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93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

159th Legislative Day

11/18/2004

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PRESIDENT JONES:

The regular Session of the 93rd General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Pastor Jerry Doss of the Abundant Faith Christian Center Church in Springfield, Illinois. Reverend Doss.

THE REVEREND JERRY DOSS:

(Prayer by the Reverend Jerry Doss)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Maloney)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Journal of Wednesday, November 17, 2004.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Mr. President, I move that the Journal just read by the Secretary be approved, unless there are additions or corrections to offer by a Member of the Senate.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Haine moves to approve the Journal just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. Will the Members who are in their offices kindly come to the Senate Floor? We are about to go to 3rd Reading and this will be final action. So if you're in your offices, kindly come to the Senate Floor. We will be going to the Calendar, Senate Bills on 3rd Reading. And this will be final action. Chicago Tribune seek leave to videotape and photograph the proceeding. Leave granted? So ordered. Channel 7 seek leave to videotape the proceedings. Is leave granted? So ordered. On page 4 of the Calendar, on the Order of Secretary's Desk, Resolution, Senator Raoul on House Joint -- no -- on House Joint Resolution 100. Senator Raoul. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

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House Joint Resolution 100, offered by Senator Raoul.
There are no committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Mr. President. This resolution simply pledges the General Assembly's support for University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory in its bid for a one-billion-dollar federal project to house the Rare Isotope Accelerator. It also encourages the Department of Energy, the President of the United States and the Illinois Congressional Delegation to consider Argonne to house the RIA to run the facility. If granted, the -
- this project would create sixteen thousand construction jobs over a eight-year period. It would also support four hundred new jobs to operate the facility. I would ask the Body for a favorable -- favorable vote in support of the resolution.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Senator --
Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, the real Mr. President. Would the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicate he will.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Senator, can you, in maybe an hour and a half to two hours, explain what a Rare Isotope Accelerator does?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

I'll try to -- I try to be -- I'll try to be a little bit more brief than that, Senator. A Rare Isotope Accelerator creates and studies isotopes for potential uses, including uses for national security, medicine, biology and other scientific uses.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

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How do we know what's a rare isotope from one that runs around the streets that's a common isotope?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

A rare isotope is a short-lived nuclei that hasn't been around for a while, Senator.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

One more question for our brave, young, new Senator. Argonne National Laboratory, I think, Senator, is in Senator Christine Radogno's district. What are you doing with this bill -- or, resolution?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator, while Argonne National Laboratory is, indeed, in Senator Radogno's district, University of Chicago just happens to be housed in the Thirteenth Legislative District.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

...you -- thank you, Mr. President. Just to the resolution. You know, I certainly think this is a great thing. The federal government is looking for a place to put the nearly one billion dollars of economic development for a Rare Isotope Accelerator, and it ought to go in -- Argonne National Laboratory. But I think we ought to probably vote No on this joint resolution just to show the new Senator that he's not Barack Obama yet. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicate he will.

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SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. Senator Raoul, I -- I looking at this and -- and I'm a little bit confused. I just signed onto this fine resolution - at least I thought it was - as a cosponsor, but -- but I'm a little bit concerned about your definition of a rare isotope and those kinds of things. So, let's take it just down a little bit. Can you tell me what an accelerator is?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

An accelerator is the -- the apparatus that will create and study these rare isotopes.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. But is it like an -- I mean, is it like a car engine? I mean, do we just push down on the gas and it goes? Or, you know, what -- what fuels this accelerator? I mean, you know, Senator, I'm a little bit concerned about this and, you know, I -- I know that you're new here and -- and that, you know, you really want this to be a great bill and I -- I just might have to remove my name from it. But, you know, please try and tell me how we accelerate.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Senator, I -- I -- I pledge my visit to Senator Radogno's district to -- to -- to research that data, and -- and get back to you on that, Senator.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Dave Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicate he'll yield.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Senator, in -- in your comments you said that this resolution is asking President Bush to -- and the -- and the Congress to -- to work on this. Have you talked to Senator

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Frist or Speaker Hastert, or the President? Or maybe your friend Barack Obama has -- has talked to them. Where is that -- where are those conversations in Washington?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Senator, I planned on -- in fact, since I'm urging President Bush and the Republican-controlled Senate to -- Congress to -- to consider Illinois on this, I planned on working with you to urge the President and the -- the powers that be at the federal level to -- to get this support.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

As Senator Dillard was questioning, you know, this is in DuPage County. He is the County Chairman out in DuPage. But you may not know this gentleman, but there's -- there used to be a gentleman in this -- in this Chamber, named Pate Philip, who used to be the Chairman. He used to be the President of the Senate. Have you sat down and talked with Pate yet about this? Does he really want it in DuPage County?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

No, Senator.

PRESIDENT JONES:

You said it, Senator Dillard. Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Well, I -- I think that since we -- we have a -- I know we're -- we're led by the Democrats here, but with a Democrat -- a freshman Democrat, nonetheless -- sponsoring this legislation, asking the Republicans in Washington to do this, and you haven't even checked in with President Bush or Speaker Hastert or Pate Philip, I think it might be wise at this point to just take it out of the record and, you know, maybe we can work on it later. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

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Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I think that that poor freshman has had enough, enough ribbing. I think it's time we get down to facts. What he's doing is supporting a resolution which affects all of us, and he doesn't have to talk to Obama. He doesn't have to talk to Pate Philip, and he doesn't have to -- talk to Dillard or Sullivan or anyone else. All he needs is the votes from this house, and I move that his resolution be accepted.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Would the sponsor yield?

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicates he will.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Senator, I'm reading the analysis and just have a question for you. It says producing isotopes that no longer exist naturally on earth provides nuclear scientists with the opportunity to explore the beginnings of matter and ultimately life. Is that what the goal is, from -- from your point of view, for passing this resolution?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

The goal is to -- to use the study of these isotopes for the purposes previously indicated.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

So this is your first attempt to pass anything down here and you're -- you're -- for your first resolution, you want to see if we can discover and explore the beginning of life. Is that the modest goal that you're taking on in this particular bill?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Certainly, Senator, I'd like to explore the beginning of life and -- and to continue life, particularly in this Chamber.

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PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

So are you kind of a pro-life Senator? Is that what you're saying.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Pro my life in this Chamber.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Meeks.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Thank you so much, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicate he will.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Senator Geo-Karis asked us to keep it short, and so I'll simply do that. I just want to know if this resolution is passed -- my question is, if the rare isotope resolution is passed, in order to steal a free kiss at Christmastime, will we have to find rare mistletoes?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Well, at Christmastime, I'll -- I'll just pay a visit to Salem Baptist and we can make sure we address that question at that time.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Meeks.

SENATOR MEEKS:

But will it be with rare isotopes or rare mistletoes?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Well -- well, in that jurisdiction, it'll -- it'll be up to Senator Meeks to make that final decision, because I -- I don't -- I don't control the decision making in -- in that jurisdiction.

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Senator Meeks.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Good -- good answer.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicate he will.

SENATOR HENDON:

Senator Raoul, you know, this is very, very serious what you're trying to do here today. So don't take this -- you know, I -- I really just have to ask you these questions 'cause I'm very concerned. I need to know, are you taller or shorter than Senator Obama? And are you balder or do you have more hair than Senator Obama? Could you expound on that, and how do these isotopes - do they make you taller or shorter, or if you take 'em, will you grow to the stature of Senator Obama? You know, you're replacing a -- I'm not sure...

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Well, I'm hoping the study of these isotopes could -- could help me with my follicly-challenged problem, and -- and if -- if -- if the use of these isotopes can -- can help me in -- in that manner, I could, indeed, be taller than Senator Obama, if I can grow an afro or something of that nature.

PRESIDENT JONES:

No further discussion. Senator Raoul moves for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 100. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. On page 4 of the Calendar, on the Order of Concurrences, is Senate Bill 1994. Out of the record. On the Order of Concurrence is Senate Bill 2234. Senator Silverstein. Senator Silverstein. Out of the record. On the Order of Concurrence is Senate Bill 2253. Senator Demuzio. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

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I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2253.

Motion filed by Senator Demuzio.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Demuzio, to explain the motion.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Yes. This motion is to concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2253. This amends the Pharmacy Practice Act to expand the term of "dispense" in reference to the delivery of drugs, medical devices to patients, also the verification of medication orders and prescriptions, drug product selection, and any recommending or advertising {sic} concerning the contents. This -- amendment also specifies that a pharmacist or a pharmacist technician must handle all transactions relating to the prescription. This language was initiated by the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? This is final action. The question is, shall Senate concur in House Amendment 1 and 2 to -- to Senate Bill 2253. The voting is open. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. The Senate -- on -- on that motion, there are 58 voting Aye, no Nays, 1 voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2253, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

On the Order of Concurrence is Senate Bill 2277. Senator Peterson. Senator Peterson, do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2277.

Motion filed by Senator Peterson.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Peterson, to explain.

SENATOR PETERSON:

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Thank you, Madam President. I had filed a motion to give the sponsorship to Senator Winkel, and I wish him to present the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Winkel.

SENATOR WINKEL:

Thank you, Madam President. This is here on a concurrence to House Amendment No. 1, which becomes the bill. What House Amendment No. 1 does, is amends the Counties Code. It prohibits the location of an adult entertainment facility within three thousand feet, and currently it's one thousand feet, of the property boundaries of any school, day care center, cemetery, public park, forest preserve, public housing, and place of religious worship. In a particular case in my district, in Vermilion County, we have a situation where it is contemplated that an adult entertainment facility will be located in close proximity to a church. And this is the sort of change that we're trying to enact with this legislation. This legislation would apply only prospectively. It would only apply to the future, only to new and future facilities. And I'd be glad to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2277. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 59 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2277, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. On the Order of Concurrence is Senate Bill 3090. Senator Silverstein, do you wish to proceed? Oh, I'm sorry. Senator Harmon, do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 3090.

Motion filed by Senator Harmon.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. I'm moving to concur with the House amendment to Senate Bill 3090. This bill corrects a defective referendum run by one of those school districts in my legislative district. It is of critical importance to this small school district but has no impact, whatsoever, on any other school district in any other Senate district. This bill helps to implement the will of the voters. A brief procedural history just to remind you: This bill passed the Senate last spring with a comfortable margin, enjoyed a lengthy stay in the House Rules Committee. Towards the end of the spring Session, I attempted to resurrect it by joining it with a similar legislative measure that Senator Lauzen was moving for a school district in his district. Recognizing that by attaching them I was probably dooming Senator Lauzen's bill in the House, I -- I agreed to withdraw my portion of it, not wanting to interfere with the good -- the needs in his district. And I would simply ask my colleagues for the same consideration in solving a problem in my own district. I'd ask for Aye votes and be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Madam President. I -- I would -- I rise in support of the legislation. I very much appreciate the good Senator's help last spring and this summer to advance essential legislation. I also appreciate how it's drafted to help a -- a school district within your district. Again, I appreciate your cooperation in helping our district back home, too.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any further discussion? This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 3090. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 43 Ayes, 12 Nays, none voting Present. And the -- Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill

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3090, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. With leave of the Body, we will be returning to page 4. On the Order of Concurrences is Senate Bill 2234. Senator Silverstein, do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2234.

Motion filed by Senator Silverstein.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Silverstein, to explain your motion.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Madam President. I wish to concur. This -- this concurrence will allow any Member of the General Assembly to introduce legislation to implement any recommendation of JCAR concerning any emergency or any other existing rules.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? This is final action. The -- oops! Senator Rutherford. I apologize.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

I just wanted to follow up with Senator Silverstein since we both serve on JCAR. This is -- this is in -- in agreement to what we want to have happen here for the General Assembly's oversight and -- and participation with JCAR, correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Silverstein.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

That -- that is correct. And we discussed this in JCAR, too, last meeting.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

I'd -- I'd stand in support of this. And I think it's a good move for what we need to do on behalf of the General Assembly in cooperation with the administration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Silverstein, to close.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

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Thank -- thank you, again, Senator Rutherford. I'm telling you. Two days in a row over here. Okay. Thank you very much. I'd ask for a favorable Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2234. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Yeas, none voting No, none voting Present. And Senate Bill -- the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2234, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Page 5, under Consideration Postponed. We have House Bill 768. As this bill has already been presented and debated on the Floor, debate on this bill will be limited to one proponent and one opponent. Senator Winkel. No. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 768.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Winkel.

SENATOR WINKEL:

Madam President, thank you very much. We fully debated this. I would appreciate a Yes vote and I believe it will encourage consolidation, which I think is good public policy. Be glad to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall House Bill 768 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 48 Yeas, 11 Nays, none voting Present. And House Bill 768, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. House Bill 1000. As this bill has already been presented and debated on the Floor, debate on this bill will also be limited to one proponent and one opponent. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

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SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 1000.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you very much, Madam President. I appreciate this courtesy. This bill is sponsored by myself and Senator Jacobs. And this goes back to the debate that we heard yesterday, that the legislation that we passed previously was far-reaching and I think got into an intent that we didn't expect and, as a result, we've had a major impact on three counties. This only impacts three counties. And I think there was some of you who thought this was a statewide implication. It is not. It only impacts the counties of Sangamon, Macon and Vermilion. And it is -- it only impacts the liability insurance that's required to be purchased if you buy fireworks from a local distributor in only those three counties. There are currently -- the bill that passed that Terry Link sponsored, required a one-million-dollar policy. So what's happened, as a result of this, is that just home displays and backyard displays have just been eliminated because people, obviously, aren't going to purchase that one million dollars' worth of liability insurance. All we're doing is taking this State statute back to what it was prior to last year. That's all this does, nothing more, nothing less. So I appreciate your support. This is not an expansion of the sale of fireworks in Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to point out, yesterday in the newspaper, there were two people who pleaded guilty of selling about a thousand pounds of fireworks, where they bought from one county and transported it over to another county. So, just because it's limited to the three counties does not stop these dangerous fireworks from making it through all of our homes and all of our counties. And they certainly injure and maim some people. I pointed out yesterday about the

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senior citizen whose house was burned down by a small firecracker, and her life was lost in that incident. So I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson, to close.

SENATOR WATSON:

Well, I guess to respond to the previous speaker, what's illegal is illegal, and that the proper thing happened there, and anybody who lives in Illinois knows what goes on in Missouri and Indiana and where they go to purchase these fireworks, bring 'em back to Illinois and shoot 'em off. That's illegal. That's illegal right now. This doesn't do anything in regard to that. And it does not -- this is not a consideration of expansion of the use of fireworks. It just isn't at all. So appreciate your support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall House Bill 1000 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 32 Yeas, 24 Nays, none voting Present, and House Bill 1000, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. On page 6, Motions in Writing Override Total Vetoes. We will be starting with House Bill 4651. Senator Clayborne, on House Bill 4651, do you wish to proceed? Senator Trotter, on House Bill 7029. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

I move that House Bill 7029 do pass, notwithstanding the specific recommendations of the Governor.

Motion filed by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter, to explain.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Madam President and Members of the Senate. I'm asking the Senate to concur to the override of the Governor's veto of the House Bill 7029. This legislation amends the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act. It increases the amount of money from the Nursing and Dedicated Professional Fund

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{sic} to be appropriated to the Department of Public Health. And it also exempts the Nursing Dedicated and Professional Fund from GRF chargebacks.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. Briefly to the bill, I stand in support of Senator Trotter's motion. This bill is designed to protect the monies that nurses - who all we know, are already overworked and underpaid - pay to the fund in order to make their profession more professional and regulated. It was vetoed because the Governor wants to pull some of their money, and they're paying more money than they did just two years ago, into the General Revenue Fund, but that's not why they pay their fees, and I appreciate Senator Trotter's work on this and would urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter, to close.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Just ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall the Senate pass House Bill 7029, notwithstanding the total veto of the Governor. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present, and House Bill 7029, having received the required three-fifths majority, is declared passed, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor. Senator Sullivan, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR J. SULLIVAN:

For an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your announcement.

SENATOR J. SULLIVAN:

Think everybody's received their Calendar for the '05 Session. And Senator Dave Sullivan and Representative Ed Sullivan and myself would like to announce an important date that needs to be added to your Calendar. And that is, on March

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the 15th, the third annual Sullivan Caucus St. Patrick's Day celebration, will be held here in Springfield. We haven't decided on the exact location. We'll give you the details later on. We want -- but we want to make sure that you get that on your calendars. March the 15th. It's on a Tuesday, and everybody that is Irish or would like to be Irish is welcome to attend. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Illinois Information Service wishes leave to videotape the proceeding. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Senator Shadid, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SHADID:

Personal privilege, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your point.

