

STATE OF ILLINOIS
96th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

6/23/2009

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The Senate will please come to order. Will the Members be at their desks? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Reverend Mark Gifford, from Parkway Christian Church, in Springfield, Illinois.

THE REVEREND MARK GIFFORD:

(Prayer by the Reverend Mark Gifford)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Maloney, would you lead us in the Pledge today?

SENATOR MALONEY:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Maloney)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

WICS seeks leave to videotape the proceedings. Is there any objection? Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Madam Secretary, Communications from the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY ROCK:

I have a letter dated June 18th, 2009.

Dear Secretary Rock - Enclosed please find a copy of Proclamation No. 2009-203, filed in my office on June 18th, 2009, by Governor Pat Quinn, calling for a Special Session of the 96th General Assembly, to begin at 2 o'clock p.m. on June 23rd, 2009. A notice and accompanying Proclamations has been mailed today to each Member's office.

Sincerely, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

(Secretary reads Proclamation No. 2009-203)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The Senate of the 96th General Assembly is convened in its First Special Session. Under the practice of this Body since

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the 88th General Assembly, the rules adopted in the 96th General Assembly and its officers and committees are in effect for the continuous period of the 96th General Assembly, including Special Sessions. There are three organizational resolutions that will be adopted today. These resolutions inform the House that the Senate is ready to conduct business, create a Senate Committee of five to wait upon the Governor, and create a Senate Committee of three to approve Journals for the Senate for all days of the Special Session. I know that some Members are seeking recognition for purposes of introductions and other points of personal privilege; it will take us a few minutes to work through the -- the organizing resolutions today. We will turn to your requests to be recognized. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution 1, offered by Senator Lightford.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution 2, offered by Senator Lightford.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Lightford moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate adoption of Senate Resolution 2. All

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those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Lightford now moves the adoption of Senate Resolution 2. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution 3, offered by Senator Lightford.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Senator Lightford moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate adoption of Senate Resolution 3. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Lightford now moves the adoption of Senate Resolution 3. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senator Bomke, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you. I have with me today as an Honorary Page, Geoffrey Datz. His father, who -- has been here on a number of occasions giving the invocation, who is Rabbi Datz. But I would like you to help me welcome his son, Geoffrey, who is ten years old and happy that he's enjoying a summer vacation and out of school. But would appreciate you helping me welcoming him to the Illinois State Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

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Geoffrey, welcome to the Senate. Let's join Senator Bomke in welcoming his Page for the day. Senator Hutchinson, are you seeking recognition?

SENATOR HUTCHINSON:

Thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. I'd like to take an opportunity to introduce a very -- close, personal friend of mine. Her name is Gretchen Williams. Born and raised in Springfield, Illinois. Formerly Senator Bomke's constituent. Used to be with our Illinois Department of Corrections, is now with the Nevada Department of Corrections, and is home for a visit. So please join me in welcoming Ms. Williams back to the Capitol.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Ms. Williams, welcome to the Senate. Thank you, Senator Hutchinson. Senator Lightford, are you seeking recognition?

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

I am, Mr. President. Personal privilege, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I have a young lady here who's aspiring to be in politics even though all the negativity circumvents us. But she truly understands how dynamic we are as public servants, and she's here to take a look at the process. Her name is Keisha {sic} (Lakeisha) Purchase. She is a junior at SIU in Carbondale. Please welcome her to the Illinois General Assembly.

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Welcome to the Senate. Senator Martinez, for what purpose are you seeking recognition?

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

For a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

State your point, Senator.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

Thank you, Mr. President. Today I'm also joined with -- by a very, very good friend. She's been my childhood friend for over thirty years. I see her wonderful son is also with her. He is -- actually graduated from -- from elementary school with honors, going on to -- to Holy Trinity. And I want everybody to welcome my best friend and my sister, Martha Torres, and her son, Daniel.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Guests in the gallery please rise to be welcomed to the Senate. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, the Chair recognizes Senator Koehler for a serious point of personal privilege. Please give your attention to the gentleman.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. We've had yet another tragedy in Central Illinois. In fact, there were two soldiers that were killed this past week, one from East Peoria and the other from Germantown, which I believe is in Senator John O. Jones' district. But I'd like to, after I read a little bit about Paul Smith, ask us to take a moment of silence to remember him and his family. Paul Smith, forty-three, was a Sergeant with the Illinois Army National Guard. He was killed Friday when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an IED in

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Kandahar, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Joshua Melton, twenty-six, from Germantown, about forty-five miles east of St. Louis, was also killed. And two other soldiers were injured. The soldiers are all part of the 33rd Brigade Combat Team, deployed last summer and fall to help train the Afghan Army and the National Police. Smith's unit, Troop C, 2nd Battalion, 106th Cavalry Regiment, was providing protection for Embedded Training Teams and the Afghans when they were killed. They are the thirteenth and fourteenth soldiers to have been killed from the 33rd. It's a tragic loss. It's a -- one that the family is having to deal with all of a sudden. And I'd like us to remember them in our thoughts and prayers, if you would take a moment with me.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please rise from a moment of silence on behalf of our fallen soldiers. (Moment of silence observed) WBBM-TV seeks leave to videotape the proceeding. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Senator Meeks, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR MEEKS:

Thank -- thank you so much, Mr. President and my seatmate. I'm so happy, always, when I see you in the Chair. For a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR MEEKS:

I want to welcome -- take this time to welcome everybody back to Springfield and to announce that my birthday is August 4th and I'm throwing a party at Saputo's. And I'm inviting --

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I'm taking this time now so that everybody can put it your calendar. August 4th is my birthday and I'm inviting all of you to Saputo's, because I'm sure that we'll be here taking care of the problems of the State of Illinois. And so please write that down. I want to make sure that everybody's there at my birthday party in August.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Ladies and Gentlemen, please address your birthday cards to Senator Meeks at Saputo's, but please mail them from home. Senator Clayborne, are you seeking recognition?

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Yes. For a point of announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your announcement, Senator.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

I want to make an announcement that the Senate Democratic Caucus will meet in President Cullerton's Office at 4 o'clock for a caucus. Four o'clock.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator John Jones, are -- what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR J. JONES:

I -- I know Senator Koehler made mention of it, but I just wanted to follow up on a -- a young man that was with his young soldier from -- from the Peoria area that is from my district.

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Staff Sergeant Joshua Melton, from Germantown, Illinois, lost his life along with -- with Senator Koehler's soldier last Friday. And -- and I -- I know we gave a moment of silence a few minutes ago, but I just want everybody to think about these -- these two families as we move forward here in the General Assembly in the next few days. That these people are -- giving up great sacrifices for our freedoms and we should remember that every moment of every day. And so my thoughts and prayers, I know along with the Senate here, goes -- goes out to both those families in -- in their great loss.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

Thank you, Senator Jones. I'm sorry I didn't recognize you before the moment of silence. Senator Syverson, are you seeking recognition?

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Yes, Mr. President. The Senate Republicans would like to have a caucus immediately upon adjournment or recess, whatever the call of the Chair is.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

WBBM CBS 2 News seeks permission to record the proceedings. There being no objection, leave is granted. The Senate stands in recess until the call of the Chair. We plan to come back after caucuses. We may or may not take up substantive business at that point. But, for the moment, the Senate stands in recess.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

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The Senate will come to order to recognize Senator Raoul for a point of personal privilege. The Senate will stand in recess to the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HARMON)

The Senate will come to order. There being no further business to come before the First Special Session of the 96th General Assembly, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 10:01 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24th, 2009. The Senate stands adjourned.