

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

1st Legislative Day

1/10/2007

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "All assembled... all assembled in the auditorium, give attention. All assembled in this auditorium, please give attention. The Secretary of State, the Honorable Jesse White sends greetings and proclaims that this day, the second Wednesday of January 2007 is the day fixed for the convening of the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly of the State of Illinois pursuant to Article IV Section 5 of the Constitution. The Provisional Doorkeeper is directed to clear the aisles."

Provisional Doorkeeper Crawford: "Auditorium, will all Representatives-elect please assemble on the auditorium stage."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "May I have your attention, please. May I have your attention, please. At the Speaker's rostrum and ready to convene the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly in and for the great State of Illinois is the Secretary of the State, the Honorable Jesse White."

Secretary White: "Thank you very much. The House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly of the State of Illinois will come to order. Quoting from the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, Article IV Section 6(b), 'on the first day of the month of January Session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, the Secretary of State shall convene the House of Representatives to elect from its Membership the Speaker of the House of Representatives as presiding officer.' We shall be led in prayer by the Most Reverend George J. Lucas Bishop of Springfield. And will the Members and their guests please stand and remain standing until the Pledge of Allegiance."

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Bishop Lucas: "Almighty and Eternal God, You have revealed Your glory to all peoples. Within Your wisdom and justice, all authority and governance on earth are rightly administered, all laws are enacted and judgment is decreed. Assist with Your spirit of wise counsel and fortitude our Governor, our judges and the Members of the Illinois General Assembly. Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct especially the deliberations of the House of Representatives during this new term. May Your holy will shape all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government. May the Members of this House always seek to uphold the dignity of each person, promote the common good and continue to strengthen the blessings of liberty and equality, may they be enabled by Your powerful protection to discharge their duties with integrity and ability. We also commend to Your unbounded mercy all citizens of the State of Illinois. Bless us with signs of Your love and care. Preserve us in the peace that the world cannot give and prepare us after the blessings of this life to be admitted to the blessings that are eternal. We pray to You, who are Lord and God, forever and ever, amen."

Secretary White: "Will the Dean of the House... As you were. As the Dean... would the Dean of the House, Representative Michael J. Madigan, lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and please rise, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the Pledge of Allegiance."

Madigan - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands,

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one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Secretary White: "You may be seated during the duration of this organizational proceeding. I have appointed the following provisional officers: as Provisional Clerk, Mark Mahoney. Mark, can you raise your hand and as Provisional Doorkeeper, Lee Crawford and as Provisional Parliamentarian, Rob Uhe. Also, we have joining with many of us today distinguished individuals who are Constitutional Officers for the State of Illinois: Lieutenant Governor, Pat Quinn; Attorney Lisa... Attorney General, Lisa Madigan; Comptroller, Dan Hynes. Provisional Clerk will call the roll of Members elected to the 95th General Assembly. The roll will be called in alphabetical order as certified by the State Board of Elections. We will now proceed with the Attendance Roll Call and if the Members will please answer present. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Edward Acevedo."

Acevedo: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Luis Arroyo."

Arroyo: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Suzanne 'Suzie' Bassi."

Bassi: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Mark Beaubien."

Beaubien: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Daniel Beiser."

Beiser: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Patricia 'Patti' Bellock."

Bellock: "Present."

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Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Maria 'Toni' Berrios."

Berrios: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Robert 'Bob' Biggins."

Biggins: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "William 'Bill' Black."

Black: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Mike Boland."

Boland: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Mike Bost."

Bost: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "John Bradley."

Bradley, J.: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Richard Bradley."

Bradley, R.: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Dan Brady."

Brady: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Rich Brauer."

Brauer: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "James Brosnahan."

Brosnahan: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Daniel Burke."

Burke: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Linda Chapa LaVia."

Chapa LaVia: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Franca... Franco Coladipietro."

Coladipietro: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Sandy Cole."

Cole: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Annazette Collins."

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Collins: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Marlow Colvin."

Colvin: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Elizabeth Coulson."

Coulson: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Fred Crespo."

Crespo: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Tom Cross."

Cross: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Shane Cultra."

Cultra: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Barbara Flynn Currie."

Currie: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "John D'Amico. John D'Amico."

D'Amico: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "William 'Will' Davis."

Davis, W.: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Lisa Dugan."

Dugan: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Kenneth 'Ken' Dunkin."

Dunkin: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Joe Dunn."

Dunn: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jim Durkin."

Durkin: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Roger Eddy."

Eddy: "Present."

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Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Sara Feigenholtz."
Feigenholtz: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Robert Flider."
Flider: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Mary Flowers."
Flowers: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "LaShawn Ford."
Ford: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Michael Fortner."
Fortner: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jack Franks."
Franks: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "John Fritchey."
Fritchey: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Paul Froehlich."
Froehlich: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Esther Golar."
Golar: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Careen Gordon."
Gordon: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Deborah Graham."
Graham: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Kurt Granberg."
Granberg: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Julie Hamos."
Hamos: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Gary Hannig."
Hannig: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Gregory Harris."

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Harris: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Elizabeth 'Lisa' Hernandez."

Hernandez: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Brent Hassert."

Hassert: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jay Hoffman."

Hoffman: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Thomas 'Tom' Holbrook."

Holbrook: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Constance 'Connie' Howard."

Howard: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Naomi Jakobsson."

Jakobsson: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Elga Jefferies. Elga Jefferies."

Jefferies: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Charles 'Chuck' Jefferson."

Jefferson: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Kevin Joyce."

Joyce: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Robin Kelly."

Kelly: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Renee Kosel."

Kosel: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Carolyn Krause."

Krause: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Lou Lang."

Lang: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "David Leitch."

Leitch: "Present."

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Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Patricia Reid Lindner."
Lindner: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Joseph Lyons."
Lyons: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Michael J. Madigan."
Madigan: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Sidney Mathias."
Mathias: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Frank Mautino."
Mautino: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Karen May."
May: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Michael McAuliffe."
McAuliffe: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Kevin McCarthy."
McCarthy: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jack McGuire."
McGuire: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Susana Mendoza."
Mendoza: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "James 'Jim' Meyer."
Meyer: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "David Miller."
Miller: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Bill Mitchell."
Mitchell, B.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jerry Mitchell."
Mitchell, J.: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Donald Moffitt."

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Moffitt: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Robert Molaro."

Molaro: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Rosemary Mulligan."

Mulligan: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Ruth Munson."

Munson: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Richard 'Rich' Myers."

Myers: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Elaine Nekritz."

Nekritz: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "JoAnn Osmond."

Osmond: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Harry Osterman."

Osterman: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Milton Patterson."

Patterson: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Brandon Phelps."

Phelps: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Sandra Pihos."

Pihos: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Raymond Poe."

Poe: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Robert Pritchard."

Pritchard: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Harry 'Randy' Ramey."

Ramey: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "David Reis."

Reis: "Present."

