

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

1st Legislative Day

7/19/2004

Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 4:00 having arrived, the House will be in order. Members will be in their seat as we begin the Sixteenth Special Session day. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptop, 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. Father, we so humbly come before You. And Father, even before we pray, even many have asked today that we would pray specifically for them, specifically for certain things that they're confronting in their lives. And we realize that we are not able to call each name out, name by name. But we would ask that You would grant their needs, hear their cry and hear their petitions that they have before You. So, most gracious and sovereign King, who are the author and the finisher of our faith, who has created all things, and it is without You was not anything created. Father, for we realize that even ourselves were created for Your will and for Your purpose and for Your glory. So, Father, it is this day that I pray that You, in return, will be glorified by what we say and how we say it, Father, by what we do and how we do it, so that when this day is done You will have received all the honor, all the glory and all the praise. This we ask in Your Son's name. Amen."

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

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Slone - 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. Your own switch only, please. Representative Currie, for excused absences."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Collins, Feigenholtz, Giles, Hamos, Joe Lyons, McGuire, Molaro, Morrow, Osterman and Scully are excused today."

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

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect Representative Myers, Sacia, Rose, Kosel, Schmitz, Munson, Krause, Black, Mathias, Lindner and Mulligan are excused for this very special Sixteenth Session."

Speaker Hannig: "The record will so reflect. Mr. Clerk, take the roll. On that question, there are 89 Members answering the Roll Call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2004-213.

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

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the Teen Parent Services Program within the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, many Illinois teens throughout the state prematurely become parents without the necessary education and experience; and

WHEREAS, the Teen Parent Services Program provides affirmative guidance and education to teen parents throughout the state;

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 19, 2004, at 4:00 p.m., to consider any legislation (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of the Department of Human Services for the Teen Parent Services Program for fiscal year 2005. Signed by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor."

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

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

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

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I thought I'd make a Motion. And my Motion would be to suspend the Rules so that we can take up immediate consideration of the adoption of House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Sixteenth Special Session of the current General Assembly."

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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 Lady rec... the Chair recognizes the Majority Leader, the Lady from Cook, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the Clerk please read the Resolutions 1 and 2?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Sixteenth 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 Sixteenth 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 Sixteenth Special Session. Sixteenth 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 Sixteenth 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 Sixteenth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. The Gentleman from Macon, Representative Flider, for what reason do you rise?"

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

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Speaker Hannig: "Yes, state your point."

Flider: "Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have the attention of the Members."

Speaker Hannig: "Let's give Representative Flider your attention, please."

Flider: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Members of the House Agriculture Committee are aware, last week I had contacted them about the possibility of putting together a tour of the Archer Daniels Midland, or ADM, plant in Decatur, Illinois for tomorrow morning, assuming that schedules would permit, assuming that we'd be here, assuming a lot of things, assuming there'd be no committee meetings and assuming that if the Governor were to call us back that he would not call us back until noon on that day. And right now, it appears, based on what we know, that there will be no House Committee meetings tomorrow morning. And absent the Governor calling us in early, we may have a great opportunity to board a bus that will leave the north side of the Capitol at 7:30 a.m., travel to Decatur to tour the ADM facility in Decatur. And the facility there, if you haven't been there, includes their ethanol plant, they have a tilapia fish farm, they have a hydroponic vegetable operation. And if you're from... if you're interested in agriculture, if you're interested in the... in such a facility and it's only an hour away during a time period where we're here in Springfield, I would certainly encourage you and invite you to attend. The bus, as I mentioned, will be leaving at 7:30 a.m. from the Cap...

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circle drive on the north side of the Capitol. And if you are interested please contact me, I have information about the tour and we need to give them a firmer number on the number of people... number of Members who would be interested in attending. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke, for what reason do you rise?"

Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon."

Speaker Hannig: "Good afternoon."

Parke: "It's nice to see you today. I trust your weekend went well."

Speaker Hannig: "Very good, yes."

Parke: "Did you go out and talk to your constituents about what being in Special Session everyday means to your constituents? Just curious."

Speaker Hannig: "I think... I think we missed that one, Representative Parke."

