

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 4:00 having arrived, the House Fourteenth Special Session will be in order. Members will please be in their seats. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones and pagers and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We will be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, the Assistant Pastor of the Victory Temple Church in Springfield."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most precious and eternal God, we come before You humbly today praying according to the word and the prayers of Your servant David. Says, for the Lord is our shepherd and we shall not want. For He maketh us to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth us beside the still waters. He restoreth our soul. You leadeth us in the path of righteousness is for Your name's sake. Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Father, we will fear no evil, for You are with us. Father, for it is Your rod and Your staff that gives us comfort and gives us direction. You prepare the table before us in the presence of our enemies. We ask that You will anoint our head with oil, that our cups will run over with the abundance of Your blessings. For surely, it is Your goodness and Your mercy that shall follow us all the days of our lives. And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. For Your word said that they that dwell in the secret place of the most high, you said they shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. This we pray and ask in Your Son's name. Amen."

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

Speaker Hannig: "We will be led in the pledge today by Representative Burke."

Burke - 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 Hannig: "Okay. Roll Call for Attendance. Your own switch only. Representative Currie on the excused absences."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Boland, Rich Bradley, Brosnahan, Collins, Colvin, Delgado, Dunkin, Giles, Graham, Holbrook, Howard, Joe Lyons, McCarthy, Molaro, Osterman, Scully and Slone are excused today."

Speaker Hannig: "The record will so reflect. And Representative Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect... reflect that Representative Coulson, Krause, Dunn, Sacia, Black, Sommer, Mathias and Myers are excused today."

Speaker Hannig: "The record will so reflect. Okay. Mr. Clerk, take the record. Okay. So, Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 91 answering the Roll Call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2004-211.

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution requires the General Assembly to make appropriations for the expenditure of

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

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 Adjustment Payments to the Trauma Centers within the Department of Public Aid; and

WHEREAS, there are currently many trauma centers that provide care to Medicaid patients throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Adjustment Payments to Trauma Centers provide financial support to trauma centers throughout the state that provide care to Medicaid patients;

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 July 15, 2004, at 4:00 p.m., to consider any legislation (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of the Department of Public Aid for Adjustment Payments to Trauma Centers for fiscal year 2005. Signed by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, introduction of Resolutions."

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

Speaker Hannig: "The Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move to suspend the rules so that we can immediately consider and adopt House

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Fourteenth Special Session of this General Assembly."

Speaker Hannig: "You heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes the Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Would the Clerk please read House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Fourteenth Special Session."

Clerk Mahoney: "Fourteenth 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 of the Fourteenth 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 Fourteenth Special Session. Fourteenth 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 Fourteenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie moves for the adoption of the Fourteenth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. All in favor signify by saying 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. And the 'ayes'... the 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

adopted. The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke, for what reason do you rise?"

Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where is the... the real Speaker? 'Cause I wanted to discuss the current events today."

Speaker Hannig: "I..."

Parke: "And I presume that Representative Currie is... is... should be the person I should be directing my comments to?"

Speaker Hannig: "Yes, the Lady from Cook, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker and Members of the House. In the first place, the Governor's call today was to ask us to act with respect to specific items in the Department of Public Aid budget. I would remind us that Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3310, I believe it is, passed this chamber on the 31st of May by a vote of 64-51-2. And that... that encompassed not only the call for today's Special Session, but the entire Public Aid budget for fiscal year 05. There is nothing else before us. There is nothing for us to act upon today with respect to the Governor's call or with respect to any of the other budget issues that are currently under discussion. Therefore, I would move that we adjourn this Special Session into the same schedule of Perfunctory regular and Special Sessions that we have seen on our Calendars that have just been distributed to our desks."

Parke: "Well, thank you, Representative Currie. Do you... do you think that there... that there might have been something on

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

the Calendar that the Governor may have thought that we were to be working on today?"

Currie: "I can't imagine how he could've thought so since there clearly isn't any agreement on that budget or any other. So, it's unclear to me why he would've called today's Special Session. And I should tell the Members that he has already called a Special Session for tomorrow, Friday, July 16, at 2 p.m. And I would just like to note for the Members that would... it has now cost the taxpayers of the State of Illinois more than a quarter million dollars to hold these 15... 14 Special Sessions. And my own advice to the Governor would be not to continue to call them until we're ready to act."

Parke: "Well, Representative, on that note I will join you in that request. Matter of fact, if we're in tomorrow at 2, I... I... and we're gonna achieve the same thing that we've achieved today and... and... for at least 10 other days of not having anything on the agenda to deal with, then I am concerned about why we're in at 2 tomorrow when we have... and literally no legislation to which we can work on. I was hoping at least we could be in at 10 tomorrow and then decide... let the Governor decide whether or not we would be in on Saturday and Sunday so that people can start, again, dealing with their personal lives, their families, their jobs and wait for any proposed legislation of which we would be prepared to act on. Seeing none of that, that creates a concern for me, as well as other Members of the General Assembly. And I don't know why we just don't just

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

come in tomorrow at 10 rather than 2. I don't know what that solves. And at least allow us to have a weekend at which we can go back and talk to our constituents and find out what they think of what we're doing down here and perhaps be able to understand a little bit more of what the people's perception of what's going on and work with them. So, I join with the Majority Leader and ask that these Special Sessions cease until we have legislation at which we can really look at, work on and ultimately vote on that will benefit a budget for the people of the State of Illinois. So, thank you, Representative Currie. And I join with you in your frustration in wishing that we were not called into Special Session until we have work to do. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from Winnebago, Representative Winters."

