

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

HB0953	Recalled	9
HB0953	Third Reading	10
HB2726	Discussed	64
HB2726	Recalled	29
HB2726	Third Reading	49
HB2726	Vote Intention	50
HB2746	Recalled	21
HB2746	Third Reading	22
HB4847	Vote Intention	2
HB6078	First Reading	4
SB3386	First Reading	51
SR0587	Resolution Offered	3
SR0588	Resolution Offered	3
SR0589	Resolution Offered	3
SR0590	Resolution Offered	3
SR0591	Resolution Offered	51
SJR0085	Adopted	4
SJR0087	Adopted	51
SJR0087	Resolution Offered	4
Senate to Order-Senator Welch		1
Prayer-Pastor John Price		1
Pledge of Allegiance		1
Journals-Approved		1
Committee Reports		1
Senate Stands in Recess/Reconvenes		3
Senate Stands in Recess/Reconvenes		8
Senate Stands in Recess/Reconvenes		8
Committee Reports		8
Senate Stands in Recess/Reconvenes		21
Resolutions Consent Calendar-Adopted		51
Adjournment		64

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The regular Session of the 93rd General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Pastor John Price, Springfield Church of Christ, Springfield, Illinois.

PASTOR JOHN PRICE:

(Prayer by Pastor John Price)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Terry Link.

SENATOR LINK:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Link)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Journals of Monday, May 31; Tuesday, June 1; Friday, June 4; and Monday, June 7, 2004.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Mr. President, I move that the Journals just read by the Secretary be approved, unless a Senator has additions or corrections to offer.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Haine moves to approve the Journals just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. There'll be a -- meeting of the Rules Committee immediately in the Anteroom behind the President's Chair. Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Joint Resolution 87, House Bill 953, House Bill 2726 and House Bill 2746.

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to Appropriations II Committee - Floor Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 953, Floor Amendment 1 to House Bill 2726 and Floor Amendment 1 to House Bill 2746.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Senator Trotter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. For purpose of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Please proceed.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Yes. At 1:15 this afternoon, Appropriations II will be meeting in Room 212. That's Appropriations II in Room 212 at 1:15 this afternoon.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Collins, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR COLLINS:

A point of personal privilege, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

State your point.

SENATOR COLLINS:

On the last evening here, everything was moving so fast. On House Bill 4847, my intent was to vote No. So, may I have the records reflect my intentions? Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The record will so reflect, Senator. Senator Halvorson, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. I'd like to announce a Democrat Caucus immediately in Senator Jones' Office.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator DeLeo, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. A point of personal privilege, sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

State your point.

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you. I'd just like to introduce my dear friends. Marc and Tracy Romanz are up in the gallery visiting us in Springfield today with their daughters, Molly and Jessica. And

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

her three girlfriends, Ariel, Rachel and Kim are here in Springfield, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Well, welcome to Springfield. Senator Hendon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HENDON:

Point of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Please proceed.

SENATOR HENDON:

Senator Clayborne is back home on personal business.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The record will reflect Senator Clayborne's absence. Senator Burzynski, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. For purpose of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

State your announcement.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

The Senate Republicans will have a caucus immediately upon recess or when we stand at ease or however you term it today. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The Senate will stand in -- recess till the hour of 12:45, at the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The Senate will come to order. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 587, offered by Senator Link and all Members.

Senate Resolution 588, offered by Senator Clayborne, all Members.

Senate Resolutions 589 and 590, also offered by Senator Clayborne and all Members.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

And Senate Joint Resolution 87, offered by Senator Watson and all Members.

And they're all death resolutions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Resolutions 587 to 590, Consent Calendar. House Bills 1st Reading.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 6078, offered by Senator Righter.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Requests for leave to photograph: Squires Photography and the Journal-Register. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Request to videotape by Illinois Information Service. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn to page 17 of your Calendar. Secretary's Desk Resolution. On that Calendar appears Senate Joint Resolution 85. Senator Susan Garrett. Madam Secretary, read the resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Joint Resolution 85.

There are no committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. Senate Joint Resolution 85 does a couple of things. Number one, it accepts the Compensation Review Board's recommendation that pay raises should not be distributed. Number two, it rejects the Board's recommendation to restore -- COLAs for Fiscal Year 2003 and 2004. And thirdly, it rejects the Board's recommendation to change the Board's reporting date to odd-number years. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Hendon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. This is the Compensation Review Board on the COLAs, is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

That is correct.

SENATOR HENDON:

Okay. Thank you. I see.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Is there any discussion? Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. I would urge that we vote No on Senator Garrett's motion. Senator Garrett's motion is to reject the Compensation Review Board report. I would urge that we adopt the Compensation Review Board report. The -- the issue, really, is complicated because what we're talking about here is an interpretation of our Constitution. You may recall that we had a debate last year on whether or not we should reinstate the judges' COLAs, and we passed a bill to do that. The Governor vetoed it. We had a further debate in a motion to override that issue and we did not override. And as I predicted - it's kind of nice to be able to say "I told you so," and you may recall I said "I told you so" - the -- guess what happened? There was a lawsuit filed. The judges prevailed, as they should have, in an unanimous decision which made it very clear that the Judiciary is independent of the Executive and Legislative Branch, that it's -- there's no way you can have a situation where the COLA, which is determined by the Supreme Court to be part of your salary, be reduced, and yet, that's what we attempted to do. The Supreme Court won that case. The monies were paid by the Comptroller 'cause they were ordered -- he was ordered to do so by the Supreme Court, and now the lawyers who brought the lawsuit have petitioned for legal fees to be paid. And if they prevail -- if they prevail, they get -- and -- and prevail on getting interest on the amount, it's going to cost the State even more money. Not only are we paying the judges as we should have, it'll cost us money for that lawsuit. If we don't accept this report, there's going to be more lawsuits. The State's attorneys are going to sue. Legislators are going to sue. The judges are going to sue. And they're going to be class action lawsuits. You'll all have an opportunity to decide whether you want in or out. And if we prevail, whoever those plaintiffs are, as they will, because the Constitution is very clear - just like for judges, their

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

salaries can't be diminished during their term; the same is true for legislators - our salaries can't be changed during our term. And so, I remember when the Minority Leader asked me when we were voting on that bill for the judges, "How much is this bill going to cost?" And I said, "It's actually going to save money. It's going to save money if we -- if we pass this bill." And I was right, because not only did we pay the -- the judges the -- the -- the money that they were entitled to, we have to pay legal fees as well. Now, this report, by the way, it should be clear what it doesn't do. The last two years, we have not received our COLA even though constitutionally we are entitled to it. We have not been paid our COLA for the last two years. Two years ago we passed a law saying we weren't going to get it. Last year the Governor did a reduction veto and the Comptroller just failed to pay us the COLA. This report doesn't say that you get the last two years' salary back in lump sum. It doesn't. All it says is that starting on July 1st of this year, your COLA should be at a certain level that would reflect the fact that you should have received your COLAs for the last two years. But if we don't accept this and there's a lawsuit, guess what that lawsuit's going to ask for? It's not -- it's going to ask for, in addition to having our COLA set at -- at the level that they recommend, that lawsuit's going to ask for back pay. That lawsuit's going to ask for back pay. The -- the amount of money that's a base salary for a legislator is fifty-seven thousand six hundred and nineteen dollars. The amount of money that it should be, starting July 1st of this year, is sixty-one thousand four hundred and eighty-three dollars. This report makes it clear to the Comptroller that's the amount he should pay us starting July 1st. If he -- if we don't adopt it, then the Comptroller will have to figure out for himself what the law is, and if he needs help, there's going to be a lawsuit filed. That lawsuit's going to cost the State money. And I know that this might be pretty complicated for the -- the public and some people in the media to report it straight for what it is, and they'll be saying, "Oh, they're voting for a pay raise again," but remember, the theory behind a COLA is that it's not a pay raise. It's keeping you even. And if you deny yourself a COLA, you're -- you're, in effect, having your salary be reduced. As

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

a result of that, I'm just going to tell you: Like I said before, "I told you so." I'm going to be able to say "I told you so" again, if we don't reject the lady's motion and accept the report of the Compensation Review Board.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, Senator Garrett, to close.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Thank you, Mr. President. The reason why I think that we should reject the COLA increases as well as the salary increases is because we have nine hundred and fourteen judges that we're basing our -- what Senator Cullerton's vote would be. We have thirteen million residents in the State of Illinois. We have the biggest budget crisis in the last two decades, and we are saying to State employees "Go on a furlough," to state agencies "Cut back," and we ourselves are not holding our own feet to the fire. At the very minimum, we should reject what the Compensation Review Board has proposed. It is in the best interests of the citizens of the State of Illinois. The judges just received an increase. They have sued. They may sue again, but I think that we have to send a strong message, if we are really trying to resolve the budget crisis and asking everybody else to cut back, that we ought to be doing it our self as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Garrett moves the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 85. This resolution requires a record vote and is adoptable by a majority of the Members. Those in favor of Senate Joint Resolution 85 will vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, 41 Members voted Yes, 15 Members voted No, 1 Member voted Present. Senate Joint Resolution 85, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared adopted. Ladies and Gentlemen. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will recess until the call of the Chair for the meeting of the Appropriations Committee. Senator Watson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR WATSON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Now, let me make sure I understand correctly. We had thirty days in which to reject the pay increase.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Watson, that's out of order.

SENATOR WATSON:

Now this has to go over -- this has to go over to the -- what do you mean I'm out of order?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The Senate stands in recess.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Senate will come to order. The Rules Committee will meet immediately in the room behind the Senate President's Chair. Rules Committee meeting immediately. The Senate Rules Committee is meeting in the Anteroom behind the President's Chair. If the other Members would please come to the Floor.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Welch, Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations II, reports Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 953, Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 2726, and Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 2746, all Be Adopted.