SENATOR SHADID:

There's a cake up in front. It's Larry Walsh's seventy-fourth birthday, I think, today. Am I correct? He looks pretty good for that, but... No. It's our good friend Larry is leaving. On behalf of everybody, we're having a little cake for Larry. Enjoy yourself. And, Larry, good luck. If we ever need anything from your little area, you don't mind if we call you, do you? Okay. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Congratulations, Senator Walsh. We will all miss you very, very much. Senator Sieben, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Well, thank you very much, -- Madam President. I, too, want to thank Larry Walsh for his contribution here in the Illinois General Assembly, especially of being a strong voice for Illinois agriculture. As a farmer himself, actively involved in agriculture, one of the few members of this Assembly that knows the -- the basics of farming and the economics of farming, and he's done just a tremendous job as Chairman of the Senate Ag and Conservation Committee. I would say, though, I am a little disappointed that the choice of treats today is -- is a cake, when he sponsored the legislation to make popcorn the official snack food of the State of Illinois. He ought to order up popcorn for everybody before he leaves. Thank you, Larry.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Just for the information of the Members, we will be doing a resolution, so anybody else who wishes to speak, you might want to hold it for later. Senator Hendon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. I -- I am aware of your recent announcement, but while we're on this break, I -- I will be celebrating my twenty-ninth birthday, and since I worked so hard to get Larry here in his first campaign, I am taking west side rights to this cake. So, half the cake is for my birthday and the other half will be for the chief executive moving forward. I -- I mean, I don't think he'd have a problem with that since I worked so hard to get him here in the first place. So, the left side is for my birthday, and treat yourself to it. You'll enjoy it. It's a very nice cake.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Happy birthday, Senator. Anybody else have anything. You want to share part of the cake, just let me know. We will be going to House Bills 3rd Reading. So if everybody could turn their Calendar to page 2. House Bills 3rd Reading. Senator Martinez, on House Bill 626. Senator Jacobs, on 678. Senator Sandoval, on 872. Senator Sandoval, on House Bill 872. Senator Harmon, on House Bill 1002. Senator Jacobs, on House Bill 1068. Senator Jones, on 2751. Senator Jones, on 2753. Senator Schoenberg, on 3589. Senator Schoenberg seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 3589 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of an amendment. Hearing no objections, leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 3589. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Amendment No. 7, offered by Senator Schoenberg.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg, to explain your amendment.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Amendment No. 7 becomes the bill. Before I explain -- and -- and the bill -- the bill essentially does three main things: It specifically permits stem cell -- expanded stem cell

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research in Illinois and establishes a peer review of such research. It bans human reproductive cloning, which is currently something that is not on the books here in Illinois or on the federal level, and makes any attempt - any attempt - to clone a human being a Class 1 felony. There's no such ban on a federal level or on the State level, and it's essential that we provide for this ban on human reproductive cloning. It also provides a mechanism for couples, through a process of informed consent, to donate unused embryos at fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded. Without House -- without Amendment No. 7 to House Bill 3589, Illinois will chill the climate for researchers, the research teams, and those who fund their research, to do their work in a moral and ethical framework without the constraints placed upon them by politicians. Without Floor Amendment No. 7, we will diminish the strength and reputation of some of the country's leading academic medical institutions and the biotech industry in Illinois. Passage of this bill not only influences scientists interested in stem cell research, but other researchers, as well, who tie their research to stem cell research. There's significant evidence that shows that embryonic stem cell research has the potential to help cure serious illnesses and injuries, ranging from juvenile diabetes to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lou Gehrig's Disease, cancer, spinal cord injury, and a host of other diseases and conditions. This evidence is particularly meaningful because scientists have only been conducting this research for about -- little less than five years, since human embryonic stem cells were first -- isolated. Three new studies, in fact, within the first -- last few months, using these embryonic stem cells, produce encouraging results regarding their potential for treating disease. One experiment involved using embryonic stem cells to correct faulty heart rhythms in pigs. Another one, in another study, scientists showed for the first time that embryonic stem cells can develop into eye cells. They are critical to vision. A third experiment suggested that embryonic stem cells could produce healing compounds to help ailing organs repair themselves. This does not mean that we should disregard the benefits that we've realized, and that we hope to realize, from adult stem cells and

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cord blood. In fact, if we're truly to help all disciplines, all fields of research in stem cell research, including that which is already federally sanctioned, we need to be able to give scientists a true comparative means of doing their work without the constraints, without applying tourniquets to their funding. One of the most troubling aspects of all of this, to me personally, is that according to data furnished by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, two-thirds of the stem cell research dollars raised in this country are exported abroad. Now that number may change because of the overwhelming support for Proposition 71 in California led by Governor Schwarzenegger and a number of other prominent Republicans from all ideological stripes. And that may change because the Governor of Wisconsin indicated yesterday the fact that they want to wish -- that they wish to make public support available to help scientists do their work. I say we let the scientists do their work. We have dealt with many of the ethical and moral questions on this policy issue a number of years ago when, at this Capitol, we decided to allow -- to allow insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization treatment. If you support in vitro fertilization treatment and all the benefits it has provided in reconciling the difficult issues that face all our consciences, then I would urge you to support this as well. I want to -- before I open up to any questions, so that I have the opportunity, I'd like to thank two of my colleagues in particular. First, I'd like to thank Senator Radogno, because without Senator Radogno's leadership, this human reproductive cloning ban, which is essential to putting some of the fears, whether they are warranted or unwarranted, to rest. And the second, to Senator Dillard, who made some very -- who made some very insightful observations on how this bill could be improved. And I want to extend my thanks to him as well. This bill -- you've heard from a number of people on this bill. We know that -- we know that House Republican Leader Cross is very supportive of this amendment. We know that House -- the former House Minority Leader Bob Michel has been an active proponent of this measure, as has Treasurer Topinka - several members of the Congressional Delegation on both sides of the aisle, most notably Representatives Kirk and Biggert. We've seen how

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Senator Durbin and the leadership from Senator Obama have made - in this Chamber - have made a difference. And how the leadership of others, such as the Governor, who has promised to sign this bill in its current version, we've seen their -- we've seen how much their opinion matters. We've seen how Ron Santo, who has never been involved in a political issue in his life, has come forward to urge us to adopt this measure. But I'm not asking you, necessarily, to do it for any of them or the academic medical centers or the researchers. I'm asking you to do it for those adults and children whose hopes are genuine, based on the advances that science has provided us today. I'd be happy to answer any questions and I would urge you to support Floor Amendment No. 7.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

I move for the previous question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Okay. There are eight speakers on the amendment. Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Madam President. I have four questions, if the sponsor would yield for purposes of legislative intent, and then I wish to speak to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR DILLARD:

The first is, Senator Schoenberg, is there a provision in this bill that would allow for the purchase or sale of embryos?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

No. Section 20 of the bill contains -- specifically prohibits the purchase or sale of embryos. Section 20(a) states that, quote, "...person may not knowingly, for valuable consideration, purchase or sell embryonic or cadaveric fetal tissue for research purposes."

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Dillard.

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SENATOR DILLARD:

Is there a penalty provision that would apply if somebody would purchase or sell embryos?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Section 20(c) makes the purchase or sale of embryos a criminal offense.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

On that Section, Senator Schoenberg, what's the purpose of that Section prohibiting the purchase or sale of embryos?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Senator Dillard, thank you for asking that question. It strikes at the heart of a very important issue. With that -- with this provision, we are seeking to prevent any backdoor arrangements for the commercial purchase and sale of embryos for research purposes in the same -- very much the same way that the laws prohibit the purchase and sale of organs for transplant. By affirmatively prohibiting such an arrangement, we leave no question about the source of the embryos for research.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

The last question, Madam President. Then how are the embryos obtained?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

The embryos can only be obtained if they're donated with informed consent. Again, the process of donation of embryos is like -- very much like the process used in organ donation, which also requires informed consent.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

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Thank you, Madam President. To this very important bill: I think most of you know me, and I kidded the new Senator today about a scientific bill. But I've always been a champion for medical, scientific, technological and research capabilities in Illinois. Argonne National Laboratory sits sort of in my district's backyard. Illinois has Fermilab in Batavia. We've got the University of Illinois, the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Rush University, IIT and other major worldwide research institution. I would submit that part of the greatness of Illinois, which separates us from many other states, is our biotechnology, our agriculture, our physics and medical research capabilities. The world would be a very different place if it wasn't for the University of Chicago and Enrico Fermi. So, while this bill really doesn't change a lot, in reality it sends a powerful message to the world's scientific and medical community that Illinois will remain a world-class research and medical state. It also sends a message that these researchers and doctors should not run to California, Boston, Austin, Ann Arbor, Columbus, Ohio, or neighboring Madison, Wisconsin. You know, we're fighting to keep physicians in this State and we have a medical malpractice crisis. One of the things that will keep world-class physicians in Illinois, especially in our teaching hospitals, is this particular bill. I'm proud to hold the right-to-life philosophy. I believe that actual human life begins in a womb or at certain stages of reproduction, but not in a petri dish at eight or twelve days. And while I recognize that some do not agree with me on this, many pro-lifers do agree with my views, as Senator Schoenberg has pointed out - Senator Orin Hatch of Utah, a conservative, devoutly Christian pro-life member of the United States Senate, and Mrs. Nancy Reagan. Polling indicates that Catholics and conservatives support stem cell research. I think as times goes on, as the public studies this issue, if it's conducted in a proper ethical manner, support will continue to grow for stem cell research. To prepare for my vote today, I went back and I looked at the debate from when the world was discussing organ transplants, and there were many people who were ethically opposed to organ transplants, and I think public opinion has shown that organ transplants are a very good lifesaving thing. I also looked at

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the debate when we started to research DNA, and I also went back and looked at the debate on in vitro fertilization, which Jeff has mentioned, and the same was true. Public opinion's already on the side of stem cell research. It will become overwhelmingly, over time, accepted if done in an ethical manner. I've spent a lot of hours reading and researching this issue. I have met with doctors, ad nauseam, over the last month and I have studied and read the difference between adult and embryonic stem cell differences, lots of scientific literature. And while adult stem cell research is wonderful, let me tell you, virtually every scientist agrees that there are important differences between adult stem cells and embryonic stem cells. Embryonic stem cells offer unique, and possibly revolutionary, things that adult stem cells do not offer. This process will allow the next generation of medical advancement and make Illinois a player in it. And if we're a player in it, we can also look over the ethics of this type of treatment. To preclude this research, to me, is to delay lifesaving techniques for cancer, juvenile diabetes and a whole host of other diseases. Finally, and I may disagree with the sponsor of this a little bit, this bill to me is not - it is not - about economic development. It is about science. It is about lifesaving techniques to save and improve human life under very difficult tough ethical scrutiny. I mentioned Orin Hatch, and I really agree with one statement of his. And I would urge all of you to look at his research on this topic. Orin Hatch said that, quote, "I believe that a critical part of being a pro-life legislator is to support measures that help the living." I could not agree more with that Senator from Utah. So just to conclude, you know, people will want to know what changed my mind from the twenty-eight/twenty-eight tie last May when this was up for an amendment. You know, who changes a legislator's mind? What does it? Well, let me tell you, it's mostly reading, it's research, it's meeting with doctors. The most important and impressive to me was a physician, not a research physician, from Downers Grove, Illinois, Dr. Michelle Bardack, who, for over an hour on Monday, sat me down and walked me through this, and where she really got me was, I have two young daughters, and she told me of the pain and the possibilities of

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making juvenile diabetes patients and other juveniles - and I've always been associated with Rush Children's Hospital - the ability to take pain away from infants and young people with embryonic stem cell research is the future of something that can really, really be wonderful for little kids. I learned from my wife, who has Crohn's disease, and my father, who's on a kidney transplant list. I have two Northwestern pediatricians that live across the street. They certainly helped me. You know, does Christopher Reeve impact me? No. With all due respect to him, and I thought he was a great actor, he doesn't impact me. Ron Santo, my childhood hero, does he impact me? No. He really doesn't. Nancy Reagan? Probably a little bit, 'cause she's an idol of mine, as was her husband. Orin Hatch obviously had a tremendous impact on my thinking on this. But what really put me over the top, aside from Dr. Bardack from Downers Grove, Illinois, was a little boy named, Danny Karbowski. He plays with my four-year-old daughter. He's got juvenile diabetes, and to see this young man and know every day what Dr. Bardack told me could be his future, versus what the future is if he has to continue to go through treatments, as does Tom Cross' children, how can you not - be for this? And again, with that statement of Orin Hatch that part of being a good pro-life legislator is to help the living, I think this is the right thing to do. I put a lot of thought into this bill and I can sleep well at night knowing that perhaps one hundred million Americans some day - might be five years, might be ten years - will be helped by this type of research. And I thank the sponsor for listening to me to help me mold this bill so that I felt comfortable voting for it. And I think this is the right thing to do, and I'll guarantee you, Senator Schoenberg, fifteen years from now public opinion will bear us out. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill: I've come to a different conclusion than Senator Dillard and Senator Schoenberg, and I think the quiet that we're experiencing today is a reflection of that. We are hushed to the point of hearing a pin drop in this room because we are on the verge of making a

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massive decision. The sponsor mentioned the -- the restraint of politicians is somehow being a hindrance in this process. We're not a hindrance in the process, we're lawmakers, and it's our duty to -- to decide boundaries and we do that every day in this business. We do it in the Judiciary Committee, where we decide what conduct fathers can have towards their children, how they act towards one another, how families interact together. We decide the conduct of criminals. We decide conduct all the time. It's our job to make and wrestle with these decisions, and they're weighty decisions, and there's probably not a weightier decision that any of us will deal with than decisions that put us to the brink of sacrificing one human life to benefit another. That's new ground. That's ground that we've not been asked to cross onto before. And it's ground that should give us all a great deal of pause. I know that everybody coming to this debate - all fifty-nine of us - and all of the advocates, pro and con, come in a spirit of good faith, but there is a hush about this process right now. Because what we are asked to, is to literally take one human life and pit it against another. Are those our choices? Is that the best that we can do? I don't think so. There are folks who have written about this particular bill. One article called this bill radical, intending to authorize an almost unlicensed -- an unlimited license to create natural and cloned embryos for stem cell research. And then quoting exactly from -- from the language of the bill itself, which I double-checked, the research -- and this is quoting from the bill that -- that you're being asked to -- to give your imprimatur on today. Research involving the derivation and use of embryonic stem cells and human embryonic germ cells and adult stem cells from any source, including somatic stem cell transplantation, shall be permitted. "Any source" can be an extremely broad term that can mean natural embryos, including those made explicitly for use in research, cloned embryos, even -- perhaps even genetically modified animal and human embryo hybrids, for example, such as those that researchers are using in China by inserting human DNA into -- animal eggs. Great scientists have struggled and wrestled with this issue and come to certain conclusions. Quoting from one article, "Every credible scientist knows that somatic stem cell

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transfer", that's what we're talking about here, "using human genetic material will create a developing human embryo." That is what we were years ago, each one of us. The bioethics panels of both President Clinton and George H. -- or, George W. Bush, the Human Embryo Research Panel at the National Institutes of Health and the chief cloning researchers at Advanced Cell Technology in Massachusetts clearly affirm that this creates human embryos. The balance that you're being asked to make today is really an unfair balance in my view. You're being asked to take one human life and cast it aside for the benefit of another. That's a Hobson's choice that we need to reject, with all due respect to the well-intentioned sponsors. What we need to be doing, is to be putting our time, our energy, our investment and our support in adult stem cell research. That's where the explosions are taking place and that's what all the scientists will tell you. That's what the -- that's what the -- the nature of the testimony that we've heard in the various committees that have heard this. So as we think about this today, think about the hush that is upon us, because -- it -- it is a hush in which all of our spirits are churning on this issue. This is a tall, tall, tall drink of water, and I know we've all given it a great deal of thought. But I would urge a restraining influence. We are not people here that put up impediments to progress. We're lawmakers that are called upon to make decisions. Please vote No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the Senator's amendment. As a cosponsor of the underlying bill and as a Catholic, I have heard from many fellow parishioners who oppose this bill, and they do so in good faith. But based on the description of the bill that appeared in my parish bulletin a couple of weeks ago, I think they do so based on some misunderstandings, which to me is reminiscent of the debate over in vitro fertilization many years ago, which the church and good Catholics opposed, but which has proven to be a boon to many families who would not exist as families but for those developments. The misunderstandings that I -- I think are most

