

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 11:00 having arrived, the Seventeenth 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 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 gracious God of might, wisdom, God of justice, it is to whom all of our blessings flow. We pray, Father, that You would assist us with Your spirit of counsel. We pray for Your guidance upon this Body. I pray Your grace. I pray Your mercy. I pray that You will bestow Your honor upon them, that You will lead them through the problems that they even... are even confronting now. I pray, Father, that You would keep mindful of Your greatness and mindful of Your ability to sustain us, to strengthen us, to guide us. Now, we ask that You would vouchsafe unto them wisdom and protection throughout this day and forever more. This we pray in Your Son's name. Amen."

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

Froehlich - 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."

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

Speaker Hannig: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

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

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representative Lindner, Schmitz, Rose, Sacia, Krause and Mathias are excused today."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 104 Members answering the Roll Call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2004-214.

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 Abstinence Education Program within the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, abstinence is a proven safe method of family planning and to avoid transmission of sexually transmitted disease; and

WHEREAS, the Abstinence Education Program informs citizens throughout the State of Illinois of the health and safety benefits of abstinence;

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

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 20, 2004, at 11:00 a.m., to consider any legislation (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of the Department of Human Services for the Abstinence Education Program for the fiscal year 2005. Signed by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor."

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

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

Speaker Hannig: "The Chair recognizes the Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move that the House suspend the rules so that we might immediately consider and adopt House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Seventeenth 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. Could the Clerk please read House Resolutions 1 and 2?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Seventeenth 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

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

of this Seventeenth 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 Seventeenth Special Session. Seventeenth Special Session House Resolution #1 (sic-Seventeenth 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 Seventeenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Hannig: "And Representative Currie now moves for the adoption of the Seventeenth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. All in favor say 'aye'; oppo 'nay'. The 'aye'... opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. The Majority Leader, the Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, for what reason do you rise?"

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker and Members of the House. I now move that the Seventeenth Special Session of this General Assembly stand adjourned to the perfunctory schedule that is sitting upon your desks. And I make that Motion, the Motion I've made with respect to other Special Sessions, for several reasons. First, I want the Members to know that according to research from our research unit, this will have been the longest overtime of any General Assembly since they began keeping records in 1951. The prior high

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

was 1991 when we stayed over until July 19. Today, I believe, is July 20. So, we have a record. We, several days ago, exceeded the record for the number of Special Sessions per General Assembly, I believe the earlier record was 11. We are now up to 17. I make the Motion to adjourn, because there is no legislative business that we can conduct during this Special Session. There is no legislation before us. I think it would behoove us to adjourn this Special Session, wait upon the Governor for information about further Special Sessions. I would note that the cost of the Special Sessions has now exceeded the \$300 thousand mark, monies that could be spent, perhaps, otherwise to help us close the budget gap. Again, I know the Members are working hard by fax, phone and e-mail. They are in touch with their constituents. And we are all participating in discussions about how we can settle the budget, take a vote and end these extra overtime Sessions. But I would continue urging that it is not particularly helpful for us to have to meet with our constituents without the opportunity for face-to-face encounters. I think we would be better served as an institution, the taxpayers would be better served were the Special Sessions to cease and get on with the business of coming to a final budget resolution. So, Speaker and Members of the House, I renew my Motion to adjourn."

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

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This record being a... I had a shirt on from the '85 Special Session, saying that I survived the Special Session of '85. This is nothing to be proud about. I think it's a... it's a shame that we continue to come here day after day with nothing to do. As far as I'm concerned this is a record that will live in infamy. And we should be ashamed that we're in here day after day achieving nothing only because the exec... the executive of the State of Illinois can call us in to spend per diems to not get anything done. Now, I know that this is an economic development plan by the Governor for the City of Springfield. And that, I guess, is one positive thing. But there are lots of economic development plans throughout the State of Illinois that need attention that would be better if we were back in our districts working with the people that are affected by these economic development plans rather than sitting down here. I have a question for the Body. I have a number of questions. And the questions are, is today do we have any revenues Bills to vote on?"

Members: "No."

Parke: "Do we have any spending Bills to vote on?"

Members: "No."

Parke: "Do we have any Bills in this Special Session to vote on?"

Members: "No."

Parke: "Then what the hell are we doing here? I don't know. You know what, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm gonna say that we

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

ought to sit down and start talking about what we can do, because quite frankly, talking to my colleagues and myself, we're mad as hell and I don't think we should take it anymore. And we should figure out what we ought to do, whether we should stay here or just leave. And just leave on our own volition and decide whether or not that's the best action plan that we can come up with. Otherwise, we continue to waste 17 days spending... getting per diems because we have to have expenses to live down here. I'm tired of it. You're tired of it. The people that are related to this process are tired of it. It's time for us to wrap this up. It's time for us to go home and go back to our families and to our legislative districts. Mr. Speaker, I will just urge the Leaders and the Governor to get this done and let's move forward with the business of this state."

