

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

7/7/2007

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate will come to order. Madam Secretary, Communications from the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I have a letter dated July 7th, 2007.

Dear Secretary Shipley - Enclosed please find a -- a copy of Proclamation No. 2007-232, filed in my office on July 7th, 2007, by Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, calling for a Special Session of the 95th General Assembly, to begin at 2:30 p.m. on July 7th, 2007. A notice and accompanying Proclamation has been mailed today to each Member's Springfield office.

Sincerely, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

(Secretary reads Proclamation No. 2007-232)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate of the 95th General Assembly is assembled and has assembled its Fourth Special Session. Under the practice of this Body since the 80th {sic} (88th) General Assembly, the rules adopted by the 95th General Assembly and its officers and committees are in effect for the continuous period of the 95th General Assembly, including any Special Session. There are three organizational resolutions that will be adopted today. These resolutions inform the House that the Senate is ready to conduct business, create a Senate Committee of three people to approve the Journals for the Senate for all the days of Special Session. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 1, Fourth Special Session, offered by Senator Clayborne.

(Secretary reads SR No. 1)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Clayborne moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 1. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Clayborne now moves the adoption of Senate Resolution 1. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 2, Fourth Special Session, offered by Senator Clayborne.

(Secretary reads SR No. 2)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 3, Fourth Special Session, offered by Senator Clayborne.

(Secretary reads SR No. 3)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Clayborne moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediately adopting Senate Resolution 3. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Clayborne moves the adoption of Senate

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Resolution 3. Those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senator Clayborne, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Point of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your announcement.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

On July 6, which was yesterday, Senator Silverstein was absent because of medical reasons, and today he is absent because of religious reasons.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

First, Madam President, if I might, for purposes of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...your announcement.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you. Today Senators Althoff, Dillard, Luechtefeld and Radogno are absent. Also, I would like to make an inquiry of the Chair, if I might.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your inquiry, please.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Can the Chair inform us, if a proclamation issued from the Governor's Office with regards to a Special Session is erroneous on its face, in other words if it makes a blatantly incorrect

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statement, does that vitiate the effectiveness of the proclamation? In other words, can the -- the Presiding Officer, like you, say, you know, this proclamation is in error, we're not going to have a Special Session today?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter, thank you for that inquiry. At this point, it would be difficult to speculate. I'd be happy to look into it to see what -- what it is that you're talking about. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Just -- can I just briefly throw out a little food for thought on that particular point?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sure. Please proceed.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

The -- the Governor's proclamation says that the General Assembly has not made appropriations for the Fiscal Year -- for Fiscal Year 2008 with regards to the Child Support Administrative Fund. It's my information that in the temporary budget that the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed himself, that there's a hundred and eighty-one million dollars appropriated to the Child Support Administrative Fund, which is only three million dollars less than what he asked for in his proposed budget. And what makes this even more interesting is that since the temporary budget sunsets in thirty days, we didn't give him a hundred and eighty-one million dollars to spend over twelve months, we gave him a hundred one -- eighty-one million dollars to spend in thirty days. So he's got a whole bunch of spending authority - way, way more than he asked for. Now -- and that's -

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- I think the General Assembly has done its part. The Governor has chose to sweep some of that money in the past; although I'm not sure the single parents in my district would refer to it as sweeping. They would refer to it as raiding or some other term. But given that, Madam President, is it appropriate for us to convene in Special Session when the bases for the Special Session being called is slow -- so erroneous?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter, I'm not prepared to make a ruling on that right now. If it'd be okay to get back to you on that. Senator Haine, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HAINE:

Just a -- Madam President, in response to Senator Righter's query. I have a -- a thought in my mind from Mister Rogers. To paraphrase Fred Rogers: Every Session of this great Senate is special. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. Just to -- to follow up, and Senator Haine didn't completely give all the sayings that Mister Rogers said. Mister Rogers also had a favorite saying of: It's a beautiful day in the Make-Believe.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones, I thought that was "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood." There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Fourth Special Session of the Senate stands adjourned until 12:20 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10th, 2007.

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The Special Session of the Senate stands adjourned.