

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

SR0001	Adopted	26
SR0001	Resolution Offered	25
SR0002	Adopted	27
SR0002	Resolution Offered	25
SR0003	Adopted	41
SR0003	Resolution Offered	40
SR0004	Adopted	41
SR0004	Resolution Offered	40
SR0005	Adopted	42
SR0005	Resolution Offered	40
Senate to Order-Governor Rod Blagojevich		1
Committee of Escort		1
Invocation-Father James Flynn		1
Presentation of Colors		1
Pledge of Allegiance		2
Presentation-Chicago Children's Choir		2
Appointment of Temporary Officers		2
Communication from the State Board of Elections		2
Oath of Office-Justice Charles E. Freeman		3
Roll Call of Senators of the 94th General Assembly		3
Nominations for Senate President		4
Nominations Closed		14
Roll Call for Senate President		14
Justice Freeman Administers Oath-Senate President		15
Remarks by President Jones		16
Minority Leader Declared		20
Remarks by Minority Leader Watson		20
Presentation by Miss Alexandria Sterling		23
Presentation by Miss Tierra Smith		23
Benediction-Rabbi Harvey Well		23
Committee of Escort		24
Communication from Senate President		24
Communication from Minority Leader		24
Senate Stands at Ease/Reconvenes		25
Senate Stands in Recess/Reconvenes		25
Committee Reports		25
Message from the President		39
Message from the Senate Republican Leader		40
Senate Stands at Ease/Reconvenes		40
Committee Reports		40
Message from the President		42
Letter from Senator Larry Walsh		43
Letter from Senator Meeks		43
Adjournment		43

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

The Senate will come to order. Will the Members and our guests please be seated? First of all, let me just very briefly congratulate each and every one of you for getting elected to the State Senate. I want to congratulate all of you who've been here before for coming back, and the one or two new Members, welcome to the State Senate. I think you'll find it a very enjoyable experience. I also want to say that I was on time. If this were my speech, I probably would have been late, but I take this very seriously, what I'm about to do. And what I'm about to do is say this, Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois reads in part as follows: On the first day of the January session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, the Governor shall convene the Senate to elect from the membership a President of the Senate as presiding officer. The media is granted permission to record these proceedings. The following Senators are appointed to the Committee to Escort members of the Judiciary into the Chamber: Susan Garrett, James Clayborne, Maggie Crotty, Kirk Dillard and Richard Winkel. Will the Committee on Escort please report to the rear of the Chamber to escort the distinguished members of the Judiciary into the Chamber? The Chair is pleased to welcome into the Chamber Supreme Court Justices Charles E. Freeman, Rita B. Garman and Lloyd A. Karmeier. The Chair would like to recognize other distinguished guests: U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, Loretta Durbin, Comptroller Dan Hynes, Former Governor James R. Thompson, State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, Former Attorney General and Comptroller Roland Burris, Former Senate President Thomas Hynes, Former Senate President Philip Rock, and my wife, Patti. Hi, Honey. Will the Members and our guests please rise? The invocation will be offered by Father James Flynn, Holy Name of Mary Church, Chicago, Illinois.

FATHER JAMES FLYNN:

(Invocation by Father James Flynn)

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Will the Members and our guests please remain standing for the Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance? The Colors will be presented by the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps from Alton High School. Senator Terry Link will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

SENATOR LINK:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Link)

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

The Color Guard is -- the Color Guard is now dismissed. It's now my pleasure to welcome to the Chamber the Chicago Children's Choir, who will offer a musical presentation. I'm sorry. You can all be seated.

(Presentation by the Chicago Children's Choir)

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

I want to thank the Chicago Children's Choir for that music. And about "The Star Spangled Banner", I can see now why you guys override some of my vetoes. I hereby want to -- I -- I would like to hereby appoint the following people as temporary Senate officers of the 94th General Assembly: Linda Hawker, Secretary of the Senate, and Anita Robinson, Sergeant-at-Arms. The Secretary will now read the Letter of Certification from the State Board of Elections of Senate Members elected on November 2nd, 2004, to the 94th General Assembly.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

December 3, 2004.

Dear Ms. Hawker - Enclosed is a list of individuals who have been elected to serve as Members of the Illinois Senate in the General Assembly, and have been duly certified by the State Board of Elections at their Board Meeting on December 3, 2004. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely, Patricia Freeman, Director of Election Information.

2nd District, Miguel del Valle, Chicago, four-year term; 2nd {sic} (3rd) District, Mattie Hunter, Chicago, two-year term; 2nd -- 5th District, Rickey R. Hendon, Chicago, four-year term; 8th District, Ira I. Silverstein, Chicago, four-year term; District 11, Louis S. Viverito, Burbank, four-year term; 14th District, Emil Jones, Jr., Chicago, four-year term; 17th District, Donne E. Trotter, Chicago, four-year term; 20th District, Iris Y. Martinez, Chicago, four-year term; 23rd District, Carole Pankau, Roselle, four-year term; 26th District, William E. Peterson, Long Grove, four-year term; 28th District, Kathleen L. "Kay" Wojcik, Schaumburg, two-year term; 29th District, Susan Garrett, Lake Forest, four-year term; 32nd

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

District, Pamela J. Althoff, McHenry, four-year term; 35th District, J. Bradley Burzynski, Clare, four-year term; 38th District, Gary G. Dahl, Granville, four-year term; 41st District, Christine Radogno, Lemont, for a four-year term; 44th District, William Brady, Bloomington, four-year term; 47th District, John M. Sullivan, Rushville, four-year term; 49th District, Deanna Demuzio, Carlinville, two-year term; 50th District, Larry K. Bomke, Springfield, four-year term; 53rd District, Dan Rutherford, Chenoa, four-year term; 56th District, William R. "Bill" Haine, Alton, four-year term; and 59th District, Gary Forby, Benton, for a four-year term.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Thank you, Madam Secretary. Will Justice Charles E. Freeman of the Illinois Supreme Court please come to the Rostrum to administer the Oath of Office to the Members of the Senate? And will the Senators-elect please rise to be sworn into office? Justice Freeman.

JUSTICE CHARLES E. FREEMAN:

All of the -- you all standing? Would you please raise your right hands and repeat after me and insert your name in the proper place? I - your name - do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of State Senator according to the best of my ability. Congratulations.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Madam Secretary, will you please call the roll of the Senators of the 94th General Assembly?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Althoff, Bomke, Brady, Burzynski, Clayborne, Collins, Cronin, Crotty, Cullerton, Dahl, DeLeo, del Valle, Demuzio, Dillard, Forby, Garrett, Geo-Karis, Haine, Halvorson, Harmon, Hendon, Hunter, Jacobs, Emil Jones, John Jones, Wendell Jones, Lauzen, Lightford, Link, Luechtefeld, Maloney, Martinez, Meeks, Munoz, Pankau, Peterson, Petka, Radogno, Raoul, Rauschenberger, Righter, Risinger, Ronen, Roskam, Rutherford, Sandoval, Schoenberg, Shadid, Sieben, Silverstein, David Sullivan, John Sullivan, Syverson, Trotter, Viverito, Walsh, Watson, Winkel and Wojcik.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Thank you, Madam Secretary. A quorum is present. The next order of business is the election of the Senate President of the 94th General Assembly. In the opinion of the Chair in the case of Rock versus Thompson, thirty affirmative votes will be required to elect the President. Nominations are now open. Senator Terry Link is recognized for the purpose of placing a name in nomination.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. Governor. I got a call a couple days ago to make a nominating speech. And you think about how to make a nominating speech of a person who's a friend. And what are you going to say? You know, do you talk about where the person came from, the background, their career, which I think is well-documented? So you don't want to go into that. So I thought about it and I've been thinking about it quite a bit - lot of tossing and turning. Of course, that person has made me toss and turn quite a bit the last few years. But, I started thinking about the person and what the person goes through, and the leader in which the person is and what they have to do to be a leader in this august Body, and what they go through in a day-to-day process of being a leader. And I started coming up with some of the things that is faced in the Illinois State Senate. And I started coming up with some of the things like caucuses, and I started figuring out caucuses that are involved here. And I know I missed quite a few of 'em, but I came up with some. There's the Black Caucus, the Latino Caucus. There's the Chicago Caucus, the Downstate Caucus, the Upstate Caucus. There's -- COWL. There's the Sportsmen's Caucus. There's the Jewish Caucus. There's the Lakefront Caucus. There's the Environmental Caucus. There's the Save the Base Caucus. And there's probably numerous more caucuses, and if you would have noticed, a lot of these caucuses are Democratic-Republican caucuses. They're male caucuses. They're female and -- caucuses. They're everything. That's just caucuses. Then you got lobbyists. You got lobbyists that represent every group that you could think of. They're going to talk about every issue that you could think of. They come into the President's Office and they talk about their particular issues, which is the most important issue facing the world. And