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

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask two questions. First of all, we understand from reading the newspaper that the issue of education is just about solved. Is that correct?"

Currie: "I think that the... the fair response is to say that there seems to be a general agreement on education spending, but I do believe that that agreement will happen finally only in the context of a total budget resolution. My understanding is that that resolution has not yet gelled."

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

Davis, M.: "Representative, do you think or do you know if it is the collateral issues that are holding up or delaying this Session?"

Currie: "There certainly are ancillary issues beyond the budget, that some of the Leaders have expressed interest in resolving before this overtime Session ends. But I believe with respect to the budget itself there still is not a final agreement."

Davis, M.: "Well, thank you..."

Currie: "The two issues that still are unresolved, collat... collateral ancillary issues, second, when it comes to the budget that, too, is still not quite done."

Davis, M.: "Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Body, I truly believe that the budget should be the only issue on the table. I believe that the collateral issues deserve an opportunity to be heard by those who are interested in whatever topics they may be and have an opportunity to come to committee and speak pro or con on those issues that are collateral. I believe that if the collateral issues remain on the table, we truly may be here until November. I mean, I just think that we are here for a purpose and that's to get a budget designed, drafted and passed. And if people continue to put collateral issues on the table, I feel that it will continue to delay our Session here. Education was one of the chief, chief, ya know, issues they were negotiating on. And if they can finally come to resolve with that, I would hope, Madam Chairman, that they would push the collateral issues aside until the November Veto

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

Session when we can deal with them fairly and on a timely basis. Thank you very much."

Speaker Hannig: "Before we vote on the Lady's Motion to adjourn, the Chair recognizes Representative Brady for an announcement."

Brady: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Depending on tomorrow's schedule, the House Republicans will caucus one hour before Session. Whenever that Special Session may or may not be called. We will caucus one hour before if it is called. Thank you."

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

Brauer: "I rise for an announcement."

Speaker Hannig: "Yes, state your point."

Brauer: "Assuming we're gonna be in Session tomorrow, I set up a tour of the Lincoln Museum, a hard hat tour. We're gonna do that at 3:30. We're gonna meet at the Union Station there just west of the new museum and we'll meet there at 3:30. And we'll take the first 20 people that come to me and get signed up, 3:30 tomorrow."

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

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I rise to renew my Motion, but also to make this announcement and suggestion. The Leaders and the Governor are currently meeting. I do not know what plan there might be for another call for an additional Special Session and I don't know whether the decision is going to be made in ten minutes time or two hours time. So, I would advise people to stay close. I don't know

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

whether there will be a Special Session tomorrow or Thursday or Friday. But you might want to stay close and wait for an announcement even though that announcement might not be immediately forthcoming. Having said that again, Speaker, I renew my Motion to adjourn the Seventeenth Special Session."

Speaker Hannig: "And the Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Parke."

Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield or the Minor... or Majority Leader, please?"

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

Parke: "Thank you. Representative Currie, who can call a Special Session?"

Currie: "The Governor may call a Special Session under the 1970 Constitution, so may the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, acting concurrently."

Parke: "Spec... or for a Special Session?"

Currie: "Yes."

Parke: "Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, I just rise as a Member of this Body and say again, I believe that the Governor's Office again shows a contempt that he holds this chamber in. He is aware of what his schedule is and what has gone on. Whether they meet or not, he still knows when to call a Special Session. This is ridiculous that he holds us out everyday not lettin' us go. He ought to know that it's time to call a Special Session. We all know we're gonna be in tomorrow. For them to say just han... leave us hanging out here is ridiculous. I'm sick of it. Now, if he wants

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

to call a Special Session that's his prerogative, but it's time for him to start showing some respect for this Body. He could've told us that we were gonna be in tomorrow. And now, we're gonna have to wait around again for some word or smoke to come form the chimney. I'm sick of it. It's time for him to show that we're equal partners and show some respect for this Body."