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Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Dan Reitz."
Reitz: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Robert 'Bob' Rita."
Rita: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Dennis Reboletti."
Reboletti: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Chapin Rose."
Rose: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Kathleen Ryg."
Ryg: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jim Sacia."
Sacia: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Angelo 'Skip' Saviano."
Saviano: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Timothy Schmitz."
Schmitz: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Aaron Schock."
Schock: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "George Scully."
Scully: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Michael Smith."
Smith: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Keith Sommer."
Sommer: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Cynthia Soto."
Soto: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Ron Stephens."
Stephens: "Present."
Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Ed Sullivan."

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Sullivan: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jil Tracy."

Tracy: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Michael Tryon."

Tryon: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Art Turner."

Turner: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Patrick Verschoore."

Verschoore: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Ronald Wait."

Wait: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Eddie Washington."

Washington: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Jim Watson."

Watson: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Dave Winters."

Winters: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Karen Yarbrough."

Yarbrough: "Present."

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "Wyvetter Younge."

Younge: "Present."

Secretary White: "117 Representatives-elect having answered to the roll and are being in attendance, a quorum is present and the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly is officially convened. The Provisional Clerk will enter the attendance in the Journal. I now have the honor of presenting a former Member of this House, the Honorable Alan J. Greiman, Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, who will administer the Constitutional Oath of Office

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following which each Member shall execute the written oath to be filed in my office. Justice Al Greiman."

Justice Greiman: "If each of you would now stand and raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, state your name..."

Et al: "I, name of Representative..."

Justice Greiman: "...do solemnly swear..."

Et al: "...do solemnly swear..."

Justice Greiman: "...that I will support the Constitution of the United States..."

Et al: "...that I will support the Constitution of the United States..."

Justice Greiman: "...and the Constitution of the State of Illinois..."

Et al: "...and the Constitution of the State of Illinois..."

Justice Greiman: "...and that I will faithfully discharge..."

Et al: "...and that I will faithfully discharge..."

Justice Greiman: "...the duties of Representative of the General Assembly..."

Et al: "...the duties of Representative of the General Assembly..."

Justice Greiman: "...according to the best of my ability."

Et al: "...according to the best of my ability."

Justice Greiman: "Thank you very much. Congratulations to you. You may be seated. I... I thank you for the honor of allowing me to swear in the House again. It is a very important privilege that I have been able to experience. And beneath your desks... under your seats I should say, is a document to be signed by each of you and passed to the center to be picked up by the Clerks. Thank you, again. Congratulations, again."

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Secretary White: "Again, will the Members of the House please execute the written oath and submit them to the Provisional Clerk. Members shall execute the signature on four copies and pass the oaths toward the center aisle. There will be a person at the center aisle who will collect them. The House will be at ease for a few moments to carry out those duties. Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to personally thank you and commend you and applaud you for this wonderful day and for what you will do for the people of the State of Illinois. And with that in mind, under Article IV Section 6(b) of the Constitution, the first Order of Business of this House is the election from its Members a Speaker as presiding officer. The House is now governed by rules of the 94th General Assembly which are made applicable to these proceedings by Section 3 of the General Assembly Operations Act. These rules provide that the person receiving a majority of votes of the Members elected shall be declared Speaker; therefore, 60 votes in favor of the nominee shall be required to be elected Speaker. Debate shall not be in order following nominations and proceedings or during the vote. Nominations are now in order for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, is recognized to offer a nomination."

Currie: "Thank you, Secretary White and to the newly minted Members of the 95th General Assembly, I offer congratulations. The job we've been elected to undertake is challenging; it's rewarding; it's one of the best jobs going. Under our system of governance we are coequal. This

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institution shares authority with the executive and the judicial branch. And I hope that each one of us will work hard to make sure that we, in this institution, remain a full partner in our governmental enterprise. I am proud today to nominate Michael J. Madigan for Speaker of the House. Mike has a record of absolute commitment to this institution and to its legitimate prerogatives. As Speaker for more than 20 years, he's shown us how seriously he takes the job and how willing he is to put in the energy, the intelligence and the time it takes to do it well. With total focus and 10-, 12-, sometime 14-hour days, Mike knows the issues. He's brought order to our chamber, to our deliberations and he has given us procedures that are open and fair. Mike recognizes that our form of government, with its carefully crafted checks and balances, doesn't lend itself to cataclysmic change. Success depends on building consensus. Mike specializes in consensus; he's a master of the art of compromise. He fashioned new medical malpractice rules that helps keep doctors in Illinois. When the Department of Human Services proposed new ways to pay service providers, Mike created a special committee to make sure that the most vulnerable among our citizens would be protected from falling through the cracks. He helped expand the pool of affordable housing and he reined in predatory lenders. Mike appreciates the challenges we face as a government and as a people. He understands the divisions that plague us, the divisions that... that pit rich against poor, upstate against down, suburb against cities. He understands that our diversity, while it may be our greatest

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strength, is also our greatest challenge. He helps us bridge those differences; he brings us together to respond to the needs of the people; he helps us build from the values that we do share. Mike knows the people of the state from Galena to Cairo; he knows our districts often better than we know them ourselves and he knows how to work with us, work with each and every one of us. Yes, Republicans as well as Democrats. Mike has been and will be a Speaker for all Illinois. He is a man of integrity; he is decent; he is honest. And for all his commitment to this institution, he has the great good sense to put first his beautiful wife, Shirley, his four wonderful children and the latest addition, charming, little Rebecca. Mike is a family man. I understand he's also a White Sox fan. And it is my special honor, my special privilege, to nominate for the office of Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives for the 95th General Assembly Michael J. Madigan."

Secretary White: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from Cook, Michael J. Madigan, for Speaker of the House. Is there a second to this nomination? The Chair recognizes Representative Arthur Turner, the Gentleman from Cook."

Turner: "Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Ditto. He's that kinda guy. Let me say 22 of my 24 years here Mike Madigan has served as the Speaker of this chamber. There's an old adage and some of you know just recently this past Christmas we lost what some of us call the hardest working man in show business, Mr. James Brown. Why I would refer to this guy as the hardest working man in politics, Mr. Mike Madigan. Just as...

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he works just as hard and just as tirelessly... tirelessly as mentioned earlier but more importantly, Mike has shown a dedication for this job that just surpasses none. Having worked with him 22 years I say that Mike is like fine wine, he's just gotten better with age and I have learned an awful lot serving under him. As mentioned earlier, his dedication to the people of this state is unreal. His passion for this job is none... I've seen none other than no one in terms of the dedication that he has shown for this particular position. It's been a pleasure working with him. I look forward to continuing to serving with him and for that reason I rise to second this nomination and not repeat those things that we've heard already because it's time to get to work. Thank you, again. And I second Mike for the nomination."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Montgomery, Representative Hannig."