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

they put it on the shoulders of that Leader. And they say to that Leader, "My issue is by far the most important. Nothing else is important. My issue is the most important." He has friends on both sides. He has the unions coming in to see him. Not all unions agree with one another, so you have to make judgments in which unions are telling what. You have business groups that come in and they make decisions which group is telling what. So you have to make decisions on where you're going from there. And you know what? There's White Sox fans, St. Louis Cardinal fans, and there's even a few Cubs fans that come to see him. Now we get down to the regular everyday people and Senators that come in and see this person, and they talk to them every day about their concerns, their needs, may it be agricultural needs in their part of this State, may it be transportation problems in their part of the State, may it be educational problems in their part of the State, or may it be health care problems in their part of the State. We look at other things. We look at people that come in with all their concerns. People that have no lobbyists to look to, or other groups to look for. And they have their moment to talk to him. And you sit there and you think, what does this person have to be like to go through this? And I analyze this, because I've had a lot of opportunities to sit down with this Leader and find out what he's really like. And I got to tell you, I came up with a summation of what he is really like. He is not for Chicago. He is not for upstate. He is not for downstate. He is not for the collar counties. He's not for the White Sox, the Cubs, the St. Louis Cardinals. He's not for pro-this, anti-this. He's not just for labor. He's not just for business groups. He's not just for health care. He's not just for education. He's not just for transportation. He's not for just health care or any other just pro, anti or any other group. I found out sincerely what this man is all about. And it is my honor to put in nomination a person that has one great concern, a person that puts one thing foremost in front of everything else. It's my honor to nominate my friend, a person who is a person for Illinois, and Illinois only, and their concerns from one part of this State from top to bottom - Illinois first and Illinois only. I nominate my friend, my Leader, the Honorable Emil Jones, Jr.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Link nominates Emil Jones, Jr., for President of the Senate. Senator John Cullerton is recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President. It's been said that politics is the great equalizer. No matter your formal education, your street smarts, your good looks or lack thereof, the people decide who will represent them. And after all the promises, the spin, the attacks, the worry and the frustration, the people of Illinois spoke in November. So we find ourselves here, an elected Body, fifty-nine equals, each of us with one vote. If you are new to the Senate, I want to say on behalf of my colleagues, we are looking forward to working with you. You should also be assured that many of us are still looking for the secret to success here in the State Capitol. As I begin my twenty-seventh year in the Legislature, I can think of few others who know that secret better than Senator Emil Jones, Jr. Those of us who have had the honor to know and work with Senator Jones know how hard he's fought to achieve success. For over three decades, Emil Jones has climbed the ladder of achievement in Springfield. And I'm confident that he would be the first to tell you that he has been kicked down a notch or two throughout the years. Many of us have witnessed it. But during those times I can't remember a moment when Emil Jones didn't stand up, brush himself off and return to that ladder. After a while, one begins to think that Emil Jones actually enjoys being told that things can't be done or that he can't do them. Take, for example, the death penalty reform. Many years ago, Senator Jones said there was a problem. The idea, the thought that someone could be convicted and put to death for a crime that they didn't commit was inconceivable in the minds of most Illinois residents. Correcting the problem of, say, public defenders who didn't have the ability or the skills or desire to ensure that the accused have a fair defense and a fair trial wasn't something that topped Springfield's agenda. Years ago when Emil Jones said we needed reform, at best a few people listened. He could have dropped the issue. He could have sent out a press release, said he was looking into it and moved on; instead, he persisted. He

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

continued to question the way we conduct business in our courtrooms. He felt injustice, and reminded anyone who would listen. Death penalty reform never was and, quite frankly, hasn't become a popular issue to promote. Emil Jones didn't do it because it was popular; he did it because he saw that it was the right thing to do. I'm proud to say that, in part, because of Emil Jones' commitment to reform, the Illinois system is regaining its integrity. Want to also remind you that when Emil Jones said that education funding was a priority for him, few people thought anybody around here was really serious about school funding reform. When Senator Jones would discuss inequities in school funding, and not just in his school districts, but school districts in deep southern Illinois, western Illinois, eastern Illinois, every corner of the State, he would face the yawns of those who didn't think it was important. In committees, on the Floor, in meetings, in caucus, it was a sure bet that Emil Jones would discuss these inequities. Everyone who served here knew Emil Jones' number one priority was education funding, particularly a continuing education appropriation. Time and again, he would leave Springfield with no progress, no results. But after years of battles and thanks to Emil Jones, Illinois has a continuing appropriation for education. I know he's committed to continuing his efforts to make Illinois schools the best they can possibly be. Some have written that Emil Jones is underestimated. I disagree. This description assumes that Emil Jones is someone who achieves successes by accident. To say that Emil Jones is underestimated suggests that he gets it wrong more than he gets it right. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, it is not Emil Jones, the man, the Senator, the veteran of the Legislature, who is underestimated. Perhaps what is actually underestimated is the power of personal conviction. Many people underestimate the value of one individual's determination to do the right thing for the people of Illinois. No matter what, no one should underestimate the persistence of Senator Emil Jones, Jr. So, Mr. President, I'm here today to say that I want to continue to learn from Emil Jones the secrets of success in this Legislature. So it is my pleasure and honor to second the nomination of Senator Emil Jones for President of the Illinois Senate.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Cullerton seconds the nomination of Senate -- Senator Emil Jones, Jr., for President of the Senate. Senator Kimberly Lightford is recognized for the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Governor Blagojevich, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, all of our families and friends assembled here today, I am proud to have the opportunity to second the nomination of our President Emil Jones, Jr. I watched our President two years ago transition from Minority Leader to becoming the second African-American President to the Illinois Senate in -- in the history of this State. And during that time, he was in the midst of a personal loss. He was losing his wife, Patricia, of many years, and that did not hinder his effective leadership. I watched him to continue to be a dedicated leader and continue to move this caucus forward, focus on our core Democrat values. Leadership is very important in this caucus, and I believe he's fair. Senator Link suggested, regardless of your geographic area, regardless of your sex, your ethnicity, I believe he sees us as a collective whole. We're a family and he says that when he continues to always tell me I have a hard head. Only dad can say things like that and get away with it. And for that reason and so many others, you can see that our President believes in us. This was clearly demonstrated as he guided and supported our former colleague, now our U.S. Senator, Barack Obama. It is so important to have your Leader believe in you, and he clearly does that. He's accessible. He has an open door. He welcomes us there. Many men and women of power and stature are really hard to get at, but President Jones always allow you in his office to sit one-on-one. He'll listen and he'll immediately let you know if that's not our focus, but he'll listen. And that's important to have a Leader that listens and believe in you. And so for these reasons and so many other reasons - I would go on and on, but the two previous speakers kind of summed up many of the thoughts that I had - but I am so honored to have the opportunity to second the nomination of our President, Emil Jones, Jr. Thank you.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Senator Lightford seconds the nomination of Senator Emil Jones, Jr., for President of the Senate. Senator Bradley Burzynski is recognized for the purpose of placing a name in nomination.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. Governor. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, our honored guests, our guests in the gallery, I have the pleasure, the honor today to place a name into nomination for Senate President. Senator Link stole my nomination speech. And Justice -- Justice Freeman, when he swore us in, said, "Insert name here." I wished I could do Senator Link's speech and we'd just insert Senator Watson's -- name, as well. But I do have the honor of nominating Senator Frank Watson for Senate President. I've known Frank for many years and have served with him now the last twelve years here in the Senate. I've watched as he's dealt with the issues of his district and the State and as he's developed into a tremendous Leader. And as I prepared this nominating speech, I had to sit back and think what truly makes Frank Watson a leader that we can be proud of and the Leader that he is today. So I had to reflect a little bit on the past and past legislative issues and past actions of this Chamber. We've witnessed many changes during the last several years. And so far we've survived many challenges. We've seen massive budget deficits. We've seen contentious issues come before our Chamber, such as embryonic stem cell research, medical malpractice, education reform and many others. We've also observed a situation where some have shown little respect for the Legislature or the legislative process. And on the Republican side of the aisle, we experienced a change in leadership two years ago. And in my opinion, and evidenced by his successes, we chose the right person for the job. Frank has been a constant and a consistent voice. We chose a true leader, the same type of leader that we need as our Senate President. Frank has kept us together as the Republican Caucus. Senator Link talked about the diversity of caucuses here in Springfield, but we have only one true Republican Caucus in Springfield. Some have asked, "How do you guys stick together? How does Frank do it?" Well, the answer is very simple. It's Frank Watson. It's who he is. It's what he stands for. He's kept us true to our basic core values,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

