

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE
EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

7/7/2004

1 Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 12:00 having arrived, the House
2 will be in order. Will the Members please be in their
3 seats. Members and guests are asked to refrain from
4 starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones and pagers
5 and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
6 We will be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, Assistant
7 Pastor of the Victory Temple Church in Springfield."

8 Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Almighty and most gracious God,
9 our heavenly creator who has dominion over life and death.
10 Father, grant to us the grace to remember what love and
11 reverence. That we are to go forth in peace with courage,
12 that we are to holdfast that which is good. Rendering to
13 no one evil for evil. But Father, help us to strengthen
14 the faint-hearted, help us to support the weak, help us to
15 help the afflicted and to honor all people loving and
16 serving them in the same love and spirit in which You have
17 loved us. This we ask in Your Son's name. Amen."

18 Speaker Hannig: "And we will led in the pledge today by
19 Representative Karen May."

20 May - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United
21 States of America and to the republic for which it stands,
22 one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice
23 for all."

24 Speaker Hannig: "Roll Call for Attendance. Your own switch
25 only, please. Would Members please... would Members please
26 press their own switch only. And Representative Currie is
27 recognized for excused absences."

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1 Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that
2 Representatives Rich Bradley, Brosnahan, Molaro, Morrow,
3 Phelps and Slone are excused today."

4 Speaker Hannig: "Representative Bost."

5 Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record that
6 Representative Biggins, Jerry Mitchell, Sommer, Sacia,
7 Beaubien, Wait, Mathias, Munson and with sadness I also say
8 Black is excused today."

9 Speaker Hannig: "Representative May, for what reason do you
10 rise?"

11 May: "Yes, Mr. Speaker, point of personal privilege."

12 Speaker Hannig: "Excuse me, Representative. Could you hold
13 that point for a second?"

14 May: "Okay."

15 Speaker Hannig: "Okay. Mr. Clerk, take the record. There are
16 99 Members answering the Roll Call. A quorum is present.
17 Okay. Now, Representative May."

18 May: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have many fine arts
19 organizations and groups here in the State of Illinois.
20 And I am honored and privileged to have one of the very
21 best in my district. The renowned world famous Ravinia
22 Festival. We have with me in the gallery today right
23 behind us with the Director of the Illinois Arts Council
24 Shirley Madigan, Victor Weber, the Associate Director of
25 Government Relations and Christine Taylor for Community and
26 Education Outreach. If they would stand. Thank you. And
27 they were here to brief us on their wonderful community
28 education and outreach programs, whether it be jazz

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1 mentoring, the 20 thousand tickets that they give to the
2 underserved and a wonderful in schools. They also have in
3 the Lawndale neighborhood with Representative Turner a
4 conservity... conservancy. So, they will be in Room 115
5 immediately following Session so that you can meet with
6 them and find out how you can partner with the renowned
7 Ravinia Festival education and outreach programs. Thank
8 you. We've... I just... I just heard an important message
9 about art in the State of Illinois. Happy birthday to
10 Director of the Arts Council, Shirley Madigan."

11 Speaker Hannig: "Representative Parke, for what reason do you
12 rise?"

13 Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to add onto that
14 announcement about Ravinia. I had tickets for ABBA last
15 night and could not attend. My wife and some of her
16 friends had a great time. ABBA was packed, she told me
17 this morning. Meantime, I was stuck, held hostage here on
18 the floor of the House. Otherwise, we would love... I
19 would've loved to participate last night at Ravinia. What
20 an outstanding institution. Congratulations."

21 Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, would you please read the
22 Governor's Proclamation."

23 Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2004-198.

