

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

1st Legislative Day

7/7/2004

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? And will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by the Reverend Melissa Meers, of Illiopolis Christian Church, in Illiopolis.

THE REVEREND MELISSA MEERS:

(Prayer by the Reverend Melissa Meers)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Please remain standing for the Pledge. Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Link)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Madam Secretary, Communications from the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

July 6, 2004.

Dear Secretary Hawker - Enclosed please find a copy of Proclamation 2004-198, filed in my office on July 6, 2004, by Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, calling for a Special Session of the 93rd General Assembly, to begin at 12 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, July 7, 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. 04-198)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate is convened in the Eighth 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 of the Special Session. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

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Senate Resolution 1, the Eighth Special Session, offered by Senator Welch.

(Secretary reads SR No. 1)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Welch moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 1. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. Senator Cronin, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CRONIN:

Simply to request a roll call vote on the Senate Resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you. Senator Cronin. See, I was going to call on you when we were going to do the resolution, not suspend the rules. So you're asking for a roll call to suspend the rules. So is that what you -- your intent was?

SENATOR CRONIN:

Yes. I have two points that I'd like to inquire about.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sure.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Number one is a roll call. And then number two, I just had an inquiry of the Chair if I may, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sure.

SENATOR CRONIN:

You know, it's July 7th and we were supposed to adjourn on May 31st. That was the constitutional deadline. So, it's about thirty-seven days' overtime. We're here because of a failure of leadership on the Second Floor. I understand that. But the Governor has called us here because he wants our input supposedly, and I just wanted to offer some input. Senator Watson is my elected representative and I'm comfortable with him at the bargaining table, and I feel comfortable, as do my colleagues that we are participating in the process. And I'm comfortable with that, but what I'm not comfortable with is this -- this charade called "Special Sessions", this whole act that the Governor is playing his part in. And I just want to inquire of the Chair, you know, how long will the Senate Democrats, my

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friends and colleagues, stand against the three other caucuses down here and with the Governor to promote this charade? How much longer will you stand with this Governor, and what is the status of the budget negotiations? Where are we on resolution of the budget? And please spare me the rhetoric of the notion that you don't want to balance the budget on the backs of the poor and all -- please just give me the facts and give us an informed status report. How long will you stand with this Governor against the will of the three other caucuses?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Emil Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. It is our duty and responsibility to be here. It's not a question of standing with this Governor. This -- this caucus over here strongly support education. We strongly support health care, and those are the issues that have been debated downstairs. I am -- as I indicated to you more than a week ago, all these negotiations can be done in public as far as I'm concerned. All the Members can participate. I'm for openness. But it's not a question of who's standing with whom. We tried to fulfill our responsibility and we did pass a budget on May 31st. And trying to put that budget together back then, everybody -- didn't want to participate. And -- 'cause you did not want to participate, we still followed our responsibility and passed a budget. Now, even though the budget may not have been agreed to - and I don't consider it a charade as relate to Special Session - but we must get the job done. And since everyone is at the table, it's a give-and-take situation. And what's involved down there, Senator, for your own edification, issues and things that we normally deal with in regular Session, they are -- they gave it a new term called "collateral issues". They've become part of the process, like potluck dinners and things of that nature. We've spent a lot times on those types of issues, which -- which didn't -- is not part of the budgetary process. So, I know your Leader has his concerns and -- as all others. When you said get with the three, but sometimes the three has to get with the one. See, I am strongly in favor of investing in the future. And investing in the future is an investment in the kids across the

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State of Illinois. And so, that may be a philosophical difference along those lines, but we are coming together. So I do not -- I -- I don't consider it a charade for us being here. But I think things are moving a little closer together, and hopefully we can come to a resolve this afternoon.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cronin, do you still want a roll call on suspending the rules? Senator Cronin, do you still want a roll call on suspending the rules, or do you want to wait till the actual...

SENATOR CRONIN:

The resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

That's when I was going to call on you to speak.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sure. Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we have been called here to do the people's work. And I agree with the President of the Senate. And I want to commend him, and I want to commend Senator Watson, our Leader, for their patience, for their -- their stick-to-itiveness. But, you know, there is a time when our dear Governor, and I like him very much, has to realize there's just so much money in the pot and no more. And he should try to get us out of here expeditiously, because I'm getting calls back home that say they're very mad at the Governor. I don't want to see anybody mad at anyone, but I'm telling you the truth. We've got to get down to business, but it has to come from the Governor and I feel that the President of the Senate has been very patient. And our Leader -- our Republican Leader, Senator Watson, has been very patient. And I'll tell you something, the more this goes on, the more people are not just ridiculing us, they're ridiculing the Governor. And I don't want to see that happen.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Geo-Karis. Senator Welch moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 1. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The

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Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Welch now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 1. This will be a roll call. 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 36 Yeas, 17 Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate Resolution 1, having received the required majority, is adopted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 2, the Eighth Special Session, offered by Senator Welch.

(Secretary reads SR No. 2)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Welch 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 Welch 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 of the Eighth Special Session, offered by Senator Welch.

(Secretary reads SR No. 3)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Welch 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 Welch now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 3. Those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Chicago Tribune seeks leave to photograph the proceedings. Leave is granted. There being no further business to come before the Eighth Special Session, the Senate stands adjourned until 12 p.m., Friday - noon, Friday, July 9th, 2004, in Perfunctory Session. The Eighth Special Session of the Senate stands adjourned.