

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

7/6/2004

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The Senate will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? Madam Secretary, Communications from the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

July 2, 2004.

Dear Secretary Hawker - Enclosed please find a copy of Proclamation 2004-197, filed in my office on July 2, 2004, by Rod -- Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, calling for a Special Session of the 93rd General Assembly, to begin at 12 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, July 6, 2004. A notice and accompanying Proclamation has been mailed today to each Member's Springfield office.

Sincerely, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

(Secretary reads Proclamation No. 04-197)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The Senate is convened in the Seventh Special Session of the 93rd General Assembly. Under the practice of this Body since the 88th General Assembly, the rules adopted by the 93rd General Assembly and its officers and committees are in effect for the continuous period of the 93rd General Assembly, including any Special Session. There are three organizational resolutions that will be adopted today. These resolutions inform the House that the Senate is ready to conduct business, create a Senate Committee of five to wait upon the Governor, and create a Senate Committee of three people to approve the Journals for the Senate for all days in the Special Session. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 1 of the Seventh Special Session, offered by Senator Demuzio.

(Secretary reads SR No. 1)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Demuzio moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 1. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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I rise to question the presence of a quorum. I request a roll call vote for attendance, please, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The motion is in order. The Senate will stand in recess till the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? Looking out at our Members, we have ascertained there is definitely a quorum. So, Madam Secretary, Communications from the Secretary of State. Senator Demuzio moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 1 in Special Session Seven. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Request a roll call on the resolution adopting the Seventh Special Session, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Okay. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

At -- at the appropriate time, I'd like to speak to the resolution as well, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall Resolution 1 be adopted. All those in favor will vote Aye. Senator Righter, your light wasn't on. So I apologize. Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. I think before I requested at the appropriate time that I'd like to speak to the resolution, I didn't think it was at the time because you were still working on the motion to suspend the rules. Is now the appropriate time, Madam President?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Yes, it is, Senator.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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This Senate Resolution 1 is the resolution that's required to be adopted in order for us to convene the Governor's Seventh Special Session. Is that correct, Madam President?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Correct.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber, when we adjourned last week, the Governor knew that we were coming back at 2 o'clock today, and he called a Special Session for noon today so someone on the Second Floor can continue to hammer away at the notion that "I'm going to bring 'em back every day until they adopt a budget." Over the weekend the Governor was quoted in the paper as saying that, "You know what?" and jokingly, I assume, that "Maybe I'll have to let 'em off for election day." You know, the power to call a Special Session of the General Assembly is -- is a significant power. It's a very serious instrument that's to be used in very serious times. Not like a toy that was found under the Christmas tree sometime in June. And that's what this turned into and we're all players in that. I would ask the Members to vote No and reject Senate Resolution 1. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. Well, I disagree. I wonder what Senator Righter would do if he was Governor. You know, there are times when you have to call a Special Session. You're in a special situation. The Governor's doing his job and doing what he needs to do. So it just behooves me, I -- I can feel your anger, but I don't know why you would be that angry when, if you were Governor, you would probably be calling Special Session yourself.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. I apologize for rising a second time. My name was used in debate. In answer to the previous speaker, I would simply say that I would have been working January through May, Senator Hendon, and I was here

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January through May. And I looked across the Chamber every day and you were here January through May and that's why we're here in July is because we weren't digging in then.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I think the point that Senator Righter was trying to make is the fact that we were going to be here in regular Session anyway at 2 o'clock. We'd already adjourned last Friday when the Governor decided to exercise his strength and flex his muscle and call us back in at 2 -- at 12 - excuse me - at a waste of seventeen thousand dollars a day to the taxpayers of the State of this great -- of this great State of Illinois. That's the point.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank -- thank you, Madam President. You know, I've had my own problems with the Governor, and I -- I hate to be -- stand here and be like his main defender, but, Senator Burzynski, you certainly don't have to speak for Senator Righter. The man is bright and intelligent. He has a degree. He can certainly speak for himself. I just believe that the Governor's doing what he feels is necessary. He can't negotiate, as some have said, by himself. It -- it -- it -- this is not where the Governor just rules. It takes four to tangle. Not two in this case. You have the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate. You have the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader of the -- of the House. The Governor cannot negotiate by himself. He's probably attempted to reach out to people, but if people have another agenda, there's nothing that the Governor can do about it, but to call a Special Session and -- and hopefully get us to do our job.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. My name was used in -- by the prior speaker. Just want to point out the fact that -- I -- I don't know, Madam

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-- an inquiry of the Chair. What -- what was the purpose of this Special Session that was called for noon today?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Burzynski, did you get a proclamation? Cause it says it on there.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. I think it was for domestic violence and had really expounded on that and the fact that there's a real problem in the State of Illinois with domestic violence. Perhaps someone here can tell me what has occurred, negotiating wise, between the Leaders, between the Leaders and the Governor's Office from 12 o'clock today until today. And perhaps that's -- you know, I -- I don't know. And perhaps someone here does. But shorter than that, there's no reason for us to be here.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Burzynski. Senator Meeks.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I just wanted to say to the three previous speakers that I'm just happy to hear somebody talking about something.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is -- the question is, shall Resolution 1 be adopted. 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 32 Ayes, 18 Nays, none voting Present. And Senate Resolution 1, having received the required constitutional majority, is adopted. Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. We'd love to verify that roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

That's always in order. Senator Burzynski has requested a verification. Will all Members be in the -- their seats? And the Secretary will read the affirmative votes.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

The following Members voted in the affirmative: Althoff, Clayborne, Collins, Crotty, DeLeo, Demuzio, Forby, Geo-Karis, Haine, Halvorson, Harmon, Hendon, Hunter, Jacobs, Lightford,

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Link, Maloney, Martinez, Meeks, Obama, Ronen, Sandoval, Schoenberg, Shadid, Silverstein, David Sullivan, John Sullivan, Trotter, Walsh, Welch, Wojcik and Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Does Senator Burzynski question the presence of any Member voting in the affirmative? Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Madam President. Yes. Senator DeLeo.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator DeLeo. Senator DeLeo is present.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Senator, it's great -- it's great to see you. Senator Silverstein.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is Senator Silverstein in the Chamber? If not, Madam Secretary, strike the name from the roll. Senator Burzynski, is there anybody else? On a verified roll call, there are 31 Ayes, 18 Nays, and none voting Present. Senate Resolution 1, having received the required constitutional majority, is -- is adopted. Rules Committee will meet immediately in the President's Anteroom. We're going to stand at ease for a few moments while Rules meets. Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you, Madam President. I was unable to vote on the last resolution, because I was away from my desk. I'd just like the record to reflect so.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The record will so reflect. And the Senate will stand at ease.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution No. 2 from the Seventh Special Session, offered by Senator Demuzio.

(Secretary reads SR No. 2)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator -- Demuzio moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 2. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Demuzio now moves the adoption of Senate Resolution 2. Those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 3 from the Seventh Special Session, offered by Senator Demuzio.

(Secretary reads SR No. 3)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Demuzio moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 3. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Demuzio now moves the adoption of Senate Resolution 3. Those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. There being no further business to come before the Seventh Special Session of the Senate, Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 12:05 p.m., on Wednesday, July 7th, 2004. The Seventh Special Session of the Senate stands adjourned.