

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT SESSION

JANUARY 30, 1973

12:02 O'CLOCK P.M.

THE HONORABLE W. ROBERT BLAIR, SPEAKER

IN THE CHAIR



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A Roll Call for attendance was taken and indicated that all were present with the exception of the following:

Representative Ken Boyle - illness;

Representative James G. Krause - illness;

Representative Joseph G. Sevcik - illness.



Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Alright.. The Doorkeeper will admit the Honorable Senate. While we're having the Senate come in, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce some ah.. distinguished ah.. guests that are at the rostrum, the late Speaker of the House and now Secretary of State, ah.. Mike Howlett, the Lieutenant Governor, Neil Hardigan, the State Treasurer, Allan Dixon and the Comptroller, George Lindberg. Ah.. Alright.. The President of the Senate ah.. is here with us today, Senator Harris. Mr. President, is there a quorum of the Senate present?"

Senator Harris: "Mr. Speaker, there is a quorum of the Senate present at the Joint Session."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Alright.. There is a quorum of the House present. So, the Joint Session is convened. Alright. The Resolution."

Fredric B. Selcke: "Joint Session Resolution \*1, Walsh, RESOLVED, That a Committee of ten be appointed, five from the House, by the Speaker of the House and five from the Senate, by the Committee on Committees of the Senate, to wait upon his Excellency, Governor Daniel Walker, and invite him to address the Joint Assembly. On the Part of the House... "

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Wait a minute. Gentleman from ah.. Cook, Mr. Walsh."

W. D. Walsh: "Mr. Speaker, I moved the adoption of Joint Session Resolution \*1."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Alright.. All those in favor of the gentleman's motion say 'aye', opposed 'no', the 'ayes' have it and ah.. Resolution ah.. carries. Ah.. Appoint



the ah.. Members."

Fredric B. Selcke: "On the part of the House, the Members to escort the Governor are Ebbesen, Grotberg, Macdonald, Leon, Alsup. On the part of the Senate, Moore, Weaver, Mitchler, Keegan and Smith."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Alright.. The.. The Members, that have been appointed pursuant to the Resolution, will retire to the ah.. rear door to escort the Governor when he arrives. Alright.. Ah.. For what purpose does the gentleman from Union, Mr. Choate, arise?"

C. L. Choate: "Well, Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as various introductions of various State Officials was made to the Membership and the Public here this morning, I would like to introduce to the Membership, who have not already met this charming Lady and to the Public who is in the balconies, the First Lady of the State, Mrs. Walker."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "Alright.. The Doorkeeper advises that the ah.. Governor and his honorable party ah.. ah.. are at the door. So, they will be admitted. Members of the Joint Session, I'm pleased to present the Honorable Governor of the State of Illinois, Dan Walker."

Hon. Governor Daniel Walker: "Thank you, very much. Thank you. Speaker Blair, President Harris, Honorable Members of the General Assembly, distinguished Public Officials, Citizens of the State of Illinois, and I'd like to say a personal 'thank you' for that very, very warm welcome, thank you very much, I do welcome the opportunity to share my thoughts



with you today in this traditional 'State of the State' Message. The elected Officials in the Executive and Legislative Branches of Government have been sent to Springfield to serve one of the most diverse States in the Union and we reflect that diversity. Some of us are descendants from the Scotch and English Settlers who pushed up into Illinois from the South one hundred and fifty years ago. Some of us have parents who were born in Italy or Poland. We are men. We are women. We are black. We are white. We speak a variety of languages. We come from the farm, the small communities, the middle size cities and one of the greatest metropolitan Areas of the World. We have widely different religious beliefs, political philosophies and personal temperaments. But, all of us share a common goal. We want to deliver the best services at the least possible cost to the people of the State of Illinois. To do that and to do it well we can not have one man rules. We can not have war between the branches of Government. We shall have to do that which our Constitution mandates and that which is best for you, for me and for the people of Illinois. We shall have to be partners. As partners, we can agree that the future of our State is bright. With belt-tightening and prudent fiscal management, the State can be solvent through the current fiscal year. America is at peace. A long war has ended. Let us take this occasion today to remember together the citizens of Illinois who gave their lives in the war now mercifully over. Let us resolve to