24 WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution requires the General
25 Assembly to make appropriations for the expenditure of
26 public funds for the fiscal year for state departments,
27 authorities, and public agencies; and
28

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1 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has not made appropriations for
2 fiscal year 2005 for the expenditure of public funds for
3 the Homeless Youth Services Program within the Department
4 of Human Services; and

5
6 WHEREAS, there are currently approximately 25,000 homeless
7 children in need throughout the State of Illinois; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the Homeless Youth Services Program provides the most
10 basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter for homeless
11 youth throughout the state;

12
13 THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the
14 Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene
15 the 93rd General Assembly in a Special Session to commence
16 on July 7, 2004, at 12:00 p.m., to consider any legislation
17 (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of
18 the Department of Human Services for the Homeless Youth
19 Services Program for fiscal year 2005. Signed by Rod R.
20 Blagojevich, Governor."

21 Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, introduction of Resolutions."

22 Clerk Mahoney: "Eighth Special Session House Resolution #1 and
23 Eighth Special Session House Resolution #2 are introduced."

24 Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie, for what reason do you
25 seek recognition?"

26 Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move to suspend the rules so
27 that we may give immediate consideration to the adoption of
28 House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Eighth Special Session."

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1 Speaker Hannig: "You heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor say
2 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion
3 is adopted. The Chair recognizes the Majority Leader,
4 Representative Currie."

5 Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Would the Clerk please read
6 Eighth Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

7 Clerk Mahoney: "Eighth Special Session House Resolution #1.

8 RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of
9 the Ninety-Third General Assembly be adopted as the Rules
10 of this Eighth Special Session, so far as the same may be
11 applicable, and that the Committees of the House of
12 Representatives of the Ninety-Third General Assembly,
13 including the House Journal Review Committee and their
14 membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House
15 during this Eighth Special Session. Eighth Special Session
16 House Resolution #2.

17 RESOLVED, that the Clerk inform the Senate that a majority of
18 the House of Representatives has assembled, pursuant to the
19 proclamation of the Governor, convening a Eighth Special
20 Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the
21 transaction of business."

22 Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie moves for the adoption
23 of the Eighth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. Is
24 there any discussion? Representative Parke, the Gentleman
25 from Cook."

26 Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

27 Speaker Hannig: "She indicates she'll yield."

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1 Parke: "Representative Currie, good afternoon. Here we are
2 again, another day. Is there anything substance for... on
3 the Calendar for us to address today?"

4 Currie: "To my knowledge there is not."

5 Parke: "So, we are here again with nothing to do. And do you
6 have an idea, are we planning on adjourning shortly to
7 Regular Session... Regular Perfunctory Session?"

8 Currie: "I do..."

9 Parke: "And do you know if we're gonna be coming back
10 tomorrow?"

11 Currie: "I do have a Motion to make. Would you like me to make
12 my Motion?"

13 Parke: "I would love it."

14 Currie: "I would wish we had some work to do, I know all of us
15 would, particularly as the cost of these Special Sessions
16 is now a hundred fifty-one thousand plus dollars and
17 rising. But the reality is we do not have any work.
18 Having so nicely organized this Special Session, we have no
19 work to engage us this afternoon. So, I would move that
20 the Special Session stand adjourned to the previously
21 published schedule of Perfunctory Regular and Perfunctory
22 Special Sessions that you've all seen on the Calendar,
23 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I hope it will not be
24 into perpetuity."

25 Speaker Hannig: "Okay. Representative Currie, I rec... I had
26 recognized Representative Parke on your Motion to adopt the
27 Eighth Special Sessions Resolution 1 and 2. So, if you can
28 hold..."

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1 Currie: "We better... we better do that first."

2 Speaker Hannig: "...that Motion to adjourn."

3 Parke: "Okay. Well..."

4 Speaker Hannig: "Why... why don't we finish organizing the
5 Special Session. SO, Representative Currie moves for the
6 adoption of the Eighth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2.
7 All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes'
8 have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. And now,
9 Representative Parke."

