

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE
FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

6/28/2004

Speaker Madigan: "The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Colonel Retired Randy Harrison."

Colonel Harrison: "Let us pray. Dear Lord, Almighty, our creator, hear our prays on this beautiful day. Lord, we have two blessings to ask of you. First, bless and protect our servicemen and women who are stationed around the world. Protect them as they uphold our cherished freedom and put their lives in harms way to help others gain their freedom. Second, Lord, on this day of political negotiations, provide Your divine guidance to our elected leaders in this honorable chamber as they forge forward in support of the people of Illinois. Lord, we humbly ask for Your divine guidance and blessing. Amen."

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

Grunloh - 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. Again, just punch your own button. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representatives Hamos and Jones are excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Watson."

Watson: "Representative Bost, Representative Jerry Mitchell, Representative Schmitz and Sommer are excused."

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Speaker Madigan: "All right. We are on the order of our quorum call. The Clerk shall take the record. There being 107 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. Mr. Clerk, read the Proclamation of the Governor."

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2004-186.

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution requires the General Assembly to make appropriations for the expenditure of public funds for the fiscal year for state departments, authorities, and public agencies; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has not made appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for the expenditure of public funds for the Department of Aging; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 93rd General Assembly in a Special Session to commence on June 28, 2004, at 12:00 p.m., to consider any legislation (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of the Department of Aging for fiscal year 2005. Signed by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor."

Speaker Madigan: "Okay. Mr. Clerk, read the Resolutions."

Clerk Mahoney: "Fifth Special Session House Resolution #1 and Fifth Special Session House Resolution #2 are introduced."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie."

Currie: "Gracias, Senor Speaker. Yo proponer a suspender las reglas apropiandas para la consideracion y adopcion de resoluciones cameral uno y dos de esta quinta Session especial.(Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I propose to suspend the

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rules appropriate for the consideration and adoption of Resolutions 1 and 2 of this Fifth Special Session.)”

Speaker Madigan: “Mr. Delgado, could you translate for us? You’ve all heard the Lady’s Motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. The Motion is adopted and the Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk.”

Clerk Mahoney: “Fifth Special House Resolution #1.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Third General Assembly be adopted as the Rules of this Fifth Special Session, so far as the same may be applicable, and that the Committees of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Third General Assembly, including the House Journal Review Committee and their membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House during the Fifth Special Session. Fifth Special Session House Resolution #2.

RESOLVED, that the Clerk inform the Senate that a majority of the House of Representatives has assembled, pursuant to the proclamation of the Governor, convening a Fifth Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business.”

Speaker Madigan: “Representative Currie.”

Currie: “Gracias, Senor. Yo propongo la adopcion de resoluciones cameral uno y dos de esta quinta Session especial.(Thanks, Speaker. I propose the adoption of Resolutions 1 and 2 of this Fifth Special Session.)”

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Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. The Motion is adopted and the Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Turner in the Chair."

Speaker Turner: "The Gentleman from Winnebago, Representative Jefferson, for what reason do you rise?"

Jefferson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Turner: "State your point."

Jefferson: "I'd just like to take this time to congratulate my seatmate, Mr. McKeon, who happens to be 60 years of age today. He stated to me that he didn't even think he would make 30 years old, so he's doubled that at this time. He's a fine Gentleman, a fine Representative and a fine humanitarian. And he's got a couple cakes down front he would love for you to participate and share in his birthday. Thank you very much."

Speaker Turner: "Happy birthday. The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Lang, for what reason do you rise?"

Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to announce, I didn't get to do this on the Attendance Roll Call that the entire wallflower caucus is here and ready to do the people's work."

Speaker Turner: "The Lady from Peoria, Representative Slone, for what reason do you rise?"

Slone: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of an announcement."

Speaker Turner: "State your purpose."

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Slone: "Thank you. If there is anyone who still needs a wallflower, they can be... wallflowers and pins are still available at this desk. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Gentleman from Cook, Speaker Madigan."

Madigan: "Mr. Speaker, the Governor's Proclamation for this particular Special Session provides that this Special Session will be devoted to the budget for the Department of Aging for fiscal year 2005. The House of Representatives on May 31 of this year passed Senate Bill 3350 by a Roll Call of 64 'yes' and 51 'no'. That particular Bill provided for an appropriation for the Department of Aging. So, again, the House has done its job in terms of an appropriation for the Department of Aging. My plan is, again, to move that this particular Special Session be put into the already established schedule for Perfunctory Sessions, as I have done with the earlier Special Sessions. Again, this was not needed. We do plan to go into regular Session this afternoon to consider one or two items so that whatever conceivable could have been brought forward in this Special Session could have been done in the regular Session and there would've been a savings of \$17 thousand to the people of the State of Illinois. So, Mr. Speaker, my Motion is that this Special Session adjourn into the regularly scheduled schedule for the regular Session."

Speaker Turner: "And on that question we have Representative... the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke."

Parke: "Hola, Senor Speaker.(Hello, Mr. Speaker.) ¿Cómo está?(How are you?)"

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Speaker Turner: "Muy bien.(Very well.)"

Parke: "Good. Would the Speaker yield?"

Speaker Turner: "He indicates he will."

Madigan: "In English."

Parke: "Mr. Speaker, here we are, this is the fourth day. In those four days were we able to achieve any kind of substantive legislation?"