end the bitterness which has divided us. Let us also resolve not to forget our veterans of Viet Nam. While we have a solid on which to build, there is very much to be done. But, my response to those unmet needs will not be the traditional political approach of unveiling massive blueprints which promise to solve the great social problems of our time. In fact, one of the lessons of the last decade was that Government can not do everything. The idealistic programmers of the 1960's watched in anguish as the billions of dollars appropriated in Washington did not solve all the problems. Hopes were raised and hopes were dashed. We learned, I believe, that spending alone is not the answer, that solutions involve much more than money. They require the work and cooperation of those in Government and those outside of Government. I repeat, because it deserves repetition, Government can not do everything. We need to remind ourselves continually that America is great, not simply because of our Government, but also because of our unique private enterprise system. And, the real.... And, the real greatness of America is our people. We are. we must continue to be a Nation which prizes the work, the dignity, the integrity of the individual, the citizen. In recent years, our State Government has undergone vast expansion. We have sponsored many new programs and discovered many new areas of concern. Some of these programs are essential. I yield to no one in my concern for the problems which beset us. Discrimination continues and we must fight

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it vigilantly. Unemployment exists and Government has the role in seeing that jobs are available for those who can work and economic health is available for those who can not. Sub-standard housing infects our communities. Pollution poisons the environment. The State must persevere in the never-ending struggle to protect people from both. I want a Government which tackles these problems with determination and innovation. But, innovation does not only mean creating new programs. It also means devising new ways to make existing programs more efficient. It means that we must take a hard look, a good look, at all of our programs to make sure that they are, indeed, productive. I want to undertake this inventory, this tough reappraisal with you. And, the day since January eighth, I have begun my effort to apply the principles of efficiency and productivity to the Departments and Agencies that report to me. I have been working very hard on a no-nonsense budget. I want to see, for example, less middle management in our Institutions and more people involved in direct patient care. I have begun.... I have begun the task of coping with the mammoth spending in Public Aid. We can.. We must find ways to help those who need help without turning this program into a system of dole which crushes individualism and removes incentives. I have issued, and I will continue to issue, Executive orders which have as their goal the improvement of Departments and Agencies under the Governor. It is exciting work for me, making the day to day affairs



of State Government work better, is very properly the work and the function of the Governor. And, of the many hats which I may wear, it is the one that I expect to put on most often. This is the task that I have looked forward to. This is the 'job that I, as Governor, am going to enjoy most. As I've said before, I will make mistakes. I am a human being. I will stumble. But, we shall make progress. The State's Budget is and has been for weeks my major concern. You will soon receive the product of that work. We are taking a very tough position on eliminating wastes and reallocating resources to programs which serve people. Today, I can say this much about that budget. The State's present sources of revenue are adequate to meet the needs of Illinois. There will be no tax increases and no additional taxes. Holding the line on taxes will, I believe, be the most important step we can take on the long road to restoring confidence in Government. Indeed, there is reason to hope that, if we do our work toughly and effectively, we may be able to provide tax relief for our overburdened taxpayers. We must have the same concern for the taxpayer's dollar as we do for the problems which confront us. It is a truism, and I know that it's a truism, but it's too often forgotten, what we spend is the taxpayer's money. I would hope that this concern for the taxpayer would be a model for local governments all across this State. During the two years that I was a candidate for Governor and now from the more than twenty thousand letters which have come