Hannig: "Let me congratulate all Members as well. It is a great honor and a privilege for all of us to serve in this Body. Your constituents have placed their trust in you. They have given you great responsibilities as well. Let me also welcome our new Members and say that we all look forward to working with you. But I rise today to second the nomination of Michael Madigan as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. We are all here today because we desire to make our part of Illinois a better place. We face many challenges in Illinois and we need a proven leader. In fact, Michael J. Madigan is the longest serving Speaker in the history of our state. Since 1983, he's served as our

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Speaker in all but one term. But we should elect Michael Madigan as Speaker for many reasons beyond his longevity as Speaker. I am privileged to work with Michael Madigan; I have learned much from him and I've learned much about him. He is a man of great integrity. Often, he is a man of few words. But he is always a man who keeps his word. He has respect for the Minority Party. A significant number of Bills each year are sponsored by the Minority Party. He has reached across the aisle to give Republicans opportunity and responsibility as committee chairmen. He works well with all sides of the debate. He is a Leader who knows how to build a consensus on important issues. He will work with all of us. Michael Madigan is one of the hardest working Members of the State Legislature. He has earned the reputation of being the first one here in the morning and the last one to leave the Capitol at night. Often, you can find him here on non-Session days reviewing Bills and planning strategies. Michael Madigan is a dedicated public servant who is committed to improving the Illinois House of Representatives. Whether it is significant ethics reform or simply putting the House debate on the Internet, Michael Madigan has led the way. As a drafter of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Michael Madigan knows that the legislative branch is a coequal partner in government. He will insure that the other branches of government treat us with respect and in turn will demand that we treat them with respect. In short, we could not elect a better Speaker than Michael J. Madigan. And I proudly rise to second the nomination of

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Michael Madigan as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Acevedo."

Acevedo: "Thank you, Secretary White, fellow Members of the House, honored guests. As we... It is with great pride I rise to nominate Michael J. Madigan for an unprecedented twelfth term as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly of the State of Illinois. Over the course of more than 20 years as Speaker and more than 35 years as Representative of the people of the 22nd District of Chicago's southwest side, Mike Madigan has distinguished himself as an advocate for Illinois consumers, a promoter for public safety and a Leader with the courage to take a stand against the shortsighted fiscal policies and quick-fix solutions that make read... head... headlines but poor public policy. Throughout his tenure Speaker Madigan has demonstrated that he possesses the long-range vision and commitment to address the burdens of today without mortgaging the needs of tomorrow. As a fellow Democrat, I am proud to stand along Mike Madigan who has led this Party through times of great success as well as great challenges, but this Speaker has distinguished himself as more than a Democrat. Despite the partisan rancor that sometimes consumes this Body, Mike Madigan has demonstrated that he recognizes that he serves all the people of the State of Illinois. Does that mean that his tenor has not been marked by occasional partisan conflict, of course not, just as his tenor has not been without conflict within his own Party.

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But the true proof of his leadership can be found in the fact that through the times of conflict and cooperation Michael Madigan has maintained his integrity, his dedication to serve the public and his commitment to govern in an open, accountable and honest fashion. Based upon his long record of accomplishment as both a Member of the... a Member of this chamber and Speaker of the House and his dedicated service to the Members and the people of the State of Illinois, I am proud to second the nomination of Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly of the State of Illinois. Thank you."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Madison, Representative Hoffman."

Hoffman: "Thank you, Secretary Wright... White, Speaker Madigan, Leader Cross, Attorney General Madigan, Lieutenant Governor Quinn, Comptroller Hynes. It is my pleasure, it is my honor to today second the nomination of Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. Michael Madigan is the House of Representatives. He understands this institution. He has led us through many, many challenging and difficult times. To my friend, Leader Cross, we know what happened this election. We know that the Democrats were placed in a position of Leadership in the House and the Senate, all the Constitutional Officers here in the State of Illinois. With that challenge comes our solemn vow to make sure as Democrats we lead this institution and we lead this state with our democratic values: health care, education, jobs, equal pay for women, minimum wage increases and under Speaker Madigan's

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Leadership not only have we provided all kids access to health care, over 300 thousand kids now have health care who didn't have it because of Michael J. Madigan and the Democrats, more money for education than ever before, jobs and economic development. My daughter, who is here today and is... Emily who is a sophomore in college, some day, I know some day is going to work and when she does... and when she does, because of what we as Democrats have done, she will be assured that in the workplace a woman in Illinois receives the same pay for the same amount of work in the Illinois and Emily's gonna do that. Laws that stop discrimination in employment, those are things we have done. But now we need to look to the future and what is going to be our future and what are we going to do as Democrats. I know that Speaker Madigan will assist in leading us as Democrats for more access to health care, continuing to reform education, making sure that we move forward in jobs and economic development all throughout our state, pensions and making sure we fund pensions is in the challenges that we face in our budget. We're going to work together as Democrats; we're going to work together in a bipartisan fashion. And I am proud to make sure that he is elected again as Speaker and placed in nomination and second his nomination for Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives to lead us in that charge, Michael J. Madigan."

Secretary White: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from Cook, Michael J. Madigan, for Speaker of the House. The Gentleman

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from Cook, Representative Turner; the Gentleman from Montgomery, Representative Hannig; the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Acevedo; the Gentleman from Madison, Representative Hoffman second the nomination of Representative Michael J. Madigan for office of Speaker. Representative Madigan is nominated for the office of Speaker. Are there further nominations for... You may applaud, if you like. Permission is granted. Are there further nominations for the office of Speaker? The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Will, Representative Hassert."

Hassert: "Mr. Secretary, Members of the 95th General Assembly, honored guests. It's my pleasure to put in nomination for Speaker, the Gentleman from Kendall County, Tom Cross. Ya know, Tom, he's kinda like a little brother to me. I guess, you can learn it. We've been together for 15 years talking in day in and day out. He's kinda like that little brother that occasionally annoys you but you love 'em to death. And Tom, I can tell you one thing about Tom, you're not gonna find a person who is more dedicated, more honest and more of a person who wants to make this State of Illinois a better place to be. His family sitting down here: Reverend Cross, Mrs. Cross, his wife, Genie sitting up in the balcony and his son Hudson sitting right next to him. Hudson, give me a thumb's up this time 'cause you gave me a thumb's down a little earlier. Give me a thumb's up, I'll feel much better. And his daughter, Reynolds, who decided after being down here for seven swearing-ins decided that schoolwork is much better and she's gonna stay home and do her schoolwork and actually participate in sports. But I know Tom's

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family, his brothers, Kennedy and Scott, are here today also are so proud of him and I'm so proud of him. Tom has traveled throughout the state as a House Republican Leader for the last 4 years. He hasn't sat up in his district once we're out of Session, he goes out into the State of Illinois and he understands when he's talkin' to the farmer, he's understands when he's talkin' to a teacher, a health care provider, a doctor in Southern Illinois, where he worked so hard to make sure we had adequate health care facilities throughout the State of Illinois and led the charge in medical malpractice reform and made sure that happened for the people of Illinois. That's what kind of leadership is, that's what kind of Speaker who he would be. As we sit in this great venue of higher education, we're not in our chambers, but we're gonna go back to our chambers here into a new setting. So, I'm suggesting there's a time for change and the time for change is having somebody that is young and has been around the state that understands the feeling and the motivation that drive people, the issues who are important to people. Yes, there was a message sent throughout the country this last election and that election was 'get down to business, quit playing partisan politics, and make sure the people of Illinois and this country are represented as your elected official. And there's no better person that I know of that can do that job than my good friend, Tom Cross. So, it's proud.. I am very proud to nominate him for Speaker of the House. Thank you."

