

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

1st Legislative Day

7/16/2004

Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 2:00 having arrived, the Fifteenth Special Session of the Illinois House of Representatives will be in order. Will the Members please be in their seats. Members and guests are asked to refrain from the starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones and pagers and rise for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. We'll be led in prayer today by Pastor Peter Williams with St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church in Freeport, Illinois. Pastor Williams is the guest of Representative Sacia."

Pastor Williams: "Let us pray. Most gracious God and kind heavenly Father. Lord, we just come again on today to say we thank You for just being our God and for being our Father. We thank You on today for another day of life, another chance, Lord, to serve You with our lives. Lord, we just thank You today for traveling grace and mercy here to Springfield and we thank You for all of these Representatives on today who so... work so hard in giving their service unto the citizens of Illinois. And Lord, I know they feel like they're wasting their time on today, but Lord, You said in Your word, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. And so Father, we pray right now for our Governor and for the Leaders of Illinois, Lord, as they try to hash out a budget for the citizens of Illinois. We pray, Lord, that You might give them wisdom and knowledge and a better understanding, Father, of how to meet the needs of us, the citizens of Illinois. We are

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reminded today of what happened with Hezekiah, and he received a letter from Sennacherib, told him that he was in the mountains, he was gonna come down and destroy the nation. He didn't know what to do so he took the letter into the house of God and he prayed, and Lord, You gave him the answer to a situation. So, Father, I pray for these Legislators as they, Father, enact laws for the citizens of Illinois. We pray, Lord, that it can be a win-win situation. Not only for them, but also, Father, for the citizens of this great state. Oh Father, we pray today that You might be with us and lead 'em and guide 'em as they enact laws for our nation. Oh Father, we pray today for our upcoming Leaders of our Senate. We pray for Barack Obama today. We pray, Lord, for Jim Sacia. Oh Father, we just thank You for his invitation on today. Bless us and keep us. It is Jesus' name we pray. And everyone says, Amen."

Speaker Hannig: "And we'll be led in... in the pledge today by Representative Sacia."

Sacia - 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: "Roll Call for Attendance. And remember, your own switch only, please. Representative Currie on excused absences."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Boland, Rich Bradley, Brosnahan,

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Burke, Collins, Colvin, Dunkin, Feigenholtz, Graham, Hamos, Howard, Jones, Joe Lyons, McCarthy, Molaro, Morrow, Osterman, Scully, Slone and Turner are excused today."

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

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

Speaker Hannig: "The record will so reflect. Representative Pankau, would you like to be on the Roll Call? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 88 Members answering the Roll Call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, would you read the Governor's Proclamation?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2004-212.

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 New Americans Initiative within the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, many foreign nationals immigrate to the State of Illinois and need assistance integrating into American society and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the New Americans Initiative provides assistance to immigrants throughout the state in order to facilitate their integration into American society and the economy;

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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 16, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., to consider any legislation (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of the Department of Human Services for the New Americans Initiative for fiscal year 2005. Signed by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor."

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

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

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie, for what reason do you rise?"

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move to suspend the appropriate rules so that we might immediately consider and adopt House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Fifteenth Special Session of this General Assembly."

Speaker Hannig: "You've 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 Fifteenth Special Session."

Clerk Mahoney: "Fifteenth 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 this Fifteenth Special Session, so far as the same may

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

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie now moves for the adoption of the Fifteenth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. Representative Holbrook, the Gentleman from St. Clair, for what reason do you rise?"

Holbrook: "For the purpose of an announcement, Speaker. We are... I'd like to have a nice General Assembly welcome for the AARP of St. Clair County sitting in the gallery right behind me."

Speaker Hannig: "Welcome to Springfield."

Holbrook: "Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "And Representative Currie, do you have a Motion?"

Currie: "I certainly do, Speaker. I move that we adjourn the Fifteenth Special Session to the same schedule of Perfunctory Sessions that you all have on your desks and

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that carries on the procedures we've established ever since the First Special Session began. As usual, we have no legislation before us today so that we cannot do any work in this Special Session. I know all of us are busy in Springfield, it's not as if we were twiddling our thumbs. We are talking about budget issues with our caucus leaders, with the Governor's Office, with one another. And I know many of us have figured out ways to serve our constituents, even if some several hundred miles away from our actual districts. But in terms of the call for this Special Session, there is nothing before us upon which we can take action. The cost of the Special Sessions continues to rise, now almost \$270 thousand and growing. So, I would just renew my Motion that we adjourn this Special Session to the perfunctory schedule that is before you."

Speaker Hannig: "The... and on that question, the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke."

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

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

Parke: "Good afternoon, Representative Currie. Here we are again. This is the 16th of July and.. do you have any kind of an idea of where we're going for the weekend? Are we gonna be here for the weekend as far as you know?"

Currie: "My understanding is that the Governor will call us into Special Session on Monday at 4 p.m. I believe that means that we do not anticipate a Special Session either Saturday or Sunday."

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Parke: "So... but you don't know... know that but that's what you've been led to believe?"

Currie: "My... my understanding is that the Governor has announced that he will call a Special Session for 4:00 Monday."

Parke: "You said that you have heard the Governor will call us in on Monday at 4:00. We will adjourn shortly and return Monday at 4?"

Currie: "Yes, we will... we will spend a few minutes in regular Session today after we... after you adopt my Motion to adjourn this Special Session."

Parke: "Now, earlier you said that we have no legislation of which to take any action. Is that correct?"

Currie: "In this Special Session, that is accurate."

Parke: "Okay. But in the meantime though, I've been informed by my colleagues that any number of our hardworking associates have been working day in and day out, 24 hours on day, I mean, 24 hours a day to make sure that we have quality legislation at which we will have an ability to vote on. So, I think that's great that they're working that hard. And... and others of us are just sort of observing the process and hoping that that hard work pays off and some quality legislation that we can vote on, on Monday and Tuesday. Representative Currie, do you see that perhaps there might be a light at the end of tunnel? Have you heard whether or not there is some movement that might bring some conclusion to this marathon? And if we are in Tuesday, we'll break the known record of modern Legislature

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being in on the 20th of July? Any kind of feedback that the Body might get from your wisdom?"

Currie: "I think there is a reason for a modicum of optimism, but I do not believe that there is a final agreement on all of the outstanding issues with respect to the budget and other items."

Parke: "Okay. Well, Representative, I thank you for the feedback and I'm pleased to hear that the Governor in his infinite wisdom thinks that we can work on a solution over... excuse me, over the weekend and come back at 4:00. That's... that's refreshing and I think it's in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "

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

Winters: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually have a point of information today. I've been trying to offer some tools the last couple of days to find our way out of this budget impasse. And I asked Secretary of State White if he could give me a state map. I got the large print edition so us Legislators would be able to read it. And I started to put 'em together. I think we have a new survey of the state, because when you hold up this thing they must have surveyed from the four parts and there seems to be something missing in the middle of the state. I think this is right where Springfield supposed to be. We'll get it right. Right west of Decatur there's a large hole in the map and that I think is our problem. We are in this lost kingdom of Shangri-La. We can't find the roads in or out. And what



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I'm worried is this may in fact be a modern version of Brigadoon, where we're here for one day every century and it just repeats itself, we can never get out of here. So, Madam... Madam Majority Leader, if you would take this road map and try to find a map or a road to that budget, that we'd like to get out of town. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any further discussion? Then the Lady from Cook, Majority Leader Currie, moves that the Fifteenth Special Session stand adjourned 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. And the House Fifteenth Special Session stands adjourned."