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important are the notion that this would sanction human cloning. I think that Senator Schoenberg's amendment, one of the toughest amendments -- or the most stringent language nationally, to -- to clearly and explicitly ban that, is an important fact. I also question as a Catholic whether we are, as humans, even capable of human cloning. That seems to me the province of God. The second, I don't believe that this bill encourages the destruction of a human embryo. There is no measure of reason or faith that I can understand lifesaving and disease curing research to be morally inferior to simply destroying a fertilized egg. And all this bill does is permit a couple, who had eggs frozen and would otherwise destroy them, to donate them for research that may cure MS, diabetes, Parkinson's, ALS and a host of other diseases. I spent a lot of time with my pastor talking about this bill. I spent time praying. Like Senator Dillard, I spent time reading and researching. But most importantly, I've heard from many faithful Catholics who support this bill, who have parents or spouses or children who may be cured by the advances made possible by embryonic stem cell research. This research is already sanctioned at the federal level. We should do something here in Illinois to support that effort. And most importantly, this bill helps us to establish a moral and ethical framework within which this research can be conducted in Illinois. I applaud the sponsor and I urge your Aye votes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, one of my constituents has a little daughter, Annie - she's now ten - who contracted a diabetes at the age of two and she is a -- a wonderful little girl. And we have had a lot of progress in Illinois in the in vitro fertilization. And, you know, I have struggled with this. I hold a card here from one of my other constituents telling me that this bill sanctions human cloning. So may I ask some questions of the sponsor?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

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If I heard you correctly, you said this specifically does not sanction human -- cloning. In fact, it prohibits it. Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

That's correct, and it becomes a Class 1 felony.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

And do I understand that the only way the embryos are gotten are people are donating them. Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Senator Geo-Karis, there are approximately four hundred thousand embryos that have been unused by couples who have successfully -- who have sought in vitro fertilization treatment. They are being stored and -- and frozen in fertility clinics across the country and most of them are slated to be destroyed, and instead they could, with the informed consent of the couple, be used to find cures for citizens in the State.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

So -- so therefore, your bill, the way you've amended it, does prevent cloning. Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

As I said, I have struggled with this bill. I hold a card here from one of my constituents that says, "Don't do it." And I've had loads of calls on it, and I have to use my conscience. My conscience agrees with Senator Dillard's remarks, completely. If we are to help youngsters, we're going to have to start doing

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it this way, whether we like it or not, because we do have the technology in the University of Illinois. We do have the means where we can do some real good. And when it comes to children, I haven't got a cold hard on that. And therefore, I am going to vote for this bill, as amended.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I really appreciate the opportunity to discuss this bill. It's -- It's obvious it's an important bill for all of us. I know every single person in this Chamber has given it a lot of thought. I especially want to thank Senator Schoenberg and some of the Members that have helped me think this through: Senator Schoenberg, Senator Clayborne, even Senator Righter and Roskam, who are opposed to this. But I think, through our discussions, we've been able to come to, obviously, some different conclusions, but I -- I know that we all have given it a great deal of thought. I want to just tell you a little bit about how I arrived at my support for this bill, because I was originally opposed to it. I think there's really two issues. One is cloning and one is the use of embryos. With respect to cloning, I was originally opposed to this bill because I do not believe we should be cloning human beings. I don't know anybody on any side of this debate who thinks cloning human beings is something that we want to encourage or endorse in any way, shape or form in this State. The particular language that's in the bill has accomplished, for me, what I wanted to see banned. And that is, the asexual reproduction of a person. The ban that's in the bill now will prevent that from happening. It does still allow for asexual reproduction of a clump of cells that might be used for the betterment of mankind, hopefully in creating some cures for diseases that we have. But it has a specific ban that -- that would not allow the continued development of that clump of cells into a human being. That's what I didn't want to see, and I think that this bill accomplishes that. You may hear some concern, "Well what's going to happen in five years or ten years from now? You know, perhaps we will have the technology to do that. I don't know what the future holds. But you know what?

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If that happens, I'm more than willing to come back and make sure that we disallow whatever that procedure might be in the future. We have to change our laws all the time to keep up with technology. And so I think to vote for something because we're afraid of the future, of what might happen, doesn't make sense to me at all. And I know that most proponents of this bill would be willing to do the same thing. None of us want to see the creation of human beings out of asexual reproduction. The other issue for me that was difficult, is the use of human embryos. And I do fully understand that that is, in fact, potential life that has been created. And the way I arrived at my conclusion on that was just to sort of put myself in that situation and think, if I had undergone in vitro fertilization and had created twelve embryos and used four, what are the options with the rest of those embryos? And clearly, they're -- they're not good options. One is to keep 'em frozen forever or the other is what's going on now, and that is to have them destroyed. And that led me to think that this is so much akin to organ donation, that, you know, we've got potential lifesaving good here that could -- we can do some good with, rather than just have that eventually be destroyed. Do I think it's a perfect answer? Does it -- does it answer every nagging question I might have? No. But do I think that -- that in the sense of moving forward and helping people that that's the best resolution, to be able to use those embryos for some good? Yes, I do. I think that this bill -- the other thing that I like about it is that it provides for the development of a process for donation of those embryos. So, if you have embryos that you do not feel should be donated, you don't have to -- you have control over that. So only those people that -- that share a similar view, just as with organ transplantation, would go ahead and -- and be able to use those embryos. I have a lot of faith in science and I have a lot of faith in the scientific community. I'm not persuaded by arguments that mad scientists out there are going to abuse this. Let's all remember that -- that this is legal right now. What we're actually allowing here is -- is some sort of regulation of this activity, which I think is a plus, no matter which side of the philosophical debate you're on with respect to how this impacts the question of -- of

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life. So, I know it's difficult for all of us. I don't know how many minds will change with -- with the discussion, but I think it's very healthy that we're having this discussion and I really appreciate the respectful tone that this debate has taken. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank -- thank you, Madam President. I rise in strong support of this legislation and the hush around the room was mentioned. The hush in the room is not necessarily someone's guilty conscience. The hush could be because some of us have struggled with relatives who've had diabetes and some of these other terrible diseases and there was no cure and we had to struggle with them on a daily basis, as I have and -- and my family with my mother. And I'll tell you, Olivia Hendon was a beautiful person, strong and tough. But when that diabetes got a hold to her, she had a -- a serious challenge there on her hands. You know, my mother whipped my brother when he was thirty-something with a belt - that's how tough she was. She couldn't beat that diabetes, though. And it used to bother us, and it bothered her more than anybody else, that we had to prick her with that needle all day. All day we had to check her sugar and she did not want to live like this. Now, I -- I -- I struggle with this because it's just not Catholics who have problems with this. I'm a Baptist. Love the Lord with all my heart. Now I'm not no perfect Christian, don't get me wrong, evidence of that was last night. But I do stand here without any hesitation claiming that I love the Lord and I know where I'm going when I leave here. So, am I going to, you know, now turn and -- and be the child of the devil 'cause I want to save some lives? I don't think so. We're taking -- we want to take some -- some cells and -- the embryonic cells and do the research to see if we can cure some of these diseases that are taking people's lives that are already here, that have jobs, want to see their grandbabies grow up. My mom's not getting the opportunity to see little Rickey as tall as he is now and see Skye running around, you know, with her new hairdo and all of that. My mom wanted to see all that. And -- and I -- and I ask

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some of you, if you were in that situation, if it was your life or your mother, your baby, wouldn't you want every opportunity to save them? And what Senator Schoenberg is doing, he's talking about some cells that otherwise are going to be destroyed or frozen. These lives are going on right now. You know, if I'm in that situation and I do believe if you're in that situation, you would want a cure. You know, most of us want to be here. I -- I love being here. Every single day that I can get, I thank the Lord for it. So -- so why not do this? Why -- why not give science the opportunity to save some lives? The hush is because we want to save some lives, and we've lost some lives that we could have saved if we'd open up our mind. New diseases come up all the time - mad cow, bird flu. What were those? We never heard of those before. I -- I hadn't. Now, all of a sudden, they're out here. So new diseases are coming up. What about new cures? I urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Winkel.

SENATOR WINKEL:

Thank you. To the bill. I've listened very carefully, and -- and -- and certainly in my district, which includes the Urbana Campus-the University of Illinois, we have a great concern about research, science and technology, economic development - all the things that are critical to the State of Illinois and to the future well-being of our citizens, those of us who are here and those of us who are yet to come - and certainly we don't want to see science and technology limited to an extent that's unreasonable. But I did listen to the sponsor's description, and I was very concerned to hear that we were, in some way, impeding and that we should not add any sort of constraint to research and to future technology. But the hush that was referred to earlier is -- is that it's not simply a matter and it's not about mad scientists versus no research, or research at all. It's about how exactly we go about putting the State's seal of approval or imprimatur on this. University of Illinois is for stem cell research. I know I've asked, and they are, of course. But they've been doing it for years, and they will continue to do that regardless of the outcome of the bill today. But it is about us putting our State's seal of

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approval or imprimatur on what's being requested today, and I think you've got to seriously look at Floor Amendment No. 7, read it carefully and understand it. For instance, the -- the sale of embryos. I know that's been discussed in some of the Floor debate, and I recognize that sometimes we have an exchange between the sponsor and other Senators to explain a bill, to get on the record what the intentions are. And that's fine and good. We do it all the time. But, of course, I have to say also that statutory construction of a law that's on the books that is challenged and in court really only refers to the intent that's read into the record only if the language is ambiguous. The problem here with this Section that you have that you say would ban the purchase or sale of embryonic or cadaveric fetal tissue is very much patterned after existing federal law, law that's been on the books since the early nineties at least. It's been on the books for years. There is nothing in the language that's being proposed today in this amendment that at all even defines cadaveric fetal tissue. There's not a definition. The federal law, 42 U.S.C. 289g-2, is a Section, as I said, that's been on the books for years, and this amendment that's being proposed today is patterned after it. A big loophole exists in the federal law and a big loophole exists in Amendment No. 7, in that a service fee would be allowed for under this language. For instance, in the -- under the -- the federal law, which, again, this is patterned after, a service fee would be allowed for obtaining, shipping and handling of embryonic stem cell or -- fetal tissue. That's the way I read it. I think that's the way a court would read it. I think it's there clearly in the language, regardless of -- legislative intent is read into the record. Federal law has proven ineffective in preventing commercial trafficking. That's a fact, which I'd like to attempt to establish here. Fetal tissue distributors have been able to advertise the availability of various fetal tissues and do everything involved in selling such tissue as long as they call it a fee for service instead of a sale price. In a September 2nd, 2001, Associated Press article, it was reported that after being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a Kansas City, Missouri, abortion facility was found not to have broken any laws by marketing

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fetal tissues, notwithstanding the fact that there is the same sort of ban in federal law in full force and effect at that time, as is today, which you're proposing now for the State of Illinois. In 1999, an article by the WorldNetDaily reported that according to the international business firm of Frost and Sullivan, quote, the worldwide market for cell lines and tissue cultures brought in nearly four hundred and twenty-eight million dollars in corporate revenues in 1996, end quote. It was estimated that the market would grow at an annual rate of 13.5 percent and that by 2002 would be worth nearly a billion dollars. Now, I know your intention is not -- the stated intention is not economic development, but clearly economics does come into play. One organization that profited from this growth industry was Opening Lines, a business formerly located right here in the State of Illinois in West Frankfurt. The business immediately shut down after an article was published in a local newspaper, which was entitled, quote, Pro-Lifers: Baby body parts sold out of West Frankfurt, end quote. There is a -- a 1999 brochure from that company, Opening Lines, which contains an actual fee-for-service schedule. Just to give you an idea, Ladies and Gentlemen, the going price at that time for an eight-week-old brain in 1999 was nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars, eight-week-old intact embryonic cadaver went for six hundred dollars, two limbs for a hundred and twenty five dollars. It's no wonder there's a hush in the Chamber, because we're talking about something very fundamental, a very radical departure here from what we've -- we're used to. There are loopholes in this bill, just as there are loopholes in the federal law on which it is patterned. Now, I believe and I've thought a lot about -- like several other speakers have said, I've thought a lot about this too. It's not all about science and technology. There are other considerations that come into play; therefore, the hush; therefore, we're thinking about it; therefore, we're looking at regulation; therefore, we're looking at constraints - not unrestrained research and development. But we're thinking about it, because I -- I believe - as declared by -- there was an author; in 1953 he wrote his masterpiece; he was -- his name was Russell Kirk - that, quote: A transcendent order, or a body of natural law, rules society as well as conscience. Political

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problems, at bottom, are religious and moral problems. True politics is the art of apprehending and applying the Justice which ought to prevail in a community of souls. Now, that author Kirk credits somebody from the eighteenth century, Edmund Burke, with this idea. So it's not a new idea, but it's a -- it's kind of a transcending, a long-lasting sort of idea in which he describes society as joined in perpetuity by a moral bond among the dead, the living and those yet unborn. And as I have come to know, and many in these various debates, as this -- author Kirk anticipated, that radicals from time to time unite in detesting that sort of description of our state, of the way we govern and this concept of society as joined in perpetuity by this sort of moral bond among the dead, the living and those yet unborn. So, what is our purpose here? What -- what are we really doing? What are we being asked to do? And what about this legislation? Is it really consistent with what we should be or ought to be doing? Ladies and Gentlemen, shear away the great American president's name that was so cynically attached to this legislation and you will find nothing more than the wolf of disrespect for the sanctity of human life in the sheepskin of medical science. That's my opinion. The sanctity of human life in this -- argument matters. The human embryo must be respected as sacred and not used and destroyed in experiments. The argument that we hear time and again is that this legislation provides necessary change, innovation or progress as the basis for granting State authority to destroy human embryos for research. That argument, I believe, is wrong and should be rejected. It is a radical departure from our traditional values that holds human life as a sacred gift. It is Machiavellian, in that in the end, it is a wished for -- it is a -- it strives for an end that is wished for that will so, some say, be achieved through the means that includes killing human embryos. Now, if you embrace the political doctrine of that philosopher, which denies the relevance of morality in political affairs, then I suppose you can somehow favor this legislation, but in doing so, I believe that you reject that human life is sacred. That's my opinion. I know others disagree, but I think that accounts a lot for the hush that you hear today. This legislation promotes a sort of societal self-preservation argument. It provides that

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we sacrifice embryos of human beings, those yet unborn who could join us if only given the chance to live and grow, that we sacrifice them to save ourselves. In other words, it's a slap in the face of the idea of a community of souls, that yet unborn humans would under this law be cloned and then sacrificed and destroyed in a test tube or petri dish. We are asked to believe today that this sacrifice is justified by us joining in, I believe, a cold calculation of utility; that is, we are asked to approve this legislation to authorize sacrificing human embryos on what I would call the altar of the greatest good for the greatest number. Yet, even if today a majority -- a majority decides by some utilitarian calculation that the path of embryonic stem cell research is the path indeed we should take, there is no scientific study or research that shows embryonic stem cells are needed or that they will make any difference in the health of anyone. We are called upon today to make -- to decide an important issue, as we represent the people who elected us. So hope and pray for a discerning heart to govern and to distinguish between the right and wrong paths. I know this is a difficult issue. I know reasonable minds can disagree, but today, Ladies and Gentlemen, we need the wisdom of Solomon. I ask: Please, respect the sanctity of human life and vote No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. Will the sponsor yield, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Senator Schoenberg, there's been discussion of a number of issues on this bill thus far and I don't want to repeat that, but I do want to address with you a question that you were asked and an answer that you gave to Senator Geo-Karis, and therefore the entire Body, with regards to whether or not this bill contains a human cloning ban. Now, when -- you know, when we're here in the heat of debate and we spend long hours here like we have, we get kind of caught up in the world of legislating and legislation and -- and sometimes can draw ourselves away from

