker Madigan: "State your point."

Bailey: "I would like to take the time to welcome Chancellor Wayne Watson from City Colleges and the President of Kennedy King in my district, Willington Wilson."

Speaker Madigan: "For what purpose do you seek recognition, Representative Davis?"

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to announce the presence of our Honorable Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Patrick Quinn."

Speaker Madigan: "So, Representative, should I delete him from the list of those that I had planned to introduce?"

Davis, M.: "I can't hear you."

Speaker Madigan: "Shall I delete Mr. Quinn from the list of those that I had planned to introduce?"

Davis, M.: "It's always nice to have your name called twice when you're honorable."

Speaker Madigan: "Now, there can be a legitimate difference of opinion on that question, can't there, Representative? The regular Session will stand in recess. The Chair recognizes the Doorkeeper for an announcement."

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Doorkeeper Crawford: "Mr. Speaker, the Honorable President Jones and Members of the Senate are at the door and seek admission to the chamber."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Doorkeeper, please admit the Honorable Senators. As designated in House Joint Resolution #31, the hour of 12 noon having arrived, the Joint Session of the 93rd General Assembly will now come to order. Will the Members of the House and our esteemed guests from the Senate please take their seats. Mr. Clerk, is a quorum of the House present?"

Clerk Rossi: "A quorum of the House is present."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. President, is a quorum of the Senate present in this chamber?"

President Jones: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A quorum of the Senate is present."

Speaker Madigan: "There being a quorum of the House and a quorum of the Senate in attendance, this Joint Session is convened. We would like to introduce some dignitaries who have joined us today. We need everyone to take their seats. We need everyone to take their seats. We need everyone to take their seats. Very pleased to have with us the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois, Pat Quinn; the Attorney General, Lisa Madigan; the Secretary of State, Jesse White; the Comptroller, Dan Hynes; the Treasurer, Judy Barr Topinka; the Auditor General, Bill Holland; the Superintendent of Education, Robert Schiller. We are expecting the Governor's Deputy Governor, Bradley Tusk and the Governor's Chief of Staff, Lon Monk. The

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Governor recognizes the House Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the immediate consideration and suspension of Rules so we can adopt Joint Session Resolution 2."

Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes the Honorable Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Would the Clerk please read Joint Session Resolution #2?"

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Rossi: "Joint Session Resolution #2.resolved at a committee of ten be appointed, five from the House by the Speaker of the House and five from the Senate by the President of the Senate, to await upon the Honorable Governor of the State of Illinois and invite him to address the Joint Assembly."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie has moved for the adoption of the Resolution. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Resolution is adopted. Pursuant to the Resolution, the following are appointed as a committee to escort the Governor. The appointments from the House will be Representative Robert Biggins, Representative Linda ChapaLaVia, Representative Steve Davis, Representative David Miller, Representative Ruth Munson."

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President Jones: "The Senate Members are Pamela Althoff, Senator Jacque Collins, Senator Denny Jacobs, Senator Dale Risinger and Senator Jeff Schoenberg."

Speaker Madigan: "Will the Committee of Escorts please convene at the rear of the chamber and await his Excellency, the Governor. Now Ladies and Gentlemen, while I have your attention, we would ask everyone to turn off their cell phones and all House Members to turn off the computers. So please, turn off all the cell phones and for the House Members, any computers. The Doorkeeper is recognized for an announcement."

Doorkeeper Crawford: "Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Governor of the State of Illinois, Rod Blagojevich, and his party wish to be admitted to this chamber."

Speaker Madigan: "Admit the Honorable Governor. Mr. Governor."

Governor Blagojevich: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Mr. President. Thank you very much, Leader Tom Cross and Leader Frank Watson. Again, Speaker Madigan, Senate President Jones, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Our state faces a \$5 billion deficit. Today I'm going to give you a blueprint for solving this crisis. It won't be easy or simple but you're about to hear the details, so I hope you're all sitting down. I'd like to welcome our constitutional officers, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Attorney General... take a bow Pat, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Comptroller Dan Hynes, State Treasurer Judy Barr Topinka and Secretary of State Jesse White. I'd also like to recognize the director

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of the budget, John Filan, and his talented and hardworking team. When I came into office my administration had to come to grips with the size of the state's fiscal problems, an unprecedented \$5 billion budget deficit. Over the last few months John Filan has worked hard to wrap his hands around this budget and once I'm done with this speech you'll may want to wrap your hands around his neck. Where are you, John? But before I begin, I'd like to ask all of us to take a moment and say a prayer for the brave men and women of our armed forces at war in Iraq. Our prayers go out to them and to their loved ones. So, please join me now, for a moment of prayer. Thank you very much. Our prayers also go out to the innocent civilians caught between the hostilities and for our President as he leads our country during this time of war. Illinois faces a \$5 billion budget deficit, \$5 billion, the largest in our history. This unprecedented budget deficit is the result of several things. Structural challenges, like rising healthcare costs, particularly Medicaid. A tax-structure, based on an industrial economy that has now become a service economy. And an economic downturn that our State Government didn't react quickly to enough, even though all the signals were there. It's a deficit made worse by mismanagement, by shady accounting, by rampant overspending. Some people see this historic budget deficit as an insurmountable hurdle, that the only way to balance the budget is to either raise taxes on working families, significantly cut spending in critical areas like

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education, healthcare and public safety, or even worse, a combination of both. Well, I have a different answer. I see this budget deficit as an opportunity, an opportunity to bring about the fundamental changes that the people of Illinois demanded last November. An opportunity to shake up a system in desperate need of reform. An opportunity to have the people believe in us again. Today I am presenting to the General Assembly and to the people of Illinois a balanced budget. If we do this right we will do more than just balance the budget, we will regain the trust and the confidence of the people. The budget I'm presenting today asks for a lot of shared sacrifice, but this is not the time to ask taxpayers to sacrifice by bailing out a system that desperately needs to be changed. At the same time, we must not sacrifice our commitment to educating our children, to providing healthcare for those who need it, and to keep the public safe. If the Legislature sends me a budget that raises the income tax or the sales tax I will veto it. Illinois is a low income tax state and I'm going to keep it that way. If the Legislature sends me a budget that cuts K-12 education, healthcare or public safety I will veto that, too. We will not... we will not balance the budget by sacrificing our values, instead, we will balance the budget by ending business as usual. In the last two budget addresses, you were told that the budget being presented to you was a balanced budget. In fact, those budgets only told half the story. For decades the state underfund its pension funds. The accumulated deficit will