Secretary White: "The Gentleman from Will, Representative Hassert, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from

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Kendall, Tom Cross, for Speaker of the House. Is there a second to this nomination? The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Krause."

Krause: "Mr. Secretary, it is a privilege for me and a pleasure to second the nomination of Tom Cross for Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives for the 95th General Assembly. Tom and I came down and into the Illinois House at the same time in 1993 and I've had the opportunity through those years to work with him, to respect the leadership abilities that he has shown and the evenhandedness that all of us see that Tom shows for everyone. Tom is fair and he is open. For any individual Representative he will go out of his way. If there's a constituent issue, he will go and try and help you. For your agenda that you have for public policy, he's going to work with you and he works with everyone in the political spectrum that there is. On legislation, I have seen him through all of the years reach out, want to include everyone in, have an open-door policy, want to receive your input, think it through thoroughly and then make a decision based on principle. And you will also see on the work that he has done, and we all know of the work that he has done through these years, be it in criminal justice where he has succeeded, be it in ethics reform he has worked on, he has taken those subjects and has been thoughtful all the way through. At a time of unity of purpose where we have to come together and play bipartisanship, which is essential, Tom Cross will show the integrity, the temperament that is necessary at this time in what we are need here in Illinois.

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He will work with us; he will assist us and guide us through. Tom sort of takes the view of wanting to have a team spirit. He wants people to work with him and really he reaches out and helps everyone that strives. At a key point in the State of Illinois where we do have to come together, Tom will motivate us, lead us and achieve for the common good of the people of the State of Illinois and address those issues which have to be addressed and are so important. It is with a great deal of pride that I second the nomination of Tom Cross for Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from DuPage, Representative Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary and all the Members of the House and all the elected officials and the guests that are here today. A good leader is someone who is called upon to demonstrate courage, character, loyalty and integrity. There are two things that a leader must have. He must know what is the right thing to do within himself and he must have the will and the courage to do that. That is what separates people from leaders. I think that this definition exemplifies Tom Cross and he would be a great Speaker of the House. I've known Tom for many years now as a leader but also as a friend. And I know that he is someone that brings us all in to discuss our opinions and our suggestions, we don't always agree as 52 people never could, especially on all the important issues, but sometimes on the smaller issues like the Cubs versus the Sox. But he always respects our opinions, he takes us in and the main

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thing is he encourages us to go forward, to represent the people that we represent and serve in the State of Illinois to make our state a better place for all of us. He has the unique ability to lead by persuasion and he empowers all of us by tapping into each one of us individually and the talents that we have that we bring back from our district and we all appreciate that. Tom is a devoted family man as we know with his family here today and his wonderful mother and father who have seen his career go forward up to this point. He is someone that takes the time out of his hectic schedule to go to the soccer games, he tells us about those all the time; to go to the school functions but he also knows the most important thing is to keep his family together during this hectic schedule. The love and devotion that he has for his family is what has given him the driving force to go forward with the stem cell research that is so important to him. Tom Cross is tenacious, but at the same time he's compassionate. He has demonstrated in his leadership that over and over again in his leadership in death penalty reform, ethics reform, criminal justice and also now the stem cell research. He never backs down in the face of adversity as we have seen lately. He always sticks to the important issues. He focuses in on them and asks for suggestions from all of us as to move forward to help the State of Illinois be a better place. The final test of a leader is that he leaves within others, on both sides of the aisle, courage and conviction to move forward with their own individual ideals and visions and dreams as to how to make our state a better place. This is true of Tom. We have had

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a major great transition over the last several years in our caucus and we have found that that is very true to be true of Tom Cross. Above all, as in the late President Ford, Tom Cross is a man of his word. It is now my honor and privilege to second the nomination of a man that I feel is of true courage and conviction to be our Leader and the Speaker of the House... of the Illinois House of the 95th General Assembly. Thank you."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Champaign, Representative Rose."

Rose: "Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I rise to proudly second the nomination of Tom Cross for Speaker of the 95th General Assembly. Four years ago Tom came in at a time of vacuum in leadership in this state, stagnation of leadership; at a time when ideas, innovation and creativity were not only not valued they were actively discouraged, but Tom isn't that kind of leader. He's a new, a different leader. He realizes the key to being a good leader is to surround himself with innovative thinkers to help them be successful in their own endeavors and professional goals and by doing that, a rising tide will float all boats. To that end, he's actively sought innovation, creativity, encouraged Members to speak up, encouraged Members of differing views to speak up. If you have a good idea, he wants to hear it; his door is always open. It's unfortunate but many here in Springfield seem to subscribe to the view that their Leadership is my way or the highway. As a freshman in my first term, which was coincidentally the same time that Tom came in as Leader, I was advised more than once by old guard

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Members of both Parties that it was a freshman's job to sit quietly, take notes and otherwise stay out of the way and I'm sure there's a few people here that wish I'd do that to this day. On day one as Leader, Tom came in and he did not subscribe to that strategy; he actively rejected that strategy. He solicited opinions of all Members in the General Assembly regardless of Party, seniority and he solicited opinions on any number of issues and not just here in Springfield. When we've got a problem back home, an issue back home, he's there, literally. Tom has been to every one of his 52 caucus Members' districts, most of them more than once. It's in those trips when you really get to know him and you find out that he's a really good guy. And you wonder sometimes how the Tasmanian Devil has this much energy to keep going and the answer is tea and a few Mountain Dew's here and there. Tom's accessibility and openness have helped to move the tone of debate here in Springfield from one of pardonsh... pardon... partisanship towards bipartisanship, so too Tom realized that to move only forward that people must have faith and trust in their government and that's why in his first year as our House Leader, he pushed for and passed the landmark ethics reform package. In doing so, he worked across the aisle with Speaker Madigan blending Tom's own ideas and the Speaker's ideas and those of all Members of the General Assembly in order to put forward a truly historic piece of legislation that has and will continue to strengthen our democracy here in Illinois. Real reform from a real leader, that's Tom

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Cross. And for these reasons I proudly stand to second his nomination for Speaker. Thank you."

Secretary White: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Peoria, Representative Schock."

