

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

6th Legislative Day

7/10/2007

Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 1:00 having arrived, the House will be in order and the Members will please be in their seats. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cells phones and pagers, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Fred Robinson who is a member of the Saint Katherine Drexel Parish Church here in Springfield."

Robinson: "Eternal God, from whose spirit we come and in whose world we belong. You are our light in the midst of darkness and our hope in troubled times. Be near to our elected officials on this beautiful day. We seek Your help amid the perplexities and concerns that loom before this Legislative Body. You have brought the Representatives before us today a long way and in Your keeping they are in a new day. As this House face the hours yet before them, give them humble spirits and alert their minds to cope with all at hand. Grant them such clarity of vision, independence of mind, and courage of will that they may rise above this stalemate. Lead them towards their duty to make clear a highway for the good of Your people here in Illinois. Grant them a wide margin of insight and wisdom. Bless their every effort in mind and spirit with courage to make the crooked straight and rough places plane. Let sound and just solutions be the goals of all who labor here. Should the day be long and the light become dim, sustain our chosen leaders lest they fear or fall. Inspire these government officials with knowledge that You have the whole world in Your hands. Amen."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Gramham, will you lead us in the Pledge."

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Graham - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

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

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representatives Rich Bradley; Burke; Collins; Colvin; Franks; Jefferson; Lyons; Molaro; Patterson; Scully; Yarbrough are excused today."

Speaker Hannig: "And Representative Bost."

Bost: "Thank you... Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that Representative Bassi, Collins (sic-Coulson), Lindner, Mathias, Bellock, Black, Dunn, Hassert, and Wait are excused today."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, take the record. There are 96 Members answering the Roll Call and a quorum is present. Representative Graham, for what reason do you rise?"

Graham: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'd like to thank everyone for the wonderful cards, for the flowers, and the well wishes, and the calls. It really helped me get through a tough time and I'm glad to be back ready to do the people's business. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Will Davis."

Davis, W.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hannig: "State your point."

Davis, W.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome a great

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group of young people who are visiting in our gallery today. They are the Pink Panther Double Dutch Team from the Markum Park District in the south suburbs of Illinois. They are sponsored by the Markum Park District and they are a non-for-profit athletic organization. The team is known nationwide for winning major competitions in the exciting demonstration of freestyle double dutch routines. The Pink Panther Double Dutch Team has placed first in various competitive categories in Illinois as well as placed in the American... Annual American Double Dutch League World Invitational Championship in South Carolina for the past 3 years. And yes, they are world champions. They currently have 60 youth enrolled in the program that make up ten teams from second grade through high school. And on March 17, 2007 they jumped into a new level of competition in sport, the Amateur Athletic Union, which is AAU, Junior Olympics. Fifty-three jumpers from the Pink Panther Park District team competed in the Illinois Regional Double Dutch competition at South Holland, Illinois. And I'm very proud to say that all of the Pink Panthers Double Dutch team jumpers advanced to the next round of competition and will compete in the Junior Olympics, which will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee in July of this year. Would you please join me in welcoming the Pink Panther Double Dutch team, their head coach, Joyce Dickerson, Head Coach Elijah Dixon, and Coach LaTasha Benjamin in the gallery behind me. Would you please stand and be recognized."

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

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Fritchey: "Thank you, Speaker. I'd like to rise on a point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Hannig: "State your point."

Fritchey: "Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Body, as some you may have recognized I had not been here for the last couple of weeks and I'll tell you very honestly why, I was on a family vacation. And when I had planned that vacation at the time I assumed that it was safe that with Leadership in this state that we would've done by June 26 when I had left town. Unfortunately, we weren't done but I was gonna take the opportunity to go away with my family. And I unfortunately felt that I wasn't going to miss much while I was gone. And for better or worse I was right. I kept abreast of what was going on via the Internet. And if something would've need... would've required me to have been here, I would've been here. But nothing happened other than more fun and games and posturing. But... but upon my return I thought that it was interesting of something I found in my mailbox. And what I had gotten was an anonymous flier. Now the flier's anonymous and there's no name on it but by virtue of something that had happened a few weeks earlier, I know where these anonymous fliers come from. The last time that there was one, it was assailing myself and Representative Harris and Representative Feigenholtz and with not too much sleuthing we were able to determined it was the Governor's Office that was behind it. I don't know for a fact that he was behind this one, but history tends to repeat itself, and I think that's what's happened here. Now, the flier had said that it urged people to call me and

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tell me to get back to work. Well, I'm back. I'm ready to go to work. I find it ironic that according to the Daily Herald the Governor has spent just eight nights in Springfield since January. Yet, through his minions he wants to anonymously attack me for getting back to work. Well, Governor, I was here in January and February and March and April and May and June doing the work of the people of this state, and I'm prepared to do so again. But I am in agreement with the Governor on something. Yesterday the Governor had stated that he wants to take care of unfinished business, that if Legislative Leaders don't want to call Bills for a vote on their own that he'll call Special Session to make them call these Bills. He started his latest escapade by saying that he wants to call a Special Session on gun legislation, obviously, a worthy issue. But this... ya know, he made this statement despite being told by the Bill's Sponsor that the Bill wasn't ready to be called. Now yesterday during debate people said that now is not the time to be taking up contentious legislation that we should be focusing on the budget that we should be focusing on what's important to the people of the state and getting our job done. And I agree. It may not be time to take up contentious legislation, but I tell ya what, Governor, if you're serious about taking care of unfinished business I got a suggestion for you. There's a piece of legislation that's not contentious. It's a piece of legislation that was supported by every Member of this legis... of this chamber of the hundred and seventeen (117) of us that was there and that's House Bill 1, the Bill that end pay to play. Not

