

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

4th Legislative Day

December 16, 1999

Speaker Madigan: "House shall come to order. The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor John Lambert of the Faith Temple AME Church in Springfield. Pastor Lambert is the guest of Representative Arthur Turner. The guests in the gallery may wish to rise and join us for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Reverend Lambert: "Your grace Lord, we all assemble before Your presence on this day. We come mindful of the words of the psalmists who said, 'the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof the world and all of those who dwell therein. For You founded it upon the seas and You established it upon the floods. When the question was asked, 'Who should ascend into the hill of the Lord?', the psalmists said, 'those who have clean hands and a pure heart and who have not lifted up their souls unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully.' We come, Lord, giving special thanks for these and this group of elected men and women from throughout Illinois, who serve as agents of decision-making for Your people. Oh Lord, grant that they may have the wisdom of Solomon, to mesh Your will with the desires and the passions and the needs of Your people. And help them, Lord, in all of their deliberations, that the end result will be towards a more just society. Help them to be ever mindful of the least, the lost, and those who are on the margins and those who are unable to make it alone. And help them, Lord, not only as they struggle with the issues of safe neighborhoods, but also with the issues of education and economics and improving race relations and health care and all other issues as it relates to having life and having it more abundantly. And now, Lord, we thank You for this season of celebration. We pray for the

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reality of peace on earth and goodwill towards all human kind. These and all blessings we ask in the name of Christ, our Lord, our Redeemer and Savior, Amen."

Speaker Madigan: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Hartke."

Hartke - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Madigan: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representative's Lou Jones, Shirley Jones, Jeff Schoenberg, and Harold Murphy are excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Poe."

Poe: "Mr. Speaker, let the record show that Representative Black and Representative Pankau are excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Clerk, take the record. There being 112 people responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. Ladies and Gentlemen, if we could have your attention for just a couple of moments. There was a meeting of the Governor and the four Legislative Leaders this morning. There is no resolution on the question of the Supreme Court invalidation of the Safe Neighborhoods Act. There is an agreement that we will remain in Session everyday until the problem is solved. Which means that we will be in Session through the weekend. I have nothing else to say. I know you expected more, but..., but Mr. Skinner has something to say."

Skinner: "Yes, yes, Mr. Speaker. Last night my basement was flooded, the sump pump went out, my son was crying while he was... while I was trying to say his prayers with him."

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This is absolutely ridiculous. We have four Legislative Leaders, can we have some leadership?"

Speaker Madigan: "I think the answer is yes, Mr. Skinner, but you've been here for a long time and you know that we get into these situations and unfortunately we don't have a resolution. But, but believe me that all the parties to the negotiations are doing their level best to resolve the differences."

Skinner: "Mr. Speaker, in the last 27 years that I've been watching the General Assembly I've never seen it worse than today."

Speaker Madigan: "Okay. Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This may be a question that you don't want to answer. But, I wonder why we can't do this when we come back in January? I mean it just seems to be such an important issue for us to spend day after day of trying to rush and pass something when really it isn't going to work. It's wasting time. You know, I just believe that we could come back in January and pass a Bill that would pass constitutional muster and as well as have good thinking people and leave the politics out of it."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Lindner."

Lindner: "The... the Republicans will have a Caucus... request a Caucus immediately upon adjournment."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative O'Brien."

O'Brien: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And since we are going to be here and we should make the best of it, today's Journal Register does have a last minute gift guide for any of you that have yet to complete your holiday shopping and Julie Curry and I would be happy to, to escort people out to White Oaks Mall and help with those last minute gifts."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Parke."

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Parke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This, this question is not only for you, but the other leadership, including the Governor. Why cannot you send us home? Work out the arrangements, come up with a workable solution and call us back for a day and let's us pass what you work out... or to debate it on its merit. Why hold us here, collecting a per diem that the taxpayers have to pay and not achieving the work of the people? Why can't we just let you work out the arrangement, come back with a possible solution, let us judge it on merit and vote on it? Why hold us here through the weekend, when we're away from our loved ones and the constituents that we have?"

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Parke, that was discussed in the meeting this morning and the judgement was that, that this matter is of such serious import that we ought to stay until it is resolved. And that's why I wanted to make that announcement this morning because I... I'm like you, I have to make some alternative plans, now."

Parke: "Well, I, I appreciate that and it is a serious matter. But, regardless of whether... how serious it is, if we are to address the issue when a solution is at hand makes... begs the issue. Just begs the issue that we could be home for two or three days and then you can come back... we come back for the possible solution and debate it on merit. I, I still don't understand the strategy. There's got to be more to it."

Speaker Madigan: "I think my answer would be the same as before, Mr. Parke."

Parke: "I understand what you're saying, but I don't agree. Thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Crotty. Crotty."

Crotty: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm hearing that we're talking

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about real important issues. By any chance, has there been any discussion at all on the child support dilemma that we're... the State of Illinois is in? I don't mind staying, if in fact, that's one of the issues. That would be wonderful and I would be grateful if the leaders could look at that."

Speaker Madigan: "Okay. Thank you. The Republicans have called for a Republican Caucus. The House shall stand in recess until 2 P.M. Thank you.

Lee Crawford: "Attention Members. The House will recess until 4 o'clock P.M."

Clerk Rossi: "Attention Members. The House will stay in recess until the hour of 6 P.M."

Speaker Madigan: "The House will come to order in the First Special Session. And Representative Currie moves that the First Special Session stands adjourned until 11 A.M. tomorrow morning. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it; the Motion is adopted. And the First Special Session does stand adjourned until 11 A.M. tomorrow morning. Thank you."