that government should provide the public with freedom, not take freedom away, and that along with that freedom comes the ability to live better lives, to make our own decisions and, more importantly, the obligation to take responsibility for our actions; That faith, family, freedom and the future are the cornerstones that we should build on. Frank Watson leads by example. As all of us know that have been around Frank for any time at all, we know that he is a fighter, a fierce competitor, whether that's on a ball diamond, whether that's on the golf course, whether that's sitting across the table from Frank debating issues. And we also know that he is passionate about his service. We've all sat on this Floor and we've seen papers go flying. We've seen that bead of perspiration come across Frank's brow and we've heard his voice go from that mellow baritone level to that squeaky tenor as he debates issues. But we have seen compassion. And the attribute that makes Frank Watson truly stand apart and successful as a leader is that, as a Republican Caucus, he expects no less from his members. He expects us to be fierce competitors. He expects us to be fighters, to be passionate about our service to our constituents and to the State of Illinois, and also to be true to our core values. He knows that being a leader means standing on principle even against the greatest odds. He has earned our respect, but in turn has shown great respect for us - true leadership. Frank Watson also knows that being a leader means listening to -- to the concern of others, and by doing so, helping to find a way to address their concerns without straying from the principles of our caucus and our consensus. With Frank, everyone's viewpoint matters. All of us have an equal place and equal seat at the table. We all have the opportunity to speak up, and because of his leadership and this style of leadership, we have built consensus based on principle -- respecting the opinion of each of our Members. Frank truly is a leader, and more importantly, he's a true friend to everyone in our caucus. I'm extremely proud and honored to stand before you today to place in nomination the name of Frank Watson as President of the Illinois Senate. Thank you.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Burzynski nominates Senator Frank Watson for President of the Senate. Senator Dan -- Cronin is recognized for

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

the purpose of seconding the nomination.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank you, Governor. I proudly second the nomination of Senator Frank Watson as our Senate Republican Leader. He's done a great job as the Leader of our caucus, no doubt about it. He's a fighter for our cause and for the issues that matter very deeply to him. Frank's a genuine guy. He's the real deal. What you see is what you get, follicly challenged and all. But seriously, he -- he is such a -- has such a genuineness about him that I think we all find very endearing and, quite frankly, refreshing in this business of politics and government that we're in. He truly believes in his heart in his duty to do good. And of all the issues that Frank has been involved in, I personally believe that education is probably nearest and dearest to him. When I first came to the Senate, we served together on the Education Committee. In fact, Frank was my predecessor of Chair -- as Chair of that committee. He served many years in that capacity. And the one thing I took away from the experience in observing Frank do his work was his commitment to all the different regions of the State. If there's any issue that can divide us in this Body, it would be education, and those who can work and promote good education policy and keep us together is really and truly a skillful leader. Frank has demonstrated that. I saw his commitment to the Chicago schools back in the nineties; his relationship with local school councils and individuals and people that would come up and seek out Frank Watson from the City of Chicago and the neighborhoods. I witnessed his -- his commitment to suburban schools in fighting for fair funding there. He has been steadfast in his commitment to education, both at the primary level and the higher ed level. He understands that our community colleges play a vital role for workforce and job retraining education. He knows that our colleges and universities are cultivating the hearts and the minds of the leaders and the problem solvers of tomorrow. That commitment, that tenacity, that understanding, that appreciation makes him a uniquely qualified leader for us. Philosophically Frank understands that local control is vitally important for the success of our schools, that letting teachers, administrators, those who are closest make the -- the vitally important

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

decisions. I saw Frank in his commitment to quality teachers. Frank Watson is responsible for, I think, in the fourteen, fifteen years I've been here, in acknowledging the value of quality teachers, like no other person I've seen. He brought down the nationally board certified and acclaimed teachers and recognized them and honored them. Frank's done a great job in education. Frank has done a great job demonstrating his genuineness and his -- his -- his sincerity. You know, there's a lot of people that come and go in this business and you can separate some from others and I think generally we're blessed that -- that everyone here really wants to do what they believe is good. But there are those, I think, that distinguish themselves, that truly understand why they're here. When somebody asks you a question - all of you have to answer it from time to time - "Why are you here? Why are you in the State Senate?" Frank knows how to answer that question. He does it by his actions every day. He's here to help people. We're not going to always agree on how to get there and how to achieve that better world of helping people, but that's why Frank is here. He's here to genuinely help people. So, I am proud to second the nomination of my friend, a fun guy, a fun-loving guy, a devoted husband, a father, a Cardinal fan, a Purdue Boilermaker, our Leader, Frank Watson.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator -- Senator Cronin. Sorry. Senator Cronin seconds the nomination of Senator Frank Watson for President of the Senate. Senator Christine Radogno is recognized for the purpose of seconding the -- seconding the nomination.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Governor. Members of the Senate and guests, I rise to second the nomination of Senator Frank Watson for President of the Senate. You know, for many years the Senate Republicans had only one Leader. And whether you loved Pate or hated him, there was a certain sameness and predictability about him. So, when Pate left, we were faced with change, and change always brings uncertainty. Although we were fairly certain that Senator Watson would provide capable leadership, I think we've all been even more impressed than we ever had anticipated. Over the past couple of years, Senate Republican Leader Watson's

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

knowledgeable guidance and his sincere respect for both the Members and the staff have assured us that we made the right choice. Senator Watson has very successfully embraced the leadership style that emphasizes caucus unity, and yet he's very receptive to input from colleagues that may not agree with him on every issue. By emphasizing the strengths of each Legislator, as well as offering us numerous opportunities, Senator Watson has fostered a work environment that has allowed us as individuals to achieve our full potential and enabled this caucus to serve the people of Illinois more effectively. His willingness to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle has impressed me, and many of you as well, I'm quite certain. I think we've all appreciated his passionate commitment to serving the people of Illinois. In fact, sometimes we've been somewhat entertained by his passionate commitment to serving the people of Illinois. Still, a transition into leadership is never an easy one and Senator Watson's transition was not easy as well. He came on at a time when the State had a fairly bleak financial situation, and quite frankly, we have a similarly unpromising economic future right now. Senator Watson knew that by reestablishing a thriving economy and reducing State debt, that we would have an uphill battle. Yet, he never lost sight of that goal. He was committed to passing a fiscally responsible budget that did not burden business with tax and fee hikes or rely on borrowed money. Throughout the 93rd General Assembly, led by Senator Watson, the Senate Republican Caucus remained dedicated to passing legislation that did not compromise Illinois' financial future. The result has benefited all of the people in Illinois, as well as the business community. Last year's lengthy Session ended positively in large part due to Senator Watson's leadership. The outcomes were encouraging, but, as you all know, we still have very significant financial problems in our future. As a caucus, we look forward to working with our Democratic colleagues to remedy some of the problems that are plaguing this State. We will have to recognize our financial limitations and, if the funding is not available, resist the temptation to create new spending programs and to -- expand current programs until we once again achieve financial stability, and I'm confident that we will. You know, our responsibility to the people of this State

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

exceeds the confines of this year or next year or even ten years from now. It extends into future generations - twenty-five years from now, even a hundred years from now. Senator Watson realizes that as Legislators we have a commitment to Illinois that is not isolated to our term in office and he has confidently led our -- led our caucus with an eye towards the future. The 94th General Assembly, we will be challenged with new issues and developments, as well as old ones. In seconding the nomination of Senator Watson, I'm expressing my confidence that he is the right person to lead us down a responsible and productive path to a very bright future.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Senator Radogno seconds the nomination of Senator Frank Watson for President of the Senate. If there are no further nominations, Senator Louis Viverito is recognized for the purpose of making a motion.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Thank you, Governor Blagojevich. Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Senate, I move to close the nominations for President of the Senate.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

All those in favor of the motion indicate by saying Aye. All those opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries and the nominations are closed. The Secretary will call the roll of the Senators. Each Senator should answer the roll by stating one of the names nominated or by voting Present. Please call the roll, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Althoff. Althoff votes Watson. Bomke. Bomke votes Watson. Brady. Brady votes Watson. Burzynski. Burzynski votes Watson. Clayborne. Clayborne votes Jones. Collins. Collins votes Jones. Cronin.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