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cost the state \$2 billion this year alone. You didn't see that in any past budget. Medicaid costs were hidden behind questionable projections and mythical savings. After three years of shoddy accounting, our Medicaid deficit is almost \$300 million. You didn't see that in any past budget, either. Previously, a \$200 million shortfall was covered up by ignoring the impact of increased deductions on state tax revenues. It is time for honest budgeting and long-term planning. In the past, each budzet... each budget was designed to get from one fiscal year to the next. From now on our budgets will build the foundation for the long-term structural reform our state needs, and we'll need to plan for a rainy day. Things go wrong all the time, we need insurance. This budget makes a down payment on a fund that can help us when times are hard. Spending used to be on autopilot, no cost benefit analysis was performed before taxpayer dollars were spent, and once programs were in place, they stayed there. Not anymore. Going forward, every program is going to be accountable, no matter how long it's been around. In the last election the voters gave control of the Legislature and the Governor's Office to Democrats. As a Democrat, naturally, I'm happy about that. But I am not the Democratic Governor of Illinois, I am the Governor of Illinois who happens also to be a Democrat. The problems and challenges we confront are way too big to be stuck in that old paradigm of Democrats versus Republicans. Turning this fiscal crisis into the opportunity to regain the public confidence means all of us

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working together, both chambers of the Legislature, both sides of the aisle. The stakes are way too high to do anything else. Tough times require tough choices, so let me say at the outset, that there will be some things in this budget that you will not like. And then again, there will be some things in this budget that you won't like. So let's start with the things in this budget that you won't like. Actually, let's begin by seeing how we can do more with less. This is an unprecedented time to re-think the way government works. From the moment I took office, my team has scrutinized how our state spends money. Within three short months we have been able to identify over one and a quarter billion dollars in cuts and reductions without affecting frontline services. The first step is to cut the waste that has cheated the taxpayers for far too long. The Department of Public Aid does not need to expand its new... does not need to expand into new office space at a cost of \$600 thousand per year when its staff size has declined by 6 hundred people. The Department of the Lottery does not need Class AA office space in the Streeterville neighborhood, one of the most expensive in Chicago. The State of Illinois does not need to pay its 512 computer consultants two to three times the market value. Why should we pay over twice as much per minute to use a cell phone than the average consumer? Why should the state pay 20 percent more for windshield-washer fluid than the average consumer? Why should state agencies spend millions of dollars on new computers when software is

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available to perform the same functions for 20 cents on the dollar? The State Police does not need 216 more cars than officers. And the Department of Corrections certainly does not need its own plane, we will ground that plane and save the state \$800 thousand. Administrative cuts alone will save this state over \$175 million, the remaining \$1.1 billion will come by doing more with less. The kind of waste... the kind of waste I just described may be hard to find, but it's easy to cut. But making programs work more effectively and more efficiently is harder. Extra operating hours, under-utilized recreational programs, semi-annual conventions, new equipment, and travel are the sorts of items that can be cut from a department's budget without affecting its provision of services. Can someone make a compelling argument for just about every existing program? Perhaps. But when times are this hard you have to make choices, leadership is all about setting priorities. The choice I made was to protect the honest, hardworking person who goes to work and pays taxes, to protect our investments in education, in healthcare and in public safety, and to protect the consumer. I've directed each agency and department to cut administrative costs by 10 percent on average. In addition, operational reserves were reduced by 8 percent. Grants and awards will be reduced by 5 percent, except in the critical areas of K-12 education, health care, and public safety. If you total agency consolidations, appropriation reductions and other cost saving measures, along with spending cuts, the total

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savings to taxpayers is one and a quarter billion dollars for the latter half of fiscal year 2003 and for all of fiscal year 2004. Let me repeat, this is a budget where we've made difficult choices. These choices have allowed us to balance the budget. The cuts by department are as follows: The Department of Aging, \$6.24 million in cuts. This reflects a reduction in administrative costs and a reduction of personnel from 126 to 114 for a savings of \$850 thousand. The department will cut \$5 million in grants due to lower than projected caseloads in the community care program. These cuts will help us cover the growing cost of paying for home healthcare workers and it means that instead of increasing by \$13.6 million, the Department of Aging's budget will only increase by \$7.3 million. The Department of Agriculture... help is on the way... \$14.8 million. Administrative spending will be reduced by \$3.1 million. These savings will be achieved through personnel reductions and reduced spending on electronic data processing and contractual services. An additional \$5.5 million in grants will be cut. The Department of Central Management Services, \$90.2 million. Personnel will be reduced by 177 positions and non-critical repair and maintenance projects will be delayed. Upgrades and repairs at the Thompson Center and Bilandic Building will have to wait, saving the state \$444 thousand in general revenue funds. And CMS's Effingham regional office will not get a new roof as scheduled, saving a further \$450 thousand. Should it rain in Effingham, we are confident the

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existing roof will suffice. You're not clapping now are ya, Chuck? Consolidation of education technology programs to CMS's technology office will provide savings and the know-how to make technology improvements at all levels of education. These cuts will help us deal with the skyrocketing expense of paying for employee healthcare. Although the costs of providing healthcare for state employees is going up an additional \$385 million, our negotiators drove down the price by \$75 million from what the previous administration had expected to pay. The Department... Thank you. The Department of Children and Family Services, \$48.9 million. Savings comes from a personnel reduction of 253 and reductions in equipment purchases, leases, and grants. But let me make this clear, we are going to take the money saved by eliminating inefficiency and send it right back into the agency to protect the welfare of our children. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, \$243 million. These savings will be achieved by reducing 28 administrative positions, as well as making cuts in travel, equipment, telecommunications and delaying or canceling permanent improvements. Telecommunication savings will include \$40 thousand, including the elimination of 100 cell phones and \$100 thousand from storing e-mail and other electronic files at CMS. Grants will be cut by \$241 million and the department will also merge existing workforce training programs to avoid duplicate services and administration, saving the state \$16 million. The Department of

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Corrections, \$69.7 million in reductions. Administrative spending will be streamlined by eliminating five layers of bureaucracy. We will have cut the bureaucracy by 1,273 positions since the beginning of fiscal year 2003, and save \$64 million. Corrections will also suspend the construction of prisons in Hopkins Park, saving \$76.3 million, and we will not open three other prisons. In fact, we are in the middle of negotiations that would rent them to the Federal Government. And of course, we are getting rid of that plane. The money we save here will be reinvestment... reinvested to help pay for new measures to keep the people safe. This includes reopening Sheridan Prison as a national model drug offender center and launching Operation Spotlight to keep an eye on repeat offenders. The Department of Financial Institutions, \$1.7 million. Administrative spending will be cut by \$741 thousand through headcount reductions from early retirements and the hiring freeze, as well as cuts in contracts, commodities, printing, equipment and electronic data processing. The Department of Human Rights, \$941 thousand, reflecting a reduction of \$619 thousand in administrative costs, that includes a reduction in personnel. The department has also eliminated its press office. The Department of Human Services, \$73.6 million. Administrative cuts total \$36.4 million, including significant reductions in personnel. Additional cuts include \$9.1 million in operations for equipment, contractual services, telecommunications and travel.