Schock: "Thank you, Secretary White. It has been said that 'blessed is the leader who seeks the best for those who he serves.' I believe this sums up my Leader, Tom Cross and why I stand to second the nomination for Representative Tom Cross as the next Speaker of this House. Tom Cross is a leader who merits respect. He leads by building teamwork, he lifts the overall vision to higher sights and who raises the performance of those whom he leads. As a young freshman Legislator, Tom Cross was always there when I needed him. He was a rock to be counted on, but never once did he come to me and tell me how I had to vote or what I had to do. What I have been able to count on has been wise guidance for me to rise to my fullest potential as a Legislator. Tom Cross's leadership relies on the depth of his insights, the wisdom, his listening skills, his ability to inspire and his overall vision and passion for improvements in the lives of all Illinoisans. Tom Cross understands Illinois; he has deep insights regarding the economic and cultural diversity of the people of our state. While respecting those differences, Tom Cross has excelled at bringing people together. While standing by his principles, Tom Cross has cooperated with Members of both Parties and the other Party's Leadership to seek common ground on behalf of all the people we serve. As the Leader of a Party Caucus, Tom Cross has focused and motivated our caucus while still being

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successful in reaching out in a cooperative spirit with all other state Leaders. That is why it is my deep belief that Tom Cross is best suited to advance the interests of every Member of this House as our next Speaker. President Eisenhower said, 'Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because they want to do it.' No Legislator is obligated to follow their leader, yet, Members of our caucus have followed Leader Cross because his leadership style is more participative than directive. He enables those who he leads to perform to their fullest potential. Tom Cross's style is a gentle hand of leadership that succeeds beyond measure in uniting those who he leads precisely because it is built upon inspiration as opposed to dictates. That higher level of leadership is what is available to all of us here today by voting for Tom Cross as our Speaker and it is why with great pride I second the nomination for Tom Cross as the Speaker of the House."

Secretary White: "The Gentleman from Will, Rep... Representative Hassert, places in nomination the name of the Gentleman from Kendall, Tom Cross, for Speaker of the House. The Lady from Cook, Representative Krause; the Lady from DuPage, Representative Bellock; the Gentleman from Champaign, Representative Rose and the Gentleman from Peoria, Representative Schock second the nomination of Representative Tom Cross for office of the Speaker. Representative Cross has been nominated for the office of Speaker. Are there further nominations for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives? There being no further nominations offered from the floor, nominations for

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the office of Speaker are closed. Is there further discussion? The nominees for the office of Speaker of the 95th General Assembly are Representative Michael J. Madigan and Representative Tom Cross. And on that question, will the Clerk please call the roll. I'll ask that all Members be in their chairs and we will have a oral Roll Call and when your name is called please stand and announce your vote in a loud and a... and in a clear voice. The question is on the election of the Speaker of the House of the 95th General Assembly. And before we go to that question, I'd like to recognize the Gentleman from Kendall, Representative Cross."

Cross: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. The Honorable Secretary White and Members of the House of Representatives, I now move that the House vote by acclamation for Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly. I would, of course, ask for one Member to withhold their vote so that I can be elected Minority Leader. And I respectfully make this a direct Motion, Mr. Secretary."

Secretary White: "Okay. The Gentleman... Thank you. The Gentleman from Kendall, Representative Cross, has moved that the House of Representatives vote by acclamation for the election of Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly. And on that Motion, I will recognize Representative Madigan."

Madigan: "Mr. Secretary... Mr. Secretary, presuming that Mr. Cross's Motion is adopted to please record me as voting for Mr. Cross."

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Secretary White: "Thank you. Mr. Clerk, there is a Motion on the floor to elect by acclamation Michael J. Madigan as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 95th... 95th General Assembly. All in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And of course, the Gentleman from Cook, Michael J. Madigan, has been elected Speaker for the House by acclamation. And on that question, Representative Madigan receives 116 votes and Representative Cross receives 1. I hereby declare that Michael J. Madigan has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly and Tom Cross has been elected Minority Leader of the House of Representatives of the 95th General Assembly. With the consent of the House, I will appoint the Members to constitute an Honor Committee to escort the Speaker to the rostrum to take the Constitutional Oath. Is there leave? Leave being granted, I will move forward. Will the following Members of the Escort Committee please come front and center: Representative Toni Berrios, Representative Will Davis, Representative Bob Flider, Representative Kathy Ryg, Representative George Scully, Representative Rosemary Mulligan, Representative Ruth Munson, Representative Sandra Pihos and Representative Aaron Schock. Will the Committee of Honor retire to the seat of Michael J. Madigan to escort him to the rostrum so that the administration... so that... To administer the Constitutional Oath of the Speaker, I shall again ask for the Honorable Alan J. Greiman, Justice of the Appellate Court, to join me here on the rostrum and joining Representative Greiman or Judge Greiman to the podium are members of Speaker Madigan's

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family who will assist in the administration or the administering of the oath. As they say in my neighborhood, Justice, you the man."

Justice Greiman: "Michael, Mr. Speaker raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, and your name..."

Madigan: "I, Michael Madigan..."

Justice Greiman: "...do solemnly swear..."

Madigan: "...do solemnly swear..."

Justice Greiman: "...that I will support the Constitution of the United States..."

Madigan: "...that I will support the Constitution of the United States..."

Justice Greiman: "...and the Constitution of the State of Illinois..."

Madigan: "...and the Constitution of the State of Illinois..."

Justice Greiman: "...and that I will faithfully discharge..."

Madigan: "...and that I will faithfully discharge..."

Justice Greiman: "...the duties of Speaker of the House of Representatives..."

Madigan: "...the duties of Speaker of the House of Representatives..."

Justice Greiman: "...according to the best of my ability."

Madigan: "...according to the best of my ability."

Justice Greiman: "Mr. Speaker, congratulations."

Secretary White: "Congratulations, Speaker."

Speaker Madigan: "Thank you. Thank you. You did a great job.

Will the Committee of Escort, previously appointed to escort the Speaker, assemble at the rostrum to escort the Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State, from the podium. Mr.

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Secretary, we sincerely appreciate your service and the fine way in which you have conducted these proceedings. Jesse White. Let me thank Justice Greiman for once again administering the Oath of Office to the Members of the House of Representatives and to me personally as the Speaker of the House. For those of you who don't know, Justice Greiman served honorably as a Member of this House for several, several years, served as a Member of my Leadership team and over all the years that I've served here and of all the people that I've worked with in the General Assembly, Alan Greiman was clearly one of the most effective and best-liked Members of the House of Representatives in all of those years. So, Alan, again, we thank you very, very much. Thank you to Tom Cross for your very gracious Motion for acclamation. Those who nominated Tom and those who seconded his nomination said it exactly the way it is. Tom Cross is a very effective Legislative Leader; he's very close to being an ideal Legislative Leader. I would go all the way, but he has those occasional differences with me. He firmly believes in total consultation with his caucus. You know that; we know that because we always stand around and wait for you to go to caucus. And that's important for a Leader and that's what Tom does. As you know, he's articulate, he's intelligent, and I will say one thing about Tom that really doesn't happen that much around here, Tom reads Bills. Because I've been in meetings with Tom, where he has said, 'I'd like to see the language of the Bill', and he'll sit right there, read the Bill before he renders a judgment on whether he wants to support the measure or not. So,