The Chair recognizes the presence of Senator Jacqui Collins. Please add her to the roll.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Cronin. Cronin votes Watson. Crotty. Crotty -- Crotty votes Jones. Cullerton. Cullerton votes Jones. Dahl. Dahl votes Watson. DeLeo. DeLeo votes Jones. del Valle. del Valle

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

votes Jones. Demuzio. Demuzio votes Jones. Dillard. Dillard votes Watson. Forby. Forby votes Jones. Garrett. Garrett votes Jones. Geo-Karis. Geo-Karis votes Watson. Haine. Haine votes Jones. Halvorson. Halvorson votes Jones. Harmon. Harmon votes Jones. Hendon. Hendon votes Jones. Hunter. Hunter votes Jones. Jacobs. Jacobs votes Jones. John Jones. John Jones votes Watson. Emil Jones. Emil Jones votes Jones. Wendell Jones. Wendell Jones votes Watson. Lauzen. Lauzen votes Watson. Lightford. Lightford votes Jones. Link. Link votes Jones. Luechtefeld. Luechtefeld votes Watson. Maloney. Maloney votes Jones. Martinez. Martinez votes Jones. Meeks. Meeks votes Jones. Munoz. Munoz votes Jones. Pankau. Pankau votes Watson. Peterson. Peterson votes Watson. Petka. Petka votes Watson. Radogno. Radogno votes Watson. Raoul. Raoul votes Jones. Rauschenberger. Rauschenberger votes Watson. Righter. Righter votes Watson. Risinger. Risinger votes Watson. Ronen. Ronen votes Jones. Roskam. Roskam votes Watson. Rutherford. Rutherford votes Watson. Sandoval. Sandoval votes Jones. Schoenberg. Schoenberg votes Jones. Shadid. Shadid votes Jones. Sieben. Sieben votes Watson. Silverstein. Silverstein votes Jones. David Sullivan. Dave Sullivan votes Watson. John Sullivan. John Sullivan votes Jones. Syverson. Syverson votes Watson. Trotter. Trotter votes Jones. Viverito. Viverito votes Jones. Walsh. Watson. Watson votes Watson. Winkel. Winkel votes Watson. And Wojcik. Wojcik votes Watson.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

Okay. The results of the roll call are as follows: Senator Emil Jones, Jr., 31 votes; Senator Frank Watson, 27 votes. I have something very important to say. Senator Emil Jones, Jr., having received the constitutionally required votes, is hereby declared elected President of the Senate of the 94th General Assembly. And I want to congratulate Senator Jones and I want to ask Senator Jones and Justice Freeman to please come to the Rostrum. Will Justice Freeman now administer the Oath of Office to Senate President Jones?

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

Senator, will you raise your right hand and repeat after me?  
I, Emil Jones, Jr.

SENATOR E. JONES:



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

I, Emil Jones, Jr.

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

Do solemnly swear

SENATOR E. JONES:

Do solemnly swear

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

That I will support the Constitution of the United States

SENATOR E. JONES:

That I will support the Constitution of the United States

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

And the Constitution of the State of Illinois

SENATOR E. JONES:

And the Constitution of the State of Illinois

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

And I will faithfully discharge the duties

SENATOR E. JONES:

I will faithfully discharge the duties

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

Of the Office of Senate President

SENATOR E. JONES:

Of the Office of Senate President

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

To the -- according to the best of my ability.

SENATOR E. JONES:

According to the best of my ability.

JUSTICE FREEMAN:

Congratulations.

GOVERNOR ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

I -- I want to congratulate Senator Jones. And let me be the first one in this new General Assembly to call him Mr. President. Here you go, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Second time around you get a larger gavel. First, I'd like to thank Governor Blagojevich for doing such a great job as the Presiding Officer today, and his lovely wife, Patti, who is also with him, welcome to the Chamber of the Illinois Senate. I want to thank my long, valued friend, Justice Freeman, for administering the -- Oath of Office to all of the Members, and myself included, for the second time as the Senate President.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Thank you, Justice Freeman. Also, for the second time, my Pastor, Father Flynn, I appreciate you're taking the time to come, Pastor of my Church, Holy Name of Mary in Morgan Park. I appreciate you're taking time to be with us today. I have with me: this is my granddaughter, Alex; my son, Emil III; my daughter, Renee; my son, John, and his fiancée, Nikki; and my other nephew, Emil Alvarez; and my other goddaughter, come on, goddaughter, you can stand up here, this is Tierra Smith; my niece, Roz Cook; and my grandson, Jonathan Sterling; and my son, John; and also, my fiancée is here with me as well, and ---- Lorrie Stone, Dr. Lorrie Stone. So I'd also like to congratulate and welcome the senior Senator and the new Minority Whip of the U.S. Senate, Senator Dick Durbin, and -- and his better half, the -- the majority leader in his house, his lovely wife, Loretta. I -- I'm so pleased, Senator, that the U.S. Senate schedule permitted you to be with us today. In addition, we have the Comptroller {sic} (Treasurer) of the State of Illinois, Judy Baar Topinka, long-valued friend, and she's on the right side. And -- and the Comptroller of the State of Illinois, Comptroller Dan Hynes; former Attorney General and Comptroller Roland Burris; former Senator and my Senator at one time, Tom Hynes. And always my President, former President Phil Rock. And Supreme Court Justice Ruth Carman, is it? Yes. Garman, rather. And -- and Lloyd Karmeier. Thank you for being with us. And, my colleagues, before I begin today of the thoughts that I have as deemed appropriate for this occasion, I will ask that we all bow our heads in a moment of silence to honor those young men and women who have been taken from us, those brave young men and women who gave their lives oversea in the war in Iraq and fighting terrorism in Afghanistan, and the scores of thousands of innocent persons in Indonesia and other countries who perish at the hands of the most monumental humanitarian disasters in our lifetime, and closer to home, the security guard, Bill Wozniak, who -- who gave his all in the service of each and every one of us in this Chamber. A moment of silence, please. Thank you. Thank you very much. I want to thank my colleagues for their vote of confidence and their support. You know, when you're counting those numbers - you notice? - I was trailing, Frank. But for that continued support and confidence for the job that I

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

have done, the job you expect me to do. And, Ladies and Gentlemen, we stand here today elected by the people from every corner of this State, poised to take on an awesome responsibility. As we sit here today, we must acknowledge that there -- there is much to be thankful for. A higher power has blessed us with the conditions that give -- has given us so much to be thankful for. And as we sit here, we have had success, but there is still much more to be done. I -- I appreciate my old, long-valued friend, who is also with us today, the former Governor of this State, and I always called him Governor for life, my good friend, Jim Thompson. We stand here rich in our diversity. This -- this Chamber is a true representation of the State of Illinois. It -- it reflects all aspects of our society. We have all races, all creed, all colors. We are farmers, we are tradesmen, we are businessmen, we are educators, we are lawyers, we are health care workers. We are representative of the people of the -- of the State of Illinois. We are clergymen, even though there's only one - Senator Meeks. But we represent the entire State of Illinois. We are parents. We are children from small towns and large cities. We stand for the families and communities across the State of Illinois. As Illinoisans, as Legislators, we share a -- a -- a common family value, a bond that seals us together for the people of this great State. These values unite us into one community in this Chamber and provide the moral underpinning that defines a well lived life. Our core family values include those values and beliefs that every child should have access to a quality education and every citizen should have access to good health care. And while we have much to be thankful for, have accomplished much, we cannot rest on our laurels, 'cause there is still much, much more to be done. As Illinoisans, we must be willing to shoulder the obligation to provide the best education for all our children. Big cities, small town, rural community, every child deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education. We must bring about real change to the terrible, terrible, outrageous funding formula that funds the system of our public schools. Inequity in funding results in -- in -- in inequities in education. Our values is for all children to have a means for realizing their dreams. Further, as Illinoisans, we are bound by the common belief that all our