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measure have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Floor Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 2726.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The staff photographer for the Chicago Tribune has asked leave to take photos. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Ladies and Gentlemen. There's a request by WICS Television to videotape. Without objection, leave is granted. Ladies and

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Gentlemen, please turn to the Supplemental Calendar that sits on your desk. On the Order of House Bills 3rd Reading is House Bill 953. Senator Trotter. Please read the bill, Madam -- Senator Trotter seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 953 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 953. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter, to explain Floor Amendment No. 1.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. Floor Amendment No. 1 actually becomes the bill. It allows for eight hundred and fifty million dollars of short-term borrowing to be allowed to go to State -- to the State to pay medical bills and capture our enhanced match of fifty-three percent that the feds have given us up and to June 30th. With that, we will be able to -- not only be able to pay off all of our Medicaid debt and our provider debt, taking it from sixty days down to sixteen days, technically a zero day balance, but it would also give us the opportunity to capture an additional twenty-five million dollars. We also, in this amendment, will be creating the -- the Medicaid Managed Care Task Force which will be comprised of eight voting Members, two appointed by each Legislative Leader. There were three -- be three nonvoting Members from the Director of the -- GOMB, Department of Public Aid, Secretary of Human Services. There will be six meetings -- or, hearings held between the months of July and October, and they will come back with a finding on November 8th. If there is any questions, willing to answer.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Is there any discussion on the amendment? If not, Senator Trotter moves the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 953. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

3rd Reading. On the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 953. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 953.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much. I just explained the bill as we were explaining the amendment. In short, it creates the short-term borrowing -- it amends the short-term borrowing Act, the Medical Liability Liquidity Borrowing Act, for purposes of paying off our -- paying down our Medicaid cycle dates.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Is there any discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Would the sponsor yield for a couple questions, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Indicates he'll yield, Senator.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you. The first one is: Senator Trotter, why couldn't we have done this on May 30th or May 31st? Why do we have to do it in the middle of June?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Well, I can't explain why it was not done then; however, because of the -- the cycle -- again, the federal government has given us an enhanced match until June 30th. In order for us to capture those dollars, that enhanced match of three percent, which will, again, net us twenty-five million dollars, the paperwork has to be in cycle by June 14th, which is by -- one of the reasons why we're back here today.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Dillard.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

SENATOR DILLARD:

So, Senator Trotter, didn't you and some of the budgeteers, as they call 'em, know that we needed a supplemental so we could recapture some federal money before we left here at the end of May, rather than come back here in a kind of special Session?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

I'm sure there were many of us that knew that that was a possibility, and it was probably a good thing to do at that time, during that period. Again, it's not just on the -- the General Assembly to pass this enabling legislation, but it was also -- we had to have discussions with the Treasurer and with the Comptroller, who have not been very swift in -- in coming up with the answer in how we -- how and when we should pay back these funds. And those negotiations will continue to be going on. We're going to do our legislative part at this late date, but those discussions will be continuing.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Just one more question, Mr. President. Senator Trotter, so this is eight hundred and fifty million in supplemental spending. Is it correct to characterize, for we laypeople who are not appropriations folks, that the Blagojevich budget that we left here with about a year ago was eight hundred and fifty million dollars non-balanced?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

No. That -- that is -- you shouldn't just assume that that's the reason why we're getting eight hundred and fifty million dollars. What the Comptroller has told us, that as of the end of May -- Department of Public Aid, I correct -- stand corrected, has nine hundred million dollars in unpaid bills, and that has -- comes as a consequence, again, of -- of us having to continue in a long payment cycle, which now is up to eighty days -- excuse me, sixty days. And we're trying to ensure that when we go into '05, that we do not have those days and start off

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

with a clean slate and -- and pay these providers that -- that certainly deliver the goods and services to many of our Medicaid population, that they're paid in a timely manner.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Very quickly, just to the bill. Obviously, I think all of us here roll up our sleeves and will come down to sort of an extraordinary Session any time there's work to be done, and obviously, there's work to be done. But I do want to point out, it's a little frustrating because I believe that rather than burn up a lot of money in travel expenses and other things today, this could have been handled by the end of May. We knew that we needed to do this before we left here awhile ago. And also, to the eight-hundred-and-fifty million-dollar supplemental, I do characterize this as an out-of-whack or unbalanced budget. There were a number of budget assumptions that I think were faulty, including the sale of the Thompson Center and others, and we're here fixing a budget that was passed last year of Governor Blagojevich's and his administration that was unbalanced by about eight hundred and fifty million. But I'm an Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

I'd move the previous question, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Harmon moves the previous... Three speakers.
Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Please proceed.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber, I rise with regards to House Bill 953, a provision that we've not talked about yet that's probably not the best-known provision in the bill, and that has to do with the creation of the Managed Care Task Force for Illinois' Medicaid Program.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Managed care for Medicaid is a scary term to some. It's not as scary as having to borrow eight hundred and fifty million dollars here to get us through this budget year, and it's not nearly as scary as the double-digit growth we are seeing in the Medicaid budget. We all -- regardless of what side of the aisle you're on, we all want to see that the medical services that are provided for those who need the taxpayers' help are quality services and they're accessible, and some of us even want to say more of those people should be able to access those by raising the income thresholds. But the bottom line is, is that one out of every four dollars that we spend out of the General Revenue Fund budget right now goes to Medicaid. At the current rate of growth, that will double every nine years. In twenty years, six out of every ten dollars we spend out of General Revenue Fund will be spent on Medicaid, which means all the wrangling that we've done here to talk about other vital State services and building schools or funding schools, we'll be able to save a lot of time, but we won't have to debate those issues anymore because there really won't be the kind of money we need to do any of those things. So, I'm glad to see that that has been made part of this bill. I think it's time for this State to get serious like other states have. Other states, fifty-seven percent of their Medicaid population is managed care. Illinois' is seven. We're about a decade behind, and I hope that this task force is a serious step forward to getting that growth under control. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Going to allow me to speak, Pat?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Yes.

SENATOR WATSON:

Thank you. You know, just in case the Governor's listening - that was a call from the Governor, wanted us to come down - I'm sorry, Governor, we're not available. We've got -- pressing business to do on the Floor of the Senate, and we're not available right now to -- to meet with you, so I'm sorry. On this issue of the managed care, and I have to -- I've got to say

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

that this is a -- an issue that we brought to the table, quite frankly, and it's not -- this is not the -- supplemental appropriation. This is the issue by which we create a fund in which the supplemental appropriation will go into and then also create a task force of eight members, I believe, to -- to look into managed care. And from all indications that we get -- and most states have some form of Medicaid managed care, and I think there's about seven percent of the population in Illinois is under some form of managed care in Medicaid. We all -- if you are in an HMO with the State, you are in a managed care provider. You -- you are -- your utilization is impacted by the fact that we are enrolled in an HMO. This is nothing more than what most people in Illinois do now, is we're asking of the Medicaid population. And we're -- we're told that there are just literally millions and millions of dollars that could be saved by moving in this direction. So, we appreciate you, Senator Trotter, and the fact that you've worked with us on this issue, and we think it should move forward. And hopefully the -- the task force that -- the commission that is established will have some recommendations that will give us a -- a direction in which most of the states of this country have gone and certainly we in Illinois need to follow. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President. To the bill. First of all, Mr. President, my congratulations to you in the Chair. You have the ability to bring our caucus together, really like nobody else. But to the bill, we're here because, really, a failure of leadership from the Second Floor. There's -- there's no other way that you can characterize this. The Governor has managed somehow, somehow to mess up a three-man parade. I still cannot figure out how he did it, but he did it. And now here we are on June 9th trying to pull his cheese out of the fire. And the reason his cheese was in the fire is because he bet wrong on the Clean Energy Trust Fund. He messed that up to the tune of a hundred and twenty-five million dollars. He bet wrong on the riverboat license, the tenth one, three hundred and fifty million dollars. And as we all know, he really bet wrong on the

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Thompson Center and managed to provoke most of his friends in the process. I think over the next few days, and what inevitably are going to be the next few weeks, we're all going to have to get used to spending a lot more time together, and it's unfortunate, because it's a reflection of failed leadership, the failure to make tough decisions and the failure to bring people together that we see out of the Second Floor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Well, first of all, I'd like to agree with Senator Watson about how important it is and how good it is that the sponsor is bringing forward an effort to introduce more managed care into the system of Medicaid in Illinois. We'll get more mileage out of the money that's spent. In Illinois, we have about seven percent of the dollars are spent under managed care. An average of our surrounding states, all of the surrounding states, have sixty-seven percent of their spending under that. So I think that it -- it very much is a step in the right direction, and I applaud the effort of both sides of the aisle on that. Last May, many of us cautioned the Majority caucus to avoid revenue gimmicks and smoke-and-mirrors accounting to balance the budget. Now, unfortunately, the reality has caught up with us -- with us in the form of an eight-hundred-million-dollar deficit. I just have a question. There's -- there's a hole in the budget now, as Senator Roskam just pointed out, of the hundred and twenty-five million from the -- the raid on the Clean Energy Trust Fund, the sale -- that's a hundred and twenty-five million; the tenth riverboat license, three hundred and fifty million; and the mortgage on the Thompson Center is two hundred million. That's about eight hundred million dollars. If those had come into place, Senator, would we have to borrow this eight hundred million?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

We may have had to borrow these dollars. However, the argument can be, is would those dollars have replaced this? Yes. No question about that. However, we can find eight

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

hundred million dollars to spend on a lot of great things and could have put eight hundred million more dollars into education. We did not. So, to characterize that because those one-time issues or initiatives did not come through is the reason why we're at this juncture, I think is incorrect.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

So, what you're saying is that we would be borrowing this anyway and we'd be spending it anyway. So, really, is the -- is the point you just made that no matter how much money you give us, we'll go ahead and spend it?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