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Sixteen point seven million dollars will be cut by eliminating excess bed capacity. Cutting those 120 beds will reduce desired flexibility but will not affect the delivery of health services, as the agency will continue to maintain the required 2.4 resident to staff ratio. Human Services has 216 local offices and warehouse leases, 216. We are canceling and consolidating 42 of them, \$5.4 million will be saved in leases and utilities alone. In one instance, Human Services had three offices less than a half mile from Comiskey... well, actually, it's Cellular... ah, it's Comiskey Park. Those three offices were consolidated into one. The Department of Insurance, \$4 million. In addition to personnel reductions, the agency will re... will reduce spending for travel, equipment purchases and contractual services. Department of Labor, \$1.1 million. A significant portion of cuts will result from personnel reduction. The Department of Military Affairs, \$2.4 million in reductions. These cuts result from limiting or eliminating spending on equipment, printing and electronic data processing purchases. Also, the department will put more of an emphasis on repairing equipment instead of purchasing it new. However, in order to provide economic relief to the families of our soldiers, soldiers called up to active duty in Iraq, the department's overall budget has increased by a total of 6.7... by \$8.7 million. That's \$5 million more, \$5 million of which is going to be dedicated to the families of Illinois residents now on active duty. Next year... next year's tax form in... next year... next year's

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tax forms include a check-off box to help the families of our soldiers. We all know about the risks they are taking and the sacrifices they are making to serve our nation in a time of war. If we can make their lives a little easier, if we can help put their minds at ease, as citizens, it is our duty to do so. So when you fill out your tax form next year, I hope you keep our soldiers in mind. Department of Natural Resources, \$204 million. This will include cuts of \$10.2 million in administrative costs, and a personnel reduction of 126, reductions of \$9 million in grants, and \$6 million in waterway improvements. Department of Professional Regulation, \$3.6 million. The department will eliminate 26 positions as well as cancel its access to online law books. If those lawyers in that department were anything like me as a lawyer, they don't need those online law books anyway. Department of Public Aid, 49... \$49.2 million in cuts. The Department of Public Aid's budget reflects operational cuts, including reducing personnel from 2,794 to 2,521. This will save \$29.1 million. The department will also close and consolidate six offices, which will save \$1.2 million. Because of Medicaid, public aid spending will increase by \$689 million. Although this... although this is a huge jump, it does represent the first honest accounting of Medicaid spending in years. The increase will allow us to finally begin paying hospitals and nursing homes within 60 days or less. If the state expects a service to be provided, we should pay for it within a reasonable period of time. And you should note,

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we are also not cutting payment rates for hospitals, nursing homes or medical providers. The health of our citizens and the health of the facilities that serve them is way too important to jeopardize. Department of Public Health, \$24 million. Much of that comes from a personnel reduction of 114, a savings \$2 million. The Department of Revenue, \$120 million dollars. Much of that amount, \$103 million, is in grant reductions. The Department of the Lottery, the Illinois Racing Board and the Liquor Control Commission will be consolidated with the Department of Revenue, saving an additional \$2.1 million. State Police, \$39.1 million will be saved and reinvested in public safety, \$8.4 million of those cuts will be achieved through early retirement and a total personnel reduction of 206. We will also save over \$20 million by foregoing new purchases that aren't essential. These reductions will not, will not impact public safety. They will not reduce patrols on our... on our highways or on our streets. These reductions will balance out the cost of more aggressive crime fighting initiatives that include our new crackdown on club drugs, like ecstasy. The Department of Transportation, \$484.5 million. Spending reductions include not replacing 115 early retirement positions in administration and personnel. There will also be a reduction of 624 positions through reorganization and reallocation of existing staff. There will be no layoffs of current employees, no projects will be canceled from the road program, however, there will be significant deferrals.

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The Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$6.1 million in cuts. One point two million dollars in savings will be achieved by reducing staffing levels and cutting other expenses. But let me make this clear, we are not cutting any programs our veterans rely upon. We will not turn our backs on the people who have risked their lives to defend ours. The Office of Banks and Real Estate, \$6.3 million dollars. Administrative spending will be reduced by \$2.4 million. This will be achieved through a personnel reduction of 18 positions, substantially reduced travel expenditures and cutbacks in equipment, electronic data processing and contractual services. The office will also downsize the financial literacy project. Historic Preservation, \$4.1 million. Savings come from administrative reductions, no historic sites will be closed. Funding for the Lincoln Library will remain at last year's level but it will no longer be consumed with salaries. The fact that the Lincoln Library has been seen by many as a playground for patronage is simply unacceptable. Every penny should be used to promote and enhance Abraham Lincoln's legacy. He is Illinois' gift to the world and this presidential library should embody everything he stood for. Environmental... Environmental Protection, \$37.4 million. This agency will cover its own costs. Fees, permits and penalties will fund the expense of cleaning up after polluters. The Office of the State Fire Marshal, \$3.1 million. These savings will be achieved, in large part, by reducing administrative personnel by 19. The Department of

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Nuclear Safety, \$4.2 million. When the department is consolidated into the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, we'll save even more. Illinois Emergency Management Agency, \$1.4 million. That money will be reinvested into a new program to provide state-of-the-art protection equipment to our first responders. The Department of Employment Security budget will remain at last year's level but its workforce development programs will be transferred to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The Capitol... someone likes that. Thank you. The Department of Capitol Development Board, \$246 million. The majority of these cuts come from su... the suspension of the capital program for state facilities and moving capital planning responsibilities to the budget office. The Illinois Commerce Commission, \$11.7 million, mainly in administrative cuts. The Illinois Arts Council, \$1.9 million. McPier, \$5 million. This is a cut in the subsidy given by the state to McPier every year. These funds are generally used to cover McPier's utility costs. It's not a cut we'd like to make, but in these difficult times, it's a cut we have to make. I could go on agency by agency, function by function, but I promised I'd cut waste, so I won't waste your time. The rest of the boards and agencies will be cut by \$7.3 million, and all of the specific cuts are available in our budget books. As you can see, many departments have found that one of the best ways to do more with less is to reduce staffing levels. A department that gets the job done with fewer people is a more productive

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department and operates more like a business. In the previous administration it took 69 thousand employees to serve the people of Illinois. In fiscal year '04 we'll do a better job with 63 thousand employees, that's 6 thousand fewer and the lowest head count in state government since 1991. Less government, more service. We are seizing the opportunity presented by attrition and early retirement. The previous administration had planned to replace half of those employees, we believe we can do better. Of possess... of positions left open due to early retirements, state executive agencies will limit themselves to rehiring only 29 percent if the salaries are paid out of the General Revenue Fund, 29 percent limitation and 32 percent overall. Front-line employees, those directly... those who work directly with the public, will be replaced if they retire. But if we, otherwise, replace just one in three of those non-frontline employees we can save almost \$60 million this year alone. Several smaller state agencies will now share staff and office space in both Springfield and Chicago. These new shared service centers will let eight different agencies get by with one fax, one copier, and a whole lot less than before. This is what it means to do more with less. Thank you. Speaking of doing more with less, on the subject of boards and commissions, this is certainly one area the public would like to do more with and see less of. On February 27 I announced that I would streamline the number of the state's boards and commissions, cutting back their spending by 60 percent. Less means fewer members,