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

citizens should not be priced out of health care, medication or insurance coverage that helps them maintain a quality of life. We must strengthen our resolve to find a solution to the high cost of medical malpractice insurance so that physicians do not have to cease providing health care services to the citizens across the State of Illinois. Our own new junior U.S. Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, in his keynote address to the Democratic Convention in Boston said, "People don't expect government to solve all their problems, but they -- but they sense that with a change in priorities, we can make sure that the doors of opportunity remain open." We have that opportunity in this next Session of the General Assembly. And we -- and we will all be better off if we can come together. And -- and based on the common interest, the common bond, the common values that we all share and work together, we can do the job for the people of the State of Illinois, irrespective of what side of the aisle that you sit in. As the -- as the late poet Robert Frost once said - "The Road Not Taken" - Two roads diverged in the woods, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. So I challenge each -- each and every one of you, my colleagues, to help make that difference. We share these same values. We share that bond. Today let's join together in moving this State forward in -- in a bipartisan fashion to create meaningful change for our children, for our senior citizens. Minority Leader Watson, I look forward to discussing these issues and many more with you, so we can come together to come to a resolve on these issues that are going to benefit all the people of the State of Illinois. So I look forward to making that call, by sitting down, working together, because that family value -- every parent, whether that parent's in the rural communities of southern Illinois, the suburban communities -- outside of Chicago or even in the large urban cities, in the same as Chicago, we all share the same common value. And the senior citizens who have worked all their lives should not be priced out of their home in property taxes to pay for education where... These and other issues we can come together as representatives of all the people and come to a resolve on those critical issues. So -- again -- again, I thank my colleagues for their confidence, their support, and -- and, Senator Terry Link, I am a Cub fan. And working on a

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

team to help achieve those goals, I'd like to name my Leadership team: Senator Debbie Halvorson, Majority Leader; Senator Lou Viverito, Assistant Majority Leader; Senator James DeLeo, Assistant Majority Leader; Senator Miguel del Valle, Assistant Majority Leader; Senator Rickey -- Senator Rickey Hendon, Assistant Majority Leader; and my long, long-valued friend, Senator George Shadid, Assistant Majority Leader; and Senator Terry Link, our Caucus Chair; and Senator James Clayborne, Majority Caucus Whip; and Senator John Cullerton, Majority Caucus Whip. Governor, so glad to have you in the Chambers. It's -- it's friendly confines. The next order of business is the election of the Minority Leader. The Chair recognizes Senator Kirk Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. And congratulations, once again, Emil. I proudly move that Senator Frank Watson of Greenville be declared Minority Leader by acclamation with the unanimous consent of this Body, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Dillard requests consent on behalf of all the Members of this Senate to declare Senator Frank Watson Minority Leader of the 94th General Assembly. Is leave granted? Leave is so granted. Congratulations, Senator Watson, Minority Leader. Senator Watson, Minority Leader, you wish to have a word or two to say?

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes, I would like to have a word or two, thank you, especially with you. By the way -- by the way, I think I got fifty-nine votes. I just heard unanimous consent. You had thirty-one; I want a recount. Well, Mr. President -- First Lady Patti, we welcome you, obviously, to the Senate. I'm glad to have you here. Governor Blagojevich, I'm back. We've obviously had some spirited Leaders' meetings and we don't always agree on all the issues, but I'll -- I'll have to tell you, I've enjoyed working with you, Rod, and you and your administration and your staff, and I look forward to better times. Let's put it that way -- the better times. But I will -- I do look forward to working with you. And honored guests, we're -- we're certainly glad to have you. Constitutional officers. I want to do mention

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Honorable Supreme Court Justices Freeman and -- and Garman. I want to especially give a warm welcome to Lloyd Karmeier, the new Supreme Court Justice from the 5th District, Lloyd. Obviously, my friends and colleagues in the 94th General Assembly and my wife, Susan, certainly not last or least, and we welcome all our family and friends who can be with us here today and -- and share in this moment. I think I know, as well as all of you, the importance of the support of family and friends to do what we do here in the Illinois Senate. And it means a great deal to all of us and we thank you for -- for being here. To my colleagues, Senator Burzynski and -- and Radogno and -- and Cronin and Senator Dillard, I -- and all of you, I appreciate this honor, once again, to be Leader of this Caucus. That's a -- it's a great privilege. Well, Brad said it, I wear it on my sleeve. You know, that's just the way it is. But I am proud, I am proud to be the Leader of this Caucus and it means a great deal to me. And -- and we've accomplished a lot - we, as a caucus. And I'm - - I'm proud of what has happened. We've worked together. We've stuck together. We -- we've made a difference. We've stood for principle and that's -- that's, I think, important legacy that we all want to leave when -- when the time has come here in this Senate. We've had some very tough times, but by sticking together, I believe we've had some good public policy results of what we've done, especially during this last Session in the fifty-four days of overtime. I think some good things came of that and it was -- a lot of it was the reason because of this caucus - the twenty-six members of the former caucus, and now the twenty-seven members that we now have. We had an opportunity in the overtime and we seized that opportunity. We demanded fiscal responsibility, fairer funding for education and investment in Illinois infrastructure, in our roads throughout this State. We've continually pushed, on this side of the aisle, for the concern of the problems of the business community and the job climate of this State, and we will continue to do that because we are very, very concerned about the future of jobs in this State for the people that we represent. We have to have a climate that is conducive for job growth and job creation, and this caucus certainly stands for that. We've had a -- a track record of accomplishments in the past, but I look forward to building on

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

this for the future. And we're proud to have, I said twenty-six Members in the past, we have twenty-seven Members going forth. And I want to welcome Senator Gary Dahl as part of our caucus. Senator Dahl, congratulations. We've got twenty-seven of us over here. We're energetic. We're hardworking. We're intelligent. We will do the right thing. We will represent the best interests of the people of this State as a group, as a whole, and that's something we're committed to do. We represent about half of the twelve million people of this State. So we will have an agenda and together, we will work together and we will stand for integrity and we will respect this institution, and we'll respect the rights of the people that we represent, and we will stand for fiscal -- discipline. And, Governor, with all due respect, we will be watching you, and -- but we will be working with you, because we want to see fiscal responsibility be a part of anything that we do here in the Illinois Senate. We want to demand, and I think we all should do this, that the State respects its citizens, the people that we represent. And I mentioned the business community and the jobs that they create deserve our concern, and those who pay the bills and make this possible for us to operate in Illinois, one of the finest states in this country. We will work hard to hold on -- the line on State spending. And we will continue -- and I'm glad that you mentioned this, Mr. President, in your remarks - the medical malpractice problem that faces the people of this State and the doctors and the medical community, many of whom have left this State because of the high cost of medical malpractice insurance. We have to do something that's meaningful. We have to do something that's long-term. We have to do something that drives down the cost of high -- of -- of medical malpractice insurance. Other than the budget, this particular year, and I felt even last year, other than the budget, the second most important issue that we must deal with is medical malpractice reform. We will represent the families of Illinois and the issues that are important to them. And we do look to the further. And, Senator Jones, I certainly congratulate you as you begin your second term as President of the Senate. And I will -- I extend a -- a hand of friendship and I want to work with you in this caucus. We'll -- we'll work with you as we face these challenges ahead. We will

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

have spirited debate and we probably will disagree, but we do stand ready to work together. And I'm not going to be alone in this either, Senator Jones, President Jones, I'm not going to be alone either. I have a leadership team that will join me in guiding their caucus in our legislative agenda. Once again, the Deputy Republican Leader, Ed Petka, to my left here. The Assistant Senate Republican Leaders will be Dave Luechtefeld, Bill Peterson, Steve Rauschenberger, and Todd Sieben. Our Caucus Chair is Brad Burzynski; and Republican Whip, Peter Roskam. So, Mr. President, the men and women on this side of the aisle, the Senate Republican Caucus, are -- stand -- we -- we stand ready to work with you as we go down the path of the 94th General Assembly, and we wish you well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Minority Leader Watson. If you -- yesterday you listened to the comments, the individual who unified you is no longer there -- here, so therefore -- according to your own Senator Dave Sullivan. So I know that may be a problem in the future, being united and everything, but we intend to work with you to help come to that resolve. It is now my personal pleasure to share with the -- the Members and their guests, Tierra Smith and Alexandria Sterling, who will do a recital, as well as song. Tierra and Alexandria -- Tierra and Alex, please come forward.

MISS ALEXANDRIA STERLING:

(Remarks and "God Bless America", sung by Miss Alexandria Sterling)

MISS TIERRA SMITH:

(Remarks and "America, the Beautiful", recited by Miss Tierra Smith)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Yes. Thank you, Tierra and Alex, for those very warm words of comfort, words of courage. Thank you for the great job that both of you've done. Our -- our public schools can do such a great job in educating our children. Am I correct? The -- the benediction will be offered by Rabbi Harvey Well of the Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago. Rabbi Well.