No, sir. That wasn't the point. The point being is unfortunately, because of inflation, because of the facts that, one, a lot of things did not happen this year -- one, our tax revenues have not been as -- as robust as we certainly had expected them to be, unfortunately because we did not see that economic turnaround that some other states have seen happen over there and unemployment is still down -- or up, I should say, that we have not generated the revenues that we could have to really meet some of the needs. Health care, as you know, is still spiraling upwards. So, because of those costs and the lack of other revenues coming in, there -- it has certainly put a -- us in a bad spot. This -- a short-term borrowing certainly would correct that.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Just a clarification, Senator, for the benefit of all the Members here. The revenue estimate for this year's revenue, the repetitive, I'm under the impression from -- I believe it's the Economic and Fiscal Commission, that we are on track for those revenues as far as the estimates. It's just these extraordinary -- some people would refer to 'em as gimmicks, and you might refer to 'em as one-time. You know, mortgaging the Thompson Center or raiding a fund. Isn't it true that the revenue

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

estimates -- I've seen published reports that the revenue estimates on the ongoing, those have hit the target. So, this isn't a matter that the economy didn't come back quickly enough. Isn't it accurate that the revenue estimates have made their -- hit their marks this year?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

They have not entirely hit their mark. And, of course, I read the same Economic and Fisc Commission report that came out last week and there are some revenue projections that did not meet their mark. And, certainly, we did get more dollars from our corporate income taxes, but that was because of the amnesty that we had, which was a surprise to get those dollars. No one knew we would get that much -- many dollars from that. But as a consequence, again, as you're well aware, of our other obligations, our pension obligations and -- and those things, that certainly has thrown us off track in -- in, again, finding dollars to pay to keep these Medicaid payment cycle dates to where they're reasonable. Sixty days is not a reasonable Medicaid payment cycle date, especially if you have a -- a business. This eight-hundred-and-fifty-million-dollar, short-term loan will ensure that we get back on track. They'll be paid back -- four hundred and twenty-five million dollars of those dollars will be paid back within the first seven days. The -- the remaining four hundred twenty-five million dollars will be paid back within the next six to nine months. And I think that's being fiscally conservative and fiscally prudent.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Emil Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just a few brief comments in listening to the comments from the gentleman on the other side of the aisle. I thought Governor Blagojevich began his first term in January of '03. The -- the issue as it relate to managed care and the -- and Medicaid, I recall when Jim Edgar was Governor and tried to deal with that issue. I didn't hear you guys say anything. The fiscal crisis we find ourselves in is not due to his leadership. It's due to what happened due to

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

previous Governors. Now, all the debate about borrowing. He walked into a five-billion-dollar deficit. Perhaps on your side of the aisle -- the Governor said he's not raising the income tax. I haven't seen anyone on that side of the aisle say "I want to raise the income tax." He walked into this. This is not the first time that a chief executive has went into negotiations for short-term borrowing. Ryan did it. Edgar did it. Thompson did it. But none of them inherited a situation that this Governor inherited. And all the hue and cry, "smoke and mirrors," all this. You need revenue. The Medicaid situation just didn't hop up during this administration. It's been there for years, when you had the chief executive, you had the President of the Senate, and you didn't do anything. Now all of a sudden, you try to give the appearance to the press that the budgetary problems we find ourselves in was as a result of having a new Governor. Any Governor coming into the situation in January 2003 would have had the same problem. It built up over the years. And now this Governor and we are trying to deal with it. It takes borrowing. It takes innovative ways to come up with the revenue to deal with the budget. So, let's not give the pretense that it just happened. I've been here in overtime Sessions before with a Republican Governor. Under Pate Philip as the Senate President, we went into overtime Session. So it's nothing new. If we are -- if we are genuinely sincere about trying to resolve this issue instead of trying to play partisan politics, then I would say you call a press conference, jump on Jim Edgar, jump on -- on former Governor George Ryan about the budget mess we find ourselves in. But it was not due to this new administration. He walked into it. But when -- when you're Leadership on that side of the aisle and you stand up saying, "We have a problem," I haven't seen any of you stand up and say, "I want to raise some taxes to finance the budget." You haven't said that. And you don't want to accept the blame for the mess we find ourselves in. I'm not fearful of being in overtime Session. We're all legislators. We've got to resolve this issue. And the issue as it relate to managed care just didn't pop up because this administration is here. If all the surrounding states have some form of Medicaid, then -- blame the previous Governors. Blame the former Senate President and

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

yourselves when you had control, 'cause you did nothing to try to resolve the issue. So that's the mess we find ourselves in. This is a -- this is a -- a -- an attempt to -- to capture federal dollars so we can pay off some bills in the Medicaid line, the providers and so forth. It's been done before, many, many times before. So, let's quit playing games with the issue and do what we're supposed to do - be responsible legislators. Go ahead and vote for it, as we done it under George Ryan, as we did under Edgar, as we did under Jim Thompson. It's no different.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Mr. -- thank you, Mr. President. To the bill. What I want to know is, what will the true impact of -- what will the true pain that we will feel here in Illinois be? How much pain will people in Illinois really feel when the federal Medicare package comes into law and we have to shoulder the responsibility for the bad decisions that were made by the Bush administration in Washington? When the federal -- if you think that this is a problem now, how are we all going to step forward when, in fact, the federal Medicare bill will create an even greater financial burden upon those of us in Illinois - the most vulnerable senior citizens, the developmentally disabled, lower income and -- and working class people with children who participate in KidCare and FamilyCare? We have waited, we've hoped and we've prayed for federal reimbursement rates on Medicaid to go up. Now we've inherited an even greater burden from the federal Medicare bill. If we don't do this now, we're only going to be hurting those who we should be seeking to protect the most. We are choosing, deliberately, not to cut reimbursement rates to providers. We're choosing not to tell senior citizens which drugs they should take and which ones they shouldn't take. We are intentionally not making -- we are intentionally not making pharmacists borrow money at a percentage in order to keep their doors open while they wait for the State to reimburse that. We have an -- a very narrow window to take care of a temporary increase in the federal Medicaid reimbursement rate. Senator Trotter is to be commended for his

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

efforts, as is the administration, which has done a far greater job at being aggressive in capturing federal -- federal Medicaid dollars for health care. The Keiser Family Foundation points out that even with the slowing and improvement of the economic decline, that Medicaid costs in this country will continue to go up. And why will they continue to go up? Because of the cost of prescription drugs, because of the jobless economy. My friends, the only responsible thing to do is to vote for House Bill 953.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Let me explain what happened. I had my -- would you please listen, Senator? I had my Calendar on the... Can I explain it? I had my Calendar on the Democratic side when the motion was moved. There were three Democrats, three Republicans' lights lit. Senator Roskam came on. I decided to let him talk. So there were four Republicans talked when I announced there were three. I thought it was only fair to let the other people who had their name -- had their lights on when I moved the Calendar. That's what happened. It wasn't as diabolical as it seems. Senator Trotter, to close.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. This eight hundred fifty million dollars will go into Medicaid lines to pay off the long -- care term providers, care providers, physicians and pharmacists. And I ask for a Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

The question is, shall House Bill 953 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Those opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, 57 Members voted Yes, 1 Member voted No, no Member voted Present. House Bill 953, having received the required three-fifths constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Burzynski, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. And for -- just a question. First of all, I'm not going to ask for a verification, obviously, you know. But - - but secondly, I'd just like to point out that I do have my

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Governor Jim Edgar lapel pin on today. Maybe that's what we need back. But, thirdly, we would request a Republican Caucus immediately.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senator -- Senator Emil Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Well, a -- a caucus is always in order. And knowing that you have a lot to talk about, we will be back on the Floor at 3 p.m. sharp.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WELCH)

Senate stands in recess till 3 o'clock p.m.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT JONES:

The hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, Madam Secretary, Senate Bill -- House Bill 2746. Senator Trotter. Senator Trotter seeks leave to move House Bill -- 2726 {sic} back to the Order of 2nd Reading. Is leave granted? Leave is granted to the Order of 2nd Reading. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill -- is House Bill 2728 {sic}. Are there any amendments? I'm sorry. Disregard that. It's House Bill 2746, on the Order of 2nd Reading. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Floor Amendment No. 1 to 2746 simply appropriates eight hundred and fifty million dollars to the Department of Public Aid to pay off the medical lines in its budget.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter seeks leave to adopt Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 2746. Are there any discussion? Any discussion? Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Question of the Chair. The board indicates this is on 3rd Reading. The motion is to adopt an amendment.

PRESIDENT JONES:

I believe your eyes was fooling you, Senator. Any further discussion? Senator Trotter moves for the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 2746. All in favor, signify by saying Aye. No Nays. Ayes have it. Amendment is adopted. Madam Secretary, are there any further amendments?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 2746. Senator Trotter. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 2746.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. What this bill does is appropriate to the Department of Medical {sic} Aid in the Medicaid Provider Relief Fund for Medical Assistance eight hundred and fifty million dollars.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter moves to pass House Bill 2746. Are there any -- is there any discussion? Any discussion? If not -- Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Sponsor yield?

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicates he will.

SENATOR BRADY:

Senator Trotter, this supplemental will appropriate eight hundred and fifty million to the Medicaid budget if I heard you correctly, right? And -- and in order to do so, we also are seeking today authorization to borrow eight hundred and fifty million. Is that correct?

PRESIDENT JONES:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

That is correct.

SENATOR BRADY:

Senator Trotter, what -- last year when you brought a budget to us and the Governor...