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fewer dollars, and a lot more accountability. This budget eliminates 11 boards, whose functions were redundant, and reduces the number of members on many others. For example, the Water Resources Advisory Council is a board doing work that is already under the purview of other commissions and departments. The Mining Board and the Miners Examining Board will be consolidated. The Educational Labor Relations Board will be merged with the Illinois Labor Relations Board. And a final example is the necropsy services to the Coroners Advisory Board. By executive order, I hereby pronounce that board dead. By consolidating boards we are sending a strong message to the bureaucrats, it is time to get a real job. And no more double-dipping, no more double-dipping. Take the Pollution Control Board, for example. The days of receiving \$99 thousand a year for less than part-time work are over. If you are holding a full-time job somewhere else, how can you do full time work for us? This is exactly what the voters were talking about in November. Going forward, if you want to be a member of a full-time board you are required to work fulltime. That means five days a week, full time. And members of boards, like the Pollution Control Board, will be prohibited from earning outside income. Thank you. Change means the taxpayers are finally going to get their money's worth. We are also putting an end to stipends for board members and dramatically reducing per diems. And we are holding the line on pay increases for managers in state government. If you are not protected by a union contract,

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we cannot offer you a raise this year. In addition, for managerial employees, we can no longer have the state pay for both the employers' and employees' share of the bene.. pension contribution. We will continue to pay our share, but we can no longer afford both. I know that's not good for... I know that that's not good news for many hardworking, honest, and dedicated employees, but we simply cannot afford the \$35 million it would cost to pay for it. And of course, that applies to me, my cabinet, my department heads, and my staff as well. Turning down state employees' cost of living increases is difficult. Many of the decisions taken in developing this budget were difficult. But I have to tell you, I was surprised at the number of easy choices. It seems obvious that the Department of Revenue should include all agencies whose main purpose is revenue generation. The Lottery, the Racing Board, and the Liquor Control Commission will now be moved to the Department of Revenue. This will initially save \$2.1 million at the outset, but more importantly, it will ultimately make those agencies much more efficient and collect more money. Frankly, I don't know why they didn't do this before. In addition, we are also merging the Pollution Control Board into the Environmental Protection Agency. Merging the two will allow us to save money on administrative costs without compromising the board's independence. Moving the Environmental Trust Fund Commission into the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Consolidating the statewide bonding authorities.

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Merging the Department of Nuclear Safety into the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. And consolidating Illinois' 30 separate fragmented job-training programs across state agencies into one program, the 21st century jobs training initiative. This will save \$16 million per year. The program will be run by the new Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity, whose mission is to create jobs and expand economic activity throughout Illinois. Right now, if you have two agencies doing related work you have to pay two different specialists. You have to have two types of letterhead, two sets of offices, too much of too much if you ask me. My budget calls for an additional \$91 million by con... calls for saving an additional \$91 million by consolidating the purchasing of supplies, commodities, equipment, and improving procurement procedures. We can also save another \$20 million by using information technology more effectively. Now, I've talked a lot about how agencies can be more efficient but we have to lead by example. I have cut back expenditures in the Governor's Office by 15 percent. And Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn has put forth a proposal to cut over 15 percent of his budget. But the truth of the matter is we aren't going to balance this budget without you, the Legislators. When I took office, I placed all Member initiatives on hold. We are reviewing every single project. Many will be approved, but not all. If the initiative furthers education, health care, public safety, or economic development, we're for it. If it doesn't, we're not. At

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this point, I've laid out my spending priorities loud and clear: education, healthcare, public safety. In cutting waste, we must also look at our capital program. Most state building projects are justified. Roads, schools, and hospitals are necessities. And any commitment this government has made to build or repair vital facilities, we will continue. But capital expenditures for projects that do not affect critical areas will have to wait, everyone must sacrifice. My budget calls for a capital program of \$10.7 billion, down from \$12.3 billion. In addition, we've curbed new bonding authority for the State's General Obligation Bond Program back to \$1.5 billion next year, that's a savings of \$5 hundred million in capital funding. And in the case of upkeep, I will not sign off on remodeling state buildings unless it's a matter of safety or critical maintenance. New spending on university facilities will also be limited. I am preserving the community college capital funding at \$50 million, fulfilling the state's commitment to turn temporary buildings into permanent facilities. The following other projects must also go forward. Last year, \$5 hundred million was allotted for school construction. Five hundred million dollars will be allotted for school construction this year, too. Another critical commitment is roads. The road fund will continue to pay \$227 million, a partial share of Secretary of State and State Police costs associated with keeping our roads safe. That's the same amount as last year. Some \$1.7 billion will go toward the

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road program, \$50 million less in transportation bonds than last year. That's a total road program of \$4.7 billion, more than enough to keep our projects moving forward. We are also using the capital spending portion of the budget to send a message regarding the importance of truthful accounting. We have removed items dating back to the 1980s, listed for re-appropriations, that obscure the real size of the budget. In this speech you have heard the details, perhaps a few too many, on the cuts and consolidations we need to make and on our efforts to do more with less. I want every citizen to be able to read this budget and have it make sense. I also want them to like what they see. I didn't run for Governor to manage a state of decline. We have to move Illinois forward, that's why this budget makes investments in areas essential to our future. I pledged that we would protect, and even increase, funding for education, health care, and public safety, even in these difficult times. This budget delivers on that promise. Other Governors faced with budget deficits have chosen to temper their ambitions for public education. I am moving ahead with innovative programs that cannot wait, because once the window of opportunity for learning in a child's life closes, it can be closed forever. Educational programs that help kids learn to read are at the heart of this administration's mission. That is why I am increasing the funding available to schools from \$4,560 to \$4,810 per child, that's \$250... that's \$250 more per child, the largest increase since

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1999. Schools can do a lot more with these extra funds to improve what matters most, teaching in our classrooms. Even in this budget crisis, by increasing state funding and consolidating several discretionary categorical grants, we're taking \$235 million of increased funding out of Springfield and sending it to local schools, where it belongs. For years, state government shortchanged our young people by diverting money away from education, missing out on our best investment. But that's going to change. We must never forget that increasing education spending is a priority. This budget will expand access to preschool. I have budgeted almost \$30 million of new funding that an addition... so that an additional 8,230 at-risk children can attend preschool. There are currently... there are currently 25 thousand children at risk of falling through the cracks. They should all have the opportunity to attend preschool. How are we going to pay for all of this? By setting the right priorities. We will move more money into education by taking it out of the bureaucracy across state government and by putting it into the classroom. We are... we are also going to make the education system more effective, too much bureaucracy weighs down the state's educational system. Take for example, the regional offices of education. While some of the programs they offer may have some benefit, this extra layer of administrators is a luxury... a luxury we simply cannot afford. My budget... my budget will redirect \$20.2 million that has been paying the salaries of midlevel

