

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

1st Legislative Day

8/13/2007

Speaker Hannig: "The Sixteenth Special Session of the Illinois House of Representatives will be in order. Members will please be in their seats. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones and pagers and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, the pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center here in Springfield."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Lord, bless this Assembly and all those who work and serve here. Amen."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Hoffman, it's your turn to say the Pledge."

Hoffman - et all: "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. Your own switch only. Okay. Let the record reflect that Representative Currie and Representative Hamos are excused on the Democratic side. Representative Brauer, do you have any reports from your side?"

Brauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's Representative Poe and myself and Jerry Mitchell would be here but he locked his keys in a gas station in a vehicle. So, he'll be a little bit late, but everybody else is excused."

Speaker Hannig: "Okay. Mr. Clerk, take the record. There are 6 Members answering the Roll Call, a quorum is lacking. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

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Clerk Mahoney: "WHEREAS, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) began operation in 1947 and became the sole operator of Chicago transit in 1952 when it purchased the Chicago Motor Coach System; and

WHEREAS, the CTA is the region's largest transit operator, providing 154 bus routes and 8 rapid transit routes; and

WHEREAS, the CTA operates the nation's second largest transportation system, serving 1.6 million riders each weekday; and

WHEREAS, the CTA expects its ridership levels to increase by a compound annual growth rate of 1.5 % from 2005 through 2009; and

WHEREAS, the CTA spent \$403 million on capital programs in 2005, and the CTA is expected to spend more than \$1 billion on capital projects in 2006 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, the CTA has significant outstanding capital needs and reports that reaching a State of Good repair will require \$5.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, the President of the CTA has publicly stated that unless the CTA receives additional funding by September 16, 2007, the CTA will be required to layoff employees and increase fares;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly in a special session to commence on August 13, 2007, at 2:15 p.m., to consider funding for the CTA.

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ROD BLAGOJEVICH

Governor

Dated: August 12, 2007"

Speaker Hannig: "Okay. So, Representative Reitz would move that we would adjourn the Sixteenth Special Session to the Perfunctory Session on tomorrow, Tuesday, August 14. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Sixteenth Special Session of the Illinois House of Representatives stands adjourned. Excuse me. Representative Poe, for what reason do you rise?"

Poe: "Point of information from the Speaker, maybe. Was yesterday... was that history as the six Members being the lowest count in the history of the State of Illinois?"

Speaker Hannig: "We... we tied it today. So, I don't..."

Poe: "Well, I think we got one more comin'. One more comin'... one more's comin' if he gets his keys out of the car. I just wonder if this is history in the making."

Speaker Hannig: "Well, maybe we'll have to do some research, Representative."

Poe: "And you and I... Central Illinois is gonna steal all that history here. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "So, the House stands adjourned."