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what we recognize to be the commonsense and basic definitions of certain terms. And then when that happens, for me anyway, my remedy is to go to the dictionary. And so, going to the dictionary and looking up the definition of cloning, the dictionary says cloning is the technique of producing a genetically identical duplicate of an organism by replacing the nucleus of an unfertilized ovum with the nucleus of a body cell from the organism. Can I ask you, Senator Schoenberg, a little -- in a little more detail than -- than Senator Geo-Karis did, does your bill contain that language to ban human cloning?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

As I indicated to my answers to Senator Geo-Karis, this bill specifically bans human reproductive cloning. In an attempt to represent my answer on that question through another means, I think you need to -- what I'd like to do, in response to your question, is to speak to something that you're alluding to and that some others have alluded to with respect to what is somatic cell nuclear transfer technology, which is known in layman's terms as therapeutic cloning and which is different, fundamentally different, from human reproductive cloning. Somatic cell nuclear transfer technology, or therapeutic cloning, in this process the nucleus of an egg is removed, the cluster of cells, and replaced with a nucleus of a body cell, such as a skin cell. There's no sperm utilized in this process. The cell that's created through this process is then coaxed to divide - and this is a development which has only occurred in the past several years - and then we can remove stem cells. This process, somatic cell nuclear transfer, known in layman's terms as therapeutic cloning, creates cells that are genetically compatible to their recipient, and allowing for successful transplantation without rejection from the immune system. Senator Righter, you and I had the privilege of hearing testimony from the -- from the only researcher who's -- who has -- is currently engaged in stem cell research who has testified before a committee in this Senate, Dr. Mary Hendrix, who, I - add parenthetically, left Iowa because that State legislature restricted her work so by outlawing most of the means for her to

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do that work. She -- the process that she outlined and the diagram that she provided, it's that precise effort which is making it possible in the area of juvenile diabetes for scientists to attain -- to be what they feel are on the threshold of a cure, on the threshold of eliminating -- pain, because the plural plasticity, or the adaptability of those embryonic cells, has been found by scientists to date to be inherently superior to -- adult stem cells in -- in treating and seeking to eliminate juvenile diabetes. So, for a child like Reynolds Cross or Clara -- or Clara Livingston, whose mother testified before the Executive Committee last night, the ability to have somatic cell nuclear transfer technology, known in layman's terms as therapeutic cloning, which is fundamentally different from human reproductive cloning, this -- by using these embryonic cells, they have the opportunity to eliminate the pain, to eliminate the diabetic condition, and therefore to enhance their quality of life. I -- I appreciate your allowing me to go into greater detail than your initial question, but we've engaged in this at length in the Health and Human Services Committee. And -- in anticipation of some of the questions that might be coming, in addition to addressing some of the questions that have -- statements which have already been made out of passion, but perhaps not factually correct, and I won't gauge the moral relativity of them because I don't think that's my place, that's why I appreciate your indulgence.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

...you -- thank you, Madam President. Well, Senator Schoenberg, I'm glad you raised Dr. Hendrix's name because I remember well her testimony before the Health and Human Services Committee some time ago, and I've got a written copy of it here. Nowhere did she claim that there was a human cloning ban in the legislation. In fact, to my recollection, the only medical expert who has answered that question was the doctor from the Springfield medical center last night in Executive Committee who was asked by Senator Roskam, "Does this bill contain a human cloning ban?" The answer was unequivocally and an unmitigated, "No, it does not." So, do you disagree with that, Senator

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Schoenberg? I want to ask this question again, and I -- I'm happy for you to expound upon, particularly since the timer is not on, all of the issues you want to in answer to my question, but I am -- I do want you somewhere in that to answer this direct question: Does your bill contain language which specifically bans the replication of human cells?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

In Section 30 of the bill, in the -- on the Section on cloning of a human being and the providing of a criminal penalty, it says, and I quote "...cloning of a human being, means asexual human reproduction by implanting or attempting to implant the product of nuclear transplantation into a woman's uterus or a substitute for a woman's uterus." Human reproductive cloning is banned in this bill. It was not in an earlier version. And if Chris Radogno -- if Senator Radogno - pardon me - Senator Radogno had not stepped forward -- the version from the House that came here did not have a ban on human reproductive cloning. As a person of faith, I, too, believe that we should have a ban on human reproductive cloning. That's one of the essential ingredients to this bill. And, in fact, I'll point out, we didn't debate this at all when we voted on this the last time. So, those of you who voted No in the rush to vote, actually voted against a ban on human reproductive cloning. The definition is clear on human reproductive cloning. And I went into detail on somatic cell nuclear transfer technology, which is known in layman's terms as -- therapeutic cloning -- as therapeutic -- as therapeutic cloning, because there's a distinction and that there's a difference realized not only by scientists but by the overwhelming number of Americans. Seventy-four percent of Americans in this country, and Senator Dillard went into greater detail, believe and support this position.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill. Thank you, Senator Schoenberg. I know that you have, first, put in long,

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hard hours on this and talked to many, many legislators about this, and I know that you -- pursue this with great integrity and -- and with a true belief in your heart that this is the right thing to do. And you and I have a disagreement on that. Ladies and Gentlemen, I -- I totally agree with Senator Radogno with regards to how appreciative I've been with regards to the respectful tone of this debate. That is why it's so quiet in here. It's not about guilty consciences or because we're worried that someone's going to be portrayed wrong. It's because this is a very, very serious matter that we are taking up. I'm concerned about a couple things. First is, this bill will permit nothing more than was already permitted in Illinois law. Nothing. All of us have been contacted by people wishing us to vote in favor of the bill, many of them concerned about our ability to address and help those people who are afflicted by a number of diseases for which stem cell research generally holds some measure of promise to address. I'm very concerned, at least based on the conversations that I've had with those people, that they believe that this legislation, if it fails, will somehow provide a block to the -- to the research that's being done. That is not true. We need to pull away from the emotion of the debate a little bit and realize, this bill does nothing to advance the research that's being done. The second concern I have is the veil of the so-called human cloning ban, which is an enormous issue, I think, for just about everyone in this room. This bill does nothing to limit the degree to which a human being can be cloned in the laboratory. Nothing. The -- definition of cloning does not say anything about sperm. It doesn't say anything about implantation. The language in this amendment, Amendment 7, is an implantation ban, but it still allows for the unmitigated, limitless cloning in the laboratory. Ladies and Gentlemen, there is pending in the Rules Committee right now, and a motion to discharge has been filed for it, Senate Floor Amendment 8 to this. I am the sponsor of that. That bill has a human cloning ban in it. It would prohibit cloning human cells in the laboratory. We all have a choice to make. I'm asking this Body to vote down this amendment and give the sponsor an opportunity to consider attaching a real human

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cloning ban to this legislation and then move forward. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

WICS-TV requests permission to videotape. And let me remind everybody -- well, is there leave to allow them to videotape? Leave is granted. Let me remind everybody, this is just the amendment, so I will appreciate the fact that everybody continue debating something that already hasn't been said. Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Well, thank you very much, Madam President, and it does appear that the debate is going to be on the amendment today, so I will keep my remarks brief. Question for the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Senator Schoenberg, your amendment becomes the bill, and in your amendment, you chose to, in Section 1, the title Section, cite that this will now be referred to as the Ronald Reagan Biomedical Research Act. Can you give us your answer of why you chose to call this the Ronald Reagan Biomedical Research Act?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you for asking that question, Senator Sieben. Like many -- like millions of Americans, regardless of their politics, their persuasion, where they live or what they stand for, I was deeply touched and inspired by the strength that former First Lady Nancy Reagan showed, and the grace, under very difficult circumstances, and the fact that she came forward to join with Senator Hatch, to join with fifty-eight other members of the United States Senate, Democrats and Republicans, pro-choice and pro-life, and over two hundred members of Congress to try to move the federal policy forward. And yet, we haven't see that happen. I was very inspired by that. Now, I recognize that I have some limitations on passing -- on offering opinions about what defines a good Republican, but my friend Bob Michel is for this bill. My friend Judy Biggert's for it. One of -- both of my congressmen, Jan Schakowsky and Mark Kirk, support

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this. My friend the State Treasurer and the current chair of the Republican Party is for this. My friend Kirk Dillard has shown tremendous insight and courage in calling issues to my attention that make this even better so that scientists can continue to do their work within a moral and ethical framework. So I -- I'm not going to get engaged in the -- in the internal discussion among the Republicans over the -- whether this was a good idea or bad idea. I'm speaking to my inspiration. And when Minority Leader Cross came and stood beside me, that provided me with the comfort level, as well as the names that I mentioned earlier, and that's why I did it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Thank you for that answer, Senator Schoenberg. I think clearly if you were inspired, as many of us were on that Friday when Ronald Reagan's memorial service was conducted, by Nancy Reagan's speech, it would seem to me more appropriate that you change the name and honor Nancy Reagan or that you call this the Illinois Biomedical Research Bill. But in spite of the Republicans that do support this, I can tell you there's one Republican that would not support this bill, and that's Ronald Reagan. I have the privilege of representing Tampico, Illinois, his birthplace; Dixon, Illinois, where he grew up; and I had the privilege of being one of the speakers with Governor Blagojevich and Speaker Hastert -- at his funeral service in Dixon that day. And we talked a lot about the legacy of Ronald Reagan and about the -- and the record of Ronald Reagan, and clearly the things that were mentioned about the strength of his presidency was his strong commitment to the sanctity of human life and that no issue was of a greater importance to him than the dignity and the sanctity of all life. So, please don't attach his name to this bill. President Reagan also wrote that we cannot diminish the value of one category of human life, the unborn, without diminishing the value of all human life. So, Senator Schoenberg, for these reasons I respectfully request that as this bill goes through the process and goes back to the House for concurrence, that you and the sponsors in the House consider

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removing President Ronald Reagan's name from this bill. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Madam President. Before I address the bill, I would request a roll call on this amendment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

That's always in order.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

You know, I'm not nearly as eloquent as those that have gotten up here before. I'm not nearly as factual about this. There was a hush that everybody has talked about in this Chamber today. But I can tell you a couple of things. I have not struggled with my decision on this bill. I understand the differences of opinions. I understand the debate. I understand looking at what these definitions mean. But we've heard testimony today. We've heard impassioned testimony. We've heard testimony that's sincere, from the heart, about what this bill does do or could do for children. I'm a new grandfather. I've got a three-weeks-old grandson. And when we start talking about cells and that cluster, that clump of whatever it is, as not being significant, who are we - who are we - to say that taking that life for medical research is more important than seeing that life come to fruition? I can't imagine anyone doing that. Now, to the bill. We've looked at this. Several years ago we had the opportunity in this Chamber to pass a ban on human cloning. Thirty-six people are still in this Chamber that voted - I believe the vote was 56 to nothing - to place a ban on human cloning. Now, that ban on human cloning included the terms, "the transfer of a nucleus from a human somatic cell". Thirty-six of us unanimously, those that are remaining, supported banning that procedure. This bill, unfortunately, was never called for a vote in the House because of - guess what? - medical researchers who opposed this bill because it would limit them. Cloning a human cell would limit them. As we've already heard in the debate - and, Madam President, I'll be very brief - we've already heard what the definition is. A -- a somatic cell, nuclear -- transplantation, by definition, means cloning.

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You know, we talk about, and the Senator talked about, factual information. Well, that is factual information. There's no way around it. One of the earlier speakers talked about the fact that he didn't believe this was even something that human beings could do, would be to clone another individual. He said that's in God's province. I submit to this Chamber, to everybody that's here today, he's exactly right. It is God's province, not ours. I would urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank -- thank you, Madam President. Listening to all the speakers, and obviously this has been a very challenging, very thought-out debate, and for the different beliefs that we have in here, which makes our country one in which we have people overseas fighting for the ability just for us to have this debate and to have a -- a debate that's sensible, Members being respected. And I listened to the last speaker, and I think about over the course of this country, in the history of this country, where we've all debated different issues, from civil rights, to suffrage for women, to voting rights for African-Americans, to what we recently passed - a woman's ability to receive equal pay. We continue and -- and our children will continue to debate -- and grandchildren and great-grandchildren will continue to debate things as they move along. But, you know, I think about a phone call I received in 1992, and my mother asked me to come and see her. And she told me two days before, she had been jogging. And as long as I can remember, my mother got up at about 5 a.m. and she jogged. Well, this particular morning, her leg had given out. She thought she had pulled a muscle and she went to the emergency room. And went through a series, over the next two days, of tests. So, after finding out what the tests revealed, that's when she called me and said would I come see her. This was 1992. My mother, at the age of fifty-two years old, was told that she had two to four years to live because she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Here's a woman who never smoked, maybe she drank a occasional glass of wine, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. She, at -- after four years of being diagnosed, she went through

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everything. I mean, she was taking shark cartilage; she was drinking tea - I mean, everything that they told her that they thought would prolong her life. Then one of her doctors told her about a stem cell transplant, where they actually took her stem cells out and then gave her heavy doses of radiation and chemotherapy, and then they injected her stem cells back in. And I can remember sitting down with the doctor and consulting with him, and -- and I thought at the time what he said was very cruel, but then over the years, I've realized that maybe it was true. And the question I asked was, "How would this help, would this improve?" He said the best thing we can do, is probably to extend her life, hoping that research and technology would advance to the point where we would come up with a cure. But he said, "There's no cure for death." I thought that was very cruel, 'cause he said -- he went on to say that all of us will die, but your mother probably knows what she'll die from. And I still remember that like it was yesterday. But after that stem cell transplant, instead of my mother living two to four years, she actually lived another year and a half because of the stem cell transplant. So, you talk about the hush, as the former speaker said, there was never any doubt in my mind that for my mother and other mothers and children and sons and daughters in this world, that if we have an opportunity, I don't see this as taking a life. You know, I -- I assume in the same debate of organ transplant, where we have -- I have a friend who gave his kidney to his father, and now - his father died - now he's on dialysis because his other kidney failed. But I would assume that -- I wasn't here on the debate of the organ transplant, but I assume that that same debate and factual situation came up. Well, my mother died in 1998. Still miss her. My father, at the age of thirty-five, in 1973, was diagnosed with diabetes, and it was cruel the things that he had to go through, which eventually, about five years ago, his kidneys failed. And he went through -- he went through dialysis. And -- and he retired and -- and he was fortunate enough that he was at retirement age where he didn't sacrifice his ability to work. Well, he took the shots. Eventually his kidneys failed, and he went to dialysis. He was lucky enough to get a transplant. So I thank those over the -- over the history who voted for the transplant.

