

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

1st Legislative Day

7/6/2004

Speaker Madigan: "The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We ask the Members and our guests in the gallery to turn off cell phones, pagers, laptop computers. And we ask our guests in the gallery to rise and join us for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Colonel (retired) Randy Harrison."

Colonel Harrison: "Let us pray. Lord, hear our prayers. Heavenly Father, provide us the ability to understand Your grace and wisdom. Give us the will to live our lives productively and in the positive ways You have deemed righteous. Lord, give us the courage to always choose the harder right over the easier wrong. Provide the honorable men and women of the General Assembly with wisdom as they negotiate through our current political challenge. Lord Almighty, shield our young men and women in uniform from harm as they fight for the freedom of others and may Your hand rest gently on the families of those who serve. Dear Lord, we humbly ask for Your continuing love. Amen."

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

Parke - 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: "Again, everybody, only punch your own button. The Clerk shall take the record. Only punch your own button. Representative Currie."

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Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Acevedo, Rich Bradley, Brosnahan, Collins, Miller, Molaro, Morrow, Osterman, Scully, Slone and Washington are excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you. Just to correct the record, Representative Jones is also excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Bost."

Bost: "Mr. Speaker, I... I don't know if it's more appropriate to read off the people who are here or read the people who are absent. But we will try this. Excused today on the Republican side of aisle is Sommer, Biggins, Wait, Beaubien, Bellock, Jerry Mitchell, Pritchard, Mathias, Lindner, Dunn and Munson."

Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There being 70 responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. Mr. Clerk, read the Proclamation of the Governor."

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2004-197.

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 make appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for the expenditure of public funds for the Domestic Violence Shelters and Services Program within the Department of Human Services; and

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WHEREAS, thousands of Illinois citizens throughout the state are victims of domestic violence every year; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Shelters and Services Program provides a safe haven and the most basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter for domestic violence victims throughout the State;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 Subsection(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 93rd General Assembly in a Special Session to commence on July 6, 2004, at 12:00 p.m., to consider any legislation (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of the Department of Human Services for the Domestic Violence Shelters and Services Program for fiscal year 2005. Signed by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor."

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

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

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move to suspend the appropriate rule so that we may give immediate consideration to the adoption of House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Seventh Special Session."

Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "Seventh Special Session House Resolution #1."

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Third General Assembly be adopted as the Rules

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of this Seventh 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 this Seventh Special Session. Seventh 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 Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move for the adoption of House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Special... Seventh Special Session."

Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Mr. Hannig in the Chair."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from Cook, Speaker Madigan."

Madigan: "Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, my plan for this Session is identical to what I did for previous Sessions. This particular Session called relates to a budget for the Department of Human Services. There's nothing that could be brought before the House today as part of this Special Session. And in light of that, my plan is to move that we adjourn this Special Session to the already established Perfunctory Session schedule for the Regular Session. Now, once again, since this is a Special

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Session, for those who have recorded themselves as 'present' for the Attendance Roll Call, they will receive a per diem allowance. Had the Governor followed the plan as developed earlier, which provided that we would've simply put ourselves into the Perfunctory Session schedule of the regular Session, holding ourselves available to be called to Springfield on short notice, why the state would not have incurred the cost, which is set out on the chart in the well, which has now reached a hundred and thirty-four thousand five hundred and twenty dollars. This cost will grow each day that the Governor calls a Special Session and it... and I would suggest again, there's no need for these Special Sessions. This has just become part of the Governor's PR departments. It's all part of having Rod Blagojevich portrayed as working real hard on all of this and it's... it's a cost that need not be incurred. So, Mr. Speaker, that's my Motion that this Special Session be adjourned into the already established Perfunctory Session schedule of the regular Session."

Speaker Hannig: "And on the Gentleman's Motion, the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke."

Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, to all of us loyal and faithful Legislators that are here again at the call of the Governor. Will the Speaker yield?"

Speaker Hannig: "He indicates he'll yield."

Parke: "Speaker Madigan, on here it shows that we're in here on the 6th, it shows that we are Special Session on the 7th, nothing on the 8th, shows we're back in Special Session on

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the 9th. Can you just give us a little idea of where we're gonna go? Does that mean that we're gonna leave on Thursday and come back on Friday? If you could be kind enough to enlighten us so that, again, those of us who have family commitments, vacations and other things that normally we would not have a problem with doing, but here we are continuing to try and do what's right for the people of Illinois, yet it penalizes us by being here and being faithfully here as we were requested by the Governor, and yet we're achieving nothing except spending the taxpayers' money. Can you give us some idea of where you think this'll be going and is there any resolution to the end impasse on the horizon?"