RABBI HARVEY WELL:

(Benediction by Rabbi Harvey Well)



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Chair appoint the following Senators to a Committee of Escort for the Governor: Senator James Meeks, Senator John Sullivan and Senator Kwame Raoul -- Senator Raoul. Well, when that district going to give us a name that, you know? We had Obama. Now we got Raoul. I mean, and Senator Dave Sullivan and Senator Kay Wojcik. Will these Members please come to -- forward to escort -- his Excellency, the Governor, from the Chamber? Now, Governor, you -- you're always welcome. You're always welcome. The following Senators are appointed to the Committee to Escort the Members of the Judiciary from this Chamber: Senator Don Harmon, Senator Martin Sandoval and Senator Carol Ronen, Senator Dave Luechtefeld and Senator Dale Righter. Will the members of -- of the Committee -- will the Committee on -- Members of the Committee on Escort please assemble here at the Rostrum to escort the Judiciary from the Chamber? It is the intention of the Chair to begin organizing the 94th General Assembly under the rules of the 93rd General Assembly until new rules are adopted as part of the organization of the newly constituted General Assembly. Madam Secretary, do you have any messages?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. A letter dated from the President -- from the President, dated January 12th, 2005.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-5, please be advised that I have appointed the following Senators to serve on the Senate Rules Committee: Senator Louis Viverito, Chairman; Senator John Cullerton; Senator Rickey Hendon. These appointments are effective immediately. If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please contact Courtney Nottage at 782-3920.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

A letter from the Minority Leader, Senator Frank Watson. January 12, 2005.

Dear Secretary Hawker - Pursuant to the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint Senator Ed Petka to serve as Minority Spokesperson of the Senate Rules Committee and Senator Peter Roskam to serve as a member of the Senate Rules Committee. Thank you.

Sincerely, Frank Watson, Senate Republican Leader.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

PRESIDENT JONES:

Madam -- Madam Secretary, do you have any resolutions on file?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 1, offered by Senators Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

Senate Resolution 2, by that same sponsorship, Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

They're both substantive.

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Senate will stand at ease to allow time for our guests to exit the Chamber. The Rules Committee will meet immediately in the Anteroom. The Senate will stand at ease. The Members are asked to please remain at your seat.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Will the Members of the Rules Committee kindly come to the Anteroom. The Members of the Rules Committee?

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Senate will stand in recess until the call of the Chair. Would everyone clear the Chamber? And exit the building.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT JONES:

Will the Members in their office kindly come to the Floor? We're ready to convene, take care of business. Will the Members please come to the Floor? We are ready to convene. The Senate will come to order. 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 - Senate Resolutions 1 and 2.

PRESIDENT JONES:

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

The Calendar has been distributed. The Calendar has been distributed. On the Calendar is Senate Resolution No. 1. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution No. 1, offered by Senators Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Mr. President -- thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Senate Resolution No. 1, which was approved by the Rules Committee unanimously, appoints the following officers to be elected: Linda Hawker, Secretary of the Senate; Scott Kaiser, Assistant Secretary of the Senate; Anita Robinson, Sergeant-at-Arms; Tracey Sidles, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton has moved to -- the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 1. Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 1. All those in favor will signify by voting 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 57 voting Yea, no Nays, 1 voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 1, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared adopted. Senator Roskam, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just a point of order. I think there was an error on the previous roll call and that someone, I think, inadvertently hit Senator Walsh's switch.

PRESIDENT JONES:

That's right. Senator Walsh is not here and it probably is in error. And the -- the record will -- shall reflect such and -- and staff is currently turning his key off. Maybe it was his ghost who wanted to be recorded. All right. But the record shall so reflect. On the Order of Senate Resolutions is Senate Resolution No. 2. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Senate Resolution No. 2, offered by Senators Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Senate Resolution No. 2 contains the rules of the 94th General Assembly. Substantively, the new rules are very similar to the rules of the 93rd General Assembly. There are sections where language referring to the dissemination of legislative measures is updated to include electronic transmission. These changes are merely technical in nature. There are other technical changes to the rules that codify existing practices and effectuate the business of the Chamber. The critical difference between the rules of the 93rd General Assembly and the proposed rules of the 94th General Assembly is Rule 3-13. First and foremost, Rule 3-13 does not provide new powers to the Senate. Rule 3-13 restates existing law and specifies the means by which the Senate can issue and enforce subpoenas to conduct legislative investigations. The Illinois Constitution, the Illinois Statutes and case law give the Senate the power to -- to procure testimony and documents through issuing subpoenas. According to an article in the Chicago Bar Record, the -- and I would quote, "The device of legislative investigation is a key to good government. It helps the General Assembly to inform itself on the needs of government in preparation for the new laws and for the new revision of the old" laws -- "old ones." Close quote. There will be times when the issuance of a subpoena will be necessary to conduct thorough investigations on issues of importance to the people of Illinois. The same Chicago Bar article informs us that the investigative power of a legislative Body is inherent in the legislative process. As numerous federal and State cases have been recognized, it's an implied power which is judicially recognized as being necessary for the effective exercise of the constitutionality derived power to legislate. The Senate's subpoena power will remain as it has before the adoption of these rules, a seldom used tool - but is important tool. United States Supreme Court stated in McGrain versus Daugherty that, "In actual legislative practice, power to secure needed information by such

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

means has long been treated as an attribute of the power to legislate. It was so regarded in the British Parliament and in the colonial legislatures before the American Revolution, and a like view has prevailed and been carried into effect in both houses of Congress and in most of the state legislatures." We envision that a subpoena will only be issued if a person or entity has refused to comply with a written letter requesting information or to appear before a committee of the Senate. Rule 3-13 simply specifies the mechanism by which the Senate may issue and enforce subpoenas. Rule 3-13 provides important safeguards to a respondent issued a subpoena. Under this rule, a person testifying in response to a subpoena may have legal counsel present at their own expense and may also avail themselves of all rights available under the law. And finally, Rule 3-13 specifies that the Senate may seek to enforce subpoenas in any court in the State that has competent jurisdiction. There are other rule changes that are -- be happy to answer questions about if you have had a chance to review them. Ask that we adopt the resolution.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton has moved the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 2. Is there any discussion? Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

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

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicate he will.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Senator Cullerton, I don't know if you've got the same copy that I have, but just to start out a little bit on some of the duties of the President that are consistent then and cross-referenced with the duties of the Secretary of the Senate. One of those seems to -- where -- there's a new phrase and it's on page nine, line seventeen -- or, paragraph seventeen. To direct -- this is a Presidential power - "To direct the Secretary on regular session, veto session, special session or perfunctory session days to read into the Senate record legislative measures and other papers." Is -- is -- under a part of these rules, would the Secretary of the Senate be able to read official matters into the record even though the Senate is not in Session?

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

The answer is yes. And the real purpose behind this would be for our Rules Committee to be able to schedule a hearing in the morning, not have to wait until we go into Session later on that day. That's really the whole purpose of -- of that rule change.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Wouldn't it be wiser to -- to craft the rule in such a way that -- that actually says that, in fact, so that you would limit it to an actual Session day or within X hours of convening the Session? Because under this rule, the Secretary of the Senate would be able to read into the record at any time, I mean, literally at two in the morning. I -- the public would have no notice. We would have no notice. There would be no triggering mechanism, - no way to know what had literally been read into the record. It could be Easter Sunday. It could be Christmas Eve. It could be the Fourth of July. Why not link this more consistently with your actual purpose? And if you want, we can swear in -- Courtney Nottage under the new rules and have him -- have him testify under oath.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Senator Roskam, our staff was working on these rules up until last night. I believe we shared them with your staff about 6:30. So I -- I don't -- you got 'em as soon as we could get 'em to you. I don't know if we've had enough time to review all of them. But let me respond specifically to your last point. The way I read the rule, No. 17, it allows "to direct the Secretary on regular session, veto session, special session, or perfunctory session days to read into the Senate record legislative measures and other papers." So we have to be in Session. Okay. Now, could it be done at two o'clock at night because we're still in Session? I -- I -- I guess so. And if -- if that's something you're concerned about, I imagine we could probably address that

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

with an amendment to the rules after we adopt 'em. But it's not a conspiracy. Okay? It's just designed to make it a little easier for our Rules Committee to meet. And as you know, we've had times when the Rules Committee met, when you guys were in the majority, while we were in Session voting on bills, which was a big irritant to me personally. So that's -- it's really designed to make it run better, not any other -- for any other reason.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