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you. Last year when you brought a budget to us and the Governor proclaimed it as a balanced budget, he took us out of all the problems that George Ryan created and solved all this problem, what was the year-end balance in that budget projection?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

I do not know that number, Senator Brady.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

We believe it was around six hundred million dollars. Would you agree with that?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

It may have been. Again, I do not remember correctly -- or exactly what the dollars were.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Senator Trotter, also in last year's budget, we failed to realize that the federal government was going to give us about seven hundred million, which they gave us and we did not appropriate. Is that not right?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

True.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Senator Trotter, to borrow the eight hundred and fifty million - and my math may not be good - but if we had a six-hundred-million-dollar end-of-year balance, the feds gave us seven hundred million that we didn't account for, that's a billion three. Now, this budget that was supposed to solve all of our problems last year, be fiscally sound and be with -- without holes, now appears to have one huge problem because you're wanting to borrow and spend another eight hundred and fifty million dollars when we should have had a year-end balance of a billion three, if we simply take into account the year-end balance you projected and the seven hundred million dollars the feds gave us. Now we're having to borrow another eight hundred and fifty. I mean, this is sure appearing to me to show that last year's budget was at least two billion dollars out of whack. Would you agree with that through your need to necessitate the borrowing today with the understanding of six hundred -- let me go through this again 'cause I want to be perfectly clear. Six hundred million year-of-end balance which we should have had under Governor Blagojevich and everyone's magic resolution to our fiscal problems. Seven hundred million make it a billion three, federal funds. Now we need -- even aside from that, we need eight hundred and fifty million more. My math tells me that last year we passed something that was over two billion dollars out of whack. Would you briefly comment on that? And then I'd like to make closing statement.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Certainly, Senator Brady. You know, just a short year ago, we started -- or, ended that year with a five-billion-dollar deficit. We certainly made some projections which got us out of that. This year, because of some -- sometimes -- of, one-time projections that did not come to fruition, we now still are looking at possibly closing a hole of two billion dollars. We don't -- you can arguably say we're doing this 'cause we need the money. We can pay these into '05; however, it just makes

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

financial sense that we take advantage of this last month, this last window of opportunity to get twenty-five million dollars from our expanded fed match from the -- from the feds. So, this just makes good sense, going -- as you said, getting seven hundred million dollars from the feds. Well, now we can get seven hundred and twenty-five million dollars from the feds. And hopefully, maybe if we can come up with some more programs in the next month to -- to get those additional dollars, then we'll be ahead of the game. Things happen. This is our -- our solution and resolution to some bad things that happened during the year which were out of our control.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President. Just to close. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is -- last year we predicted that the budget that Governor Blagojevich put in front of us was a budget of massive destruction of the State of Illinois, and it clearly was. We argued with you that your gimmicks - and I shouldn't say yours, 'cause they were Governor Blagojevich's gimmicks - that his projections wouldn't come together. We argued that the increase in the rolling stock and the truck fees would drive licenses out of the State. They did. Seventeen thousand -- seventeen million dollars just in fees. But it's time to admit that we made a mistake. This is clearly an indication that we failed last year, and if we don't admit we made a mistake, we can't learn from our mistakes. We should have a billion three, if that budget was right, to even meet this underestimated in Medicaid expenditures. And the public needs to know that. I am going to vote against this bill, partly because we haven't resolved our debt restructuring initiative that we need to have in compliance so that when this money is borrowed, it's not done in such a way that we don't bid out who's going to make what, whose friends are going to get paid what. I'm going to vote against it because we're masking a problem, a problem -- a financial problem, a crisis we have that we didn't solve last year. We should be dealing with next year's budget in a prudent bipartisan way, not masking last year's problems.

PRESIDENT JONES:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Senator Halvorson.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Senator Brady, I know I -- I maybe don't understand as much. I'm not a lawyer. I did get my master's degree on Sunday, but I'm still not sure. You're -- I think you're trying to make this out to be simple math, but this isn't simple math. You know, there's a whole lot more that goes into this, and this is basically about reducing the payment cycle. And I've been here eight years, and I don't remember one year where we didn't have some sort of supplemental budget to fix the little idiosyncrasies or the little misjudgments, and here, everybody just wants to stand up and say it's about how we've managed things this year. Let's say it like it is. This happens every year. This isn't simple math. There's a whole lot more to it than this. This is about reducing the payment cycle, and let's just get on with fixing the problems we have instead of arguing about it.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I first want to rise in warm support of the sponsor of the bill. He's done a good job. He and I have had the opportunity to spend some time together over the last few weeks as we've tried to kind of pull some things together not just for this supplemental, but to -- hopefully that -- as the Leaders have an opportunity to get together with the Governor, that we've got the infrastructure in place to pass a budget. But I do want to rise and correct some misconceptions that were raised in debate earlier and just recently then by Senator Halvorson. And by the way, congratulations on your master's degree. I would point out that there is some simple math to -- to Senator Brady's point. His point is that if you had -- if you had seven hundred and eighty-one million dollars of unanticipated federal dollars plus a year-end balance of six hundred million, you would have already paid these Medicaid bills and already received your enhanced federal match. We are borrowing because we needed all seven hundred and eighty-one million of the unanticipated federal money from the Republican Congress and the Republican President to bail out a Governor's

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

budget that didn't work very well. And I just wanted to correct some misconceptions in the previous debate. There's kind of a lot of handwringing when we're talking about the management of the process. This is unusual for us to be together this late in June. So I -- I would say that -- that if I was in the Majority, I would have to shoulder some responsibility for that, and I know it may not be comfortable over there. But, you know, there is a reason that we're here after our scheduled adjournment date and our constitutional deadline, and it's because there's some management problems on your side of the aisle and in your -- your side of the political process. So, you know, kind of get over it and just kind of get with that part. And -- and to the issue of Senator -- of -- of Governor Ryan. I just think we ought to put that to bed once and for all, and let's -- let's just kind of be real honest with ourselves. September 11th hit. We had an unprecedented recession across the country. Forty-seven states went into the tank on their revenues, as well as the federal government. Income tax revenues failed across the country. We had a walk down in real income for the first time in over thirty years in the United States. Unprecedented times. During Governor Ryan's term, he asked the legislative Leaders to get together to meet on the budget. I remember legislative Leaders on the Democratic side saying, "This is the Governor's budget. We're inclined to listen. We don't think it's time to overreact." The Governor, then, cut four hundred million dollars out of his own budget and try to -- tried to manage. During Veto Session he asked for budget discussions and was told by the Speaker of the House, still Speaker of the House, Mike Madigan, that he was not inclined to cut the Governor's budget. Coming back in January, do you remember the Governor asked for extraordinary authority to cut further in his budget? It was supported by this side of the aisle and not by that side of the aisle. In February of that year, for the first time I -- in my memory in twenty years, a Governor introduced a budget lower than his previous years. George Ryan's February budget after September 11th was lower than previous years...

PRESIDENT JONES:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Will the Senator begin to address the issue that's before us and not give political speeches?

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

I'll -- I'll wrap right up. And then in -- in Memorial Day he introduced a budget that was smaller yet. This Governor introduced a budget that was larger by a billion dollars...

PRESIDENT JONES:

Will the Senator address the -- the issue that's before us, please?

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Well -- okay. Well, I guess we're all bored with this. But I just wanted to make sure we had that piece of history. Senator Trotter has done a good job with this bill. He's absolutely my favorite over there. I like his speeches better than Schoenberg's, and -- and I -- and -- and I would urge -- I would urge Members on this side of the aisle to help this administration dig out of their hole.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Brady, for a short second time.

SENATOR BRADY:

Well, thank you, Mr. President. I do. My name was mentioned in debate, but more importantly, one of my colleagues said that Senator Halvorson referenced the fact that I'm an attorney. Make absolutely no mistake: I'm not an attorney. I don't have a master's degree. Barely graduated from -- college, like the Governor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

I -- my name was used in debate, and I want to address -- I want to address a question to the Senate Democratic Caucus. When Senator Rauschenberger gets up to talk -- when Senator -- Mr. President, when Senator Rauschenberger got up to talk, people heard. I don't know how well they listened. But on this side, Mr. President, the manners were impeccable when Senator Rauschenberger talked. And in contrast, when I got up to speak, there was no such thing. And I -- that's a -- that's a terrible double standard.

PRESIDENT JONES:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Listening to your remarks, may I remind the Members that the Senate does have some decorum and I -- I wish the Members would adhere to that and not try to drown out other Members when they are speaking. Senator Trotter, to close.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Hello? There. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Well, notwithstanding, hopefully Senator Schoenberg didn't kill my bill. We just voted 57 to zip for the substantive part of this bill. Oh. 1. Oh. Oh, okay. Right. This is the appropriations for the bill that we just passed, and I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDENT JONES:

The question is, shall House Bill -- 2746 pass. Those in favor will signify by voting Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On -- on that question, there are 55 voting Aye, 3 Nays, no one voting Present. House Bill 2746, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, on the Calendar now is House Bill 2726. Senator Trotter seeks leave to take House Bill 2726 back to the Order of 2nd Reading. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. House Bill 2726 is on the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of an amendment. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Amendment No. 1 makes '04 supplemental appropriations to ten various agencies. The first is the State Board of Education, 758.8 million {sic} dollars, which will go to general State aid. The Civil Service Commission's 36.7 thousand dollars will go for operations to adjust a shortfall that came from lump sum payments for -- to employees who left. Thirdly, it goes to Department of Human Rights, the Charge Processing Unit Operations, 212.4 thousand dollars will go to that agency. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency will receive 1.1 million dollars to disaster relief assistance which will go to Utica as

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

a consequence of the tornado. The Labor Relations Board will receive 88.6 thousand dollars to the card check and police perjury for their operations. Department of Natural Resources will get twenty-nine million dollars for the Sparta World Shooting Complex in Sparta, Illinois. The State Police will get 1.5 million dollars for DNA backlog and associated with other drug activities -- drug criminal activities. And the Department of Transportation will get 6.1 million dollars from the Road Fund which will go to workers' compensation. The Office of the Treasurer will receive 6.3 million dollars for the State tax refunds, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs will receive four hundred thousand dollars to the GI Education Fund. I'm available for questions.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator -- Senator Trotter moves for the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 2726. Is there any discussion? Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just a clarification of the sponsor. Senator Trotter, I believe you said seven hundred and fifty-eight million for education, and I believe it's seven hundred and fifty-eight thousand.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter

SENATOR TROTTER:

You're absolutely correct. You know, I sit next to Senator Rauschenberger in Appropriations. He always talking those big numbers in my ear, and... So, yeah. Yeah, this is just seven hundred fifty-eight thousand. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill. You know, I looked over this supplemental and there is ten items here, of five items that provide some great services, State disaster relief. You're looking at some other areas to reduce drug-related criminal activity, to support workers' comp. Then I see five items below a million dollars. But I've got to tell you, there's one item on here for twenty-nine million dollars that just