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only is this Bill not contentious, let me tell you who supports the Bill: every Member of this chamber, over 45 Senators from both sides of the aisle and every corner of this state. If you want to talk about a veto-proof majority, I think that tells you one right there. The editorial boards of the following newspapers: the Sun Times, the Chicago Tribune, Crain's Chicago Business, the Daily Herald, the Daily Southtown, the Bloomington Panagraph, the The State-Journal Register, the Southern Illinoisan, the Belleville News Democrat, the Decatur Herald & Review, the Rockford Register Star, the Rock Island Argus, The Moline Dispatch, the Alton Telegraph, The Freeport Journal-Standard, and the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch. Ladies and Gentlemen, they are not calling for an amended version of this Bill to be called. They're not calling for more posturing and press releases and playing games. All of us, our compatriots across the rotunda, all the major the papers of this state have said call this Bill as is. Governor, unfortunately, for too long the dominant issue in our state and in the headlines has not been education funding, it has not been gun legislation, it has not been economic development. It has been scandals and allegations and indictments. Governor, you and you alone, have the power to put years of public cynicism and distrust in State Government to rest in a matter minutes. You now have the opportunity to send one of two messages to the people of Illinois. You can call a Special Session on House Bill 1 and help restore public confidence in State Government or you could nothing and tell them to expect more business as

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usual. Governor, I'm calling upon you to do the right thing, call the Special Session on House Bill 1. Tell people that you said you care. Tell people that when you wanted to rock the system you meant it. It's not time for games. We're here because of your Special Sessions. We have the time to do this. Have Senator Jones call this Bill for a vote in the Senate. Have him put it up on the board and let's see what the people of Illinois believe in what we're doing and let's see if you're sincere about fixing Illinois government and cleaning up Illinois government and restoring public confidence. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Washington."

Washington: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hannig: "State your point."

Washington: "On a lighter note, Mr. Speaker, today is Representative Elga Jefferies birthday. We wish her a happy birthday as well as the return... the healthy return of my colleague, Deborah Graham."

Speaker Hannig: "Just to give the Members a plan for the rest of the day, we've got a number of Special Sessions that we'll call and adjourn and then eventually we'll get to the current Special Session and then we're gonna have our Committee of the Whole today on SURS and then also a panel on sexual assault. And please be advised that at 3:30 p.m. there'll be a meeting in the Governor's Office for the Leaders and all the Members are invited. I'm sorry at the mansion, we need to have a bigger place than the Governor's Office. So, at the mansion in the ballroom, we'll again

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have a... the Governor will host a meeting of all the Members who are interested in the progress on the budget. That's at 3:00 p.m. and all are invited, 3:30 p.m. and all are invited. And we'll adjourn at sometime appropriate before 3:30. So, again, 3:30 at the mansion at the ballroom. Representative Mulligan."

Mulligan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a question. Who's extended the invitation to the mansion at 3:30? Is it... is it our Leaders or is it the Governor? And my understanding is that some of these meetings have gotten a little contentious. So, if you wanna keep stalling about not getting the work done and you're the Governor and you want to stall and keep us here forever, then he's just going to invite everybody in. Is there any organization to these meetings? Or... who has invited us all to appear there?"

Speaker Hannig: "I'm advised that the Governor's Office sets the meeting and advised the Leaders and the Members that we're all invited. And I think a number of Members have often indicated that they would like to be part of this budget process. So, it's open to all Members."

Mulligan: "Over this past session, there's any number of people in this Body that have expertise in certain areas. Not that we all have expertise in all areas, I don't think everybody expects us to. But some of us have developed certain expertise in the area that we work in the most. You, on the budget, me, on human service appropriations, different people on... Representative Hamos currently on public transportation. Has the Governor ever sought to have small meetings where he actually tries to learn something as

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opposed to preaching something, from those of us that have that expertise and would be more than willing to discuss why or why not we are for a particular issue rather than to have a mob scene where everybody hits each other over the head and continues to hurl insults? My feeling is that at some point after 5 years he should develop an area of expertise. We don't expect him to... just as we don't expect any lawyer or judge or anyone to know everything, but he has numerous experts at his fingertips where he could hold these meetings and actually educate himself on some of these issues and the propositions on whether they're realistic or not. So as opposed to have a cattle call, all of us going over there to listen why he insults us whether he insults us by insulting our Leaders who we've duly elected or he insults us by calling them names as opposed to being a Democrat or Republican, which I find to be an insult, also. That perhaps he ought to get real about actually learning what the real issues are on this budget and start talking to the people that have expertise in them and listening to his own advisors. Because what he's doing is aiding an untenable situation that will never be solved. And it's really unfortunate that his mindset is one of just yanking everybody's chain as opposed to actually learning anything, being here and doing anything."

Speaker Hannig: "So, Representative Currie now moves that the First Special Session stand adjourned until tomorrow at the hour of 2:00, 2 p.m. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the First Special Session stands adjourned."