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administrators and put it into the classrooms to teach our children. Kids... kids don't need programs, they need teachers. We've eliminated... we've eliminated 24 grant programs and service lines and transferred four more programs to other state agencies. And with fewer programs to run, we need less bureaucracy at the State Board of Education. We've cut their central office \$9 million and put that money into the classroom, too. All totaled, streamlining the education bureaucracy will produce \$210 million in financial and programmatic flexibility at the local school level. Another \$567 million will remain in initiatives proven to provide clear benefits to students. These include programs like early childhood education, reading, vocational education, and test assessments. We can also help local school districts save money by allowing them to pool their health insurance contracts and reign in the ever-spiraling costs of covering their employees. And finally, let me say this once and for all, we will make the state's 23rd and 24th payments to local school districts on time, just as Emil Jones has been asking. We are also going to help pay parents pay for their children's college education and help reduce our budget deficit at the same time. Our plan for higher education is threefold. First, we will cut back on administration. Second, we will protect financial aid. And third, we will stabilize tuition costs. In total... in total, higher education cuts will provide over \$112 million towards deficit reduction. Working with the universities, we have been able to

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identify savings that will not impact what happens inside the classroom. Private colleges and universities will also carry their fair share of the burden. My budget calls for the elimination of enrollment-based subsidies for private colleges, that will save the state \$21 million. However, we will continue funding health education grants at private colleges in the amount of \$17 million, that includes incentives to reach out to underserved areas and for minority student scholarships. Additionally... I think we have an aspiring doctor. Additionally, we will fund scholarships at medical schools in the amount of \$3 million for students who agree to practice medicine in underserved areas. But let me tell you what I am not going to cut in the higher education budget, financial aid. For most people, college only comes around once. We will not deny needy students access to higher education. I will not repeat the last administration's mistake by slashing funding to the Monetary Award Program. My budget protects the MAP Program so that all students can still afford to go to all Illinois universities, I'm maintaining that program at \$336 million. On top of that, we are adding \$4.1 million to the new Future Teachers Program. Higher education is now the biggest investment in man... biggest investment many families ever make, outside of buying a home. When a child enters college, it is unlikely that the family budget will increase each year until they graduate. And yet, we expect families to increase outlays for tuition over those four years. Last year, tuition costs at our

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state universities increased by 10.7 percent. In addition to the \$112 million we received from the universities for deficit reduction. And I want to applaud the universities for working with us to day that, in addition to that there's an additional \$58.9 million that will be set aside to help offset tuition increases. We can use those funds and some of our own to truly hold the line on tuition. I believe we should be able to limit the increase for incoming freshmen to 5 percent. And I also believe that the tuition you pay as a freshman ought to be the tuition you pay as a senior. If we do that, we can help make college affordable for Illinois families. Healthcare is another area where I refuse to make sacrifices, it starts with KidCare. KidCare is designed to cover children whose parents can't afford health care. This budget adds 20 thousand children to the Kidcare Program. Our plan... our plan increases the eligibility to 200 percent of poverty from the current level of 185 percent, this will cost the state \$11 million. This budget extends coverage to an additional 65 thousand parents through the FamilyCare Program, this first year. This first year the FamilyCare Program will inc... the budget will increase by \$63 million, of which \$40.1 million will come from the Federal Government. In addition, the creation of a special advocate to negotiate with drug companies on behalf of all state agencies will allow us to offer seniors prescription drugs at drastically reduced costs. And as Jack Franks knows, this will save the state \$120 million. We will also

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give Medicaid recipients every incentive to use generic drugs instead of the costlier brand name versions, this will save the Medicaid program \$49 million. And we will ask the Federal Government for permission to expand our Circuit Breaker Prescription Drug Coverage Program to include all drugs. We can also do more with the funds we already spend to help seniors. First, we are increasing the eligibility for full coverage from individuals living at or below 2 hundred percent of the poverty level. We will reach an additional 50 thousand people by increasing the cutoff to individuals living at or below 250 percent of the poverty level. Then, by shifting this program from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Public Aid, we will not only save the state \$10 million, but increase the program's remaining budget from \$46 million to \$93 million through federal matching grants. That's twice the amount of money... that's twice the amount of money and a whole lot of relieved retirees. It is important to remember that health care is about more than dollars and cents, it's also about human dignity. That's why this budget proposes increasing support for home health care programs. Home health care allows people with disabilities to keep control over the services they receive. And like... and like many good ideas, it is also often the most effective cost saving choice. Also in the area of health care, I will put aside \$2 million to support our local governments in their efforts to combat the West Nile virus. Let's not forget that public safety is the first duty of

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government, that is why we are putting \$6 million into Operation Spotlight aimed at targeting re-offenders by hiring more parole officers. Our budget also includes the reopening of the Sheridan Prison as a national model drug treatment program... I'll stop. As a national model drug treatment program center, at a cost of \$24 million. And it includes... my budget includes a new crackdown on the use of club drugs, almost exclusively funded with drugs spot... I'm gonna do that now... drug forfeiture aimed at targeting re-offenders. Let me say this, my budget also calls for hiring more parole officers by accessing drug-forfeiture assets, and that was not on the teleprompter. We are creating \$10 million revolving... a revolving loan program to help communities purchase new fire trucks. And at cost of \$7 million dollars, we will also purchase new equipment for first responders. And we are continuing our strong efforts to combat terrorism with the creation of a State Terrorism Intelligence Center in Springfield. Illinois has been ranked as one of the three most prepared states in this nation when it comes to the issue of Homeland Security, we should take every possible step to keep it that way. This is a budget that puts the taxpayers' money where it belongs. Instead of funding... instead of funding waste, patronage, and inefficiency, this budget funds education, health care, and public safety. It funds programs that help people. Even with these investments, this is the first time since 1981 that state government spending has actually decreased from one year to the next. Can we say

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that again, Walt? I want to say that again. All right, here we go. Even with these investments, this is the first time since 1981 that state government spending has actually decreased from one year to the next. Now see, they got the hint. And it makes the kind of structural changes to our agencies and our budget that will truly allow us to restore this state's fiscal health and integrity for the first time in over a decade. Now, I've been speaking for a while, but please bear with me, there's a lot more ground we have to cover. At least all of you get to sit down. I've just detailed how we can shrink the budget gap from the spending side. Now I'm going to detail how we can shrink the gap from the revenue side. Here's the blueprint on revenues. Let's start with the sacred cows of Illinois government, the hundreds of earmarked funds. Currently, there are 597 earmarked funds in this state, funds like the Illinois Tourism Fund, the Beach Marina Fund, and the Grape and Wine Resource Fund. At a time when the state is in the red by \$5 billion, these special purpose funds actually have approximately \$3 billion in surplus. These funds are the best kept secret in State Government. They are special pools of money. They have authority to raise revenue by charging fees, but they are also guaranteed money from the General Revenue Fund. This is one state, one government, but we have essentially two budgets. One special interest budget that's doing great, and one budget for everybody else that's beyond broke. As our schools have been underfunded, as our families have gone without decent

