

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

3rd Legislative Day

7/8/2007

Speaker Madigan: "We'll now proceed to Special Session #2. The House shall come to order. And is there leave to use the Attendance Roll Call of the First Special Session for the purpose of the Second Special Session. Leave is granted. And we shall use the Attendance Roll Call of the First Special Session for the purpose of the Second Special Session. Mr. Clerk, do you have any matters for the Second Special Session? The Clerk indicates 'no'. Mr. Stephens."

Stephens: "We are currently in the Second Special Session?"

Speaker Madigan: "Yes."

Stephens: "We have been in the Third Special Session?"

Speaker Madigan: "Not today."

Stephens: "As of... as of yesterday, I mean."

Speaker Madigan: "Yes."

Stephens: "And we'll probably get to that today?"

Speaker Madigan: "Yes."

Stephens: "And the fourth?"

Speaker Madigan: "Yes."

Stephens: "And will we get to the fifth?"

Speaker Madigan: "Well, there... that may happen."

Stephens: "Okay."

Speaker Madigan: "There's..."

Stephens: "All right. We don't know."

Speaker Madigan: "Right."

Stephens: "Just a technical question."

Speaker Madigan: "The scouts have reported activity at the Index Division."

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Stephens: "When is a Special Session over? Do they all end concurrently? Or does one end if it meets one of the requirements for which it was called? Do they..."

Speaker Madigan: "Once a Special Session is called and convened, it continues until there is adjournment sine die, which is a decision of the Body."

Stephens: "Sine die for that Special Session."

Speaker Madigan: "Yes."

Stephens: "So once the Governor has asked us to open a Special Session, we could keep that Special Session open until the Session sine die."

Speaker Madigan: "Yes."

Stephens: "I'm not so sure that's not a good idea that we maybe some... some people around here need to be careful what they ask for."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Lang."

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

Speaker Madigan: "State your point."

Lang: "Thank you. A few observations if I might. I went as many did to the Governor's mansion after adjournment yesterday. I, for one, was not too happy about what happened there. I saw the Governor putting his finger in your face. I saw you acting like a gentleman and him not doing so. More to the point, I saw a lot of people in a room befuddled. When we got there, for those who were not there, the Governor's Office began a new lecture and lesson on pensions in the State of Illinois. I thought we had gone through that for two full days, Mr. Speaker. And I was kind of disappointed, to say the least, that that's the direction

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the Governor's Office wanted to take. Nevertheless, after we heard that and had a little lunch, I was dismayed to see that the next proposed witness was the very witness who did not show up here yesterday morning as promised. Many of us left at that point and had a few interesting comments for the press. And now I come to the Capitol today and find that the Senate went in at 4:00, to my knowledge never took an Attendance Roll Call, and adjourned 23 minutes later. And then I came to the floor to find that the Governor, for reasons only known to him, annulled his Proclamation setting a 2:00 Special Session today and resetting it for 4:00 today. I'm a little lacking in understanding of why this happened. And if you read the Governor's Proclamation, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen, in the second paragraph it says, 'Circumstances have arisen creating the need to rescind my Proclamation convening the General Assembly in Special Session on July 8, 2007 at 2 p.m.' I don't know what those special circumstances are but I sure would like to know and I would call on the Governor to let us know what all this paperwork is about and what those special circumstances were. I now am told that through some sources that I have, I'm now told that there was an arrangement. I think you all should now about this, I hope you're paying attention. That there was some arrangement between the Governor and Senator Jones and Senator Watson that Senators did not have to appear today. But that no such call was made to Speaker Madigan, no such arrangement was made with the Members of the House. And so the Senate never took a Roll Call because there was an arrangement that they would

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not, but that we were not privy to this. And so, those of us who are here, the seventy-some odd people, that are trying to follow the rules and follow the Proclamation for whatever the heck time we were supposed to be here. Well, we, I think, have been abused by this process. And Mr. Speaker, I would just simply ask you at this time if you were aware of this arrangement and if you were privy to it and if anyone from the Governor's Office came to you to discuss it with you?"

Speaker Madigan: "In reverse order. Number one, nobody from the Governor's Office talked to me about any of it. Number two, concerning the change of time from 2:00 to 4:00, it's my understanding that that was done by the Governor's Office at the request of Senator Jones. Number three, concerning the arrangement among the Governor and Senator Jones and Senator Watson, it is my understanding confirmed that there was such an arrangement among the Governor, Senator Jones, Senator Watson that Senators would be told that they would not be required to appear in Springfield today. I was not informed of any of that."

Lang: "And so, Mr. Speaker, would it be your position that Members of the House have been treated differently than Members of the Senate?"

Speaker Madigan: "The answer is 'yes'."

Lang: "For the Members' knowledge... I'll be finished in a second, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your time. You all have the memo from the Speaker ending with an invitation to the 6:30 Leaders meeting tonight. I think it would be appropriate for all of us to be at that meeting. After all,

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what the heck else do we have to do? So, I would suggest we all be at this meeting and we all be less sheep-like and start raising our voices and start speaking our minds on behalf of our constituents and start talking about the abuse of process coming out of the second floor of this building. Mr. Speaker, thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "All right. Ladies and Gentlemen, we're in the Second Special Session and the plan is to stand in recess, subject to the call of the Chair concerning the Second Special Session."

Speaker Madigan: "Special Session #2 stood in recess. We're now back in Session. Representative Currie moves that the House stand adjourned until 12 noon tomorrow. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The House does stand adjourned until 12 noon tomorrow."