Parke: "Oh, you missed that. I didn't. I... Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to go to Millennium... to the grand opening of the Millennium Park over the weekend. And I wanna commend the people of Chicago for a magnificent facility. My wife and I were quite impressed. We sat and listened on Saturday to two and half hours of music. It was well done. Acoustics is marvelous throughout the park. I would say there were tens of thousands of people that joined the City of Chicago and all of it's a... the beauty of a phenomenal institution. All I can say is the taxpayers of Chicago and the State of Illinois should be pleased that such a

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magnificent facility is held in the downtown Chicago. So, if anyone else has not had the opportunity to see that facility, I commend them. And it's funny, nobody was talking to me about us being down here day after day, and even when I was back in my district on Sunday night I didn't have anybody calling me or asking me why we weren't... why we're still in Session. So, supposedly, I just guess that most people have lost track of us. I think if it wasn't for the media I don't think anybody would even know we're here day after day after day doing nothing, except for those Members who are working to try and solve problems or those Members who have families or those Members who have full-time jobs. Aside of that, I guess most people are unaware that we're down here, but we are. We're ready to answer the call, we're ready to go to work and do the work of the people. Now, having said all that, is the Majority Leader... I would like to ask if she'll yield."

Speaker Hannig: "Yes, she has not yet made her Motion. So, why don't I recognize..."

Parke: "All right."

Speaker Hannig: "...the Majority Leader, Representative Currie for a Motion. And then Representative Parke, you can ask her some questions."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. And I do have a Motion to make. And the Motion would be that this Sixteenth Special Session stand adjourned to the Regular and Special Perfunctory Session days, the Calendar that you have just received. And I make the Motion for the reason that there is no

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legislation for us to act upon during this Special Session. There is work for us to do, much of it means using telephones, faxes and e-mail to connect with our constituents back in the districts. And of course, we are all working hard to participate in the budget negotiations for we... ultimately, we believe will be called upon to adopt a fiscal year 2005 budget. But this Special Session, I believe, was called untimely and too expensively. Too expensively for the taxpayers of the State of Illinois. The cost for these Special Sessions is now close to \$286 thousand and rising. And I think that we would be better served if we were not here in the Capitol but returned to our individual districts so that we can connect with our constituents not only by fax, phone and e-mail, but also in person. So, for that reason, I move that this Session stand adjourned to, as I say, the Calendar of Perfunctory Session days, Special and Regular, that each Member has upon his or her desk."

Speaker Hannig: "You've heard the Lady's Motion. Is there any discussion? The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke."

Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Majority Leader, Representative Currie, yield?"

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

Parke: "Representative, I am looking at this July Calendar, which is mostly perfunctory, which is kinda scary to me because we're in all the way to the 30th of July with a Perfunctory Session on the 30th. Do you know if we're

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gonna be called into Session tomorrow, Representative Currie?"

Currie: "I have no information, Representative, on that point."

Parke: "Do you know if we'll be called in anytime this week for Regular Session?"

Currie: "I do not know the Governor's intention, but I do know that he has the authority to call us into Special Session whenever he chooses."

Parke: "Okay. So, again, we will wait here and in... we presume in the next two or three hours we'll be notified as to whether or not we're going to be called back into a Special Session for tomorrow. I think it would be helpful to us if perhaps the Governor could give us some indication how many more days he might think that we might be called in, because I know he's indicated that we are looking this week at a conclusion to the budget. And so, I just call upon the Governor to see if we might know for the next maybe two days or three days, just call us into Special Session all three of those days. And that way we can plan our schedules and know what to tell our families and our employers, or those that have full-time jobs other than the Legislature. It might be helpful to us to get an idea where we're gonna go. I'm encouraged, I hope you're encouraged that the Governor has indicated to me that he thinks we're gonna move through this week and that we will conclude this week. Would you concur with that optimistic outlook?"

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Currie: "Such a conclusion is devoutly to be desired. I hope it happens."

Parke: "Okay. Well, Mr. Speaker, again, we are here ready to do the work of the people. We are willing to sacrifice... as elected officials, when we asked the voters for their vote, we asked them... we told them we'd do the job. We were elected, we are elected, we're here to do our job. We wish that there was substantive language in some legislation that we could vote on, otherwise it seems to me that we are not using our time most effectively or using the taxpayers' money in a most effective way unless we have real language, a real budget and can move forward with votes, whether we like it or we don't like it, but with real votes on real legislation. Mr. Speaker, we in this chamber are ready to do the work of the people."

Speaker Hannig: "Thank you, Representative Parke. And the Gentleman from DuPage, Representative Biggins."

Biggins: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the Sponsor I guess it is over there, or the speaker. May I ask a question?"

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady will yield."

Biggins: "Yeah, Representative, I wondered why they call this a Special Session everyday. Actually, this is our 16th special one, right?"

Currie: "That's correct."

Biggins: "I can't really tell one from the other, frankly. And I thought maybe there'd be another word. I don't know

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whose idea this word 'special' was. Was it... was that by chance your idea?"