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And that prolonged his life. And then in August of this year, he had to go in because of his kidneys failing and began to have fluid on his -- on his system and his irregular heartbeat. But long story short, I lost my father August 7th of this year, as well. So, when you do say, "What does this mean?" -- and maybe it wouldn't have saved my parents, but I would like to have seen the ability for medical research within the confines of -- I'm not in favor of human cloning. But as I believe and -- and as one of the Senators said the other day, I do not believe that a embryo in a petri dish has a soul. And I ask you, whether you are convinced by that -- but I -- I'm reminded of another story. There were two young boys who had heard about this wise man in East Africa, heard that he could solve any problem, answer any question anybody desired. And, you know, as two teenagers, they're always curious. And I may have told this story before. But they decided to capture a bird, and they wanted to go see this wise man to ask this wise man whether the bird was dead or alive. So they saw the wise man. They said, "Is the bird alive?" And the bird was in one of the young man's hands. And the wise man said, "For if I tell you that the bird is alive, you'll close your hand and crush it and you'll kill the bird. If I tell you that the bird is dead, then you'll open your hand and let it fly away." And what that wise man said, "Foresee, you hold the power to make change that's needed." And I say to all my Members here that sometimes change is hard, sometimes it's difficult, but as technology changes and it advances, we have to change with those times. And the wise man said, "Young man, you have the ability at the end of your wrist to make change." And I ask you all, those of you all who have the ability at the end of your wrist, which is your hand, that you hit a green button for all of those children, all of those adults, all of those parents who are in desire, who are desperate, who -- who do and desire hope for future and things to come. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg, to close.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I -- I appreciate the courtesies that all of you have

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extended me, not just today, as we've had a -- what I believe is a thoughtful discussion of how we can continue to expand scientific inquiry within a moral and ethical framework, but -- but for the -- private conversations that many of us -- have had, as not only I've sought to improve this proposal from its initial version - and again, I -- I give a great deal of credit to Senator Radogno and Senator Dillard for their insights - not to -- just make it a better bill. It goes beyond that. It's to make for better lives, and I think that ultimately that's our objective. One of the earlier speakers made one reference to -- suggested that we were denying the relevance of morality in political affairs, and I would dispute that premise because we are seeking to expand activity within a moral and ethical framework for scientists who otherwise take their researchers, take their research team and take their -- their research dollars and go elsewhere, whether it's California, New Jersey, Wisconsin or, more likely, to Israel, to Great Britain, to Korea and elsewhere. We didn't have the opportunity to go into a detailed discussion before, when we considered this late in May, so I never had the opportunity to share a message with you that I received. It was a message from Christopher Reeve, and I'd like to have it read into the record. It was an e-mail. I had asked if he was physically capable of -- I asked if it was possible for him to make some phone calls. He wasn't able to do so, but he did pass along an e-mail that he asked me to read into the record -- that he asked an advocate for spinal cord injury victims, someone who has testified before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, an attorney, Andres Gallegos, who is, indeed, courageous in his own right, and he -- Mr. Gallegos forwarded me this message from Christopher Reeve. Andres -- and I quote, "Andres, please convey this message on my behalf to Members of the Illinois State Senate who are still undecided on House Bill 3589, Stem Cell Research Act. By voting Yes for House Bill 3589, the Stem Cell Research Act, you will position Illinois at the forefront of biomedical research in this country and affect the lives of millions of Americans. The diseases and conditions that may be treated or cured by stem cells do not discriminate, as any one of us may become paralyzed in an instant or suffer a long, agonizing decline into the

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misery of living with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes or ALS. As you contemplate your position on the bill, please consider the enormous promise of stem cell research and the very real possibility that may one day impact the lives of one of your family members or loved ones. Will a cure or therapy be available for them? We may not know if House Bill 3589 is not passed. Because the federal government is gridlocked on the issue, Americans are turning to the states to keep hope alive. California and New Jersey have already paved the way by enacting legislation that -- that allows their scientists to conduct research on stem cells derived from any source. If more states support stem cell research, the science will accelerate. If you pass this bill, talented researchers will come to Illinois instead of moving to other states or going overseas. An environment that welcomes the most brilliant scientific minds will also benefit the economy as venture capitals, biotech -- biotechs and pharmaceuticals will be drawn to Illinois. Most importantly, please trust the oversight built into this legislation to ensure that the research will be conducted in a responsible and ethical manner. You have the opportunity now to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and who, through no fault of their own, are now or will become imprisoned in their own bodies. Vote Yes on House Bill 3589. Sincerely, Christopher Reeve." I never met Christopher Reeve. I was present in Chicago when he first spoke to the nation of the struggles of confronting his own personal situation. But as we've spoken and I've spoken to people throughout the State about this issue, what has moved me is the grip of a young father with Lou Gehrig's disease, with his children standing by his side, knowing that every day is a borrowed day without science being able to progress and wanting to watch his children grow and wondering if the science could catch up with the calendar in time, or meeting the parents and children -- the parents of children who are afflicted with juvenile diabetes. That insulin pump is much, much more than an inconvenience or a hindrance. I would rather have young children, whether it's Reynolds Cross or Clara Livingston or the countless of other children, who know that their lives are different and whose parents are passionate about the pursuit of a cure, because in

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their -- in the case of their particular child's condition, science is indeed on a breakthrough through expanded stem cell research. Those little girls, they're the same age as my daughter, and I thank God every day - I thank God every day - that no one in my family to date has been touched by a condition or a disease that might depend on the field of scientific inquiry that would find a -- a cure. When I heard Senator Dillard, I almost deferred to him to provide the close. But I think we all know people. We've served with some of them. We continue to serve with some of them. We know their family members. We've met some of them, whether they live in their communities or not. We have an ability to help make Illinois and to help science make dramatic breakthroughs, and that's -- and that's a role that I don't think we should walk away from. I urge you to vote Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg moves the adoption of Amendment No. 7 to House Bill 3589. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the -- oh. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 28 Yeas, 29 Nays, 1 voting Present. And the amendment to -- No. 7 to House Bill 3589 fails. Have there been any other Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

No further amendments reported, Mr. -- Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

3rd Reading. There will be a meeting of the Rules Committee immediately in the President's Antechamber. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 3186.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

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Senate Resolution 748, offered by Senator Demuzio, President Jones and all Members.

It -- it is a death resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Resolutions Consent Calendar. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 747, offered by President Jones and all Members.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones, do you wish this resolution considered? Madam Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 747, offered by President Jones and all Members.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Could I have everybody in their seats and get some order before we go on to a couple resolutions?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 747, offered by President Jones and all Members.

(Secretary reads SR No. 747)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 747. Those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it and the rules are suspended. Senator Jones, on your resolution.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. This is the most -- difficult time of Session, usually at the end of Session when our -- one of our Members -- when our Members sometime leave us. Larry Walsh has been a Member of this Democratic Caucus, a Member of this Senate for a number of years. He's served with distinction and we all know he got elected to the position of County Executive in Will County. He promised us all jobs when we leave the General Assembly. But he's -- he has served with distinction, representing the community of Joliet and Will County quite, quite well. We're -- we're going to miss you,

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Larry, and your wife and family. We're going to miss seeing you every morning getting up, while we're in Session, going to church. The fellows are going to miss you equally as well because in the evening, they have times to play with you and play -- play cards, and your great contribution to the Members because you never did win there. But you did -- you -- you served with distinction. You represented your community well, especially as it relate to issues concerning the -- the farm industry in Illinois. You've been a great, great loyal friend. You've always been honest with us. Everyone here respect you. We hate to see you go, but you're leaving because you -- you said this job did not pay quite enough, even though -- I don't know if you voted for the pay raise or not. But you're leaving us. We all wish you well. Your lovely wife here with you. She's here quite often. But we're going to miss your great contribution, your great contribution to the State of Illinois and your sincere approach to all the major issues that we have to deal with. We always knew that you spoke from the heart. You -- you've always been very, very sincere, and it's been my privilege to work with you and also call you my good friend. So, Larry, we wish you well in your new endeavor and perhaps you have some jobs to dispense. We'll be looking forward to those equally as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator John Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. To the resolution: Having served for the past two years as the Minority Spokesman for the Ag and Conservation Committee and getting to know Larry much better, having known him for the last several years in issues that we've worked on with the House and the Senate both, when I was over in the House, Larry, we're truly going to miss you on -- on the Ag and Conservation Committee. Last year, as we went through the rewrite of the -- of the Grain Code and -- you showed your expertise and your leadership in bringing all the groups together on the Grain Code last year, and getting that resolved just shows that -- you have a tremendous leadership ability. And I want to say from my side of the aisle that we are truly going to miss you, not only on the Ag and Conservation

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Committee, but your -- your leadership here in the General Assembly, period. And I truly want to wish you and your family the very best in the future. And I think that some of us may be calling you on ag issues in the future, so please get us your phone number in your new position so we can give -- give you a little contact once in a while and let you know what's going on down here and ask for your expertise. But I want to wish you the very best in the future for you and your family, both. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Not going to speak to the resolution because it's self-evident the works that Larry Walsh has done down here, but I would like to talk about Larry Walsh, the man. It was alluded to that he was one of the first ones to join in with Barack Obama, thereby propelling him. I can remember a few years back in a previous life that I had, when I decided to run for Secretary of State. Larry was on the Board in Will County. I went there. He gave me his support. He's a man of his word. He loves his family. His wife and his children and his grandchildren, he adores them. But Larry has some faults, some real serious faults. Number one, he's a White Sox fan. Number two, he's a Pabst Blue Ribbon fan. And most importantly, he tells some of the lousiest jokes you'll ever hear. But, Larry Walsh, it's been very rewarding not only to serve with you, but it's been very rewarding to call you my friend. I love you and good luck for your family. And he will be back, believe me. Anybody that thinks he's gone, he'll be back with his hand out, looking for money just like he looked for votes down here.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. I guess we could consider Larry an honorary member of the class of '96. You know, we -- he came in a little bit late, but we still could consider him an honorary member. I had the fortunate opportunity of knowing Larry for many years before he came into the Senate. And I know

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when he was considering replacing former Senator Dunn, he gave me a phone call and he was quandering the idea of what he should do about taking this. And I said, "Larry, I -- even though I'm new here, it's a great institution," and I said, "I think you would be a great Member." And -- and I -- and I'll tell you, you know, except for those meetings that Senator Jacobs and I have with him on occasional nights, I don't regret those words. But, Larry, or affectionately known as Uncle Larry to a lot of us, it's been a lot of fun. And -- and you have been a leader. You've been a leader in many ways. And I know that when -- when you told us that you were going to take on this other endeavor and you were going to run for office, we all had mixed emotions. And we almost said that we would send you checks and we would work for you, but we were hoping that you just came "that close", but that you maybe would fall a few votes short, that you still would stay with us, but that you would get it out of your system and stay with us. But actually, deep down, we knew you'd -- always would win, and we were happy for you and that we were happy that you would win because we knew that you would be where you wanted to be, very close to home, close to your family, because we know how close you are to your family. And we are only your second family. That's your first family, and you should always be with that first family. But we will always be your second family. And as Senator Jacobs said, we know you'll be down here with your hand out for more money, but we'll always welcome you back because you've been very generous to us on those meetings that you had with Senator Jacobs and us, that you've always been a very good contributor on those nights and we do appreciate that contribution that you made to us on those nights. And we hope that you come back, because now with that bigger income that you have, you'll be able to contribute a little bit more to us. But, Larry, it's been a pleasure. We thank you for what you've given to this Senate. We thank you for what you've given to the State of Illinois. But I thank you the most for the friendship and the loyalty that you've given me. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator John Sullivan.

SENATOR J. SULLIVAN:

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I don't think there's a Senator on this Floor that's probably going to miss Larry Walsh more than I. You know, I try to -- try to think of words to describe this gentleman. You know, he's a valued colleague. We share -- our offices are right beside each other, and oftentimes when I'm sitting in my office with my door closed, I can still hear Larry carrying on a conversation with somebody in his office. We're going to miss that, Larry. He's my advisor. He's somebody that I can always go to and ask for advice, knowing that he is going to give me his honest opinion, whether I want to hear it or not. He's obviously a fellow farmer, something that there's not a lot of around this -- not -- not a lot of us in this Chamber here, Larry, and I'm -- I'm going to -- I'm certainly going to miss that discussion that we have about our farms and -- what's happening in our districts in regard to farming. 'Course he, as -- you're the Chairman of the Ag Committee, and I'm the Vice Chairman. I -- I just -- your knowledge, your leadership in -- in regard to issues on the Ag Committee has just been something that has been invaluable to me, and I want to thank you for that leadership as well. But most importantly is -- what I'm going to miss about you is your friendship, and I know that that friendship doesn't end here. I know that you're going to be back, and I certainly hope to come up and visit you and your family on -- on a number of occasions. But just the fact that -- that I trust you, I know you're an honest man and -- and that's what makes a great friendship. And -- and I have to comment that the -- the voice mail that you left on my phone after the election was one of the nicest. I still save it. I have it on there to this day and I'm going to save it as long as I can, because it was some of the nicest things that you said; you know, just, to me, tells me how important and I hope it tells you how important our friendship is. I feel like our loss here in the Senate Chamber is Will County's gain, and I want to say good luck and God bless to you and to your family. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Petka.

SENATOR PETKA:

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Thank you, Madam President and Members of the Senate. It doesn't seem that long ago, but it actually was closing in on eight years, when former Senator Tom Dunn was given the news that he was going to become an associate judge. And those of us in northeastern Illinois and especially those that live in Will County were wondering who was going to be the replacement and whether or not he would measure up to the distinguished Senator from Joliet. And, Larry, I can tell you that, even though you had big shoes to fill, you filled them very well. You enjoy respect from this side of the aisle. You know that I respect you. I question your wisdom in connection with taking representation of roughly two hundred and five thousand and going up to nearly six hundred thousand people in one of the most diverse counties, not only in this State but perhaps in this nation. I know that you are an expert in -- in agriculture, and I guess some of the Members of this Body should know that we now have a lot less farms in Will County than when you first came down here almost eight years ago. But I certainly, you know, congratulate you on your victory. I'm looking forward to working with you at the county level. You're going to need some help there. You know that you've -- you're running into somewhat hostile environs in connection with that county board, but I know that the -- the job of -- of being a county executive is a job that -- that you will be able to fill well. And it has been, in -- in my opinion, certainly in the best interests of the people that you represent that you have been down here, and I wish you and your family the very, very best in the years ahead.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President. It's -- it's a happy day and a sad day at the same time. Larry Walsh has been an outstanding State Senator. It's hard to believe he was only here for eight years. You know, in -- in the Legislature, many of us get pigeonholed into being experts in certain areas based on the committee that we chair or the area of expertise we choose to emphasize, and it's sometimes ignored that individuals often exercise leadership in other areas. And certainly with our

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Downstate Democratic Caucus, Larry Walsh was a true leader of that Caucus, both in -- on -- on the budget, on -- on the revenue issues, on all issues affecting not just downstate but Chicago as well. To say that he's an expert in agriculture, certainly is an understatement. He's that and much more. He has been able to blend both compassion for individuals throughout the State, a great deal of intelligence, as well as common sense that sometimes is not very common around this area, and I think that that's probably what we're going to miss the most with Larry leaving. As he moves on to a new job, certainly he once was a member of the county board, now he gets to tell those other members what to do, and I hope he's successful in that. He's certainly been a -- a great -- a great leader and it certainly has bestowed upon the Illinois Senate a great aura of having intelligent Members, having Members who are hardworking and represent their constituents, and he's certainly one that the Illinois Senate is going to miss. Thank you, Larry.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. You know, I'm reminded of when I first arrived here during Veto Session of '98, and I quickly went into this huge office that was former Senator Earlean Collins'. She was in leadership and I had this huge office. But after reorganization, my office became extremely small as a freshman. And shortly thereafter, I became the Minority Spokesperson for Financial Institutions and Larry was on that committee, and I remember me saying to him, "Can I host my pre-meetings in your office?" And I don't know if Larry remembered this, but he's just so jolly, and he's like, "You sure?" And I said, "Sure." So we arrive in his office and it's just he and I sitting there waiting for other Members to come, and we had the opportunity to exchange conversations and -- and that allowed me to let Larry know who I was and where I'm from. And by the end of that meeting, he began to call me Kimmy. And I've got to tell you, Larry is the only man that calls me Kimmy, and the only person I allow to call me Kimmy outside of my family. So, I just want Larry to know that he was just such a nice man to me when I arrived here, and I

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appreciate it. He's always just a nice, genuine person. And I'm going to miss him extremely, because he's the only person I can walk on the Floor and say, "Hey, Larry," and he say, "Hey, Kimmy," and it's just a good day. So, I just wish Larry the best. I'll never forget how kind you were to me in guiding me through that committee, and I hope that our paths will continue to cross in the future. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Larry, you've always been a gentleman, and unlike some of your colleagues who came with you here, you have not lost your hair. You still have a beautiful head of hair. And you may have lost in other games, but at least you still have your hair. Look around, you'll see what I'm talking about. We got several fellows who've lost theirs, quite a bit, since they've been here for eight years. Larry, you've always been a gentleman, and you've -- and I'm so glad that I can honestly say now that I -- I know the Chairman of the Will County Board. And I appreciate you 'cause you've always been nice and courteous, always opened the doors for me. And I just want to wish you the best 'cause you are truly a dedicated gentleman who will have a chance to be with his family more than he has been here. God bless you and keep you well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Viverito. We'll come back to Senator Viverito. Senator Sandoval.