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

stands out like a bad toothache, and it's so -- it just behooves me that we would spend twenty-nine million dollars on a shooting range down in Sparta when there's always controversy over not enough funding for education. So, Mr. President, I rise against this bill, and I hope that my colleagues will take a look at the fact that twenty-nine millions dollars to go in Senator Luechtefeld's district is totally absurd when throughout this Session, we've debated and debated in Education, in the Committee, and he has spoke against so much reform and dollars for education when, yet, there is twenty-nine million dollars for a ridiculous shooting range. So, I'd hope that my colleagues would take a look at that, and I'm voting No.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Just to give you a little bit of background on that -- that shooting facility. For several years now, the Department of Natural Resources has been working on this project. The -- World Amateur Trapshooting Association was having to leave an airport in Ohio that they were located on and had been located since the 1920s, and the State of Illinois attempted to -- to bring them into Illinois. Now, that happened -- that particular facility happens to be in Representative Reitz's and myself's district. As I say, the Department of Natural Resources has been working on this three or four years, trying to get them to commit to come into Illinois. They look at it as being a tremendous economic development project for southern Illinois. You know, our Governor has come to southern Illinois a number of times and has said that, you know, he wanted us to -- you know, he -- he certainly wanted our vote, and in many cases, he did get our vote in southern Illinois and maybe was the difference in him being elected than not. And one of the things that he really talked up and promised was this particular facility. It is a huge facility that is certainly not a Member initiative of mine, but I think a capital project that is really worthwhile to investing in for the economic development of that area. This is not necessarily something that is in my district that will only benefit my district. This is -- is a situation that is so huge

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

that it will benefit all of that area. Again, Sportsmen's Caucus has -- has -- has -- has supported this from day one. It is -- it is a great project, I think, for the -- for the entire State. It is quite a catch if we can get them. Now, here's the -- the problem with that is that the Amateur Trapshooting Association, after about three years of -- of the Department being after them to come into -- into Illinois, said they finally would, but they would like some guarantee that there will be a facility there by 2006. And if that guarantee is not met by the first of July of this year, then they will look elsewhere to take their -- their facility. Again, it -- it is something I think that is extremely good for the State. You know, we've put hundreds of millions into Chicago on a lot of different issues, and this particular issue is an issue that the Governor has committed to do, is good for the area, is good for all of southern Illinois. And again, the Governor has -- he wanted our vote and he went back, and I'm not real sure that he has certainly been there very often since. But this is a huge project that I think is really worthwhile for all of that region. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. To the bill and to the point made by Senator Luechtefeld, I agree with the Senator that this is a great project. It's as important to southern Illinois as the White Sox stadium was to the City of Chicago. We have been very cooperative with our votes for the City, up into and including O'Hare, and this enterprise brings a great event to southern Illinois, which includes my district also. In my district, I remind the Members of the Senate, we make bullets. We make thousands of good bullets. And we need to keep the sport of shooting, which is an all-American sport, in the forefront of our amusement activities, and this does that. I would correct the Senator on one point. The Governor has been to southern Illinois and supports this project strongly. This is good for southern Illinois. It's good for us all as a State. And I would -- I would appreciate, with Senator Luechtefeld and the

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

other Senators, Senator Forby, who's strongly behind this, an Aye vote for this great project. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President, will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDENT JONES:

He indicates he will.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

This trapshooting bill -- part of the bill in your amendment?

PRESIDENT JONES:

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Is -- I guess I didn't hear you correctly. Is the -- the language for the sporting complex in this bill? Yes, ma'am.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. -- Oh! Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I understand there are at least seven thousand people who attend this that come from all over, and therefore, it would help the economy of that area. No matter whether it's bipartisan or not, it would help the economy and -- which is very much needed in that area, and I certainly speak in favor of that...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator DeLeo.

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you very much, Madam President. To the amendment. I -- I just -- I'm a little confused, and maybe some of the Members can help me here. If we do something in the lakefront in the Chicagoland area, that's pork. If we do something downstate, that's economic development. That's what I heard in the Appropriation Committee earlier today. If we -- if we stop taxing yachts and give money -- more money to education for children, that's anti-business, that's anti -- that's anti -- government and businesses -- from too much government. But is this the right thing to do? Is this -- is -- this sporting

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

complex? Yes. Is there going to be Members on this side of the aisle voting for it? Yes. Is this the time? When we get up and we get up and we read in the papers over the weekend that there's pork projects in the budget and there's a skating park for this town and there's -- we don't have a budget. We don't have a budget yet. Should we be doing this? Is this the appropriate time? I don't think so. I don't think so. I don't -- I don't understand -- I -- I just -- I just don't understand it. It's economic development when it's a certain part of the State, and it's pork when it's in a different part of the State. It's -- is it good for all? We have to stop this double standards. Every debate today in this Chamber has been about double standards. And I -- I think -- President was just in the podium and I think there's -- we're losing the respect, the body of this place how it's been - decorum, debate, honest debate, in trying to do the right thing for the people of State of Illinois, for the children, for the elderly, for health care, what we're -- all stand for. It's not a Democratic issue. It's not a Republican issue. We've come to many June 30ths in this Chamber, and we got up and complimented each other. And I saw Chairman Rauschenberger, when he was Chairman of Appropriations, thank the -- the Minority Spokesperson for working together. It's about the people, it's about the kids, it's about seniors, not about what's pork and what's not pork and who's north -- upstate, downstate. Let's get to the business. Let's get -- let's get a budget. Let's get these schools opened up. Let's do the right thing for -- for people in Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd request a roll call vote on Floor Amendment No. 1.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you. It's always in order, Senator. Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Thank you, Madam President. Will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he will.

SENATOR GARRETT:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Senator, I also have some questions about this. For the twenty-nine million dollars, has this complex been built yet?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

No, it has not. This is an agreement with the trap shooters' association that asked that they want some guarantees that the dollars would be there before they even sign a contract to come to Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

So, I understand what they're saying. For the last three or four years, we haven't been able to give the people in this area a definitive answer if there will be a complex in place or not. So, my question is, where are they going now? Where are the trap shooters going now?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

You know, I believe they're -- they're looking at sites in Ohio, in other surrounding states. I really don't know where they're looking at this point in time, and again, there might be someone more qualified to answer that. But it's -- I don't have the answer.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

My only question is, do we really have a guarantee that if we invest twenty-nine million dollars into this complex, that the people will come?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Well, you know, it's -- technically, we're not investing the dollars. We're putting the dollars in the budget so that they can see that we are -- have made a commitment to go forward with the building of the -- the site. There's a probability, in fact, that if it doesn't get built or the dollars are not there,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

that we can always reappropriate it another time. So, there is no guarantee, if that's the question, will this be built if, in fact, we put the dollars there.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

The reason I say that is that we're investing thirty million dollars and we have a major budget deficit. We're talking about how we're going to fulfill our education, our health care obligations. I understand about the economic development. I'm supportive of that. My worry is, is that if we put twenty-nine million dollars into this and these trap shooters are comfortable in Ohio or Iowa or wherever they're going, how do we know for sure that we're going to get any return on the taxpayers' investment of this particular project? I mean, we -- do we have anything in writing?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Yes. This is part of the contract agreement that the Department of Natural Resources is working out with them, that there will be several shows that they have to put on to ensure that they can generate dollars not only to pay for the -- the site itself, but also to bring additional dollars to the economy. That's in the contract.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

You know, I -- I'm very supportive of economic development no matter where it is in the State of Illinois, but I personally have some reluctance to vote for something like this when we're anticipating that people are going to be coming to a complex when, in fact, they're already going someplace else. And -- and a contract may be out there, but there's no definitive assurances or guarantee that we're going to get a return on our investment and that, in fact, this is a good investment for Illinois taxpayers. In light of what's going on in the State of Illinois, I would ask that the Members of this Chamber take a hard look at this particular appropriation.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Thank -- thank you very much, Madam President. And hopefully through some conversation, I can clear up some of the questions that the previous speaker raised on -- on the issue of the certainty of the ATA coming to Sparta. First, a question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Senator Trotter, does the twenty-nine million dollars involved here involve any GRF money or is this all capital -- all capital funds under the Governor's Opportunity Returns Program?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

They are capital dollars under the Opportunity Returns Program.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

To the bill. Senator Luechtefeld was very accurate in his description of the history of this -- this complex. The American Trapshooting Association has been located in Ohio for many, many, many years. Because of the proximity of that facility to the airport where they're located, they've been given an ultimatum. Because of airport expansion, they were going to have to relocate their facility. The Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus - many of you are Members of the Sportsmen's Caucus - became aware of this probably five years ago. At that time, Joel Brunsvold was Co-Chairman with Bob Madigan, and then I took Bob's spot as Chairman of the -- Co-Chairman of the Sportsmen's Caucus, a bipartisan group that saw an opportunity here to provide a facility in Illinois to attract the world -- the world competition from the American Trapshooters -- Amateur Trapshooting Association. Literally thousands of shooters compete every year. They have a mile-long set of trap ranges, a

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

highly sought venue throughout the Midwest, I guess, and the ATA began looking four years ago to find a new location. They were approached by Joel Brunsvold, and then Dan Reitz became involved, as now he and I are the Co-Chairmen of the Sportsmen's Caucus. So, this really has been an -- an initiative of the Sportsmen's Caucus, Brent Manning, for a few years, when he was Director of DNR, and then Joel picked it up from there. The Governor's been to Sparta a year ago and announced the commitment to invest State dollars under Opportunity Returns, his program. So, if this is pork for anybody, it's pork for the entire State of Illinois. It's pork for Governor Blagojevich. He's committed to this project, and agreements have been signed. I believe there are solid agreements with the ATA, assuming that the facility will be ready to host the 2006 event in August in 2006. That's two years. Quite a bit of money has already been spent on design and development of the site, laying out where the roads are going to go. Local communities have invested their dollars in the infrastructure to support this. You'll have tourists, spectators, campers, all kinds of things. This will be the anchor event for future years to attract all -- all types of -- of top-quality shooting sport events in the State of Illinois. So, that's the history of it. There are agreements in place, and I believe the issue here is that the ATA needs assurances that the funds are committed, as the Governor has said they will be. They need to know that by July 1st, and they have -- they have seized looking for any other sites. So, they are not looking to Missouri or Wisconsin. They're looking to come to Illinois, and we need to give them that assurance that the funds will be there. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Thank you, Mr. President -- Mrs. President. I have a problem with this, Dave, big problem. I think it ought to be in the 59th District! So, if you want to -- do away with it, Dave, and put it in my district, I'd appreciate it. I'd love to have it in my district. But anyway, you know, you've talking about southern Illinois, and one of our biggest industries we have down home is tourism. In Chicago, you have factories, you have

