

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

18th Legislative Day

7/25/2007

Speaker Madigan: "The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We ask the Members and our guests in the gallery to turn off laptop computers, cell phones and pagers. And we ask the guests in the gallery to rise and join us for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer in prayer today by Colonel (Retired) Randy Harrison."

Colonel Harrison: "Let us pray. Lord, we humbly present our souls to You, the creator of all things good. We ask with much humility that You lay Your hands upon us, guiding us in the direction of righteous goodness. Lord, we have so much to be thankful for. You have blessed us with the unique ability to reason, laugh and, yes, even cry. You have placed us in this great land of freedom. A land in which we can freely worship You, a land great with ideas, opportunity, and freedom for all. Lord, how can we thank You for all this? The answer is that we can and will live our lives in accordance with Your divine plan. Amen."

Speaker Madigan: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Collins."

Collins - 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 Madigan: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representatives Boland; Crespo; Franks; Patterson; and Yarbrough are excused today."

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

18th Legislative Day

7/25/2007

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that Representatives Schmitz and Schock are excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There being 110 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. Mr. Clerk. Mr. Hannig in the Chair."

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

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege if I might."

Speaker Hannig: "State your point."

Black: "Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I think it's only fair that we recognize today we stand here on the longest day of overtime Session in the history of the State of Illinois. At least since the 1970 Constitution was written. I also think it's appropriate to note that the Governor is quoted today, I only assume accurately, that he's proud. He's proud of this fact. That he's proud we're in the longest overtime Session of the State of Illinois. And he'll be proud if we're here next week, next month, however long it takes to get a budget. Well, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'm not proud to be here on the... such of an occasion. I'm tired of sitting here rearranging the deck chairs on the deck of the Titanic while our captain is proud of the fact he's steering the ship of state into yet another iceberg. We're steaming in circles and all we're doing is rearranging the deck chairs while he steams into another iceberg. Bump. Bang. Crash. B00m. I think he said the day's like Barry Bonds. Let me explain

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

18th Legislative Day

7/25/2007

some of things that we've seen lately. But he's on the verge of this great championship. Well, I've got news for you. If he thinks this is a championship, I hope you'll join me, I wanna present the captain of the Titanic, the ship of state in Illinois with a dozen black carnations to mark the longest day in the history of overtime Session in the State of Illinois in which we have accomplished absolutely nothing except spend the taxpayers' money. The one thing that's good at least we've grounded Air Illinois. It's not flying back and forth everyday at a cost of five thousand dollars (\$5,000). And in fact, the cartoon in the State Journal-Register last week showed him on a flying pig. How appropriate. If you care to join me in taking one of these flowers, putting it in your personal memento case, I hope you'll do so. Because I hope this is the last time any of us as well as the public of the State of Illinois will be subjected to a long and not harmonious overtime Session where we're spending their money accomplishing absolutely nothing while we sit here day after day after day rearranging the deck chairs on the USS Titanic. Congratulations Captain Blagojevich, you've scored another great victory today."

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

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a point of personal privilege. If I can... if we can stay on this theme, I... I... you know, there are a lot of records that all of us wanna set in life, you know. I mean, the fastest to run the hundred meter, the fastest to swim a mile, but being the

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

18th Legislative Day

7/25/2007

record of the longest time in overtime Session, well, congratulations with the Democrat majority in the House, the Senate, and with the Governor. Congratulations on that golden record that you've wasted the taxpayers' dollars. Ya can't get together. You can't decide what really needs to be done. We passed one 30-day budget already to keep government operating, which we've helped you with, but the reality is we shouldn't pass another 30-day budget. Before this week is out what we need to do is pass a 12-month budget, get to doing the operation of the state, get the Leadership on the Democrat side of the aisle together to come together to make some right decisions. The people put you in charge, now take charge. I think Representative Black was talking about the ship. I'm not just sure the ship's got a captain. I'm not sure if the captain's ever aboard the ship. It's like a cruise running wild. Of course, the cruise's still being paid by the taxpayers and it's a waste every day. I don't think the Leaders have met in four... three days... three days, four days, whatever it's been. Ladies and Gentlemen, if you're not hearing it from your people, you ought to be. And I think you are. Now, here's the worry that's gonna come down the pike. We're up in seven days here, now all of a sudden we're not gonna have a budget. Every... every one of you that has state workers, checks aren't going to be coming. Everyone... hey, how about this? Your own LAs they won't be being paid. All the people that provide services for the state won't be paid. Now, is this what your people... your constituents have

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

18th Legislative Day

7/25/2007

elected you to do? You oughta be ashamed of yourself. You oughta get off your duffs and actually get something done."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Kosel."

Kosel: "Thank you. On a point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Hannig: "State your point."

Kosel: "We're sitting here 55 days into overtime Session and we're just weeks away from our schools starting. Each and every one of us will have schools starting in the month of August. They depend on us for state aid. They depend on us for absolute essentials to open their doors. If we don't get a budget passed, they will not be opening their doors. Many of them will be not able to pay their teachers or get the supplies they need for next year. There has only been two meetings in the last seven days and there's not one scheduled for today. How are we ever going to get a budget that will address the needs of our schools? Meanwhile, the Governor is flying back and forth to Chicago for press opportunities. Where is he today? Is he here? Or is he with the press corps in Chicago? It's time that we get this done. It's time that we pass a responsible budget. It's time to stop this nonsense."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie moves that the First Special Session of the House of Representatives stand adjourned until Thursday, July 26, at the hour of 10 a.m. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the First Special Session stands adjourned."