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

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Actually, I feel pretty good. I apologize. The beard usually worked to get us out of here. But a young lady that I love very much when I got off the airplane last week at her house in North Carolina, would not give me a hug and so I shaved it off. And after I shaved it off my three-year-old granddaughter decided that I could have a hug, so it was worth shaving. Mr. Speaker, and in all due respect to the Majority Leader, 35 years ago this country acting on a call from then President John F. Kennedy in about eight and a half years time put people on the moon. And that happened 35 years ago today. I can remember and I think most of you can, exactly where I was. It was about 9:30 at night when we saw the Eagle land on the moon. And that reminds me that it took thousands of people working together to accomplish that Herculean task. Not five people, but thousands of people had to work together to accomplish that. Ya know, we're here, we're ready to go to work. I don't know what the five Leaders... ya know, one day I got a call everyday

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

last week while I was on vacation. One day we were a hundred million apart, the next day 20, the next day 40, the next day, ya know, it sounded like some shill game at Las Vegas. I would suggest and I'll certainly support the Majority Leader's Motion to adjourn, but I would suggest that if in fact the five Leaders who negotiate behind closed doors are within 20, 30, 40, \$50 million in a \$53 billion budget. Why not bring the documents to the floor? We have excellent appropriations chairs. We have Members who have served on Appropriations Committees and have invested hundreds of hours in this process. And they now have been cut out of the process. Why not bring the documents to the floor? We're here. In 14 hours we could've... we could finish House action on 85 percent of the budget. You're gonna need our votes anyway. Why not just bring us the documents, let us see what you've accomplished behind these closed doors, lo these many days and let us vote on 'em? We could clear the Calendar of 85 percent of the budget issues by a reasonable time this evening. But, I again, as I said before I left, if you throw an 8 hundred pound gorilla on my desk tomorrow, the day after or whenever and expect me to vote on the budget in one hour, you can take a hike, I'm not gonna do it. And I would urge my colleagues to say to their Leaders the same thing. Until the Members of this chamber decide that their vote is more important than the negotiators behind closed doors, there's no reason for us to be here. Just turn it over to the five... the four Leaders and the Governor and the Office

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

of Management and Budget. Why are we even here? We can vote on our laptops. We can fax in our vote from home. Why not for once tell the Member... tell the Leadership of this Body, either involve us or send us all home and eliminate our positions. Why not? So, the only way... the only way we're ever gonna be able to regain some measure of control is for a majority of us to say, no involvement, no vote on a budget, not now, not tomorrow, not during the Democrat National Convention, not Labor Day. Bring us the documents. Let us see what you've been doing. Tell us to vote. Tell us to vote. We can handle it. Why do you think... why do you keep us in the dark? We're not mushrooms. I join my colleague from Cook, this is not the way to treat duly elected Members of the General Assembly. You've had a month to do it. You haven't been able to do it. Well, let the appropriations chairs conduct a meeting of the whole. Let us vote on parts of the budget. I guarantee ya, we could be out of here by Friday with a reasonable budget and all of us participating as equal partners. I, for one, will not vote on a budget put on my desk and I am told like some kindergarten student, here, you've got an hour, we've done it, we know what you're doing, you don't know, you can't be trusted, you've got an hour to vote on it. No. No more. No mas."

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

Mulligan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to the Leaders that are negotiating, I do have some great concern over what's going to end up in the budget. Because as we

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

cut and add large sums, the details of the budget will become less clear. It's my understanding from having seen some of it and having worked with the Human Service Appropriation Committee last week. Some of us, Representative Feigenholtz, myself and some of the Members met on two separate days for three hours each to go over details in several of the Human Service budgets. My understanding is the Bureau of the Budget is... is already working on a budget and I think that Members ought to be very careful to examine that budget as we move forward. Because what happens when we look at these big issues and the collateral issues the 'devils and the details' of that budget. And I would agree somewhat with what Representative Black said. But I think that Members ought to have enough time to look at the budget. And quite frankly, I think if more of us would demand to work on that and to look at it, we'd close this out pretty quickly. Because the more you start fooling around with it the longer it's gonna take. And I think at some point you have to come to a conclusion. No, I don't think many of us want to move forward on another one-month budget. We all had letters, if you worked in areas, about what were the problems in that budget, particularly agencies that receive federal funding that was not rolled over. And I think that if you... we all would take a little more time to go back and start paying attention, particularly to the Appropriations Committees, that we would find that there are things in that budget that you're not gonna like and that you're

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

1st Legislative Day

7/20/2004

gonna be very unhappy about it. So, I think it's time the rank and file Members if you're gonna be here and you're on an Appropriations Committee I'd start demanding to take a look at what... what is being put together and start taking a hard look if that's what we intended to do when we held hearings earlier in the year, if those are the amounts that we wanted allocated in the budget and if that's what's actually happening. I think it's very important that just because we've been here a long time not to suddenly decide I wanna go home at all costs. We better make sure that that budget that comes out now is what we think it is and what we want it to be. So, I would suggest that you start asking for a look-see now, 'cause my understanding is some it's being put together by the Bureau of the Budget and we can access that if you go back and ask your Leaders."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any further discussion? Then the Majority Leader, Representative Currie, moves that the record setting Seventeenth 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 House stands adjourned."