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health care, these special interest funds have prospered and grown. Now it is time they give something back. Currently, the special interests these funds serve contribute nothing, nothing to the General Revenue Fund for services provided by the state. Taxpayers pay for their rent, payroll, procurement accounting, purchasing, and revenue collection. These functions have been paid for out of the General Revenue Fund by the people instead of going to things that matter, like education or health care or public safety. Well, we are going to change that. This budget... this budget places, on average, a recurring 5 percent service charge on these funds. This will generate \$330 million to help balance our budget. Now the lobbyists aren't going to like it, but 5 percent for administrative costs is not only fair, it's a bargain. These funds would pay a lot more if they had to outsource these services. Also, we are going to tap into the funds' stash of millions of dollars that are not tied to any specific uses of any kind. We are moving \$144 million to the General Revenue Fund from funds controlled by special interests. Our State Government needs to regain financial control over these special interest funds. We need a reduction in the number of these funds and, ultimately, their resources should be pulled into the General Revenue Fund to help the general welfare and the common good of the people of our state. This is exactly what special interests don't want. They want their dollars locked in, hidden apart from the main budget, like money stashed in Swiss bank accounts. But if

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we don't change this practice now, when will we have the chance again? The public has called for change, now is the time. In addition, many of our agencies are supported both by the General Revenue Funds, and by fees. In many cases, the fees should be able to support our agencies without taking additional dollars from the taxpayers' wallet. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity are all examples of that... of agencies that charge fees. They should be able to pay for their operations from special interest fees, rather than from taxpayer dollars. For example, there are more than enough corporations who need pollution permits to fund the EPA. Many Illinois fees are significantly below the national average and many have not been addressed or updated in decades. But from now on, polluters will pay \$21 million per year to clean up the hundreds of Illinois lakes and rivers they dirty with their dumped garbage and their industrial waste. In total, these fee increases will raise \$342 million. But let me make this clear, none of these fees will affect the average consumer. We will not raise toll-way charges, we will not raise university fees, we will not raise the cost of hunting or fishing licenses. And let me repeat a promise you've heard on the campaign trail before, I said it before and I'm gonna say it again, Larry Woolard, I will not raise the Foid... Foid card. Not one dime, not one nickel, not one penny. And I don't care what Representative Hoffman has to say about it. But, in

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light of \$5 billion... but in light of a \$5 billion budget deficit, we are updating non consumer fees. For example, in the Secretary of State's Office alone we can generate \$103 million that will not impact customers. We need to use fees more effectively and more fairly. Why are we one of only six states that use the General Revenue Fund to pay for the cost of hearing workers compensation cases? By simply bringing Illinois in line with commonsense approaches used by 44 other states, we can generate \$27 million. We will do this by requiring employers who lose in workers' compensation cases to cover court costs currently paid for by the state. We should also increase the state's liquor license fee, increasing revenues annually by \$7 million. Right now, a liquor license here costs far less than it does in neighboring states. That's a luxury we can no longer afford. We should also require liquor distributors to prepay the sales tax that will be due when the product is sold at retail. This will increase liquor tax compliance, increasing revenues this year by an additional \$32 million, without costing distributors any more than they are currently required to pay. As part of our effort to increase honesty and transparency in the tax system, we should give tax scofflaws a chance to come clean. Tax amnesty will allow the state to capture \$40 million in new revenue. But don't think we're going easy on people who skirt their responsibilities as citizens. It's not right when the state pays to collect money from people who refuse to square their debts with society. This

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budget imposes a fee of up to 25 percent on past due accounts to force scofflaws to pay those costs. Going forward, if we have to send a collection agency after scofflaws, they're paying the cost, not the taxpayers. The payback for righting this small injustice, \$24 million. We should also increase the ticket price to board one of Illinois' nine river boat casinos by \$2 per person. This will put us on par with most other states and will generate \$38 million in new revenue. On the subject of gaming, this budget does not propose the expansion of gambling in Illinois. That, however, does not mean we will not realize the revenues generated by the sale of the tenth gaming license, a license created by the Legislature 13 years ago. The tenth license has been dormant for over five years, its fate in the hands of debtors and creditors and lawyers and bankers. While they argue and continue to collect their fees, the people of this state have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues. Working with the Gaming Board and working with Attorney General Lisa Madigan, the process is starting to move. This tenth license will generate more than \$350 million. It is time the taxpayers finally benefit from that \$350 million. And in future years, this tenth license will generate over \$100 million every year, money we can use to invest in schools, better health care and in public safety. As for the existing nine casinos up, running and going strong, last year their total revenues exceeded \$2 billion. It's time for them to ante up. We are going to adjust the existing rate schedules for

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casinos to provide \$115 million in new revenues. And casinos making exorbitant amounts of money can help even more. Casinos with adjusted gross revenues of \$250 million or more will be required to pay a 20 percent windfall surcharge. This will provide an additional \$48 million to the taxpayers, the very people who gave the casinos the privilege to operate in this state. And there's a lot more that this budget sets right. Our budget also proposes raising university out-of-state tuition to the same level of our neighboring states. For example, University of Wisconsin students from out of state pay \$14 thousand per year more than in-state students. By contrast, out-of-state students who attend the University of Illinois pay only \$8,604 more than in-state students. The University of Illinois is viewed as one of the best values in the country, for the citizens of Illinois who invest in it, not only with tuition dollars but also with their tax dollars, it will remain so. But by ending the subsidy to out-of-state students, we will generate \$20 million. And finally, fairness means closing the corporate loopholes that allow corporations to skirt their obligations to the state while regular, hardworking people dig deep into their pockets, week in and week out. Most corporate loopholes have been on the books for decades, but what made sense in 1955 does not necessarily make sense today. Some business incentives, necessary then, aren't necessary now. Even recent corporate sales tax exemptions can quickly become obsolete. In the early 80s the government helped the

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graphic arts industry get off the ground with a tax exemption on equipment. The personal computer was just making its entrance into the business world. Printing was still very expensive and graphic artists weren't paid very well. Tax incentives helped jumpstart what is now a flourishing trade employing hundreds of thousands with artistic talent in high-paying jobs. This is truly a great accomplishment. But times have changed, today the situation has reversed. The equipment graphic artists use now is relatively inexpensive. By eliminating this loophole we can free up \$3.6 million per year, which could be put to better use somewhere else. Other loopholes include the rolling stock exemption, the manufacturers' purchase credit, the interim use of personal property prior to sale exemption, the coal, oil, and distillation equipment exemption, and the replacement vehicles exemption. All totaled, closing these loopholes will save the state \$127 million. In addition, we are targeting other loopholes, let me give you a list: the research and development grant, the training expense credit, life health insurance guarantee association tax offset, the foreign insurer rate reduction, the replacement rate reduction, and the standard exemption. Closing these loopholes that should have been done a long time ago, is worth \$65 million to the state. We are also going to adjust the net operating loss deduction. Currently, businesses are allowed to adjust their taxes retroactively, based on current losses, and get back taxes they paid during the