SENATOR SANDOVAL:

Thank you, Madam President. To our great friend and gran amigo de la comunidad Mexicana del Estado de Illinois el Senador Lorenzo Walsh. To our great friend and to a great friend of the Mexican community, my good friend, Senator Larry Walsh, I bid you farewell, and Godspeed to you and your family and good health. I, as a young man from the barrio of Gage Park in the southwest side of Chicago, I am blessed and honored to have come across a great man like you. I had the opportunity, in such a short period of time in these last two years, to have shared office space and be on the same floor, and I know no other than

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-- a greater man than to share the office space and the floor and to be across than a guy like you, Larry Walsh. As a -- the Vice Chairman of the Committee on Local Government, you served as a great mentor to me and walked me through the processes through our pre-meetings and through discussions throughout our committee hearings on how to approach the -- the committee. Also, as a colleague and a Member of the Labor Committee, we sat there many time jawboning on some of these issues that you and I share similar values. And, you know, the story that I'd like to say, that here's a man who is really truly a men of all seasons and a man for -- for all men. And -- and I -- what I mean by that is that when I went to Larry Walsh a year ago because there's movement in the Legislature to take issue with part of the great tradition and culture of the Mexican community in the State of Illinois as it relates to the Mexican rodeo. There was some -- some legislation that was passing through these halls that would greatly be of detriment to our culture and to our traditions as a Mexican community. I went to Senator Larry Walsh for assistance and guidance to try to help stop that legislation that was insulting, and it was demeaning and it would hinder our great culture and our tradition. And if it were not for your support, Senator Walsh, our traditions and our cultures would have been lessened and they would have been damaged for a long period in history here in the State of Illinois. And I truly, on behalf of the Mexican rodeo, on behalf of the Mexican community, on behalf of myself and my family, thank you for being there for me. Thank you for being a mentor. And, boy, you know, you hear the story of how you were such a part of the -- the making and support of that young man, that young black man from Hyde Park. Well, I'd like to tell the world that you have had such an impact also on the life of this young hermano from the barrio of Back of the Yards. God bless you. Vaya con Dios.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Madam President, Member of the Senate. When I pushed my button, President Jones was speaking and I thought, you know, maybe I ought to push my button, I might be the only -

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- you know, he at least needs one more person to say something about him. It does, I think, show that people obviously think a lot of you, Larry, with the great number of people who... You know, this -- this business of politics is -- can be a very phony business, and one thing they won't be able to say about you, Larry, is that you certainly are a long way from being phony, and I appreciate that. You know, what -- what you see is what you get, and I can tell you that on both sides of the aisle, we really like what we see. So, have a -- a great future, and I'm -- it's good to have known you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Shadid.

SENATOR SHADID:

Thank you very much, Madam President. You know, Larry -- all these nice things that everybody said about Larry, and I leaned over to Larry, I said, "I've been sitting next to you for about three or four years now and I never saw any of these fine things." I -- I thought maybe I was asleep or something or missed a lot of this stuff. And Larry says, "Well, you know, if I'd known that they thought this highly of me on both sides of the aisle, I might have run for Senate President." I said -- well, I'm not going to touch that, Emil. You know I would never leave you. No, I'll just sum mine up very quickly and say to you -- Luechtefeld, or, Senator Luechtefeld, I think you really hit it on the head when you said, when you meet Larry and you talk with him and visit with him, what you see is what you get. You're absolutely correct. Larry, you've been a great seatmate, and I can tell you that we had a lot of fun and we usually voted pretty similar, but there were times that you've strayed off and voted for the farmers, and -- and you talked me into it, too, but I didn't mind that. That's okay. But, Larry, good luck to you, you and your family. And I wish you well, and I really mean that. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate and, Senator Walsh, as Chairman of the Local Government Committee, I received, as Senator Sandoval referred to, an education from the

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Minority Spokesman from previous sessions - Senator Walsh - and I don't mind saying some of his advice, especially on a given bill, was forcefully rendered at a very high decibel level. And I -- my office is on the mezzanine immediately above Senator Walsh's office. So the -- the -- the window well wasn't sealed properly years ago when they put that mezzanine in, so like Senator Sullivan, I became part of Senator Walsh's colloquies in his office with various lobbyists and others, especially when he was declining to support their particular bill. And, again though, our -- his -- his advice, although colorful at times, was certainly rendered in a kindly fashion, unlike his seatmate's, Senator Shadid. We will miss you, Senator Walsh. Will County is gaining a man of integrity and great competence. And I agree, Vaya con Dios, Godspeed. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

I'm -- thank you, Madam President. I'm certainly deeply honored to join with everyone else in talking. And Larry Walsh's wonderful, wonderful family, Irene. And Carolyn and I kind of have gotten to know the family a little bit, and I don't think we've ever had a fundraiser that he had that we didn't enjoy. 'Course I come back with a lot less money than when I went out there. And when Larry first came here, I remember it vividly because we kind of chatted, and I found out that Larry was elected as a township supervisor in 1973. And of course, I was a township supervisor. So we related to a lot of the particular things that we had in common, along with our other colleague -- Senator Peterson. So, we are all grassroots township men, and obviously now to see Larry become the County Board Chair, I think some of us Democrats are going to come out there and help you out every once in a while, Larry. But we're going to miss you. We love you. We love your family, and -- and I can't say enough. We -- I even shot -- skeet shot in his backyard. This guy is the best. And whenever I was troubled, he and I'd go out and have a hot toddy together and, believe me, I'm going to miss that, Larry, because I think you're the only one that I really trusted enough to have a hot toddy and tell

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you the way I felt. God bless you and your wonderful family.
Thank you...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones, to close.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Mr. {sic} President. And I -- all the kind words said about our dear colleague and we do recognize that it's our loss, but it's Will County's gain. And I know several Members here are going to miss the great contribution that he made to the coffers of those individuals. Someone spoke about he still has all his hair, and perhaps -- I don't know if he took it from George Shadid or not, but... We're going to wish him well, and I move the adoption of the resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall Senate Resolution 747 be adopted. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is unanimously adopted. Congratulations, Senator Walsh. Senator Walsh.

SENATOR WALSH:

Well, thank you, Madam President. As I speak for probably the last time on this wonderful, wonderful Floor, I can't say enough on what a wonderful time I've had here for the last almost eight years. To President Jones, his support from the moment that I stepped foot in this building, in this Chamber, has truly been a friend and a leader. We are blessed as legislators, honored by our constituents that place us here to do the people's business, as difficult as it is on some of the pieces of legislation that we deal with. This is one of the greatest fraternities, establishments there has to be in the whole world, undoubtedly the greatest in the State of Illinois, to be known as an Illinois Senator, and we are great because we are surrounded by great people - the staff, who I, having come from the farm, never had staff to do anything for me. I had Irene. And, staff members, she was paid worse than what you are. And I had my family. But from the first days in the Illinois Senate, each and every one of the staff have been the kindest and most helpful that I could ever ask for - every one of 'em - Dave Gross, on down the line, Jill, everybody, Courtney, everybody. I don't want to get into mentioning names.

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But without a doubt, I would never have been as successful as I have without your help, and that's a tribute to Senator Jones, and I know that Leader Watson has the same feelings, and the Members on the other side of the aisle, of what staff does for us. To all of you, my colleagues, it has truly been a wonderful experience, getting to know all of the Senators that have been here, and we've seen a lot of 'em over the last eight years, the changes and the number of people that have retired and moved on. And to my good friend, Barack Obama, who's moved on to a great new beginning, another great segment of his illustrious career. We all come down here with the idea that we are going to -- we're going to change the world, and how we find that fifty-nine individuals come into this room and, yet, we are able to sit down and work out compromise and come up with what we hope are good pieces of legislation for our constituents. It has truly been wonderful, an experience that I'll never, ever forget, in meeting, meeting and getting to know all of you. I wish at times there was a little bit more camaraderie than what we have. I hear the stories from twenty years ago, or so, where there was more time, more time that was involved with Members going out for dinner and spending more time together. And I have enjoyed every one of the meals that we've been asked to, and were asked not as Democrats or Republicans, but asked as legislators, as Senators to sit at a table and have a good time and just talk to one another and not worry about whether we're voting on a piece of legislation or not. Those have been some of the greatest times. So, as I leave here, I'll never, ever forget all of the experiences and the wonderful people that I have been fortunate to meet. But I have to -- there are some certain individuals that -- that have really been special. And coming from the farm, I never had a secretary, and when Tom Dunn asked me that -- when I came down, what did I want to do with a secretary or do you want to find somebody, I said, "I've never hired a secretary before in my life. I wouldn't know what to ask." And Tom said, "Well, I have a wonderful lady by the name of Rhonda Wood that has a done a great job for me. She used to serve with Senator Jerry Joyce. She has an abundance of knowledge." And I said, "I'm -- I'm thankful. I will keep Rhonda Wood as -- as my secretary." And I kept my secretary, Bev Edman, in Joliet. I

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said, "If I was to come down and try to find something -- somebody new," I said, "I'd be sitting in the office not knowing what to do and I'd hire a secretary and we'd sit and look at one another not knowing what to do." So I felt that at least having one person in that office that knew what we should do, I'd be better off. Well, let me just say: I know each and every one of you feel that you have a great partner, secretary, legislative assistant, but I have to say that I truly believe that I have the best there is in this General Assembly. Rhonda Wood has taught me more and shown me more and educated me on the process of being a Senator than I ever, ever could have asked for. She's been a partner. She has gone -- she's gone to dinners with me. She's gone out when we hit a couple of the nightspots, hot toddies with Senator Viverito. But she truly has been a friend, a deep, deep friend. And I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for me down here to make my life in Springfield what it has been. And I hate -- I hate to lose her. I've offered her a job in Joliet, but she won't come yet. So, anyway, but -- so, I'm hoping that she will definitely be taken care of and -- as we move on. But it has been a wonderful, wonderful thing. My wife, Irene, and -- and my daughter, Sarah, and our granddaughter, Rebecca, come down to be with me today as I say "so long". And my family, I am so proud of them, that my sons, who have not only taken on the farming operation but improved it, they do a better job than I did, which is, I always believed, is a great mark that maybe it was the teacher that taught them to make 'em a better farmer than I was. But they have done a tremendous job and they have been able to run the business back home as I've been down here. And we, as legislators, all know how important it is for the support from our spouses and from our families in order to be down here the number of hours and the number of hours that we're away from home when we're at -- in our office in our districts. Without them, none of this could have been accomplished. So, as I say farewell and move on to another position, I'll never, ever forget the times that I've had here in Springfield. To each and every one of you, I love you. You're the best. Keep up the good work. Keep doing what is good for the voters and for the citizens of Illinois. Tough votes will come and go, but just

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remember that friendships will last forever. And that's what I feel about every -- each and every one of you. May God bless each and every one of you. And I'm not saying goodbye. I'm just saying so long. I feel that as the executive of the fastest-grown county in the State of Illinois, I probably need to be down here at least three, four times a month to check things out. But anyway, I -- I sincerely appreciate it. God bless each and every one of you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Walsh. Christopher Brooks of WAND-TV and Bob Arya of CLTV seek leave to record the proceedings. Leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Senate Resolution 749, offered by Senator Watson, Emil Jones and all Senators.

(Secretary reads SR No. 749)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 749. Those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Watson, on the resolution.

SENATOR WATSON:

Thank you very much. The what? The National Barn -- what was that? Red Foley and -- oh, we -- we never -- you know, this is a problem that we have when someone just comes in and serves a very short period of time. Really haven't got to know Ray. We've got to know him pretty well, but not as well as we'd have liked. It's been a -- it's been very short time and I'm -- I'm disappointed that you haven't been here with us longer, to -- to have gotten to know you. But how I have gotten to know you and -- and what I really appreciate about you, and someone said the word "gentlemanly" elegance. You know, that -- that defines you very much, Ray. I mean, you're a class act. You truly are. And -- and the fact that you served our country and then went on and many years served passed that as our National Commander of VFW and the work that you put in for veterans over your time of life and in the short time you've been here in Springfield. And I served with you -- or, I saw with your action in the Veterans

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Committee and the concern that you had for those people who serve this country, and it's a very sincere concern and I -- I appreciate that so very much. So, you're -- you're going to be missed. I -- another thing that I learned about Ray last night, as we had a -- kind of a party and shuffleboard -- they must have invented shuffleboard in a VFW, because Ray -- Ray's eighty years old. You know, don't go out drinking with him and don't go playing shuffleboard with him either, 'cause he can do both pretty well. But we're going to -- we're going to miss you, Ray, and you've been a great addition to our caucus, as I said, for the very short time that you -- you have been here. But you've become a very good friend and we'll all certainly wish you well, and we're glad that your wife is doing better and that that -- that will hopefully work out for the best also. But thank you for your service of the people of DuPage County, your district and to the people of Illinois in the -- in the time that you've been here, Ray. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Madam President. I think, Ray, maybe Senator Watson would have been more impressed if you would have barn danced with a guy named Red Schoendienst instead of Red whomever. When Senator Philip left this Chamber, there was obviously a big vacuum to fill because he was a controversial and giant legislator. And it took a very special person to fill Pate Philip's seat, and that special person has done it very well and his name is Ray Soden. Ray contributed from day one to our caucus, I think, as Brad Burzynski and Senator Watson will tell you, and he contributed greatly to the General Assembly. Like Larry Walsh, Ray Soden is one of the nicest people I've ever met in this business. Anybody that works with Ray or talks with Ray, and we talk back in the DuPage County region, Ray is a very, very conscientious Member of this General Assembly. My mother was the chief surgical nurse at Hines Veterans Hospital in Maywood for forty-two years and she told me and taught me and instilled that I should revere veterans, and I revere Ray Soden. Ray helps the Senate's image. It helps the Senate's image and it helps us understand the plight of veterans, especially at

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this day and age with the Gulf problem going on in the Middle East. Ray is the national former President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. That is a highly prestigious position, and I am honored to have Ray Soden, the former President of the National VFW, here as a Member of our Body. Now, contrary to popular belief, everybody from DuPage County doesn't look alike and think alike, but I will tell you this: Among the million people that live in DuPage County, Ray Soden is one of its most respected members -- or, residents, with good reason. Senator Watson touched on the fact that even at his spry age of thirty-nine, Ray can handle himself pretty well in the nightlife scene here in Springfield. And Southern Comfort, Ray, is a very good drink, and you've taught some of the young staff how to appreciate the finer things of life. But Ray would go out with the young staff and younger Senate Members, and he could outdo us all and be spry and fresh the next day. Just to close, Madam President, there is a reason why Ray's generation is known as the "Greatest Generation", and it's because they are the greatest generation. Ray, I thank you for your service. I learned a lot from you. I want you to stay active back in DuPage County and catch a ride back with Larry Walsh down here from time to time, because you are a class act, and I have learned and had the privilege of -- serving with you. We'll see you back home, but come back down here too, sir. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Just want to echo some of the words that Senator Dillard says. You know, it's really comical sometimes how you -- how you really get to know people down here, and -- and where I really got to know Ray -- with this next bill coming up, I'm not sure if I should even be saying this -- but was in the restroom. Ray would be back there holding court, if you would, and -- learned a lot from him. I have the utmost respect, as you do, Senator Dillard, for his generation. I -- I -- I do respect one thing, and it's one thing that we're going to have a -- a difficult time with. You're our conscience on veterans' affairs, and that's something that's very difficult because you

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were in a war we won and you were in a war that you served very ably. Let me just say in closing that in the future, however, I would suggest that you take a couple hundred dollars more with you the next time you go with Wendell and hit those slots, because you don't always win. So, remember that. But we'll love you, we miss you, and Godspeed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Thank you, Madam President. Ray Soden is an unusual person. He has had a lifetime of service, as has been said earlier. But, you know, what makes him nice is he never feels threatened by the Equal Rights Amendment and things like that, and some of my colleagues, I think, do feel a little threatened. I -- I never -- couldn't see why. But anyway, he's always been a gentleman. But, you know, when he was on the USS Claxton, his ship was hit and he managed to survive. And he has been a bastion of integrity, service to his community, service to his church and service to the country. I'm a GI veteran of World War II myself. And he was a member of our Veterans Task Force that Senator Watson set up for us, and he never missed one meeting. He was the only one who didn't miss any meetings. And I want to thank him for his great service for the veterans. He's a veteran who has knowledge and who has heart, and he tries to help his fellow man. And I'm going to miss him terribly because he and I share the same philosophies. We don't always agree with Pate, as you can understand. So, I just want you to know, folks, that we're missing another outstanding Senator here, and that's Ray Soden. And, Ray, God bless you. And come and visit me 'cause you've got relatives in my area, and come and visit us here because we will need your guidance 'cause you are just one heck of a guy. And God bless you and your family.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, Senator Ray Soden, you've had a record of service to the country and to your county, to your local community, marked by distinction, capped by this tenure in the Senate. There is much

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that has been said and will be said locally about you, but I just want to make one point to you. I have deeply appreciated your unfailing graciousness on the Floor of this Senate to every Member of this Body. It -- believe it or not, it makes your day to have someone of your stature sincerely, truly wish you the best every day. It doesn't sound like much to speak about it, but to get a handshake and what is obviously a heartfelt wish for good fortune from a man of your stature changes the tone of the day. You have the desire to pass it on to another. Little kindnesses of that sort can change the tenor not only of this building, but our society in -- in general. I've appreciated very much knowing you. Thank you, Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Wendell Jones.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. The first night Ray was down here, back about a year ago or so, we had our little card game, and Ray won a pot. After about three hands, he won a pot, and he got four of a kind. That's the kind of guy he is, four of a kind. I said, "Ray, have you ever had four of a kind before?" And he looked down at the floor, and he said, "Yeah, last night." Well, I knew right then I was in trouble playing poker with a gentleman with so much experience that he had had four of a kind the night before as well. In the interest of brevity, I've taken Ray's name and just listed words with each of the letters of his name. "R" stands for Republican; "A" for American; "Y" for a year as Commander of the National Veterans of Foreign Wars; "S" will always stand for Senator; "O", open and honest; "D", distinguished; "E", eloquent; "N", nice guy, Navy vet. And most of all, friend. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Martinez.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. And to Senator Soden, I'm going to miss you every morning at breakfast over at the Statehouse Inn. Even on my worst days, you always tell me how beautiful I look, and I -- and I'm going to miss that. I really am. I -- not -- my ego, but -- but I -- I -- I have to say that you

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always go out of your way in the mornings to talk to me, and I thank you for that. And I will miss you tremendously.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Petka.