Currie: "No, I think it's in the constitution, but I agree it doesn't seem so special when you've already had 16 of them."

Biggins: "Maybe mundane, unnecessary, pointless."

Currie: "Irrelevant."

Biggins: "Words like that creep into my mind, ya know."

Currie: "Yeah."

Biggins: "Well, maybe we could work as a... form a private subcommittee to come up with a different title going forward so we'd have something to look forward to in the way of something different. Groundhog Day everyday, a little tiresome after 16 days. But thank you for your efforts, though."

Currie: "Thank you."

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

Currie: "With an announcement. And that is that this is not certain information, but there has been an indication, not a confirmation, but an indication from the Governor's Office that there may not be a Special Session tomorrow. I have no information about Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, nor do I have information about the entire month of August. But there is an indication that there may not be a Special Session called for tomorrow, Tuesday, July 20. I was not given a timetable so that this information could be confirmed or rejected, but just for

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your... I'm only trying to share with you what I know, and that's what I know."

Speaker Hannig: "So, the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke, for what reason do you rise?"

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

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

Parke: "Representative, if that is true, does that mean to the Body that we can go home tonight if we're not gonna be here tomorrow for Special Session? Or are we gonna be in some sort of never-never land, some limbo area that we can be here? Do you... and I'm not faulting the messenger."

Currie: "I would believe that we would not intend a... a Regular... Regular Session on a day when the Governor has not called a Special Session."

Parke: "So, we would go..."

Currie: "So..."

Parke: "...we would not home... here."

Currie: "If it isn't too late you could, ya know, pop in your... on your bicycles and your motor scooters and take off."

Parke: "And then come back whenever the Chair calls us back?"

Currie: "I have no information about when another Special Session might be called."

Parke: "Okay. Well..."

Currie: "So, I'd say stay tuned and I would anticipate that if we do not get a Special Session call we will be given information that one is not on its way before people actually leave the capital city."

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Parke: "Well, thank you, Mr... Madam speaker. I will... I will just say that if that is the case and the Governor and his staff are listening, as a courtesy to us in this chamber to show the respect for us as a equal partner, the sooner you let us know what we're supposed to do with our lives for the next day or two is respectful and I would ask that that happen quickly. Thank you."

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

Meyer: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the speaker yield?"

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady will yield."

Meyer: "Representative, when you say you have an indication could you share with us what that... what the source of your indication is?"

Currie: "The Governor's Office."

Meyer: "The Governor's Office?"

Currie: "Not the Governor... the Governor's self, but the Governor's Office."

Meyer: "But certainly the staff that helps him manage the... what goes on on the second floor, whatever that might be. Did they shed any light as to why the Governor would call us into Special Session on a... at 4:00 on a Monday afternoon and... knowing that there's not a piece of business before this House that we can handle during this Special Session and then indicate that they weren't going to call one for the next day?"

Currie: "Representative, I have no clue. Since we have been called into 16 Special Sessions without any legislation

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before the Body during those 16 Special Sessions, I find it hard to understand what the game plan is. So, this may be no stranger than every other call or noncall that we have been treated to since the beginning of this month."

Meyer: "Well, I certainly would understand that you are not in control of this and wouldn't maybe be privy to the thinking of... of the second floor, but it seems to me that you said it right. I wonder if anybody has a clue, whether they're up here or in the second floor, of what's going on. It seems to me that it's rather rude treatment of this Body and the Senate across the rotunda to bring us in one day and then not have... knowing that you didn't have anything for us to do. Then the Governor may not bring us in the next day, which means that all we've done is wasted days out of our lives to come down and do the bidding of the state, but the Governor has no plans for what we should be doing down here. It's a good example of a clueless second floor and quite frankly, I'm getting a little upset with it."

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

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. To renew my Motion that the Special Session stand adjourned as before, but also just to make the point that you might wanna wait for a final announcement on the question of a Special Session tomorrow before you take off. If there will be a Special Session call I anticipate we'll know soon, but I would cool my

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heels for a few minutes to make sure that that intention was good information or whether it wasn't."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from Macon, Representative Flider, for what reason do you rise?"

Flider: "Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's awfully difficult to make plans under these circumstances, however I would just say that to those of you who were planning on taking the tour tomorrow morning, if indeed we will not be in Session tomorrow then we'll postpone it to some other time. If we are gonna be in Session sometime noon or after, the tour would go on and we'd be awfully happy to see you at 7:30 a.m. on the bus. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady from Cook, the Majority Leader, Representative Currie moves that the Sixteenth Special Session of the Illinois House of Representatives 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."