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good years. We are one of 27 states that allow this loophole, and ours is more generous than most. Other states limit this practice to two years. This budget proposes that we adopt the federal standard. It will save us \$20 million and much more in the years to come. The natural gas tax is another poorly formulated tax law. Our laws place Illinois natural gas at a competitive disadvantage with natural gas produced in other states. We tax natural gas produced in Illinois, natural gas produced and purchased out of state is not. This law encourages businesses in Illinois to buy their natural gas from out-of-state companies. If we close this loophole we will save us and our state \$70 million and help us put the Illinois natural gas industry on a more level playing field. Did you know that we are the only state among our neighbors that allows people to buy and sell small private planes and not pay taxes? Sometimes a plane is bought purely as a tax shelter. I say, let's put a stop to these shenanigans and save the State of Illinois \$26 million. Illinois currently has an estate tax. It applies primarily to the 158 largest estates in Illinois. That means that .0003 percent of Illinois families... I want to say that again. That means that .0003 percent of Illinois families are subject to the estate tax. This budget does not propose increasing it. What we do propose, however, is decoupling this state tax from the federal tax. Doing this will generate \$35 million in fiscal year 2004. Eleven other states have already closed this loophole. We should also require the

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prepayment of cigarette taxes to improve compliance, this would save the state \$50 million. Closing these loopholes is far better than raising taxes on working men and women. I know each one of these loopholes has its own team of lobbyists. They will do everything in their power to persuade you not to act. They will tell you that it will drive business away, don't believe them. None of these tax loopholes are what keep business in Illinois. What keeps business in Illinois is the quality of our workforce, which this budget invests in. What keeps business in Illinois is our safe communities, which this budget invests in. What keeps business in Illinois, are our hospitals and health care facilities, which this budget invests in. What keeps business in Illinois is our educational system, which this budget invests in. And what keeps business in Illinois is our low income and sales taxes, which this budget protects. This budget does, however, preserve a wide array of tax exemptions for business. Even though we are faced with the worst fiscal crisis in this state's history, we are only closing loopholes that no longer meet the needs of a 21st century economy. That's why we are preserving exemptions like the edge tax credit, which helps attract business and jobs to Illinois. Tax exemptions aren't granted by right, they should be granted by reason. This budget, for the first time in decades, starts to make sense of the tax code and makes sure the taxpayers get the most for their money. One tax credit that does help working families is the earned income tax credit. It belongs on the books and it

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will stay in my budget. Today, I have detailed tough spending cuts, new spending priorities, and closed loopholes our state can no longer afford. But I'm not done quite yet. More reform is needed to insure that here in Illinois we use our assets wisely. There's been a lot of discussion about the pension fund refinancing. The long and the short of it is, that we are refinancing some of our \$35 billion debt to take advantage of low interest rates. The employees of the government of Illinois have five pension funds. Previous administrations underpaid these funds for more than two decades and used that money for other spending, choosing to pass along the burden of making up the difference. The refinancing of our pension bonds means converting \$10 billion of an existing \$35 billion in debt into bonds, which we can lock into at today's much lower interest rates. I think some of you have already heard about this, and I'd like to thank the Legislature for passing this proposal. As you know, you've just saved the state \$1.9 billion. Well done. But using our assets more wisely isn't easy, which is probably why previous administrations haven't bothered, even though that has collectively... the failure has collectively cost the taxpayers billions of dollars. Unfortunately, not all of our debt is good debt. We do have a backlog of unpaid tax refunds of almost \$800 million. Right now we owe \$79.5 million in interest on unpaid tax refunds to corporations. Every week, we are accruing \$565 thousand in interest. We should reduce that rate to a more realistic level of 3

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percent. That means if corporations owe us money, they pay 3 percent. And if we owe them money, we pay 3 percent. That would save the state \$11 million dollars. We can also use our assets to generate new money through means other than reworking debt. There's an old saying, 'when times are hard, you drink beer, not champagne.' The toll-way building... the toll-way building... the toll-way building has been described as the Taj Mahal of Illinois. Represent... Senator Schoenberg has been working on this issue since he was a Representative. As many of you know, the Taj Mahal is known as one of the eight wonders of the world. The toll-way building is a wonder of waste, excess, and arrogance. Today I'm giving it a new label: for sale. The sale of the toll-way building will generate \$30 million. And that is not the only property we will sell. Also on the auction block, as of today, is property at the Elgin Mental Health campus that we anticipate will go for \$3 million. Recognizing the challenging budget picture, we can also take better advantage of our assets through the sale and leaseback of some state facilities, like the Thompson Center. This would generate an additional \$200 million. By the way, we don't need prime real estate in downtown Chicago. If anyone wants to purchase the building outright, we'd be more than happy to move somewhere else. Now, I've spent more than an hour telling you what we are going to do. Let me now spend a few minutes telling you what we are not going to do. We are not raising the income tax. We are not raising the sales tax. We are not raising

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consumer fees. We are not cutting education, health care, or public safety. We are not... we are not going to continue the rampant, unexamined over-spending that has marked the last decade. In fact, we are investing to make our schools better, our communities healthier, and our streets safer. We could have used this crisis as an excuse to take the easy way out and resort to the tired old approaches of raising taxes and slashing spending. We did not do that. We protected average people, we learned how to do more with less. This budget requires a great deal of sacrifice, but the cuts we propose and the revenue we can generate are reasonable, wise, and prudent. There is something in this budget each of you probably won't like. That's what happens when you face a \$5 billion deficit. But keep in mind, the Constitution requires us to balance the budget. So when you say don't cut this or spend more on that, don't forget that every dollar you take away is a dollar we have to take from somewhere else. In other words, we're all going to have to accept some cuts and some changes we don't really like. Now, I know this has been a long address. Mark Twain once said, if I had more time, I would have written a shorter story. The same holds true with speeches, and I'm no Mark Twain, whatever that means. And even with the extra time you granted us to prepare this budget, solving the worst fiscal crisis in our history takes some time to achieve and some time to explain. I also felt it was important to spell out how, by working together and by putting partisanship aside, we can solve

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this fiscal crisis and how we can make Illinois a better place to live. Our state faces the largest deficit in our history. This budget blueprint eliminates it. Our state is weighed down by government waste. This budget blueprint eliminates that, too. Our state has been plagued by poor accounting and weak financial management. This budget blueprint requires agencies, from the very first day of the year, to establish a 2 percent reserve to prepare for the uncertainties of revenue and of the real world. The remaining 98 percent will go through a quarterly allotment system so we don't just manage annually, but day in and day out. In other words, for the first time in a long time, someone is going to be minding the store. I'm even renaming the Bureau of the Budget, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, so we can prepare our budgets with an eye toward better management, long-term planning, and doing more with less. Spending money wisely requires discipline, we're going to provide that discipline. This budget protects our investments in education, in health care, and in public safety. It balances the budget without raising the income tax, the sales tax, or consumer fees. It leaves money for our rainy day fund. Despite facing a \$5 billion budget deficit, we were able to balance this budget and set aside \$50 million and place it in a rainy day fund. And that's just a down payment on a long-term investment in the future of this state. This budget is an opportunity. If we seize the opportunity, if we put aside partisan differences, if we work not for the few, but for