SENATOR PETKA:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. A number of years back, there was a movie that Eddie Murphy starred in that poked fun, in a sense, at the way that we get elected to office. It was called The Distinguished Gentleman. I've often searched in my own mind for what is a -- the definition of a distinguished gentleman, especially as it -- applies to the political process? Twenty months ago we had someone come in who, in my opinion, is the stereotype of a -- a political figure who is, indeed, a distinguished gentleman, and of course, I'm talking about the distinguished gentleman from DuPage, Senator Ray Soden. Last night I -- I went to -- took Ray out to dinner 'cause I knew that this was going to probably be his -- his last day down here in the Senate because he has -- he has told us that he plans on submitting his resignation at the end of this year. And during the -- the process of having dinner and exchanging conversation, we began talking about our families, and Ray mentioned something to me that is not a part of that resolution of -- of the people who are a part of the great -- of the "Greatest Generation". You see, when Senator Soden decided to go to war, he was barely seventeen years of age, and he committed a crime in doing so. He forged the document that he had permission from his parents to -- to embark upon the "Great Endeavor." He was not alone. I admitted to him that my -- my oldest brother, Ray Petka, who was at Omaha Beach on D-Day, did exactly the same thing. And that -- and we -- we just started talking about families, about things that were really important, far -- far and beyond the political process that we're involved in. Ray shared his -- his deep -- deepest concerns about process, about civility, but he also told me of how great of an honor it was to replace the former Senate President, Pate Philip. Just as I've alluded in talking to Larry Walsh, I say the same thing to Senator Ray. You have indeed filled shoes that were had to fill, but you -- you've filled them in a very distinguished and -- and certainly

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honorable fashion. One of the things I will not miss when we have meetings of what we have referred to, on this side of the aisle, as the Recreation Committee, in which we share with one another the -- the science of playing the game of poker, Ray Soden taught many of us very quick lessons. For a gentleman who has turned a number of pages on the calendar, he is a very, very shrewd poker player. And very early on, we recognized that as much as Pate Philip used to brag about the -- his mastery of the fine art of poker, he would have met his match with Ray Soden. Ray, you are going to diminish the members of the -- the Eastern European Polish Caucus by one. Some of you probably did not know that, but Ray is actually a Polish-American. But I'm going to take you up on the offer you made last night. I will attend that fish fry at the VFW in -- in Wheaton, and I will bring my brother with, so that we can simply continue the fine relationship that we began twenty months ago. I wish you the very best in all ways. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. I rise, too, and say that Ray Soden is the individual I think that really embellished himself on both sides of the aisle as being a true gentleman, someone that we could all relate to. And I think the most significant thing that I've had in dealing with Ray, and I've had a few hot toddies with Ray, too, by the way - not only you, Senator Walsh; only -- and I'm very particular who I'm with - but I can honestly say that in many conversations that I had with the Senator, he would always talk about the fact of how proud he was to be here and how he felt that it was God's gift that he be here in the Senate. He said it from the bottom of his heart, and I knew when he said it, he meant it, because I did have the pleasure of having a little breakfast with Ray this morning and he talked about it. And, of course, he talked about his son and his boat, and we were chatting. And he said, "Lou, I definitely want to stay in contact with you and I promise you, there's a little pub," he said, "where we could have a little hot toddy. It's closed at 4 o'clock." And I'm looking forward to that, Ray, that you're going to call me and I'm going go out

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to that Wood Dale where you and Pate Philip and all the Republicans are, and we're going to chat a little bit more about your -- obviously your career in the military has always excited me, being a military man myself. But we truly enjoyed having you with us, and the fact -- the way that you made us feel good, is that we knew you were proud to be here. Thanks for letting us get to know you. Thank you very much, Ray.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Madam President. I don't know where to start with this guy. I'll tell you what, the first day he walked into the Senate Floor, he looked at my name, Burzynski, and he started speaking Polish to me. Now, I'm third generation here, so it's kind of like, "Ray, I -- I don't speak Polish." But that's not stopped him over the last several months. He still speaks Polish to me. But it has been so rewarding and even more so to hear the comments of everybody else, because it just echoes exactly the way I feel about this man. He walked in, and I'm going, "He's seventy-nine years old. He's coming into the General Assembly. He's going to be here the first time. He's got Wendell on one side and me on the other. Oh, man, he doesn't stand a chance." But I got to thinking about it. It's just like my dad coming in. I said -- all of you, imagine your fathers or your mothers coming in and sitting beside you in the General Assembly to serve. Seventy-nine, eighty years old! And it was really interesting because Ray walked in, and he sat down and we started talking. And you don't -- if you talk with Ray for thirty seconds, you're no longer a stranger. And he's just a great individual, a great human being. And after about the five minutes -- first five minutes he was here, Wendell, he had this place down. He knew. And I'll tell you what, I was so impressed with his ability to grasp the issues, his ability to understand personalities, mine included, and I really appreciate him for that. He came in. We've had the words -- we've heard the words already this morning, "gentleman", you know, "scholarly", just a person of great demeanor, "respect". He respects this institution. He respects each and every one of us as individuals, and that means and has meant so, so much to me.

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He's very gracious. And, Ray, I certainly hope that some of that has rubbed off on me and on the rest of us, and I'm going to miss you, buddy. And you come back anytime. We'll pull up one of -- well, we'll pull up one of these chairs, I'll sit in it and you can sit in this one. And we might even let you vote a switch or two. But thank you very much for sharing your life with all of us.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. I think by the comments that we're hearing from both sides of the aisle, Ray, the -- the impression you made in this short period of time is quite astounding. I know I had the opportunity of being a first-time Chairman of the Revenue Committee and that you replaced former President Pate Philip in that chair on the Revenue Committee. And when you first walked in, you were a very silent individual, and those of us on Revenue were hoping that you stayed that way on a lot of things. But you spoke up on a lot of things, and -- and I found out right away that you were -- you were not only a -- a person very learned on the subject matter, but someone that wanted to learn a lot more about the subject matters that were in front of us. But you were very respectful of the process that we were in, and you were a quick learner on what we were doing. But to echo many of the comments that were made here today, I think you made everybody's day of being a smiley, bright-faced, and making our days a lot brighter here. And I got to tell you, it's something that's going to be missed, because it -- it's very enlightening and very happy to have somebody of your stature to come around and just be very happy all the time. And it -- and it's nice to have that, and we're going to miss it. And I got to tell you one thing, Ray, it's been a pleasure to know you and it's a pleasure to have you as part of this team, and we look forward to seeing you many more times. And thank you for being part of this system.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

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Yes. Thank you. I'm sorry. I can't -- I can't let this moment pass without paying my respects to a real -- real gentleman. Ray, thank you for all that you have done as a soldier, a veteran and an elected public servant. As a World War II veteran, to me, you have brought a presence here, an embodiment of a -- of a value, of a -- of a time when -- when good and evil were clearly -- clearly understood, at a time when principles of loyalty and brotherhood and sticking up and doing what's right, and making the ultimate sacrifice, was the only way. We're unlikely to see your kind ever again in this Legislature. So, I couldn't sit by without acknowledging this moment, thanking -- thanking you for everything you have done and wishing you the very best. God bless.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson, to close.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Well, thank you, Madam President. All of us, when we come down here or over here -- some of us come up. I come up, too many come down, I always say. But we -- you know, all we want to do is make a difference. That's basically why we get into this business of -- of government and wanting to serve. We want to make a difference. Ray, you've been here twenty months and you've made a difference that many of us don't make in a lifetime. So, we wish you well. You've been a great friend, and -- and we are going to miss you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall Senate Resolution 749 be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is unanimously adopted. Senator Soden.

SENATOR SODEN:

Thank you to a very outstanding President. She does an outstanding job. I've admired her from the first day I sat down here when she handled the Chair. What an honor and a privilege it has been for me. Now, if I choke up, please forgive me. I know how Senator Walsh feels with this last day of service. I'm stepping down the first of the year so that my replacement can have some -- little seniority, and I know that means something in the Senate and I know she will do an outstanding job. To me, there's no aisle. You're all beautiful, wonderful people. Just

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take the aisle away and you have an outstanding group of people that serve and serve with their heart and soul for the State of Illinois and its people. It's going to be very difficult for me. The only easy thing is I won't have to drive down 55. If you do anything, plant some trees or something along that route, make it scenic. I'm looking forward to coming back to visit, but to keep it a little short and sweet, I think Senator Walsh really said it all in all of his remarks about family, his beautiful wife, like mine, who's put up with me for fifty-eight years. God love her. I'm just sorry she can't be here today. She's gone through an operation. She's recovering, but doing well, and thanks for all your kind cards and well wishes for her. I appreciate that. To staff, to these wonderful people who on a daily basis are here to assist, help educate, give direction, they're just outstanding, beautiful young people. That's what kind of keeps me young. They inspire me and have helped me along the way, and God knows I need a lot of help. Even to the Pages that sit over there and when you push that button and they respond and come and help you out with whatever you need, to those young people, I want to say thank you. I'll be leaving, but I wish you would do me one favor: Don't forget the veterans of this State. Those that are in our State hospitals, in our State nursing homes, those that are in the VA hospitals - many have been there for years and years and years - they deserve our respect and our help. To the young people, whether you disagree with the war in Iraq or why we're there or why we shouldn't be there, they are there. They are there serving, and they need our moral support more than anything. As long as they know the people back home care about them and care about the job that they're doing, they'll do the great, beautiful, wonderful job that they are doing. Their families who are back here, unfortunately there are times -- there were young people, their husbands in service, they were living on food stamps. Thank God we turned that around and were able to give them some assistance financially to take care of the mother and the children, because I had cases that I had to help out to raise money to get the kids clothes for school, school supplies and I think that's a tragedy. So, in closing, to each and every one of you, what a honor and privilege, as I said, it is to

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serve and be with you, to know you, to meet you and to talk with you. And I have J & B over here, and I'm not talking about scotch. I'm talking about Jones and Burzynski. When you sit between these two guys, believe me, it's like watching the Marx Brothers or... They are a real hard act to follow. In conclusion, let me quote MacArthur: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away." So, God bless you for all you do and all you're going to do. Use all the wisdom that you have in this room, and it's outstanding the amount of brilliance that we have here. You're all stars. So, with that, God bless you, your families, your loved ones. Senator Walsh, God bless you on your new venture. And I look forward to coming back and I will bring back my own deck of cards because I thought Wendell marked all of 'em. With that, I love all you guys. Thank you very, very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Soden. Senator Jones, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR E. JONES:

Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your point.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Madam President. You know, you've heard talk constantly about our staff and secretaries and how great they are and -- and the great support they give us. As you all probably already know, Dave Gross, our Deputy Chief of Staff on this side, will be leaving us as of the 1st of December, and this will be his last day of working with us while we're in Session. And Dave and his family have a very, very rich history in government service and politics in the State of Illinois. Many of you know his mother is the Clerk in Morgan County, and his father is the Democrat County Chair in Morgan County. Dave Gross began his career twenty years ago, working with our late Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Vince Demuzio. He's worked with each of us. We know him quite well. He's admired by many of you, as well as those outside this Chamber. He's a great, great individual. We know he'll be leaving us, going to the SIU university. He always has been one who looked at the big

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picture. We on this side relied on him, our staff, the Members and those who are not part of the Chamber, especially those who are Members of the Third House. This young man is well-liked. They like his attitude. Sometimes when individuals come to him and he give them that blank stare because he doesn't give them the answer that they want him to give 'em. But he's established friendship with so, so many people. He'll be leaving us as of the 1st of December. It's going to be a tremendous loss, a tremendous loss. Sometime when he's not working on legislative business, he'd leave and go elsewhere and do political work. And maybe some of you on the other side may say, "Well, I'm glad he's gone." But he -- he's a great individual. In the twenty years he's spent on staff, he not only has aided and assisted each of us on this side of the aisle, but he's mentored many of our young staff members and brought them along the way. He'll be going to SIU university. I heard in the background, he's mentored a lot of Senators, which is true. But at SIU university, he will be taking the position as Director of Governmental and Media and External Affairs there, down in the southern part of Illinois. But he will always be close by all of us. We wish Dave, his wife and the children well. Staff is always there for us. You can call them late in the evening. They're working day and night and on weekends. It is a great, great sacrifice to be in that type of a position, but he's been one who's always done it with a smile. There were times when I had to call here and -- catch Dave at home late at night or on the weekends, and he had to leave home, come to the Capitol, get the information. But Dave is that type of a person. So, Dave, we congratulate you and your family as you leave the Illinois Senate and go to one of our great universities, SIU. We know you will do quite, quite well there, so we wish you the -- the best and we still look forward to seeing you coming down here and telling us all the great, great things about SIU university. So, Dave, my good friend, it's a tremendous loss, but I will be calling on you from to time. I'm quite sure the Members will be doing the same identical thing. He was -- he was good, good friends with my other good friend, our good friend, our former Assistant Majority Leader, the late Senator Vince Demuzio. And I know how close the two of them were. I love his dad. Every

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time I see his dad, typical of most politicians that are county chairmen, every time I would see his dad, his dad would say, "Well, where are the jobs?" And -- but a wonderful family man he is, a great, great, great individual as our Deputy Chief of Staff on this side of the aisle. You will be missed, Dave, but we all wish you well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Dave. You've been great. We'll miss you. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. I, too, would like to congratulate Dave. For many years, as Chairman of the Revenue Committee, Dave was the -- the watchdog or bulldog, however you want to phrase it, for the loyal opposition, and truly a great person to work with. We were able to work out many things that came down the pike. We were able to reach an understanding. Certainly he had the positions that he had to take with his folks and keep them in line, but we had a very great relationship. I couldn't be happier for Dave and his family, and I wish you well in your venture down in Carbondale. Good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

This is a very difficult day, not only for David, but also for me. Twenty years ago when this young man started out as an intern with Vince, he became not only working here in the Senate, but he became my son, my second son, and part of our family. Over the years, and how quickly these years have gone by, we have shared many, many times, personally, politically, and I have watched David's -- watched David get married, watched David have his children, watched David's children grow up and watched David mature into an outstanding young man and assistant here in the Senate, and with the help of his wife, Barb, has become one of the most politically astute individuals here in the Illinois Senate. And during those years with all of the responsibilities of not only just being a husband and father, but also being a part of the legislative team here in the Senate and working as -- not only in the Minority but then coming into

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the Majority, David has always, always been the fair-minded, astute political person that he is. And on many occasions, I don't know what -- not only what Vince would have done, but for most of you here in the Senate, I don't know -- you could always trust David. You knew his word was right. You knew he was going to steer you in the right direction and be fair about it. So, today -- after -- after Vince's passing, David stepped to the plate and he has been here for me, not only just personally, but also politically. He was a pallbearer at Vince's funeral, and as I said, I couldn't have counted -- not only just for my own son, but I could always count on David as being there for me. And he has certainly done that. And during this last campaign, this last election cycle, David was there. How many times did we talk, David? Come here. Come here. We -- we talked all the time. And he came to see me about -- several weeks ago, and he -- he explained to me that he had some challenges, had a new opportunity, and I understand completely. David has a family. He has a life, and his wife, Barb, has given a hundred and ten percent. During all the redistricting and all the remapping, David spent hours and hours of time, along with Joan and the staff and Vince, trying to make sure that everything was fairly done. And so, I have to say that here we go. David was -- came to see me a few weeks ago and said he had this opportunity, and as deeply as I'm going to miss him here in the Senate, I also thought, and I made the observation the other day, that I might get to see him a little bit more just for the mere fact that he's going to be a governmental research, governmental person with SIU. And I said, "Well, that might mean that you might be able to come to the office and I might get to see you a little bit more than what you do here on staff." So, I -- I, too, wish him well, and his wife, Barb, who I have to say, has given a hundred and ten percent of her life and supported David. He comes from that great stock of political family in Morgan County and I couldn't be prouder of him. So, I, too, wish him well. Hate to leave -- hate to see him go, but again, I think we need to be sure we give him another round of applause and wish him Godspeed in his new endeavors. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Petka.