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again, Tom, thank you very much. Thank you to all the Members of the House for your Motion, your support of the Motion that I serve once again as your Speaker of the House. Let me again introduce the members of my family. All of you know my wife, Shirley; all of you know my daughter, Lisa; my daughter, Nicole and if you could all wish Nicole a happy, happy birthday. Happy birthday, Nicole. My son, Andrew. My other daughter, Tiffany, could not be here today because, as has been the case for a long time, she's in school. She promises that she's getting to the end and that makes me very, very happy. Before I begin, I'd like to ask all of you if you could join with us in a moment of silence in memory of a departed State Representative, Majority Leader Lovana Jones. Lou Jones served with great distinction in the House of Representatives and she brought to the House a record of personal accomplishments of working within our society to effect change. Sometimes through peaceful methods; sometimes through not so peaceful methods. For those of you who knew her, she was a strong advocate when she wanted something and if she wasn't getting your attention, she knew the right language to get you to focus on her. We've missed her now for several months, but her memory remains with us. And so I'd ask all of us just for a moment of silence to once again remember the life of Representative Lovana Jones. Thank you very much. Let me do a few more introductions. We have several members of the Illinois Supreme Court. We have Chief Justice Bob Thomas, Justice Thomas Fitzgerald, Justice Thomas Kilbride, Justice Rita Garman, and a neighbor of the Madigan family, Justice

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Anne Burke. We have with us the Superintendent of Education, Christopher Koch. Mr. Koch. Three aldermen from the City of Chicago: the Alderman Marge Laurino, Alderman Ike Carothers, Alderman Brian Doherty. A former Member of the House and currently a member of the Cook County Board of Review and the father of Representative Toni Berrios, Joe Berrios. Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Dorothy Brown. A former president of the County Board, Bobbie Steele and with Bobbie is her son, Commissioner Robert Steele. Wife of Representative Rich Bradley and a member of the Water Reclamation District, Cynthia Santos, Commissioner Cynthia Santos. And lastly, a man that we've all come to love over the years, the Budget Director John Filan. There have been many reports over the last few weeks which are telling us that we are experiencing a new civility in American government. And the bulk of the credit for bringing this new civility to the public dialogue and public discourse is our own United States Senator Barack Obama. We all know how he has captivated the American public and we all know how many people all across America are very anxious for Barack Obama to have a very successful career because they've seen already that he's a person who, as we would say here in the House, cuts to the chase and says things the way they are and says them in such a way that's very agreeable, very understandable and actually has given a great deal of inspiration to many people all across the country. We brought civility to the House of Representatives in 1997. I'd just returned as the Speaker after a 2-year hiatus, a vacation that I did not request. Previously, under my

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administration and under the administration of my predecessor, we clearly did not have a lot of civility in the House of Representatives and I take my share of blame for what happened under my administration. But in 1997 when I returned to the office of Speaker, I pledged to the full House, but especially to our House Democratic Caucus, that I wanted to bring civility back to the House of Representatives. I'm pleased to tell you that I've kept that pledge. I kept the pledge by having power sharing through the appointment of Republican committee chairs and cochairs and by working very hard to provide full participation by all Members and all parties in the deliberations of the House of Representatives. As you know, we have had Republican chairs and cochairs. We will continue with that practice. We have had full participation in the work that we do. And right up until this recent Veto Session, when we were considering an increase in the minimum wage, I did not practice exclusion. Rather, I practiced inclusion and I insisted that as we raise the minimum wage that we would consult with all interested parties, especially those who would be paying for the increase in the minimum wage. In Chicago, there's a very well noted civic organization that's called the Commercial Club of Chicago and there's a Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago. This group was founded in 1877 and over the years they've performed a great public service to the State of Illinois, to the people of the state. They're a stated nonpartisan group. Most of them are Republican. I know them. They're still good people. But over the years they

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have performed a great public service because they have certain resources available and they devote those resources to a real good intelligent analysis of current issues. And so, in December of last year they issued this report and it's titled, A Report of the Civic Committee's Task Force on Illinois State Finance. It's 53 pages and it's an excellent report, but in some respects it's a devastating report because it tells us, as we acknowledge, give or take a few nickels and dimes, that Illinois has one hundred billion dollars (\$100,000,000,000) in liabilities and unfunded commitments, one hundred billion (100,000,000,000) liabilities and unfunded commitments. This condition, if not remedied, will jeopardize our ability to fund State Government, especially our responsibility to fund education. This problem will not be cured by quick and easy fixes that provide some relief now but, by their very nature, will create a funding hole in the future. To implement this report will require strong leadership and the willingness to make difficult and unpopular choices. Speaking for myself, and I am sure speaking for all of you, I'm prepared to engage in unpopular choices. I'm prepared to engage in doing things which today may not be viewed so favorably, but down the road they'll be an acknowledgement that it was the right thing to do. During my career in the House there was one day, some of you were here, wherein one day we passed an increase in the Illinois income tax for education. One day. At the same time at a different time I participated with Governor Ryan to pass a reduction budget for the State of Illinois. Now, in my time in the House, and as I

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facetiously say to you from time to time, some people think that I've been here when Lincoln was here, I don't recall a reduction budget except for the one we did at the end of the Ryan administration, and I participated in that. So at one time raise the income tax, another time do a reduction budget. I'm prepared to do the difficult things that have to be done. And I'm not asking for commitments today, but I think we all know that there's some tough times ahead in terms of responding to this report, which nobody has disagreed with. Earlier I mentioned Barack Obama and I mentioned the impact that he's had upon the nation. It now appears that there's a pretty good possibility that Barack Obama will consider the candidacy for President of the United States. Unfortunately, if he pursues that candidacy he will be somewhat handicapped by the selection process which America uses to select candidates for the Presidency. It's a selection process where there are early primaries and caucuses which have an undue effect upon the end result. And these early primaries and caucuses are in states such as Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Carolina. These states are not representative of mainstream America. They're clearly not as representative of America as, say, Illinois would be. But if Barack is a candidate, recent history tells us that the selection process may be finished before it reaches the Illinois Primary, which is scheduled for March 18, 2008. So, I plan to propose when we open our Session that we change the Illinois Primary and that we move the... we move legislation that would move the Illinois Primary to February 5. That being done, Illinois will be

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able to participate in the Presidential selection process, but, more importantly, Illinois will be able to mark up for Barack Obama. When I received the nomination of my Democratic Caucus a few weeks ago, I was very grateful for their nomination but I told them that we had some really difficult work up ahead. Part of my reference was to this report from the Civic Committee of Chicago. But beyond that, it will not be easy to work through the difficulties we have, the differences we have. However, I have the utmost faith and confidence in every Member of the House of Representatives. As we look around, we're very different. We have different skin color, we practice different faiths, we come from different economic sections of the state. Some sections of our state are below the old Mason-Dixon Line, some sections of our state abut Wisconsin, others abut Iowa, Indiana. So we're a diverse... a diverse group, but that was the intent when the American structure of government was first created. It was intended to be a government that would bring people together, include people, work through ideas, differences, develop a work product for better or for worse, but done with the utmost sincerity. For all the years I've been in the House, again, I have total faith that all of you will come to this with sincerity and a real strong desire to do a real good job for the people that sent you to Springfield. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Cross."

