

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

23rd Legislative Day

7/31/2007

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. 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 today by Father Joseph Brown, the chaplain at the Newman Center at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and the director of Black American Studies at Carbondale. Father Brown is the guest of Representative Turner."

Father Brown: "Every space that we share is made sacred by the people that stood there before us and by the work we are called to do. In a very old American tradition our elders said, 'Come down, angels, and trouble the water; come down, angels, and trouble the water; come down, angels, and trouble the water; let God's angels come in.' Into this space we invoke the names and memories of our ancestors. We call upon the memories and the sufferings and the cries of those who are otherwise voiceless. We ask ourselves at this moment in this space made beautiful once again, made sacred by our ancestors and held dear for the children yet unborn, who are we today? In that beautiful pool where God's power stirred up healing waters, are we the infirmed, the neglected, the abandoned? Are we the forgotten and the despised? Or are we the angels come down to do the work of healing? Come down, angels, and trouble the water. We know those who are hungry, abandoned, neglected, forgotten, despised and we remember those who could not crowd into this room. We call upon them all mindful of our sacred duty,

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mindful of this hopeful opportunity to make the right kind of waters stir up healing and nourishment and forgiveness and new birth. Let us be today and for a long time to come the angels our ancestors prayed for. Amen."

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

McGuire - 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 reflect the excused absences of Representatives Boland; Chapa LaVia; Collins; Crespo; Franks; Mendoza; Molaro; and Patterson."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Eddy."

Eddy: "Mr. Speaker, let the record reflect the excused absences of Rich Myer (sic-Myers); Jim Meyer; and Joe Dunn."

Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There being 106 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. And let the record reflect that this is the Roll Call for Attendance of the First Special Session. Chair recognizes Mr. Hassert."

Hassert: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege. You know, today I hope we're gonna make a lot of progress on the budget. I can just feel it. But today's a very special day, it's our Leader Cross' birthday, Tom Cross. And we hope we get out of here because he's aging quickly. So, everybody wish him a happy birthday."

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Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Winters."

Winters: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An inquiry of the Chair. I see that we have the new hymn books that were designed to sing along with. But as I'm looking at them here, I'm looking under Sessions of the House, I see a reference to the Executive Session and to Perfunctory Sessions. I don't see a Special Session. So, then I went further on and I looked under 'special', I see special committees and special orders, but I didn't see anything about Special Sessions. Are Special Sessions addressed in these Rules of the House?"

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Winters, let me try and give you a quick answer. I think that in a Special Session we simply use the Rules of the regular Session."

Winters: "And we've been doing that for ten Sessions without having this book?"

Speaker Madigan: "We've been getting along, yes."

Winters: "We have."

Speaker Madigan: "Yes."

Winters: "Thank you very much."

Speaker Madigan: "Thank you. Mr. Washington."

Washington: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And speaking of birthdays, today is also Mary Flowers' birthday."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie moves that the First Special Session stand adjourned until Wednesday, August 1, at 3 p.m. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it."