to my Office since Inauguration Day, one thing above all others has been made clear to me. The people of this State are demanding economy from their local officials as much as they are demanding it from the Governor and from the Legislature in Springfield. And, the money provided from Springfield must be used prudently and it must be used wisely. As I indicated earlier, I shall be concentrating on the Executive Branch of Government. But, the job of making Government work for people is not the sole responsibility of any one Branch of Government. Historically, the Legislature and the Executive were conceived as being co-equal. The safeguard of our democracy was thought by our forefathers to lie in a system of checks and balances. I suggest to you, that that historical structure has been thrown out of balance. At the National Level, for example, the Executive Branch has come to dominate Washington. Power has become concentrated in the Offices of the White House. Some critics say that Congress has too often acted only after it received a message from the President. I do not want that imbalance in Springfield. I believe, in Legislative as well as Executive initiative. I would hope that you, under the Leadership of capable and dedicated men on both sides of the aisle, will take up these knotty problems and solve them one at a time, hopefully, not letting them all mount up until the end of the Session. But, I stress that the procedures in the General Assembly are yours to decide and rightfully so. I will be available to consult.

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I will be accessible. I will work with your Leadership. At the same time, I will express my own views. I will be offering Legislative suggestions. Those, surely, are prerogatives, indeed, responsibilities of the Chief Executive. There are a number of areas where there is need in opportunity for this kind of Executive-Legislative Partnership. And, I would like to mention just a few of those today. And, I'd like to stress what the Members of the General Assembly already know, and that is, that in most of these areas, Legislation has already been proposed. Personal safety. We need a Law without loopholes requiring criminal trials to be held within sixty days after arrests. We must end the present system which too frequently keep innocent people in jail and allows criminals to be out on bond for long periods of time committing other crimes while they await trial for the first offense. We need more realistic help for the front line man in the war on crime, the uniformed, trained and professional Law Enforcement Officer. We need... We need a professional probation system. And, I will support the effort to create such a system which has already begun by Members of the General Assembly. Transportation. I will support Legislation which provides that after local resources are exhausted, State Motor Fuel Tax Funds can be used to finance public transportation throughout the State. Education. Education. Let's get on to another subject. Okay? I suggest that I'll be hearing a lot about that one. Education. We need more State support for



primary and secondary education and a revised formula for State Aid. And, I would like to stress this next point because it is something relatively new, I also welcome the opportunity to work with you on initiatives to control wastes in our educational spending. Ethics. I will support a strengthening of existing Ethics Legislation, particularly in the areas of economic disclosure and of campaign financing. Media Protection. All of us in public life have our moments of displeasure with the media. Want you to notice that I'm smiling. But, let us never forget that it is an indispensable forth Branch of Government. For this reason, I find alarming the recent court-imposed limits on the rights of reporters. I want to see a Law protecting the reporters and their news sources. Consumer Protection. You have started the efforts in this area, but I suggest that we can do more. There are a number of adequated and poorly conceived Laws now on the Books that are unfair to the individual consumer and should be eliminated. Now, I know there are other areas, economic development, factory safety, equal rights, environmental protection, higher education, insurance, and this is not an exhaustive list. This Session, like others before us, will be a busy one. As always, there will be some issues that are going to test us. But, if we can respect our differences, if we can forgive the honest mistakes which will inevitably occur, we will make progress in meeting the needs of our State of Illinois. When the early settlers were coming down the



Mississippi to settle Illinois, they made soap and candles from bacon grease. They built their flatboats so that when the journey was done they could break up those boats and use every scrap to build a home. There was no room for waste in the lives of those early pioneers. There is no room for waste today. We start this year at peace for the first time in almost ten years. An agonizing era is at an end. Finally, all of our energy can be used to build. Let us build. Let us do it with a constant regard for the taxpayer. Let us treat our resources, the taxpayers' dollars as carefully as those pioneer boatmen treated their precious resources one hundred and fifty years ago. Thank you very much."

Senator Harris: "Mr. Speaker,... Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Joint Session arise."

Hon. W. Robert Blair: "All those in favor of the President's motion say 'aye', opposed 'no', the 'ayes' have it and the Joint Session is adjourned."

ADJOURNMENT AT 12:47 O'CLOCK P.M.

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