Madigan: "Mr. Parke, my plan would be consistent with my earlier plan. This is my plan, which would provide that when we adjourn this Special Session I would advise all of the Members to go back into their districts, engage with their constituents, ask their constituents how do you think a budget impasse should be resolved? Do you think that the state ought to continue to borrow and spend money that it doesn't have? Do you think the state ought to continue to adopt budgets which spend more money than the state actually collects in a given fiscal year? And then hold all that information available so that when you are requested to return to Springfield on short notice, that knowledge taken from your constituents would be available to you as you would exercise your judgment on proposals brought before the Legislature. That'd be my plan. It's a

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plan where Members would be close to their constituents. They wouldn't be here in the Capitol Building taking all their information from lobbyists and special interests and liaisons from the various state agencies, they'd be in their district talking to the people that pay the bills in this state. So, that'd be my plan. My suspicion is that the Governor will have a different plan and upon being advised that this particular Special Session has been adjourned into the Perfunctory Session schedule, my expectation is that he will call yet another Special Session for tomorrow, Wednesday, July 7. Beyond that, I have no further knowledge."

Parke: "It does show, Mr. Speaker, that we're in a Special Session on the 9th. Special Per... oh, a Special Perfunctory Session."

Madigan: "Yeah."

Parke: "Okay. And... but we don't know if it's the 8th, 9th and 10th. So, we're just to hold fast and wait?"

Madigan: "I think that's the best you can do."

Parke: "Okay. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I... I did talk to constituents over the last three or four days when with enlightened... enlightened idea of sending us home, which I agreed with. And in talking to people in my district, I was surprised in how many people actually were following what was going on down here and expressed the same thing, that they were glad we were back and that they didn't see any reason to be here except that they wanted a budget, as we all want a budget. And so, I found it that the rank and

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file citizens I had a chance to talk to were supporting us and understood the situation that we were in and actually had some empathy for us when they realized that there's nothing that we can do and you just keep getting called back to do nothing, there was a sense of frustration for us. And I appreciated that on behalf of my constituencies and the people of Illinois. I would encourage the Leaders that are handling a lot of what's going on to work with the spirit of cooperation to set aside personal points of view, personal... personalities. And I encourage you to move forward to try and find a workable solution on this budget and that the side issues ought to be set aside, as they are side issues, and just simply work on solving the budget issues and moving forward. I have respect for all the Members of the General Assembly and the Leaders of that General Assembly and I am confident that with the spirit of cooperation and the willingness to compromise that we can get out of here in a relatively quick manner. So, my challenge to the Leaders and to the Governor is let's move forward, let's get a solution to this and then let's adjourn and go home and work with our people in the State of Illinois."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from Vermilion, Representative Black."

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Will the right Honorable Gentleman yield?"

Speaker Hannig: "He indicates he'll yield."



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Black: "Thank you. Representative, Mr. Parke stole my script. Luckily for me, I have a backup. Just for the record, I'm trying to keep track. I have not been asked to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance in some time, but I want you to know that's not an issue with me, personal issue with me. But for the record, I believe Representative Sparky led us in the pledge last Friday and then today, on Tuesday, it was Representative Parke. Are they related or... I don't remember a Representative Sparky? But, ya know, I think you've referred to him as Representative Sparky and I kinda thought it was a very appropriate soliloquy, but I digress. Representative, the... the call for the Special Session, if I heard you correctly, was to discuss the lack of a budget for domestic violence shelters. Is that the call today?"

Madigan: "I believe the call, excuse me, call reads directly the budget of the Department of Human Services for Domestic Violence Shelters and Services Program for fiscal year 2005."

Black: "I see. Did we not include that when we passed a modest growth budget from the chamber on the 31st of May? Was that an oversight?"

Madigan: "We... it was not included in the action taken on the 31st of May."

Black: "Well, I think this is a very perceptive call on behalf of the Governor because some of us are going to need a domestic violence shelter if this keeps up. This... ya know, this is a very family unfriendly business in the best of times. All of us here have missed our children's events,