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

workers. We don't have that down there, and we would love to have some factories down there, put people to work. But we have something else we have to work with, and tourism's one of them items. And this here is one of the biggest tourism things that we'll have, probably from Chicago south. It's going to create a lot of jobs. It's going to help my district. I'm -- I'm joined -- Mr. Luechtefeld, next door, is going to help me a lot in my district, 'cause we're looking for jobs and this is going to bring vendors in. And this here is going -- they're going to sign a contract for ten years, and that's almost -- I think is thirty million dollars a year that's coming in, if I have the right figures. So, I think this is a really good issue. I do think in our district, one of the biggest things we got, if I have to say it again, is tourism, and this is one of the things that'll help our tourism. So, I appreciate if everybody would vote Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator del Valle.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

Thank you, Madam President. You know, I certainly want to be supportive of -- of downstate, and -- and I agree that this is such a small project and we're talking about capital dollars. And it certainly makes a lot of sense, and it's only fair that our colleagues downstate, who are always being asked to support Chicago projects, receive support from Chicago legislators. But I want to say that my problem is not with the project. My problem is with the timing. Timing, I think, is the issue here, especially given that we've cast two votes in this Chamber on school construction. Both of those votes failed. Both failed. We have failed to come up with a plan to fund school construction in the State of Illinois. And I know that July 1 is an important deadline, but we also have school districts that are waiting to move on their school construction projects come July 1. We also failed to take action on the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program. They have a July 1 deadline also. And I called that bill for a vote, and we couldn't get that passed because it's all tied up in the discussion about whether or not the Governor should have more say over school construction. And I wanted to separate that issue out so that

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

we could move and take care of our teachers. And, so here we are, talking about this project at a time when we haven't taken care of school construction, we haven't taken care of the budget, and we haven't taken care of the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program and a whole list of other things that we haven't taken care of. I would hope that we would be able to, at some point, deal with this. I -- I -- I want to vote for this -- for this project, Senator Luechtefeld. I want to support it. It makes all the sense in the world. We want economic development in all parts of the State, but our timing is off here. It really is. And I'm not going to refer to this as a pork project, but certainly that's going to be the perception out there. These folks that are going to write about this and report on this, if this bill passes with this project in it, they're going to say that we took care of a special interest group before we took care of retired teachers, before we took care of school districts waiting for school construction projects, before we took care of individuals who are waiting to have health care, basic health care services, made available to them. And so, our timing is bad here, and that's my problem with it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

WAND seeks leave to photograph the proceedings. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Would the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Senator, do you have any idea of -- how long is this term of the contract that we would sign?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

It's -- it's not in my notes, but I've -- I've heard ten years.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jacobs.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

SENATOR JACOBS:

It's my understanding it's a ten-year deal. And do you have any idea of the estimated dollars that are going to be generated annually?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

It has been estimated roughly thirty million dollars annually.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

So, we're talking about a twenty-seven-million-dollar investment to bring back, potentially, almost a half a billion dollars to southern Illinois in economic development. Would that be a true characterization?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

That's the math I -- I have.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

And -- and I understand the concerns of the previous speaker and some of the others on timing and -- and how we may view -- be viewed by the press, but I, for one, am getting a little tired about how we're going to be viewed by the press. I think we should be viewed on our own actions, and if we can't take care of our problems with the press, that's -- that's really our problem. And in regards to -- to Senator Miguel del Valle's question, I think that if we called the vote on the teachers' retirement insurance right now, it would pass. I think it's time that we quit our political bickering, forget about upstate, downstate. This is truly an economic development issue, and I think it's one we should look at under that guise.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Thank you, Madam President. You know, it's amazing how the Democrats are so forgiving. We all want to just get along. And last week we were trying to pass some bills. I don't remember Senator Luechtefeld giving us one vote, not one. And it -- it blows my mind. I see Senator Brady sitting over there all calm, when he's supposed to be up all flushed red like he was last week, ranting and raving about pork. Where is Senator Roskam? Where are you, my friend? You scream and holler about pork. You, Righter, Lauzen. What's going on? When it's on this -- now it's your guy that wants to get twenty-five million dollars, and you don't have nothing to say, nothing to say. Now, I'm willing to give Senator Luechtefeld a vote because it might help southern Illinois. I'm not against southern Illinois. But someone has to point out the fact that every time we had a revenue enhancement bill, you voted No. Every time we tried to do something, you voted No. And it's amazing, all of a sudden Governor Blagojevich is this great guy. Oh, he's a great guy today. He came down to southern Illinois. He's keeping his promises. Last week he was a what? A pirate? Senator Brady called me a thief. Well, is Senator Luechtefeld a thief? Is Senator Luechtefeld an extortionist today? No. He's just trying to get some pork for his district, but it's pork today, it was pork last night, it'll be pork next year. Call it what it is. I'll vote for you, but call it what it is. And where are all those fiscal conservative jive talkers over there? Brady, Lauzen, Roskam, Righter...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you...

SENATOR HENDON:

Where is your conservatism? And you too, Rauschenberger. Where you at today, my friend? Oh, no, no, no. Today it's economic development. Last week, Wendell Jones said I was a pirate. Well, who's the buccaneer today, buddy?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you -- thank you, Senator Hendon, for adding another hour to the debate. Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just think it's important to inform this debate on

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

both sides of the aisle. There seems to be a little bit of confusion. I just want Members to understand that there is not a Republican sponsor on this bill. I -- I want Members to understand that I stayed with Senator Trotter the last ten days down here, and you need to know this project did not come from Dave Luechtefeld. It did not come from Dave Reitz. This came from -- and Dave Reitz, by the way, is a Democrat. Okay. Just -- Dan Reitz or whatever Reitz's name is. He -- he serves in the House. How would I know? But people need -- people on both sides of the aisle need to know this -- this project was requested by the Department of Natural Resources and the Governor's Office put it on the table. Now, you can vote any way you want on the bill, but before you -- Senator Hendon, get a clue here, okay? I haven't had a bill out of Rules in two years, okay? This is not -- this is not a Republican bill. This is not a -- this is not a Republican overtime. This is not a Republican budget mess. So, if you want to vote against this, you're voting against your Governor's request. Bless your heart. If you want to vote against downstate interests that Senator Forby's interested in and Senator Luechtefeld's interested in, bless your heart. But don't try to make this partisan. You guys haven't let us have bills out of Rules. You haven't included us in discussions. You -- you don't take information from us. So, don't try to blame us for -- for projects your Governor requested. Call the Second Floor, get on the same page with the other Democrats. Let's get done with overtime. I agree with Senator Jacobs. Let's move on. I agree with Senator del Valle. Let's get going on TRIP. Let's take this out of the record. Let's get your work done and let's adjourn so the people of Illinois can go about their business.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Madam President, just a point of order.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Yes.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Could you -- could you ask the Secretary of the Senate to check the oxygen over there? 'Cause Senator Hendon is showing signs of oxygen deprivation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Roskam. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, twice my name has been mentioned in such a terrible way, I'm just hurt. I'm -- I'm really hurt. But I -- I do want to point something out. First of all, I think -- Senator Rauschenberger? Senator Rauschenberger? You and Senator Trotter have spent entirely too much time together. These -- these last ten days. I'm -- I'm about to believe that Senator Ronen should try to pass Senate Bill 101 the way you and Senator Trotter have been so tight here lately. So, you be a little careful about that.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. For the previous speaker - and I'm not using your name - for the -- the previous Democratic speaker, let me just say that some of us just communicate in different ways, Senator, and allow some of us to let our vote and our actions speak for themselves.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Senator Hendon, to -- you look a little flushed yourself. I didn't -- but by the way, to set the record straight, I did not call you a thief. I said the legislation you were sponsoring was stealing from funds. The only thing I hope you ever steal is a base against the House in softball.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld, for a second time.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Miss -- Madam President. I -- I did hear my name, I think. But...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Everybody did.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

By the way, I -- I checked and most of the votes I've made this year have been for your bills, because most of the bills have been sponsored by, I think, Democrats and I voted Yes on almost all of those. There've been a few, you're right, and by the way, I did support -- Senator Clayborne had a bill. Senator -- Senator Haine had a bill. You know, there -- they were good bills and we supported them. By the way, I'm always amazed at what a year -- what a -- what a difference a year makes. I can remember when we were in the Majority. I can remember you very well. You may not believe that I remember you, but I do. And I remember you getting up and voting No on almost everything that we wanted. I don't know -- I guess it's a little different now that the Majority's on the other side, but you -- you voted No an awful lot of times. And not only did you vote No, but you got up and screamed and hollered a lot of times about different things. So, a year makes a lot of difference. And anyway, I appreciate you supporting this bill, Senator. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. Just -- just a few brief comments after listening to the debate. I recall last week when we were dealing with the next fiscal year on the capital program for schools, to build schools so that we can -- and repair schools so that we can begin developing minds. And I recall the debate on the other side of the aisle. And I recall the Minority Spokesperson and his words to the press when a certain portion of those bond dollars were going to Chicago and I had an amendment to make sure that it go to a school that had been promised. And the comments he made, "This is pork at its zenith. It's pork." Now, when it come to something that you want, I guess it's filet mignon. I -- I know you got a Sportsmen's Caucus. I -- I see your priorities are more -- more directed toward folks having the opportunity to shoot their guns than it is about educating children. How in the world can you stand on this Senate Floor and justify -- I don't care where it came for -- from, to justify your supporting this project, no matter how much effort that's gone into it, what promises have been made, and in the same -- and in the same breath, tell all