Madigan: "I'm told this is the fifth day and..."

Parke: "Fifth."

Madigan: "...the answer is 'no'."

Parke: "Okay. Yes, they do blur together. Do we have anything from the Senate at which we could really act on? Is that... they sent us any legislation?"

Madigan: "No."

Parke: "So, there is just absolutely no practical reason for us to be here in the last five days, 'cause there was no action to be taken. Is that correct?"

Madigan: "That's correct. For today, that... my... my answer would be relative to the Special Session, because as soon as we adopt this Motion we will go into the regular Session."

Parke: "Do you see us in... do you think we'll be called in tomorrow and Wednesday for a continued Special Session?"

Madigan: "The Governor's statement has been that he will call a Special Session for every day until there's a final resolution of the budget impasse."

Parke: "So, does that mean the first, second, third and so on in July, is that would be your understanding from what the Governor said?"

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Madigan: "Yes."

Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Turner: "The Gentleman from Vermilion, Representative Black, for what reason do you rise?"

Black: "At this point in the process I'm... I can't remember why I rise. It'll come to me. Oh, yes. Would the Gentleman yield for a related question?"

Speaker Turner: "He indicates he will."

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Did you give my regards to the Governor yesterday?"

Madigan: "We always do that."

Black: "Did he inquire about any of my concerns?"

Madigan: "I think he was a little preoccupied with matters raised by Democrats."

Black: "Well, I... I don't know, I, ya know, I discount most of what I read in the press, Mr. Speaker. I assume the meeting was somewhat productive and enjoyable and I'm sure cleared the air. I... and in that light, trying to help you and the Democrat Caucus, I've been trying to reach the Pointer Sisters to see if they could come and sing their infa... not infamous, they're very famous and a big hit, We Are Family. Is... is that... you think that's time that we bring them?"

Madigan: "That would..."

Black: "Or as I might, being premature?"

Madigan: "I think that would be good for the Democratic Caucus, yes."

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Black: "Well, perhaps since the Pointer Sisters wanted a bit more money than... than our caucus could afford could we perhaps get former Member David Phelps to come lead us in a rousing course of Kumbaya? Would that... would that help?"

Madigan: "Well, let me take that under advisement."

Black: "I... if you would. I would... and is there anything... anything we can do to help? Anything I can do? Can I reach out? I'd like to reach out."

Madigan: "If you could hold yourself ready, Mr. Black, and we'll..."

Black: "If I hold myself ready much longer I'm just going to explode, Mr. Speaker. I... well, I just want you to know that our caucus, our motto is 'the all state caucus' and we want you to know that you'll be in good hands when we can help. And if we don't get some help pretty soon, you're all gonna be in good hands. Now, having said that, we will go into regular Session upon adjournment of the Fifth Special Session. And by the way, is the Fifth Special Session now an all-time record for consecutive Special Sessions?"

Madigan: "I don't know."

Black: "I think it is. I... I... and I see my good friend has joined us, somebody said his pass was no longer valid. I'm glad to see that's not true. Did you give the Governor my regards yesterday, Mr. Hoff... Hoffman? And is the lamination still holding? Guess well. To all of those who are working so diligently... By the way, Mr. Speaker, I've been collecting the Calendars, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,

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Sunday and Monday and I hope to have them all signed and framed. There's nothing on the Calendar. There's not one Bill, not one item. Is that a typo? They're all blank."

Madigan: "Well, it's not a typo. The Calendars are prepared in response to the Proclamation of the Governor."

Black: "So, in other words..."

Madigan: "The proclamations have been drafted in such a way that there would be no pending matters before the House."

Black: "So, those... those Calendars may very well become collectors items. Would that not be something to look forward to?"

Madigan: "Could be."

Black: "Yes. Well, let us get on with the business of regular Session. I always thank the Gentleman for his forthright answers and perhaps we could engage our former colleague, Representative Phelps to come down and lead us in a hymn or two or three tomorrow. And there's always a new day and we're all very optimistic. Raymond Poe's leg will heal before we get out of here, that's my only fear. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "The Gentleman from Madison, Representative Hoffman, for what reason do you rise?"

Hoffman: "Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just... I couldn't let the opportunity go by with my good friend from Danville, talked about the song We Are Family and indicated that the Pointer Sisters sang that song. Google says it was Sister Sledge. So, just to point that out. But he indicated it was the Pointer Sisters and I hate to... to... on such an important

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point hate to... hate to make... make the... this august Body aware of your... your errors. But, my good friends from Danville, the list, as well as everybody's list have been delivered and I'm hopeful that soon we'll be able to deal with those. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "The Gentleman from Vermilion, Representative Black, your name was mentioned in debate."

Black: "I just wanna thank my good friend for pointing that out. This repartee on who sang We Are Family is... is the most important issue we've dealt with in the last five days. And I just want him to know at my age, I think it's wonderful that I can remember the song, let alone who sang it. But that's... I'm just here in Springfield, it's beautiful this time of the year and gosh, we're having fun now."

Speaker Turner: "You've heard the Gentleman's Motion that the House now will stand adjourned to the Perfunctory Session schedule that has already been distributed to the Members. All those in favor should say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'no'. The opinion of the Chair is the 'ayes' have it. And the House does stand adjourned."