10 Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the
11 House, here we are again, another day, another \$95. We are
12 here because we've been told by the Governor that we need
13 to be here, but again, we achieve nothing. There's nothing
14 to vote on. There's no information for... for us to work on.
15 We are being held hostage here. I am starting to become
16 irritated, as many of my colleagues are, that we continue
17 to be held down here and... with nothing substance to do.
18 There are Members who have family commitments, there are
19 Members who have other jobs that must get to those other
20 jobs. And here we sit doing nothing but being held
21 hostage. And many of my colleagues, as well as myself, are
22 starting to get very irritated at... at not having anything
23 to do and continued to be called in when there's nothing to
24 do. I have on... I was... yesterday I found this t-shirt and
25 it says that I survived the Session of '85. And this
26 shirt, we went into, I think it was July 19th. And I have
27 no intention of being here on July 19th. But I may have to
28 add the Session of 2004 to this, I survived that Session.

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1 Ladies and Gentlemen, I guess I can't be any stronger than
2 to say that the irritation level is growing substantially,
3 on behalf of colleagues who have articulated that point of
4 view. It's time that the Leaders come to a conclusion.
5 It's time that the people of Illinois have a budget. And
6 it's time for us to get out of here. Thank you, Mr.
7 Speaker. "

8 Speaker Hannig: "The Lady from DuPage, Representative Meyer...
9 the Gentleman from DuPage, Representative Meyer."

10 Meyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and use my lower
11 voice in the future. Would the Sponsor yield?"

12 Speaker Hannig: "She indicates she'll yield."

13 Currie: "Yeah, perhaps I should renew my earlier untimely
14 Motion. So, the Motion now before us is to adjourn to the
15 scheduled Perfunctory Special and Regular Sessions all on
16 the Calendar you have just received."

17 Meyer: "I have a couple questions, if I could, Representative.
18 Representative, is the Majority Leader of this Body, could
19 you give us your perspective as to where you believe the
20 budget negotiations are at this point?"

21 Currie: "Well, Representative, we understand that they are
22 inching closer, but I do not believe that anybody has
23 forecast a point at which they believe that the discussions
24 will result in legislation that we may then enact."

25 Meyer: "When... when you indicate they're inching forward is
26 there any agreement? Are we far apart inching forward or
27 are we close together inching forward?"

28 Currie: "I think that varies from day to day."

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1 Meyer: "Day to day."

2 Currie: "And I would just again point out that this day we... by
3 this day we're already spending a hundred fifty-one
4 thousand, three hundred thirty-five dollars that otherwise
5 could either have been used for programs we care about or
6 returned to the taxpayers of Illinois."

7 Meyer: "Representative, since we're all here in Springfield
8 trying to do the work of this state can you give us any...
9 this Body any recommendations as to how the Membership
10 might help in the process of that inching forward so that
11 we could reach a conclusion very shortly and get on with
12 the work we have to do in our districts?"

13 Currie: "Well, I'm sure, Representative, all of us have... have
14 communicated with our own legislative Leaders, many of us
15 perhaps with the Governor's Office as well with respect to
16 our priorities, our concerns, our willingness to support
17 budgets that look like this, revenue sources that look like
18 that. And I would encourage all of us to continue to do
19 so."

20 Meyer: "One last question. Representative, what is your
21 perspective of the schedule ahead in terms of how should we
22 be planning the rest of this week, how should we be
23 planning next week?"

24 Currie: "I do not have a certain answer, but unfortunately, I
25 would not be surprised if following the success of my
26 Motion to adjourn we shortly get information that another
27 Special Session is called for tomorrow. I hope that will

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1 not happen, but I cannot tell you that I believe it will
2 not happen."

3 Meyer: "Thank you very much for your consideration."

4 Speaker Hannig: "Is there any further discussion? Then
5 Representative Currie moves that the House adjourn to the
6 Regular Perfunctory Sessions... the Regular Perfunctory
7 Session schedule that has already been distributed to the
8 Members. And on that question, Representative Brady."

9 Brady: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Republicans will caucus in
10 Room 118 at 1:30 this afternoon. Room 118 for a Republican
11 Caucus at 1:30. Thank you."

12 Speaker Hannig: "Okay. Is there any further discussion on the
13 Lady's Motion to adjourn to the Regular Perfunctory Session
14 schedule? Then if not, all in favor say 'aye'; opposed
15 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion is adopted.
16 And the House stands."