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

the school districts across the State of Illinois who has passed resolutions looking forward to the -- the construction dollars that we have proposed and tell the person you vote against that? So, I think sometime your priorities are mixed up. It's mixed up simply because -- when you call the bond program for schools pork and you, in turn, call this economic development, it's creating jobs. Well, we like to create minds. I recall what was said during debate when one of your Members said, "I came down here to build prisons." But you -- but you didn't come down here to build schools. That's what this issue is about. So, perhaps if you stood and said, "I made a mistake. I didn't mean all the things I said last week." But it's still twenty-nine million dollars. You could not vote for a single schoolchild in this State. You could not help improve the quality of education in this State. You did not want them to have nice classrooms, where they could be wired for the technology with computers. You didn't want that. But you want a place where they can go and -- shoot a gun. I think it's more important that we begin to develop minds in this State so that people will be qualified and -- and become gainfully employed in life. That's economic development. That's a wise, wise investment. But when you call money for education, when you call construction bonds for schools and when you have the audacity to call it pork and said -- and come to this program, "Oh, this is economic development." Sure you got a Sportsmen's Caucus, which is bipartisan. But you should be this way all the time. Is this pork? Our school bonds, construction program, is that pork, when -- when in that program it listed a priority list which had many schools in your respective districts? But you can vote against that, but you stand up and vote for this. Sometimes I know I don't think you realize what you're really saying and what you're really doing many times, and you got to be sincere. But I read what you said, Minority Spokesman on Appropriation. I'm not calling your name 'cause I can't pronounce it. But I recall what you said. When I wanted to direct some of those dollars to help build schools that had been promised, the same as the Senator in this district talked about this had been promised, but you said mine was all pork. Well, I don't care where it came from, it's still

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

the same identical thing. Maybe -- Senator Silverstein, when he say it's pork, and it's not kosher.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson. Last minute light on. Please make it short.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Well, I don't think -- I guess I didn't know debate had ended. Just a couple questions of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Is this amendment sponsored by yourself?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

That's correct. I am sponsoring this amendment. It has nine other agencies that we're trying to take care of as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Are there any Republican cosponsors on this -- on this amendment?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

We don't allow that in this Chamber.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

And is there any reason why we can't take this out of the record? I agree with President Jones. Let's take this out of the record. You want it out. Take it out of the record. We're willing to join you. Are you willing to take it out? Are you willing to pull it? Pull it!

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Well -- well -- well, to the contrary. I mean, there's -- notwithstanding that people do not like one portion of this,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

there's nine other agencies that is impacted here. We're talking about the citizens of Utica, Illinois, who has just had a -- been devastated by the tornado. It gives 1.1 million dollars for disaster relief. We're talking about something that we've been discussing here for years, one, about the horrendous backlog in DNA testing for the Illinois State Police. That is in this bill. We're dealing with shortfalls, one, that we have not gotten dollars from the federal government, that we're going to put dollars in to the commission -- into the Labor Relations Board to ensure that -- oops! Take that back. To Department of Human Rights, as we're waiting for them to get the funding so we can keep their payrolls going. No, there is nine other agencies. You may disagree on one, but there's nine agencies that need to be funded at their appropriate level by June 30th, and that's why I will not pull it out of the record.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter moves the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 2726. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 30 Ayes, 20 Nays, 7 voting Present, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 2, offered by Senator Cullerton.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. This is a little anti-climactic because this is really -- we've already had the debate on this amendment. This amendment simply takes out the Sparta World Shooting Complex from the supplemental at this time. I thought the debate was very healthy. One of the advantages of being here for twenty-five years is you have some institutional memory. It actually was reminiscent of debates that we've had in the past on McCormick Place. We've had votes on three, I think, three expansions for McCormick Place and how it benefits the whole State, how it brings economic development to the whole State in tax dollars.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

And it was interesting to hear about how much money will be generated by the Sparta World Shooting Complex when we appropriate the money for it. But right now, at this point in time, timing is very important, and it was -- it was alluded to earlier by some of my colleagues. If you look at, for example, today's Chicago Tribune, the headline on the front page, "State pay raises take priority over budget," they editorialized in their headline. Pretty ironic in light of the fact we just voted down the COLA, but it's the image that we create. We're voting for a capital project before we've done the whole capital budget for the rest of the State. We're voting for a capital project before we've even passed the budget. So, it's appropriate for us to take this one out of the supplemental and address it before July 1st, as Senator Luechtefeld has informed us that that is important to do in order to make sure that this project goes forward. So, I would urge you to vote Aye on this amendment, take this particular provision out at this time. We'll vote on the supplemental and we'll come back and revisit this issue later. Be happy to...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd request a roll call on this amendment as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

That is always in order. Senator Hendon. Senator Cullerton moves the adoption of Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 2726. All those in favor will vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 39 Yeas, 17 Nays, 2 voting Present, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

No further amendments reported, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill -- or, House Bill 2726. Senator Trotter, do you wish to proceed. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 2726.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

We've just heard the debate. This provides supplemental appropriations to ten State agencies -- or, nine State agencies at this point, and I just ask for a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall House Bill 2726 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 31 Yeas, 27 Nays, 0 voting Present. And House Bill 2726, having not received the required three-fifths constitutional majority, is declared failed. Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

I wish to record my vote as Aye on that last motion, I believe. Shouldn't I?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

You voted No. That will so be recorded. Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Did you say it correctly? Did I understand that the motion failed on that bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Yes, it did.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Because it wasn't clear from what you said. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Oh. I apologize. Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I'd like to put this bill on Postponed Consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator. Postponed Consideration must be requested -- oh. Senator Trotter requests that House Bill 2726

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

be postponed. The bill will be placed on Order of Postponed Consideration. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Joint -- pardon me, Senate Resolution 591, offered by Senator Demuzio, President Jones and all Members. It is a death resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Resolutions Consent Calendar. For information for the Body, we are doing the -- Resolution Consent Calendar and then we'll be moving to Senate Resolution 87, which will be -- dealing with President Reagan. We will now proceed to the Order of Resolution Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Madam Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

There have been no objections filed, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor, say Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, Introduction of Bills.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 3386, offered by Senator Garrett.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Mr. Secretary, on the Order of Resolutions. If staff will please retire to the galleries and the Members please be in their seats. Will the Members please be in their seats? Staff retire to the gallery. And will the Doormen please secure the doors? Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

ACTING SECRETARY HARRY:

Senate Joint Resolution 87, offered by Senator Watson and all Members of the Senate.

(Secretary reads SJR No. 87)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Sieben.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Thank you very much, Madam President. As the Senator who represents Ronald Reagan's hometown, I think it's most appropriate that we take a few minutes today to reflect on his life and his legacy of a great, great President. The resolution says he was the first president born in Illinois. I believe he's the only president born in the State of Illinois. February 6th, 1911, Tampico, Illinois, in Whiteside County, little town of about eight hundred, nine hundred people. Then the family moved to Dixon, Illinois, and he went to school there and grew up and spent his young years in Dixon, and served -- I think one of the things I think that he felt proudest about was working as a lifeguard on the Rock River in Dixon. Believes he was responsible for saving seventy-seven lives over numerous years as a lifeguard on the Rock River. Went on to Eureka College in Woodford County. Inspired young people at -- from that college to become Reagan scholars and did a lot for people from the State of Illinois. Certainly, a -- a native son from Whiteside County, Lee County, Woodford County. Great roots here in the State of Illinois. I'd like to invite you all this evening if you have time, at 9:30 there will be a candlelight vigil at his boyhood home in Dixon. Tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock we'll have a memorial service at his church, the First Christian Church, in Dixon, and then there'll be a walk led by the Honor Guard from the National Guard to his boyhood home with additional ceremonies at 11:30 tomorrow in Dixon. I believe the Governor plans to attend. Let me next thank the Governor and commend the Governor for his thoughtfulness in naming Interstate 88 as the Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway. In fact, Senator Jacobs and I had a discussion about that three or four years ago when there was some talk in this Chamber about naming other sections of highway after important citizens of the State of Illinois. Most appropriate that we name Route 88 Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway. Goes past his home in Tampico, his birth place, and his home in Dixon. He was known as the Great Communicator. He exuded sunny optimism, as we've heard reported today, with strong convictions to his ideological principles that he was unwavering on. He appealed to Republicans and to Democrats in a bipartisan manner. In fact, he was a Democrat

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

turned Republican when he talked about the -- the shining city on a hill. Made us proud again to be Americans at a difficult time in our country's history. Brought an end to the Cold War by strengthening our defenses and taking a firm resolve to President Gorbachev. And we all know his famous quote, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." And if you come to Dixon, Illinois, you'll see a piece of the -- Berlin Wall with a mural painted on that wall and those words inscribed on the piece of the wall in Dixon, Illinois, in honor of President Reagan, right across from the courthouse. Had a great sense of humor. Known for his humor and the way that he could tell stories. I think many of you have probably read in the accounts in the paper this week about after the assassination attempt, he said to his wife, Nancy, "I forgot to duck." Got to the hospital. His first comment to the doctors, looked around and he says "I sure hope you're all Republicans." And then his love for jelly beans and, you know, we all have our snacks here at the back of the Chamber. And I walked into the -- the phone booth here at the back of the Chamber and Esther, our assistant back there, had some of the -- Jelly Belly Beans. Fifty-four different flavors. He did appreciate some of the simple things in life, as well. So, today we join Americans everywhere in extending our condolences to the Reagan family and we thank President Reagan's family for sharing him so generously and for giving us such a great and honorable Illinois native son, citizen, President and world leader. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Petka.

