

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
87th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

56th Legislative Day

July 1, 1991

PRESIDENT ROCK:

The hour of ten having arrived, the Senate will please come to order. Will the Members be at their desks. Will our guests in the gallery please rise. Prayer this morning by Senator Kenneth Hall. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL:

(Prayer by Senator Kenneth Hall)

PRESIDENT ROCK:

Amen. Thank you, Senator. Reading of the Journal, Madam Secretary. And Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL:

Mr. President, I move that reading and approval of the Journals of Monday, June 24th; Tuesday, June 25th; Wednesday, June 26; Thursday, June 27th; Friday, June 28th; Saturday, June 29th; and Sunday, June the 30th, in the year 1991, be postponed, pending arrival of the printed Journals.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

You've heard the motion as placed by Senator Hall. Any discussion? If not, all in favor, indicate by saying Aye. All opposed. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and it is so ordered. Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 654 offered by Senator Welch.

It is substantive.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

All right. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Chair has been informed that the Governor has called a meeting at eleven o'clock. The Senate will stand in recess till the hour of one o'clock. Resolution goes to Executive Committee. Senate stands in recess till one o'clock.

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(RECESS)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DEMUZIO)

The hour -- the hour of one o'clock having arrived, the Senate will come to order. Senator Rock.

SENATOR ROCK:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise on a point of personal privilege, before I put a motion to again stand in recess. I stand before the few that are gathered, a little frustrated, very disappointed, however ever optimistic. The surcharge, as of midnight last night, has expired. So there is no four hundred million dollars for the schools of Illinois. There is no three hundred million plus for the local governments of Illinois. And I suggest that the people of Illinois, especially the children and poor families, the blind, the disabled, the aged, those in need of medical care, the mentally ill - everybody's waiting to see the Governor's plan. And so we've reconvened at one o'clock to accept the filing of the Governor's plan. Obviously, it's not here. There's two million dollars in checks that otherwise would have gone to those in need in this State, that are going to be held up today. Because I truly expected the Governor to offer his plan today, and to put the votes on the board - and it now requires thirty-six, as everybody knows - and I expected him to do that because he worked awfully hard yesterday to not approve the alternatives - the surcharge, the temporary budget for Public Aid. The Governor said some time ago, he wants to stay this summer. Well, he's got his way. Here we are. It's July 1st. But now it seems to me, since he has gotten his way, it's time to produce a plan. State

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Government at this moment has ground to a halt. And so he better have a plan. And I expect him to do it today, having just left his office, after a lengthy meeting, where, I might add, there is no plan. Now we're going to meet again at four o'clock. And so I wish us to reconvene at six, so that the Governor can present his plan. We offered - we, the Democrats - offered numerous proposals. Many of them last night. We had some budget alternatives. But by the way, the only concern that was expressed from the other side of the aisle concerned itself with asphalt and concrete. Very tough to live on asphalt and concrete in this State. We had many Members work long hours on budget negotiations - in good faith - to no avail. We offered an alternative plan that included some borrowing. The Governor said, "Oh, horrors. We can't borrow money." Better that the vendors, with whom we do business, carry the State's debt, than we carry our own debt, honestly. We've had many alternatives offered, and they have not moved off the dime. Because their plan was to keep us here this summer. Well, we're here and we're waiting. This General Assembly, by majority vote, approved a Public Aid budget a month ago, so that there would not be two million dollars' worth of checks stuck in the Office of the Comptroller. That plan was vetoed, because he doesn't want to deal with the budget piecemeal, except for concrete and asphalt. We had a one-month budget proposal offered by Senator Hall last night, recognizing that we were going to be here today and tomorrow and the next day. Turned that one down. And I guess I'm -- I'm frustrated and disappointed because I'm not sure that they seem to misunderstand or don't understand or don't realize that there are really people in need out there. When those checks are not in the mail, people hurt. The surcharge has to be dealt with. We've got nine hundred-plus school districts in this State, many of whom will be more than on financial watch - they'll be bankrupt - absent that money. We

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offered and supported many proposals. And we're still awaiting the Governor's proposal. I even voted for a proposal better than two months ago, that's laying in the House, which the House Minority Leader tells me less than half his Caucus is happy with. Now it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out there are certain things you can put votes on and there are certain things that're going to lose. I got a stack of roll calls that'd choke a horse, that we can show him. But we're waiting for his plan. And the Senate Minority Leader said, without question, he's willing to hold up welfare checks. For what? For property tax caps, which literally cannot pass. We will come back, I suggest, at six o'clock, and await the filing of the Governor's plan, because the government has ground to a halt - at his request. I move we stand in recess till six o'clock.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DEMUZIO)

All right. The Senate stands in recess till the hour of -- of six o'clock, Senator Rock? -- six o'clock.

(RECESS)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT ROCK:

Senate will please come to order. Messages from the House, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the House by Mr. O'Brien, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 458 with House Amendments 1 and 30.

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Passed the House, as amended, July 1, 1991, by a three-fifths vote.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

Secretary's Desk. Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 655 offered by Senator Savickas.

It is substantive.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

Executive. Messages from the House.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the House by Mr. O'Brien, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has refused to recede from their amendment -- Amendments No. 1 and 2 to a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 258.

I am further directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives requests a First Committee of Conference to consider the differences of the two Houses in regards to their amendments to the bill.

Action take by the House, July 1, 1991.

I have like Messages on:

House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 301.

House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 305.

House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 308.

And House Amendments 1 through 6, and 9 and 10 to Senate Bill 409.

Action taken by the House, July 1, 1991.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

Secretary's Desk. Resolutions. Oh. Those are a request for conference committees. Senator Demuzio would move that the Senate accede to the request of the House and that a conference committee

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be appointed. All in favor of the motion, indicate by saying Aye. All opposed. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and it's so ordered. Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 6-5-6 offered by Senator Daley.

It is congratulatory.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

Consent Calendar. Senator Vadalabene, for what purpose do you arise, sir?

SENATOR VADALABENE:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. There'll be a Democratic Caucus in President Rock's Office immediately. President Rock's Office, wherever you can hear me. Immediately.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

All right. Democratic Caucus in my office immediately. We have forty-five conference committee -- roughly, forty-five conference committee reports that -- that are on file - will be on the Calendar tomorrow. My proposal is that we would start on the Calendar at ten o'clock in the morning with the Resolutions and the Conference Committee Reports yet remaining, and keep going until we're finished. Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, there will be a Republican Caucus immediately after this -- afternoon Sessions, in Senator Pate Philip's Office. I repeat - Republican Caucus, immediately.

PRESIDENT ROCK:

All right. Democratic Caucus in my office. Republican Caucus in Senator Philip's Office. Senate stands adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning. Ten o'clock tomorrow morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

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