Winters: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Sponsor of the Resolution. We're all here in what I hope is a bipartisan effort to get a state budget in place. And as a symbol of that, I'm really disappointed not to the Speaker himself. But I would like you to take this tool that I brought today that I thought might help to resolve the... resolve the budget crisis. We think that we need a shepherd that can lead us across the troubled waters, who can calm those turmoils, part the sea in front of us and lead this flock of Legislators to the promised land of a balanced budget. So, if you would, please pass this along to the Speaker. I think he may find this more useful than most of the other

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

negotiating tactics that seem to have worked so far. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from DuPage, Representative Meyer."

Meyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hannig: "She indicates she'll yield."

Meyer: "Well, Representative, that looks like a wicked weapon. I was standing here and it seemed like the Representative from our side of the aisle was kind of wielding it quickly to get it over to you. Now, did he strike you with it or anything?"

Currie: "No, no, no. Not at all."

Meyer: "Well, we have some lawyers that would like to defend you."

Currie: "He was just... he was just hand... he was just handing it over so I could hand it on to the Speaker. And I hope he will find it the useful tool that Representative Winters hopes it will be."

Meyer: "Well, we just want to make sure that you file your lawsuit down in Madison County. I understand... Representative, what... what is your perspective on how close are we in reaching an agreement?"

Currie: "My perspective is that we are not there, and until we are there we will have nothing... nothing to do during these continuing Special Sessions. We know that we are scheduled for a Special Session tomorrow. There's been discussion of Special Sessions over the weekend as well."

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

Meyer: "Well, we're now at the 15th day of the month of July and of course the budget... interim budget that we passed only carries through the end of the month. At what point are we gonna start to work on another extension of it since, evidently, the second floor doesn't seem to be able to bring things together here?"

Currie: "Well, I would hope we would do that before August 1, but it's my real hope that we are able to avoid a second interim monthly budget, because it's my hope that we will come to agreement on a full budget for fiscal year 2005."

Meyer: "Well, that certainly would be my hope too, Representative. I stand with you in agreement. However, I'm very concerned because we... we've continued on with really lack of direction from the second floor for the last number of weeks. The Governor didn't show up until late in the game to start working on this year's budget, seems that... like. And now we're into overtime. We're operating on a month-to-month budget. We're sitting here day after day not doing anything, waiting for an agreement to come up from... up from the second floor. And yet, we have constituents and... who... and also employees of the state who depend on having a budget in place. And I think that at some point we have to reach the reality that that leadership is not going to be there and we need to look at another month of at least an interim budget."

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Bassi."

Bassi: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Lady yield?"

Speaker Hannig: "She indicates she'll yield."

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

Bassi: "A question, Representative. What is the legal requirement should we as a Body decide that we are tired of sitting around twiddling our thumbs and that we are going to go home and work in our districts, as opposed to waiting around here for something to happen?"

Currie: "Well, Representative, as I understand it, the Governor does have authority under the State Constitution to call a Special Session."

Bassi: "But what happens if nobody shows up?"

Currie: "I believe we have a responsibility to respond to that call. To date, we have always had a quorum. We have had at least the appropriate number of people here to respond to the call that we are not in... in a situation of challenging the Governor's authority. As you know, the Governor also has the authority to compel the presence of any one of us at a Special Session and that... that power has not, to date, been exercised. I don't know if it would were the numbers of bodies to turn up so depleted as to make a quorum unsustainable."

Bassi: "If he did not..."

Currie: "That's a question for the second floor."

Bassi: "If a quorum were not present then a Special Session could not be held. Is that correct?"

Currie: "Well, if someone were to challenge the... challenge the quorum, yes, we could not convene."

Bassi: "Then... and then what would happen?"

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

1st Legislative Day

7/15/2004

Currie: "And we would do nothing just as we are doing nothing even though we have a quorum so that our Special Session can meet."

Bassi: "So, if we didn't have a quorum then there wouldn't be any difference from the fact that we have a quorum. So, we really literally could all pack up and go home?"

Currie: "Well, except that the Governor has the authority to compel our presence here."

Bassi: "Well, but that would cost additional taxpayer dollars..."

Currie: "And that does not seem to be an issue since we're now at a quarter of a million dollars and rising."

Bassi: "That's true. Thank you, Madam."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any further discussion? Then the Majority Leader, Representative Currie, moves that the Fourteenth Special Session of the House of Representatives adjourn to the regular Perfunctory Session schedule that has been distributed to the Members. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Fourteenth Special Session is adjourned."