I'll take you up on your offer to amend the rule later on. I -- I do think that would be a wise thing. Thank you for your offer. We accept it. Let me ask you a couple other questions. You know, yesterday, we -- we heard in our speeches, the -- the going away speeches of -- for Senator Welch, that -- the great heritage that -- that our friend Senator Vince Demuzio would say, "This is the Senate." Well, one of the great things about the Senate, it seems to me, is that there has not been the ability to replace people on committees and that -- committees have meant something, chairmen have been empowered, unlike the House which, you know, has a rotating roster depending on the whims of the leadership in both parties. Why -- if we are trying to honor that heritage of the Senate, why do we want, under these new rules, to be able to replace people for what, according to this new rule, is, quote, an unforeseen circumstance, or "an unforeseen absence"? Can you give me a definition of what the unforeseen absence is? Could an unforeseen absence be something like, "We sure would like a Yes vote on this bill today and we recommend that you go -- go tour the Lincoln house this afternoon during the committee session and why don't you just go -- go scatter; we got somebody who's going to play ball with us"? What's to prevent that from happening?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. I think that's a very, very legitimate question that people on both sides of the aisle would want to know an answer to, and I think it's important that we set the legislative record clear and distinguish our rule from the

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

practice in the House. We currently have the rule from the past years that says that "to maintain the efficient operation of the Senate, a committee member may be temporarily replaced due to illness." That's current rule. What we're saying here is -- we're adding the words, "or an unforeseen absence". This comes out of, from what I understand, a Senator last year who was not ill but was unable to attend the regular Session, and as a result, the committee could not meet and we basically shut down the Senate until that Senator could arrive. So that's what it's meant to be, a very limited case. So, in other words, if -- if the person's in Springfield and physically here and they just don't want to be on that committee, they cannot be replaced by someone. That's not what this rule would allow for.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

When we do the amendment that we agreed to a couple minutes ago, can we revisit this language, because I think that there's a way to tighten up? There's no objection if there is obviously a legitimate family concern and so forth. We all live within those confines and certainly understand that. But you know, as well as I do, the potential for ambiguity and manipulation. Last question that I have, Senator. Part of the -- part -- can you -- can you just kind of walk us through some of these new notice requirements. You mentioned that they were technical in nature and they brought us up to date, in terms of electronic notice that would be given. One area that I have a concern on is, do we as Senators get an -- actually get notified electronically or is there something that's posted on a -- a General Assembly website and then we've got to search the website and find an icon and click on it and find out what's going on? How -- how -- how active is the notice? Guess that's my question.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

I'm looking for the specific rule. From what I understand, it's meant to be an additional notice, not either/or. In other words, our laptops would be -- we could communicate through the



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

laptop a notice of a committee, but at the same time, there still would be written notice.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

That's great. I mean, that's -- so it -- our understanding was that this was -- it was "or". But if I'm wrong, I would love to be wrong on this.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton. The Chair taking the prerogative. Senator Roskam, you're always wrong.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Okay. For one, take for example, in answering your question, the current law -- current rule: No conference committee's report may be considered by the Senate unless it has first been reproduced and distributed on the members' desks for one full session day. Now, we haven't had a lot of conference committee reports, but we've gotten away from using that paper, reproducing that paper and putting it on the desks. What we've been doing is putting it on the laptop. This is an effort to codify the practice.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicate he will.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Cullerton, first, I notice in the rules that there is an expansion of the number of standing committees that we will be having. I think the -- there are five additional committees. Can you tell me or/and the Body why we're doing that?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. There are new standing committees. I missed the -- part of your question, though. Why we have 'em? Maybe it's -- it comes into play with regard to the subpoena power, as well, to

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

spell those out. We -- we envision the committees to be more involved perhaps in investigations for purposes of proposing new legislation. And in some cases, you'll see that it just makes sense to split up the duties. The Appropriations Committee, for example, to have three appropriations committees is appropriate. Pensions to be separated from Insurance. I think Pensions is going to be unfortunately one of the top issues that we have to deal with in this coming Session. So we have Higher Education, a committee that's focused just on higher education. So that's the rationale for the changes.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

...you -- thank you, Mr. President. Well, Senator, if I understand your answer correctly, then linking the expansion of the committees to the investigation -- codifying, if you will, the -- investigation power. I mean, what is the link between the five specific committees, new committees that you are creating, and -- I mean, is there a certain area in these policy areas that you're wanting to investigate? I mean, maybe I misunderstood your response.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

No, actually what I meant to say is, and I apologize for not making it clear, we're distributing the -- the duties over more committees so that those committees will have more time to do their investigations to proposed legislation. So if you have an education committee, they have to deal with the school aid formula as well as issues dealing with higher ed. It's better to have a higher ed committee that can do that. As far as the subpoenas are concerned, that power is given to every committee chairman in conjunction with the President of the Senate. So, it's not just these new committees. It's just that it's spreading out the responsibilities to more committees.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. Was there something to indicate in the -- the length of the meetings that took place last Session in the committees, or the last General Assembly, or some other matter that indicated that these specific committees needed to be broke off, I guess? And -- and I'm not -- I'm not in the majority, but I was not under the impression that throughout the entire Session we saw the workload in specific committees so heavy that they couldn't get their work done. Now, you could say that in the last four or five days of Session, the committee workload got a little ridiculous, but I think that has to do more with the distribution of the workload over the Session rather than the amount of bills we're trying to deal with.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

No. Actually, it -- it does more than -- than just that. It -- it allows you to highlight certain things. You know, I remember when -- when you guys took over twelve years ago, the name of the -- we had a committee that had the word "labor" in it and you guys took the word "labor" out and changed the name of the committee - maybe for symbolic reasons. But what I'm suggesting is, that if you have a higher education committee, if you have a pensions and investment committee, that that committee would meet, the Members would become more involved, all of us will become more involved, we'll serve on more committees, and you will have the ability to learn more about a specific issue and propose legislation accordingly.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank -- thank you. I'll move onto another area. But, I mean, we both recognize that changing the name of a committee doesn't cost the taxpayers any additional dollars; expanding the number of committees does do that. Rule 8-4 - and you discussed this issue with Senator Roskam a little bit - having to do with the notice procedure, and I want to make sure that -- that everyone's clear here, that we're not -- when it comes to notice, the only change being made in these rules is not that we are going to either substitute electronic notice for written notice

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

or that you're going to add electronic notice, you're also - and -- and I'm talking about subsection (b) of Rule 8-4 with regards to conference committee reports - reducing the required notice before we can consider a conference committee report from one day to one hour. Now, Senator Cullerton, you and several other Members on our side of the aisle are -- are particularly sharp cookies, but there's a lot of us who are not going to be able to swallow some of the issues that come down late in the Session and deal with those and get -- on only one-hour notice. Senator Roskam mentioned earlier the speeches that we heard yesterday about the institution, about the Senate itself, and not so much the individual Members, but the Senate itself and the deliberate nature of the Senate. Given that, why do you feel it's necessary to reduce the -- the -- the hour -- I mean, the twenty-four-hour notice to one hour for conference committees?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Senator. That is consistent with amendments, the time that we allow for amendments, as well as concurrence motions. We haven't had a lot of conference committees in the last few years, but conference committees obviously come at the end of the Session when it's important, if we are going to have 'em anymore, to -- to do it very -- very quickly, and again, we do have rules which allow for public hearings before those conference committees can be -- can be adopted. So the public certainly has the right to come in and -- and testify on -- on those conference committees.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I understand that, Senator, but would you not recognize there's a -- there's a clear distinction between a conference committee report and a concurrence motion, in that if we're voting on a -- in a concurrence motion, one Body has already taken up that legislation publicly? So there is some de facto notice of what's going on just right across in the other Chamber. But a conference committee report is not that way at all. That can be entirely new legislation. And given the fact that your

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

party controls both the Senate and the House, you don't need any of our signatures in order to move that out of a conference committee. So I -- I wonder if, first, you'll recognize that distinction and consider -- in the amendment that -- that you were going to run in compliance with Senator Roskam's request, you wouldn't also consider changing that back? I mean, one day is not too long for everyone to have an opportunity to review a conference committee report. I mean, is that something you'd be willing to consider?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Well, you know, you can have conference committees that are technical in nature. You can have concurrences that come over that are major rewrites of legislation. We're just making the two consistent. There is a committee hearing on conference committees. It's usually dealing with legislation that's been around the General Assembly the whole Session. The parties of interest are aware of what the issues are. We've had very few conference committees and -- that we've adopted in the last few years, but when we do, I surely feel comfortable that giving the same notice to conference committees as we do to concurrence motions and amendments is reasonable.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

To the resolution, Mr. President. Briefly. Thank you. Thank you, Senator Cullerton, for the answers, both to my questions and Senator Roskam's questions. To the Body: I think that there are some troublesome changes in here. If you believe that the General Assembly needs to expand its committees and the taxpayers need to fork over some more money so some more Members can be Chairs and Minority Spokespersons and -- and enhance their salaries, then this is a good -- this is a good vote -- good Yes vote. If you believe that the process isn't moving quickly enough and that you're receiving more than adequate notice and that you're comfortable with moving the conference committee notice requirement from one day to one hour, then this is a good vote. But I don't think that's a good vote for this Chamber. I