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athletic, music, drama. When... when my children were younger, last week my five-year-old grandson visited for five days and I didn't get to see that little very enjoyable young fellow at all. And my wife is not happy. Unlike Representative Spar... or Parke, my constituents had harsh words for me. I didn't show up until Saturday. Representative Molaro stole my horse, so I managed to hitch a ride home on Saturday. My constituents had harsh words for the process and all of us in it. So harsh, that I went home, curled up in a fetal position and cried and didn't get out of bed until this morning when I drove over at great personal risk, Representative. There was a severe storm, the car was rocking back and forth. I saw a young lady and a little dog fly over. I risked life and limb to get here and then I find that the House Calendar for Tuesday, July 6, has nothing on it, so we have nothing to do for the seventh consecutive call of a Special Session. Which by the way, I believe, is the all-time record now. Just to echo what Representative Parke said, I... I commend the Leadership for keeping us as involved as possible through e-mail, teleconferencing calls, faxes and what have you. But there are a number of collateral issues, and I may differ with my good friend and colleague, Representative Parke, there are some issues that are very important to constituents across the state. Some of them are related to the budget and some are not related to the budget. And we all know what they are. There's medical malpractice, there's expanding the role of Economic and

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Fiscal Commission, there's giving some additional powers to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, there's some language on the Debt Responsibility Act, and the list goes on and on. And those are important issues, as is the budget. But we're not accomplishing much when we come in and there's nothing on the Calendar and we have nothing to do. What we are accomplishing is to further fray the fabric of our own family life. And I'm at an age where I don't appreciate that. I've sat here through too many death Resolutions on people that I knew well. And they had intended to spend more time with their families or they had intended to spend more time with their grandchildren, and somehow that day never got here and they didn't live long enough to do that. I think this is wrong. I think this has become a political tug-of-war of personal wills and egos. Perhaps all of us should escort the Leaders to the next meeting and all of us go in and attend. And some of us are very good at pounding the table and say, stop this, stop this baloney and get down to work and keep us informed. 'Cause if you call me back here about two more days and disrupt my family life and don't give me anything to do and, God help you, if you call me back here and throw an 8 hundred page budget on this desk and say I have one hour to do it, I'm gonna tell you to take that vote and shove it. I'm not gonna do it. I've done it too many times. If you wanna involve us, involve us. Governor, if you wanna play these games, you can go home every night and see your two daughters, you're at the summer house. Some

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of us don't have that luxury. Enough of this stuff. Now, let's get serious. Drop the baloney, drop the egos, drop the personalities, drop the political games. By god, let all of us in that meeting. I'll guarantee you there's a half a dozen of us that'll get you guys to a Resolution in about an hour, 'cause you'd get damn tired of putting up with us. Now, if I have to go home again today and come back here tomorrow, shame on all of you. And worse yet, if I come back for another charade like this, shame on me."

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hannig: "He indicated he'll yield."

Davis, M.: "Well, first I'd like to share with the group here today that in church yesterday some constituents thanked me for our entertainment. They felt we were entertaining them over the summer and they wanted to say thank you for that. Mr. Speaker, are we free as Legislators to draft legislation during this Special Session?"

Madigan: "The answer is 'yes'."

Davis, M.: "We are free... so we can all start, once again, to put legislation into LRB and get it drafted?"

Madigan: "Sure."

Davis, M.: "Okay. 'Cause that's what I wanna do. I mean, I have some great ideas, like stopping the use of credit scores for purposes of other than viewing one's credit. Removing the utility payment from being put on a person's credit reports. So, I mean, if we can do work then maybe

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we should start doing work. I mean, maybe we should start drafting legislation and having it heard on the floor. And then maybe Representative Black won't get so bored. So, we can do that?"

Madigan: "The answer is 'yes'."

Davis, M.: "Okay. And I agree with Representative Parke that this is a budget overtime Session and those issues that are not related to the budget should not be on the table. I believe that we should be talking about the appropriation of the 53 or 54 billion dollar budget and anything else should be reserved for a regular Session when people can come in and testify for or against a piece of legislation. But the way it's being done at this point, surely no fault of yours, but what will end up happening is the public will have had no opportunity to address what people have fashioned and will become law in our state. So, I think as responsible Legislators we should remove those collateral issues and go back to doing what we were supposed to do, and that's appropriations. And even though we have new guests at the table, they should know they're there for appropriations, not to do regular legislation. We do that here. First Reading, Second Reading, Third Reading. Okay. No comment. Okay."

Madigan: "Thank you."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Sir."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Bassi."

Bassi: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the... would the... Mr. Speaker, will the Sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Hannig: "He indicates he'll yield."

Bassi: "A question, Mr. Speaker... that Mr. Speaker. You said that we're doing domestic violence today. Does that mean the Governor is going to consider releasing the funds that have already been approved for the domestic violence shelters that we have back home?"

Madigan: "If he is, he has not told me."

Bassi: "Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Any further discussion? Then Speaker Madigan now moves that the House adjourn to the Regular Perfunctory Session schedule that has already been distributed to the Members. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Motion is adopted. And the House stands adjourned."