Cross: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I know it's... the day is long and I will try to keep my comments short. I also want

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to welcome and thank... yeah, thank ya. I think that's my wife clapping, or my son. I also want to welcome all of the guests, elected officials, and dignitaries here and also, like the others, congratulate all of the new sworn in State Representatives. It is, as you know and you find out... finding out as we move forward today, we will have a number of tough challenges facing us in the next couple of years. We have five new Members on the Republican side of the aisle that are here today that as you... and being sworn in and I'm excited about them. Sandy Cole, Jil Tracy, Franco Coladipietro, Dennis Reboletti, and Michael Fortner. So, welcome to our new Members. I'm not sure if you knew what you were getting yourselves into before today. Also, let me just say 'hi' to a couple... acknowledge a couple of my family members. My mom and dad are right down here in the front row and my dad is gonna do the benediction. And, Mom and Dad, thank you. He had a... was able to give a prayer of peace in the Governor's Inauguration and other Constitutional Officers' Inauguration the other day. He did a great job and I appreciate him and the Speaker giving him an opportunity to participate today. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that. I also... as you heard from Brent, my apparently older brother, much older brother, a little while ago. My wife, Genie, is up in the... in the gallery. And, Genie, thank you. I don't... I don't know that any of us adequately say 'thanks' to our spouses for what they go through and what they do. Many of us are not home. The times I am home she says I disrupt her routine. But... You do an incredible job and thank you for your patience and

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understanding and for all of the spouses here. We appreciate it. And then, of course, you heard that Reynolds, our 13-year-old, decided that school was a better place to be. And maybe she's smarter than all of us, I don't know... but... and then my son, the Cub fan and Packer fan, Hudson Cross. So, Hudson... see, he's the Packer fan, very proud of it. Hudson, can you stand up? All right, Hudson. I think Brett's gonna stay a few more years, Hudson, so we're in good shape. I wanna thank those who nominated me. Brent, thank you for what you said. It... Brent and I do talk, it's hard to believe every morning, every day, maybe 10 hours a day... 10 times a day and he does put up with a lot of... of my peculiarity, so I appreciate that. Carolyn Krause, you summed it up very well. Aaron Schock, Patti Bellock, Chapin Rose, you all did a very good job and I appreciate your leadership in our caucus and what you said today. And I also wanna just say thanks to all the Members of our caucus who voted for me for Leader. I appreciate the opportunity, I appreciate the confidence. As you know, we have a lot to do and we will do it together and we will find a way to work through those issues. So, I appreciate the confidence in me. Mr. Speaker, I also acknowledge that we have a number of challenges facing us over the next couple years. The Civic Report, we happen to agree with it. In many ways, some of us have been talking about that for the last couple of years and I agree with you, they will be tough challenges. We have, at least from a financial standpoint, many, many tough challenges facing this state, and we will find a way. It may be very

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difficult and it will be difficult at times, but we as Republicans stand committed and willing and ready to work with you and your caucus in the next couple of years as we face those challenges outlined by the Civic Federation and others. I wanna just talk for a couple of minutes about the State of Illinois. And maybe all of you don't know this in this room today, but as Republican Members... Republican Caucus Members we represent over five million (5,000,000) people in the State of Illinois, even in the Minority, the other seven million (7,000,000) being represented by our friends on the Democrat side. And those five million (5,000,000) people have hopes and dreams and goals and ideals, fears, and anxieties that are very real in their lives, and we represent those concerns and the... and the fears that they have in the General Assembly. And those people, even in the Minority districts, deserve a voice and we believe we are there to give them that voice. I had an opportunity to travel a good bit of this state, as Chapin Rose and others said, throughout the last year or year and a half on behalf of our caucus, from Rockford to Mount Vernon, from Quincy to Champaign and in talking to families around the State of Illinois, you found a common theme among all of those people, regardless of where they lived, regardless of their neighborhood. Certainly not every issue was the same, but in many cases the same things were said. Can I get a good job? Can I get a good quality job that it pays well? Can I pay my bills? Are my children gonna receive a good education? If my child wants to go to college am I gonna be able to afford to send my child to college, or at least help

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them get through college? Will I be able to pay my health care costs? Will I be able to have health care insurance? What am I gonna do as my parents age? Will I be able to provide for their health care? What happens when I age? Is my neighborhood safe? Are my schools safe? Are my children, when they get to be sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) getting in a car or going out with their friends, safe with other teen drivers? The list goes on and on and the concerns, as I said, are very similar regardless of where you live in the State of Illinois. And it is our job as Representatives... perhaps it's more appropriate to say it is our duty as Representatives... to provide those families, our neighbors, our friends with the security of knowing that there are answers or at least attempts to answer their concerns. They're counting on us as their Representatives to address those concerns. And the beautiful thing about the House of Representatives, some call it the 'People's House', is it is an opportunity more so than the other chamber to address and to talk about all of the ideas that are out there and that need to be discussed to address those concerns. It's appropriate, perhaps, today that we are in an institution of higher education, a place that encourages thought and encourages ideas and encourages debate. Justice Holmes talked about... talked about a marketplace of ideas. In the Illinois General Assembly, because we run every two (2) years and because we need to be more responsive and come up with ideas of reform and change, is the very place to be called a marketplace of ideas to address those concerns. There are no shortage... shortages of ideas in the State of

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Illinois, and that's the beautiful thing. The people in this chamber have great ideas, the people in the State of Illinois have great ideas. And it is our challenge to listen to those ideas and to be responsive to those ideas. Now, more than ever, we need to make those ideas work. And these ideas aren't exclusively Republican ideas, they aren't exclusively Democrat ideas. And the great thing about ideas is they aren't partisan. We need to think differently as we move ahead over the next couple of years. Old alliances and old ways of doing business will not solve the current problems facing the State of Illinois. Working together in a new way and not thinking of ourselves or ideas as just Democrat or just Republican will help bring fresh and new ideas to the problems facing us. I'm not saying that we run away from our Party. I'm not saying that we run away from our ideals. But what we need to do as we address these problems is think not like we have in the past to say I've got to do this because my Party expects this or we've got to do this because our special... this special interest group expects this of us. If we're gonna be successful confronting the problems of Illinois as we move forward, we have to think what's best for the people who hired us to represent us in the State of Illinois. In closing, and as an example, and Patti Bellock mentioned this. I'm very passionate about stem cell research. I know that stem cell research is a controversial issue and I wanna thank a few people today. Sara Feigenholtz, who's been... wait, I'll get... wait a second. Sara Feigenholtz is very... been very active on this issue. Dan Hynes has been very active on this

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issue. And this is an issue that's very important to a lot of people in the State of Illinois and around the country. And you know it's a difficult issue and it's one we are going to have to struggle with, but it's an issue... a very issue that I was talking about a minute ago that needs to be discussed. The ideas need to be out there, the debate needs to be out there, the give and take needs to be out there, to find a way to move forward with them... with stem cell research and find ways to find cures for people with diabetes and Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and the list goes on and on. It won't be easy, nor should it be easy. It's the beauty of this process. But it will have certainly an impact on the lives of millions of people in the State of Illinois. That's an example of what I'm talking about of working together. So, Mr. Speaker and to all of you, we welcome the challenges, we welcome the debate, we welcome the new ideas, and we look forward to working with all of you, Republican and Democrat, as we take on the challenges facing the State of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Madigan: "The next Order of Business will be the election of the Chief Clerk. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Thank you, Speaker. I move for the immediate consideration and suspension of all applicable House Rules so that we may move to the adoption of House Resolutions 1, 2 and 3."

Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it."

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And the Motion is adopted. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution 1, a Resolution for the election of Mark Mahoney as Chief Clerk, Brad Bolin as Assistant Clerk and Lee Crawford as Doorkeeper. The Resolutions are on the Clerk's desk."

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

Provisional Clerk Mahoney: "House Resolution 1.

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the following Officers are hereby elected for the term of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly:

Mark Mahoney: as Chief Clerk of the House

Bradley S. Bolin: as Assistant Clerk of the House and

Lee A. Crawford: as Doorkeeper of the House."

Currie: "I move the adoption of the Resolution."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady moves for the adoption of the Resolution. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed by saying 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Pursuant to House Resolution 1, the Chair declares Mark Mahoney elected as Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives. Brad Bolin is declared elected as the Assistant Clerk of the House. Lee Crawford is declared elected as the Doorkeeper of the House. Do these gentlemen accept the offices to which they have been elected? They're all nodding 'yes'. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, is recognized to offer a Resolution."

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Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move the adoption of House Resolution 2 which will direct the Clerk to inform the Senate that the House is organized."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady has moved the adoption of House Resolution 2. This is the traditional notification to the other chamber that this Body is prepared to do the peoples' business. The Lady from Cook, Representative Currie, is recognized to offer a Resolution."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move the adoption, finally, of the House Resolution 3 for the appointment of a committee to attend the Governor and to inform him that we are organized and await any communication he may have."

Speaker Madigan: "Let's keep it civil now, everybody. The Lady has moved the adoption of the Resolution. This is another traditional ceremonial procedure. Without objection, we can take both Motions on one vote. All in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. Pursuant to House Resolution 3, I appoint the following committee to wait upon the Governor. There's something I'd like to say, but maybe I'd better not say it, right? Representative Toni Berrios, Representative Will Davis, Representative Bob Flider, Representative Kathy Ryg, Representative George Scully, Representative Rosemary Mulligan, Representative Ruth Munson, Representative Sandra Pihos, Representative Aaron Schock. Mr. Clerk, read the Adjournment Resolution."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Joint Resolution... House Joint Resolution 6, offered by Representative Currie."

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the House of Representatives adjourns on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, it stands adjourned until Monday, January 22, 2007, in Perfunctory Session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Friday, January 26, 2007, in Perfunctory Session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Monday, January 29, 2007, in Perfunctory Session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 31, 2007; and when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, January 11, 2007, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 24, 2007, in Perfunctory Session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 31, 2007, in Perfunctory Session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 06, 2007."

Speaker Madigan: "Before we move to consideration of this Resolution, we're gonna ask Pastor Cross and Bishop Smith if they could come to the podium for a benediction. Pastor Thomas Cross is the father of Representative Tom Cross. He's from the United Methodist Churches, Northern Illinois and then, also, Bishop Horace Smith, Apostolic Faith Church of Chicago. So, Pastor Cross."

Pastor Cross: "Mr. Speaker, if you will indulge me a very brief moment of personal privilege. Several years ago when Tom was first elected the Republican Leader, I said to you, Tom, from a similar podium, that I knew you would lead not only by your skills, your knowledge, your love of your state, but

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by character. You lead by the man you are and you have proven that and we're all so very grateful for you. Tom is... Thank you. Tom is supported today by my wife and his mother, Ruth. Also, his brother, Brad, is here with his daughter, Emily; his brother, Scott, with his daughter, Catherine; his brother, Kennedy, who is seated along with Genie and Hudson. I wanna thank Tom for on two previous occasions for offering me the invitation to lead a prayer on this occasion. Today, the invitation was graciously extended by the Democratic Speaker of the House, Michael J. Madigan. Mr. Madigan, thank you for your invitation. Speaker Madigan, Leader Cross, Constitutional Officers, honored guests, let us pray. Holy God, by whatever name we call You, whatever theology we understand You, by whatever means we worship You, we come to You acknowledging that though we all look and think and act differently we are one people because we are made in Your image. And therefore, we have that as a beginning grounds for respect among one another. We live in a time, Oh God, where the media has been able to elevate the comic trivia of Rosie O'Donnell and Donald Trump fighting to a penultimate level giving many the impression that we live in a culture of dissension. However, we come before You this day to honor our Representatives who by their character each of them, men and women, black and white, young and old, who remind us that in this great state though we are different we are not separate, though we are distinctive we are not divided. Help each of these Representatives to remember, Oh God, as they go into a new Session that they have not only been

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elected by people in this state but through the electoral process You have been calling them to public service. Help each of them to also know that politician is a good word; it is a noble word; it is a wonderful word because what it means is a reference to the art and the craft of not only getting along but making life better. Finally, help them remember as they leave this place today that a great old writer, the late G. K. Chesterton, once said, 'Be kind, be kind. Everyone you meet is fighting a battle.' And so when people come to them, they know that sometimes they can honor their request, sometimes they cannot. But if their constituents can walk away from a meeting with their Representative saying to themselves and those they love, gee, I think they really cared about me and I believe I can trust that man or that woman. That will be a blessing. Amen."

Bishop Smith: "Again, let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we bow ourselves in this Session; we come before You at thanksgiving and praise. We realize, Oh God, that our coming together is by divine edict and these who have been chosen to represent Your people are Thy servants. And now, God, without Thy guidance and Thy grace, without rich mercy and blessings, we cannot achieve the goals that are set before us. So, we ask in Your great name, endow every Member with graciousness, civility, give them vision and wisdom, give them the ability, Oh God, to understand they must join together with an interdependent spirit mutually serving You and the people, giving grace and mercy to all they're called to

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represent. Now, God, let Your peace and Your love be here. Let, indeed, there be a genuine spirit of liberty, of opportunity, of justice and equality, more than just words or phrases, actions enacted in every Session, in every meeting. Bless us, now, Oh God, to be Your servants together. We thank You and praise You, in Thy name we ask it, amen."

Speaker Madigan: "I'd like to announce the Members of the Democratic Leadership team. Majority Leader Barbara Currie; Deputy Majority Leaders Gary Hannig and Art Turner; Assistant Majority Leaders Wyvetter Younge, Kurt Granberg, Lou Lang, Jack McGuire, Joe Lyons, Ed Acevedo; Caucus Chair Charles Jefferson. Representative Cross. Representative Cross. Please turn on Mr. Cross."

Cross: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will announce our Deputy Leaders: Representative Bill Black and Representative Brent Hassert; Assistant Leaders: Mark Beaubien, Renee Kosel, Pat Lindner, Timothy Schmitz, Ron Stephens, Dave Winters. As Caucus Chair Dan Brady and then our (inaudible) Chair is Skip Saviano."

Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Adjournment Resolution. Representative Currie moves that the House... the House adopt the Adjourn... she has moved that the House adopt the Adjournment Resolution. The Motion is that the House shall stand adjourned until Wednesday, January 31, at 12 noon. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed by saying 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Motion is adopted. The House stands in

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Perfunctory Session and will convene on Wednesday, January 31, at 12 noon. Congratulations, everyone."