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

don't think that's good for this Body. It is good to try to economize. It's good to try to be efficient and expedite work where you can. But there's a reason that we don't move like -- like greased lightning in this Chamber, and that's because everyone is supposed to have a chance to read, everyone's supposed to have a chance to consider and thoroughly debate, and I think this rule cuts into that. For the Members on our side of the aisle, I would urge a No vote.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. I -- I'll be brief. I just want to ask a couple questions, if I may, of Senator Cullerton regarding subpoena power. And I think all of us recognize that we're sort of breaking some new ground here with subpoena power. And I'm wondering, first, have we done this in the past? Has this legislative Body -- have we done subpoena power? Have we given ourselves the power to bring people before a committee to compel testimony in the past?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Since I've been here, which is starting my twenty-seventh year, in the House I remember subpoena power being given to a special committee studying the salmonella scandal that occurred. I think Representative Larry Bullock was the Chairman of that committee. I also am aware of the fact that a former Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Harold Washington, had the -- issued subpoenas and swore people in to testify in front of the committees. So it has -- in very rare cases, have been used pursuant to the statute, which is -- you know, been around for quite some time, and actually our rules that we're talking about here really restrict the statute. We give more -- for example, under the statute, the committee chairman can issue a subpoena. What we're saying here is, we think it's a better idea to have the President of the Senate and a committee chairman issue a subpoena. So, in a way, we're providing more rights for people who would be subject to subpoena. And as, again, I remind you, that what's likely is, you send a letter to somebody who's

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

reluctant to testify and you say, "Please testify." They know we have the power to subpoena them and so they come forward voluntarily, or some people want to be subpoenaed, because they - - for various reasons. And in which case, we -- we would just implement it.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank -- thank you, John. I -- you know, I -- I -- I understand that that's the intent and that appears to be the limitation, and the -- the experience has been it's used in very rare circumstances. The salmonella was a huge scandal, if you will, at that time. It's based on State statute? That's what gives us the authority? I mean, how -- I mean, I guess maybe I should do a little research on this myself. I mean, can anyone - - can the Chicago City Council give themselves subpoena power to compel testimony? I mean...

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

I don't know the answer to the question about municipalities. I know the Constitution specifically authorizes the Legislature to do so. And again, I -- I can give you the site. I've got a copy of the statute with regard to the current subpoena power and it's -- it's been -- it's been around for quite some time.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Just lastly, I just wanted to urge caution here. You know, I -- I understand, based on your answers here, that this is a power that has been used very, very sparingly in the past. You know, as a Member of the Minority here, chairmen who can -- with the vote of the Majority and the will of the President, can issue subpoenas and compel people to come before committees and -- and -- and compel testimony that -- that -- that may -- that may be part and parcel of any number of different efforts here, and that's sort of scary - political agendas, philosophical differences, personal vendettas. I guess we just got to trust

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

the -- the Chairmen and the Senate President, and they're trustworthy people, no doubt, but I think this broad power for every Chairman in every committee, I think is new ground. And so I -- I -- I urge the Majority to tread very, very carefully here.  
PRESIDENT JONES:

Is there any further discussion? If not, the question is -- Senator Cullerton, to close.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Just -- just quickly to respond to a couple of points made. Senator Cronin, I agree with you wholeheartedly that we should be very careful. I want you to look at the current statute, which is very broad. It's been around since 1874. It -- our intention is, these subpoenas are only going to be used in rare cases, not for star Chambers, but for assistance in actual legislation that's being proposed. Secondly, with regard to the issue of money that was raised by one of the Senators, by adding new committees, there will be more money that would go to the -- the Chairman and Minority Spokesman, but it doesn't -- but -- but the actual appropriation process will determine whether we, as a Body, spend more money. We don't necessarily have to spend more money. It could be absorbed in the -- in the operations of the -- of the house and we will determine that when we do our budget in the next three or four months. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Any further discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 2. All those in favor will signify by voting Yea. 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 30 voting Aye, 27 voting Nay, no one voting Present. The -- this resolution, having received the constitutional majority, is declared passed. A statement from the Chair: Those individuals who -- those individuals who did not vote for it and they wish to be a Minority Spokesman, we will not appropriate any additional dollars for the increase for those persons being appointed a Minority Chair. We are now operating under the rules of the 94th General Assembly. Madam Secretary, are there any other Messages?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Letter from the President, dated January 12th, 2005.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-5, please be advised that I have appointed the Senators -- the following Senators to serve on the Senate Rules Committee: Senator Louis Viverito, Chairman; Senator John Cullerton and Senator Rickey Hendon. These appointments are effective immediately.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

I have a -- a Message from the Senate Republican Leader, dated January 12, 2005.

Dear Secretary Hawker - Pursuant to Senate rules adopted on January 12th, 2005, I hereby appoint Senator Ed Petka to serve as Minority Spokesperson of the Senate Rules Committee and Senator Peter Roskam to serve as a member of the Senate Rules Committee.

Sincerely, Frank Watson, Senate Republican Leader.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Madam Secretary, are there any further resolutions on file?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Senate Resolution No. 3, offered by Senator Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

And Senate Resolutions 4 and 5, with the same sponsors.

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Senate will stand at ease for just a couple of minutes. Do not leave. The Rules Committee will meet immediately in the Anteroom. We will stand at ease for a few moments. Members will remain in the Chamber.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT JONES:

The Senate will -- will come to order. Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Resolutions 3, 4 and 5.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Supplemental Calendars have been distributed. On the Supplemental Calendar is Senate Resolution No. 3. Madam Secretary, please read the resolution.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution No. 3, offered by Senators Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton. Senator -- Senator Cullerton, to explain the resolution.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes, Mr. President. Senate Resolution No. 3 simply informs the House of Representatives that the Senate is organized. Move for its adoption.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton has moved to -- for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 3. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? If not, the question is, shall Senate -- shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 3. All those in favor will signify by voting 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 voting Aye, no Nays, no one voting Present. This resolution, having received the constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate -- Senate Resolution 4 -- No. 4. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution No. 4, offered by Senators Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton, to briefly explain the resolution.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution No. 4 calls for the Secretary to prepare each day an exact transcript of the Journal and have copies thereof printed at once.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton -- any discussion? Any discussion? Senator Cullerton moved for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 4. Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall we adopt Senate Resolution No. 4. All those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all -- have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Aye, no

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Nays, no one voting Present. This resolution, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Resolution No. 5. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution No. 5, offered by Senators Cullerton, Viverito and Hendon.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Cullerton, briefly explain the resolution.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this resolution passed unanimously in the Rules Committee. However, for some people, it might be a little bit controversial. And I want to go slow and have everybody understand what this does. The -- the following people are hereby appointed to the Standing Committee of Correspondents, to have supervision of all press matters in relation to the Senate and to formulate rules governing the press gallery of the Senate which they shall present to the Committee on Rules of the Senate for its approval and by said Committee reported to the Senate. And here are the names: Ben Kiningham, Illinois Public {sic} (Radio) Network; Ray Long, Chicago Tribune; Doug Finke, Copley Illinois; Dave McKinney, Chicago Sun-Times; Kurt Erickson, Bloomington Pantagraph. There's nobody there from Capitol Fax. I just want to point that out. So, vote -- vote whichever way you want, but it did pass the Rules Committee unanimously.

PRESIDENT JONES:

All right. Is there any discussion? Any -- any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Senate Resolution No. 5. All those in favor will signify by voting 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 voting Aye, none -- no Nays, no one voting Present. Senate Resolution No. 5, having received the constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, Messages.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Message from the President, dated January 12, 2005.

Dear Madam Secretary - Please enclose -- pardon me, enclosed please find Senate Session Schedule for the 94th General

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

1/12/2005

Assembly, which commences on Wednesday, January 12, 2005.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

I have an additional letter from Senator Larry Walsh, dated January 11, 2005.

Dear President Jones - I hereby resign my position as the Senator from the 43rd Legislative District effective at 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, January 12th, 2005. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the residents of the district, and to serve with you, Mr. President, as well as all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I look forward to continuing my public service in other capacities.

Sincerely, Larry M. Walsh, State Senator.

I have an additional letter from Senator Meeks, dated January 11, 2005.

PRESIDENT JONES:

That letter will be so printed in the Journal. There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate -- Senator Halvorson moves that it stands -- Senate stand adjourned until the hour of 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 13th. The -- the Senate stands adjourned.