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SENATOR PETKA:

Thank you, Madam President. When I learned earlier this week that David was going to be leaving his post and -- here in the Senate, I inquired about where he was heading. And he's -- it was told that he was going to be working at SIU, but I did not realize that he was actually -- the work that David's going to be involved with is actually here in Springfield. His connection is going to be with the SIU Medical School. David, it's never pleasant being on the wrong side of the little skirmishes that we have in the -- in the Anteroom on the Rules Committee Report, but I have to say that when we have asked you for information about what may be contained in the Rules Report, Peter and I have never had a problem whatsoever with -- with your explanations. There's never been any sleight of hand. It has been straightforward. And even though, on many occasions, the news for us is not so very good, you had a very pleasant way of breaking it to us. But, seriously, it has truly been a -- a joy and a pleasure working with you. We're looking forward to success for you in your new venture. We're looking forward to telling you no on occasion if -- if you're not right. But we do wish you and your family the very best, and we know that only good things will -- will happen for -- for them in your new position. God bless you. You certainly have earned it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. David, as the furthest northern Democratic Senator in the Chamber here, I'd like to say thank you, because you understood some of my problems, and you understood not only the political but the legislative situation in which I faced. And when we talked about 'em, we were able to understand 'em, and the uniqueness, because I was the first to break a barrier of a suburban Democrat in a collar county. And when it came about, you knew the uniqueness, and you were there and you were helpful. And -- and you looked at it in a different perspective and you knew what I had to do, and you were there with me. And I thank you for that intelligence and -- and that guidance, even though those conversations we had late at night sometimes were not as pleasant as we do, as we all

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remember and laugh about, but I thank you for that. And I -- as you said to me the other day, and I want to remind you, Southern Illinois University - and for my colleagues from Lake County, we have to remind you - Southern Illinois University is in Lake County. And so when you're lobbying, do not stop at Springfield. Remember those of us in Lake County when you're talking about lobbying, that you have to talk to us also if you want something for Southern Illinois. Thank you. God bless you for everything you've done, and we look forward to working for you -- with you for many, many more years.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you. You know, David, we didn't have many exchanges, but -- over the period of time that I've been here, but sometimes we take people that we come into contact on a daily basis for granted. And just by observation, I have found you to be a man of great intellect and integrity, a man with head and heart, compassion and clarity, and I probably stand here today primarily because of your strategic planning and vision back in 2000. And I just wanted to say that I deeply appreciate you because you are a man who puts principles into practice and I've known you to be a family man. And I think primarily that sets you up to be honored today, because when we get involved in these activities, sometimes we put the -- the main support system, the foundation, behind us, and that is our family. So, I admire the way that you've made this probably very difficult decision to put the spotlight on your family and spend the time with your children, because we all know that it's the families that -- that create the foundation for a stable society -- society. And so I want to thank you for being a public servant extraordinaire, and I just hope in my years of public service to come that I can follow in your footsteps, to be a person to be respected, for being a person that has principles, purpose and passion to serve the public. I thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

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Thank you very much. Dave Gross came here the same time I did, about twenty-two years ago, and he's been just an outstanding individual to know. He grew up -- his family in politics, himself being immersed in it, so it really should come as no surprise that he was so great at -- at creating strategies for elections for every different district in the State. His help and -- and basically advice in mapping the districts throughout the State certainly has come in handy for all of us. He often knew, not only the districts themselves, the nuances of different towns within the district and where you drew the line, where the line on a particular town separated Republicans from Democrats, liberals from conservatives, and how it would help you or how it would hurt you. In the map we had in this district, there was a State Representative who wanted to include all of Iroquois County, and Dave was able to eliminate a good portion of that with his strategy of just one simple line right down the river to get to the town she lived in. Unfortunately, the -- the Democrats in the House rejected that theory, but it was certainly a great strategy. And another thing that he's done that I think has gone unnoticed is the bills themselves that we have here, not only which bills are necessary to help individuals get elected by voting for them, but also bills that could be introduced for opposition, to oppose those particular bills that would also help you get elected. Sometimes you're better off having a bill that you voted against than a bill you voted for, and Dave understood that, and that's part of the strategy that he would help design for each of the Members. So, while worrying about of the -- the Members on this side and what was best for them in their particular districts, he had to know the districts, he had to know the -- the constituents there as well. And a lot of our districts downstate are different from one another. It's not a cookie-cutter assembly line here. And he's been very able to do that. He's one of the most intelligent people I think I've met in politics. I certainly have always valued his advice. He's always had a -- a perspective on issues and people that was worth listening to and continues to do so. Southern Illinois University is very, very fortunate to have Dave Gross. As a former graduate of SIU and the Salukis, I'm certainly looking forward to having him help out the university

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and looking for him to help out the football and basketball teams, as well, with some recommendations on recruiting. So, Dave, good luck to you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator John Sullivan.

SENATOR J. SULLIVAN:

The -- I think back -- thank you, Madam Chairman, first of all. I think back when I first met -- met Dave. It was about three years ago this time of year. And I walked into his office and I was standing in his office with another staff member and myself, and we were standing because there wasn't room to sit down. We were shoulder to shoulder. And I was thinking about running for the Senate, and I asked Dave, I -- like I said, it was the first time I'd met him, but some of the other staff told me that -- told me I needed to talk to Dave Gross. He's who I needed to talk to. So, I start this conversation, introducing myself and telling him a little bit about myself. And then I asked him, I said, "I want to know, I want you to tell me, I don't want any BS, I want you to tell me what I need to do, what you expect from me and what I can expect from you." And that's what he told me. He gave me the facts, and that's the kind of individual Dave is. He doesn't flower it, as was mentioned earlier by one of the previous speakers. You may not like what he has to tell you, but he will tell you what he believes is right, what he thinks is -- is best for that person that he's speaking with. And I'll tell you what, that's why I think everybody in this Chamber and everybody that knows Dave Gross respects him and thinks so much of him and -- and the job that he's done here. And I just want to say, Dave, thank you for everything that you've done for me.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Well, thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. You know, when the announcement comes over to -- that the Rules Committee will meet immediately, since Senator Petka and I don't have any bills and no lobbyists talk to us anymore, we have nothing to do but to get there and -- and be on time to the -- to the Rules Committee meeting. And Dave is usually there and

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he's always happy to see us. And what has -- what has impressed me about him is he's -- as we all know, he's a very gracious guy. And -- and Ed and I will be asking him about what's in the Rules Report and we'll have a little bit of a feel for what's going on. And on the inquiries, like Senator Petka mentioned, we will traditionally get bad -- bad news. We're basically legislative speed bumps in that room. But Dave Gross has an ability that's really uncanny, to -- to essentially tell you to jump off a pier, but by the time he's done with you, you're sort of looking forward to the splash. And I don't know quite how he does it, but God bless you, Dave, and good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. I think it's pretty well said by our colleague on the other side, Peter Roskam, how we felt about Dave Gross and the way he handled us in our Rules Committee. I think yesterday we met six or seven times, and every time we went in there, I mean Dave was gracious, Dave was informative. He never let us down. He always knew the subject matter, and I think there was respect on both sides of the aisle for the great job that you did, Dave, and I can't say enough. And I could go on here for a long, long while. And the way you did the map. And I remember when we almost won -- when we -- what -- what was her name? Mary Jane O'Shea Mannella. We scared the dickens out of our good colleague, Radogno, over there. But -- we came close. We're glad you moved west. And, of course, I'm there now, thanks to Dave. I didn't get eighty-seven percent, but I got seventy-one percent of the vote. Thank you, Dave, for all you do and God bless you, and we're going to miss you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. I'll be very brief. I just want to thank Dave for -- I wouldn't speak for any other Member of my class, but you certainly were the savior to many people in our class in terms of practical advice. I'll remember you for a couple things. First of all, no matter where you're from in

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this State, Dave was able to think like you -- or, think like you were supposed to think - let's put it that way. He was able -- set you straight on that. I'll remember you for your knowledge on every bill and its implications. I'll remember you for your practical advice. Much has been made today about staff and, you know, what would we do without staff, and that's certainly true, but I -- I'm wondering what staff is going to do without Dave Gross. But I'll remember you most, Dave, for being a great friend. Congratulations on your new life, and thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Dave Gross and I courted for about ten years, and I don't want you to read anything into that. But along with his many other attributes that a number of you have alluded to earlier, he had the -- he possesses the uncanny knack of having you feel that you wish to do more for him after you've said no to him. And, indeed, that was the case. I enjoyed my tenure in the Illinois House a great deal, but on a consistent basis, I'd bump into Dave and Dave would say to me, "There's another world out there. The hours are shorter." That's not the case. "The workload's lighter." That hasn't proven to be the case. "The challenges are better." That has been the case. And as part of the Senate Democratic northern alliance, I just want to extend the offer to you that -- I told you yesterday that I -- I was happy for you and mad at you, but I can hardly question why you would want to accept such a wonderful challenge. And on your way up to Lake County, you may need a bathroom and a hot kosher meal and you're always welcome in my home. And bring your family with you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Shadid.

SENATOR SHADID:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I've been listening and saying, "Is this the same guy I know?" You know. You know, they -- Lou -- my friend, Louis, praised him about the map, how he drew it and how beautiful and all this. Well, I'm going to tell you a little story, Lou. They call me, like they call

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everybody down, you know. Take a look at the map, what we're doing, and then goes on, they said, "What do you think?" I says, "Well, whose district is this I'm looking at?" They said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Well, my house isn't even in this district." "Oh my God!" they said, "We made a mistake or something." I said, "I don't think so. I think you're trying to tell me something." So, I was getting ready to call Watson to see if he had an opening somewhere where I could run. Dave knew I was going to get up, I think, and -- just sort of rip him up a little. But, David, I will tell you, very honestly, you're a quality guy and you know your stuff, except for drawing the map once in a while, but -- I think it was intentional, I really do. But, David, I want to wish you the best. You are going to be a great asset to Southern Illinois. And I'd like to come down and see you, but it's like a two-day drive from my house. So, I'll try to get down that way when I get -- go to Alabama to visit my in-laws, my mother -- my wife's -- in-laws. We'll probably stop if we can and say hi to you. But, David, thank you for all you've done. You've been a great friend, and you've been a great staff guy. I've learned a lot from you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Meeks.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Thank you so much. As a man of the cloth, as a pastor of the church, I try not to practice lying often. My wife just called and said she was watching on the internet. I don't have nothing to say about Dave, but my wife wanted to see me. And so, first of all, hi, honey. When we stop and there are no more speakers, I'll be home soon. Dave, you are in my prayers. I'm praying for you and your family, and I wish you well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

David, I just would like to say that when I came on board last year, I did not know anything, did not know where anything was, too much, and you were there and you held my hand. You showed he even showed me where the restroom was, you know. And -- and I know that -- and I also know that, you know, I bug you

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every five minutes. "David, please, will you please put my legislation on that list?" And you say, "Well, Senator, can you wait just..." I said, "But, David, I need it out now." Said, well -- he said, "Well, Senator, we're not working on those resolutions right now. We're working on this right now." I said, "Yes, and?" But I just wanted to say you were able to help me get from one point to the next, and without your -- your knowledge and your skills and your leadership, I don't think I would have made it this far, to be perfectly honest with you. So, thank you so much, and God bless you and Godspeed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Martinez.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

I, too, say thank you to you, Dave. Thanks to, you know, your -- your understanding about the Latino community and the fact that we needed more representation down here in the Senate. And, Senator del Valle, I got to say, on behalf of Senator Sandoval and myself, thank you 'cause we're here today because of your understanding that our population is growing and you have been a true friend and a good mentor down here. And thanks to just the understanding of the General Assembly. I -- I have learned to love this place very much and work hard, and I want to say thank you on behalf of the Latino community for having the knowledge and the understanding about our -- our community. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Well, thank you very much, Madam President. And for all the reasons that especially Senator Ed Maloney was talking about, that he's sorry to him leave, those of us on this side, we're glad to see him go. And those of you on the ballot in '06, are very -- and I say that because of the respect that I have. We have people on this side and there's people on your side. And we all -- and we respect, even though we differ a lot in our ideals, our philosophy, but we respect one another. This is a gentleman who has our respect, Dave Gross. He's worked well with us. He -- and -- we trampled these people over here - you were here - on many occasions when we were in the Majority, and

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we're getting a little payback every now and then. And we understand that. We're in the Minority. But David was -- been on both sides of this. David, you've been on both sides of this, and you have treated us with respect. You are our go-to guy. You're the one who will give us information, and that's what we -- that's all, in many cases, all we ask for. And we -- we respect that of you. And that's what you'll carry with you to Southern Illinois University, and your ability to represent that university in these halls will be enhanced by the conduct in which you've conducted yourself in the time you've been here. And we appreciate it. You're going to be missed, and we wish you well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Madam President. All the great things that we said about Dave are basically true, and we do recognize that on Sunday -- Meeks said he'd never tell a lie, so some time some of you may want to go to the Salem Baptist Church and see Sunday morning live. But Dave -- Dave is just like our late colleague, Senator Vince Demuzio. He knows this State, county by county, where populations are, everything. And I'll never forget the day, we were working on the map, trying to get a map that was favorable to the other side of the aisle, and we were in -- we were in the map room. And on the northwest side of the City of Chicago, Dave had drawn a map that was fair to the other side of the aisle, and the Speaker on the other side, he said, "Dave, can you explain this map?" 'Cause he didn't want to tell his Members that one of them would be leaving. And Jimmy DeLeo was there, and the Speaker didn't have the courage to tell his Members the truth, but Dave did. Dave said, "This is where you've got to go." And I recall that late night call to Senator Link, and Link got to Chicago so fast. But it was a great map for the other side of the aisle. That's the reason why they didn't have to be bothered with a lot of, you know, Members. It's difficult when you have too many Members. And so -- but, Dave, we really want to thank you. And I have a proclamation from myself, Senator Demuzio and all the other Senators recognizing all the great things that you've done. Our loss is

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SIU's gain, but we know you'll be working Springfield, so we'll still be able to tap your brain for a little advice and consent. So, Dave -- yeah. So, this is for you. My friend. And Senator Meeks, your wife still looking? Meeks is the one who told me to give up the gavel. That's an inside joke.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you to Dave Gross, for all your service. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 750, offered by Senator del Valle. It is substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

We will now proceed to the Order of Resolutions Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body, all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Madam Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolutions on the - - Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

There have been no objections filed, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. The resolutions are adopted. Madam Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Joint Resolution 101

(Secretary reads HJR No. 101)

Adopted by the House, November 18, 2004.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Welch moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of House Joint Resolution 101. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Welch moves for the

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adoption of House Joint Resolution 101. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Pursuant to House Joint Resolution 101, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 2 p.m. on Monday, January 10th, 2005. Senate stands adjourned.