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the common good, we can overcome this fiscal crisis and start moving our state forward. Perhaps even more importantly, by working together to balance this budget in a fair, honest way, we can give the people the kind of government they can start believing in again. This is a unique time, a time of war, a time of recession, a time of fiscal crisis. A time when we are still reeling from years of a culture that embraced cynicism and abandoned idealism. Yet, it is also a time of great opportunity. We are Democrats, we are Republicans. We are fathers and mothers and sons and daughters. We bring different experiences to the job of legislating and governing. But as different as we are, we share a common mission, we are here to pursue the public good. At this time in our history, this pursuit requires the courage to change. It is easy to criticize, it is harder to lead. It is easy to question, it is harder to find answers. It is easy to tear down, it is harder to build. The people of this great state ask us to work as hard at our jobs as they do at theirs. It is time to lead. The budget I have detailed for you today is made up of numbers, of facts, and figures, but let us never forget, it is all at the service of people. Every decision we make on this budget affects their wallets, their health, their safety, and their children's futures. It is our job to protect them. It is our job to pass a budget that just doesn't keep them in mind, but helps them get ahead. Because when the good of the people, and nothing else, drives our decisions and dictates our actions, the only

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thing we can achieve is a better Illinois. At this time, at this place, and at this hour, let us embrace change. From every corner of Illinois, we come to this great chamber. Let us now work together to build an Illinois as good and as honest as the people who live in it. Thank you and God bless you."

Speaker Madigan: "Will the Committee of Escort please come forward to escort the Governor from the chamber? The President of the Senate is recognized for a Motion."

President Jones: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Joint Session do now arise."

Speaker Madigan: "The President of the Senate has moved that the Joint Session do now arise. All those in favor say 'yes'; all those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Joint Session will now arise. The regular Session will come to order. Mr. Hartke in the Chair. Director Hartke. We want, Chuck, we want, Chuck, we want, Chuck..."

Speaker Hartke: "The Chair recognizes Representative O'Brien for an announcement."

O'Brien: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. For all of you House Judiciary II Members, that committee hearing will commence at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning instead of 8 a.m. Again, 9 a.m. Thank you."

Speaker Hartke: "Any further announcements? Representative Currie now moves, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, that the House stand adjourned until the hour or 2 p.m., April 10th. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye';

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opposed 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. tomorrow."

Clerk Bolin: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. First Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 150, offered by Representative Hoffman, a Bill for an Act in relation to vehicles. Senate Bill 199, offered by Representative Granberg, a Bill for an Act in relation to health. Senate Bill 267, offered by Representative Mautino, a Bill for an Act concerning counties. Senate Bill 318, offered by Representative Yarbrough, a Bill for an Act concerning insurance. Senate Bill 363, offered by Representative Mathias, a Bill for an Act concerning family law. Senate Bill 467, offered by Representative Franks, a Bill for an Act concerning insurance coverage. Senate Bill 591, offered by Representative McKeon, a Bill for an Act in relation to housing. Senate Bill 714, offered by Representative Biggins, a Bill for an Act in relation to county government. Senate Bill 884, offered by Representative Steve Davis, a Bill for an Act concerning telecommunications. Senate Bill 1122, offered by Representative Mautino, a Bill for an Act in relation to highways. Senate Bill 1207, offered by Representative Parke, a Bill for an Act concerning insurance. Senate Bill 1527, offered by Representative Feigenholtz, a Bill for an Act concerning wildlife. Senate Bill 1530, offered by Representative Franks, a Bill for an Act concerning state procurement. Senate Bill 1543, a Bill... offered by Representative Eileen Lyons, a Bill for an Act in relation

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to health. Senate Bill 1586, offered by Representative Currie, a Bill for an Act concerning open meetings. Senate Bill 1640, offered by Representative Capparelli, a Bill for an Act concerning the military. Senate Bill 1649, offered by Representative Millner, a Bill for an Act in relation to public health. Senate Bill 1774, offered by Representative Saviano, a Bill for an Act concern... concerning insurance. Senate Bill 1777, offered by Representative Saviano, a Bill for an Act in relation to insurance. Senate Bill 1864, offered by Representative Molaro, a Bill for an Act in relation to taxes. Senate Bill 1881, offered by Representative Saviano, a Bill for an Act concerning taxes. Senate Bill 1918, offered by Representative Granberg, a Bill for an Act regarding finance. Senate Bill 3, offered by Representative Franks, a Bill for an Act concerning discount prescription drugs for senior citizens. Senate Bill 73, offered by Representative Delgado, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Senate Bill 155, offered by Representative Molaro, a Bill for an Act concerning procurement. Senate Bill 263, offered by Representative McKeon, a Bill for an Act in relation to health. Senate Bill 600, offered by Speaker Madigan, a Bill for an Act in relation to employment. Senate Bill 683, offered by Representative Capparelli, a Bill for an Act concerning certain financial institutions. Senate Bill 878, offered by Representative Jerry Mitchell, a Bill for an Act to implement the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Senate Bill 1125, offered by Representative Caparelli, a

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Bill for an Act concerning consumer protection. Senate Bill 1329, offered by Representative Eileen Lyons, a Bill for an Act in relation to juries. Senate Bill 1417, offered by Representative Washington, a Bill for an Act concerning insurance. Senate Bill 1442, offered by Representative Reitz, a Bill for an Act concerning drilling operations. First Reading of these Ho... First Reading of these Senate Bills."

Clerk Rossi: "Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 3723, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations and reappropriations. House Bill 3724, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3725, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations and reappropriations. House Bill 3726, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3727, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. House Bill 3728, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3729, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3730, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3731, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3732, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3733, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an

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Act making appropriations. House Bill 3734, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3735, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3736, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3737, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3738, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3739, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3740, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act concerning bonds. House Bill 3741, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3742, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. House Bill 3743, offered by Speaker Madigan, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3744, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3745, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3746, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3747, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3748, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3749, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3750, offered by

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Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. House Bill 3751, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3752, a Bill for an Act... offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. House Bill 3753, offered by Speaker Madigan, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3754, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3755, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3756, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3757, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3758, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3759, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3760, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. House Bill 3761, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3762, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3763, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3764, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3765, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making

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appropriations and reappropriations. House Bill 3766, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3767, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3768, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3769, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3770, offered by Speaker Madigan, a Bill for an Act... House Bill 3770, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. House Bill 3771, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3772, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations and reappropriations. House Bill 3773, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3774, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3775, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3776, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3777, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3778, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3779, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3780, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House

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Bill 3781, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3782, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3783, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3784, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3785, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3786, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3787, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3788, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3789, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3790, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. House Bill 3791, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3792, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3793, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3794, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. House Bill 3795, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session shall stand adjourned."