SENATOR PETKA:

Well, thank you very much, Madam President and Members of the Senate. I know I'm going to date myself by the remarks I'm going to make, but so be it. When I was a young man, there was a song that was very popular. I believe it was written by a lady by the name of Janis Joplin, "Me And Bobby McGee," in which one of the refrains of that song was "Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose." And many people looking in -- in the United States upon this concept of freedom took a lot for granted. Seems to me that Senator -- that the -- the great President Ronald Reagan reintroduced most Americans and -- and

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

the world to what freedom is. And he gave it a quite different meaning than -- than the words and refrains of that song. In fact, I recall President Reagan at an opportunity I had, a chance to see him speak, in 1984 in the Reunion Auditorium in Dallas, Texas, was at a prayer breakfast in which he, at that point, talked about his view of what liberty is and he adopted a biblical approach. He reminded me and -- and something that I had learned as young child that on the Liberty Bell, there is an inscription that's taken from the Book of Leviticus, in which the Liberty Bell -- that inscription says that it is to be a proclaiming to all of the land that they are free from their captivity. And Reagan literally believed that and stated it in his doctrine that he believed that it was a birth right of the human race to be free and that this was a direct result of a compact at the moment of creation between the Creator God and every individual. And he said that the founding fathers had it right, that the -- the concept of a person with a relationship to a -- a divine being and God had created him, had places in our heart, an upward reach where we yearn for freedom. Those weren't empty words in the 1980's because we were engaged, literally, in a life and death struggle, as Reagan coined it, between the forces of good and the evil empire and used terms like good and evil when all of the -- the pundits of the day thought that this was just an awful thing to do. And the fact of the matter is, that but for someone willing to stand up on this planet and point out that there is a difference not only in philosophy, but in -- in the way that we perceive the world, we would not have had a person who changed the world as -- as President Reagan did. I might add, Madam President, if I may just go on, because this is a -- this individual had a very profound effect in my own life. I have told the press today I viewed him as a political father. See, back in 1960 when I was in my senior year of high school, I voted for John F. Kennedy in a mock election. I -- and my mother was a Democrat. She was a union steward. My father was a Democrat. That's just the way things were. I was raised in Chicago. Then in 1964, there was a young man who was -- at least I -- a gentleman who was making speeches around the nation who happened to be the spokesperson for General Electric, and his name was Ronald Reagan. He was an

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

actor and he was saying some things that I thought kind of fit the way I saw the world. And I recall in 1964 something known as "The Speech," which may have been one of the greatest political orations ever given. And I remember telling my mom that, you know, I'm going to vote for Barry Goldwater. And I really thought that my mom wouldn't serve me supper after that. But the fact of the matter is that he started a movement that coined the phrase "Reagan Democrats," and I might add, parenthetically, my mom in 1980 picked up a Republican ballot and voted for Ronald Reagan because he was in -- in a Republican primary and a key battleground, State of Illinois. I've had personal meetings with Mr. Reagan, much as many of you here in this Chamber have had with presidential candidates. My first such meeting occurred in 1976 when I was a -- running as a -- for State's Attorney for the first time and I was also a coordinator for Reagan in his race against then -- then President Gerald Ford. And Reagan came to Peotone, Illinois, and to -- to the Atrium - and I'm sure you know where that is, Madam President - and just before he was going to give his speech, he said, "Well, it's time for me to put on my make-up." And at that time, the big debate was whether or not he -- he dyed his hair. He reached into his pocket, he pulled out a comb, he smiled, and he -- a couple of quick flicks and he said, "I'm ready to go." Out on the stage, he -- he gave just a stem-winder and down he came. I know the date very well because it happened to be a date that was not only my birthday, but my daughter's first communion, and it was the last time that I ever took a political event over a family event because afterwards, I was the only member of my family that went to this -- this political function. But then in 1978, I had a daughter that was born and -- President Reagan again came to Will County and Joliet. She was two and a half weeks old and my wife had missed Reagan in '76. She says, "I'm going to this." And she couldn't find a babysitter and brought this two-and-a-half-week-old baby in -- in the third week of October to this function, walked into the -- and -- and we just listened to a nice speech. And all of a sudden, a -- a woman comes over, grabs -- literally grabs the baby off my wife's lap, drops him right onto the President's lap and someone comes over and takes a picture. Afterwards, you

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

know -- I have this picture of Ronald Reagan with his mouth open at least six inches wide trying to figure out what he's doing with a two-and-a-half-week-old child on his lap. And it -- it brought the place down because it -- literally, it was with everybody watching and it -- it -- it caused some embarrassment to my spouse. In 1980 I had an opportunity, once again, to -- to not only meet with the President, but in a very unusual place. And I was going to my brother's wedding -- or -- remarriage in California. We were on a commercial flight. I saw a lot of Secret Service people on -- on this airline so I couldn't understand what it was all about. But I knew there was somebody from the Secret Service. I asked the waitress. She says, "Governor Reagan's up in first class." It just so happened that I was a delegate to the National Convention. I had been elected back in March and I -- my daughter wrote a little hand written note about three lines long about how she loved President Reagan and just wished him the best. The next thing we know the Secret Service whisked my daughter, who was eight years old, and my son, six, and brought 'em up into first class. They were gone for it seemed, you know, twenty minutes or twenty-five minutes and came back. And my son walked up to me and he -- he had this little -- little picture and he said, "Dad, that -- that man up there gave me this." And of course, my daughter who was a little older, understood that the man up there was running for President of the United States. But in any event, I had an opportunity to -- to be called to the White House by the President and placed on his National Commission of Violent Crimes and had an opportunity to go into a room that's no -- no larger than the size of our -- of -- of Frank Watson's Office and speak with about twenty other prosecutors from across the nation and have a quick-give-and-take. But each and every time that I -- I had an opportunity to interact with this man, the one thing I find out is he was quick on his feet and he truly was a funny -- funny human being. But, to me, the one thing that I will always think about is it became fashionable for me as a person who is conservative Republican to be proud of the label. At times the -- the term of anyone who ran to the right of center was that they were a right wing extremist or a radical, they were crazy. Well, this right wing extremist named

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Ronald Reagan won forty-four states out of fifty in 1980 and in 1984 came within three thousand votes of winning every state in the United States of America. But the -- the thing that most will stick in my mind is something that he did in changing the world. And that was simply, he -- he answered a prayer, a constant prayer. I'm a Roman Catholic, and back in the 1950s, literally, every Sunday after mass, we knelt down and prayed for the conversion of Russia. Some of you who are Catholics may remember that. And that prayer wasn't answered for a long, long time. And there it was then in late 1989 or 1990, we found out that the Lord works in his own ways, because the wall came down and the prayer was answered. The Soviet Union literally came apart. Reagan had predicted it would happen because they were -- their philosophy was flawed, that the -- that atheistic didactic materialism would never beat the system that we had. The iron curtain came down. The world has been changed. I know that very directly. My son last year flew a mission over Afghanistan where his -- airplane was based, believe it or not, in Kyrgyzstan in the Soviet Union. The world has been changed from the time that I was a young man. And in my opinion, it would not have happened but for the fact that we had someone who had the courage, who had the principle, who had the moral leadership to stand up and say that truth does matter. "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." The wall came down and this young Polish conservative Republican's prayer has been answered. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Madam President. Just a few words if I could. I think Senator Sieben hit it right on the head. President Reagan had great ties to -- to Illinois and to the area from which he was born. In fact, even in my area, for a while he was a broadcaster on WOC Radio, broadcasting football games and a number of other things. And one of the things I always respected Ronald Reagan for, he always said, "Everyone needs a place to go home to." And Ronald Reagan did that. He came home to Illinois. He came home to Dixon and Tampico and he -- he lived by his word. He was proud of Illinois. He was proud of

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

his country. And even though I didn't always agree with him, he was a great communicator, and he helped bring our country together. He helped us make us feel better about ourselves. And he was such a great communicator. I would just ask him at this time to intercede in this Body so that we understand that communications leads to good things. And I think President Reagan showed that. And hopefully in his memory and in his will, we'll be able to remember that as we go forward in this Body.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Jacobs. Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Thank you, Madam President. I don't know if this is time for a true confession or not, but I grew up as a Democrat. And my -- that's just the way it was. Grandpa was. Mom was and so Dan. And as I got later into life, I started to see the light, I suppose, maybe, and -- and that's what brought me to be a Republican. But then as I look back and -- and I learned and knew of President Reagan, late 1970s I graduated from college and went to work for Ronald Reagan's campaign. And if anybody reflects back on the time of Illinois history, Ronald Reagan was not the candidate of choice. In fact, everybody -- everybody in the Republican hierarchy of the State of Illinois was for somebody else. And got involved with his campaign early and had the good fortune to come through the primary and go to the general election, and the Reagan campaign tabbed me to be his executive director for the State of Illinois. And that -- what that really meant was the day-to-day operations, the logistics, staff, material, and whenever the Reagan's were going to be in the State, to help figure out where they needed to be, what they needed to do. And -- but before we got to that stage, before he, once again, was in this race with ten other candidates for the Republican nomination, Nancy Reagan would come into Illinois and my job was to take a station wagon, one security guy from California and pick her up at the airport. So, you know, who'd of thought many, many, many years later I have been the chauffeur for Nancy Reagan. And -- and -- and when the -- when Governor Reagan, as Senator Petka aptly put it, came into the State, had the chance to fly with him on his airplane and -- and talk to

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

him, have him look you in the eye and -- and actually engage him. I had the honor to go to his conventions, had the honor to go to his swearing-ins. And then he went on to the White House and that's where I had the opportunity to join him out there, and I decided to stay in Illinois and make my own political career here. So, I didn't really be a part of President Reagan, but I did get the experience to be with candidate Reagan. And I know Friday on our -- national day of mourning, there's going to be presidents and kings, queens and prime ministers of the world are going to be memorializing and revering this great guy, but I think what I will remember most is that look in the eye, that touch on the arm and you had this real sense that this guy engaged you. He really meant it. And he had that ability to do that through the television screens, through the radios, and I think that's, in part, why he touched many of us so to the extent that that is, in part, how he became known to help us be so proud to be an American. He will be -- he will be missed. May God bless the Reagan family and God bless America.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I met Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, more than -- in the early sixties at a private party in Lake Forest, Illinois. They were both very gracious, very presentable people and very nice people, people that you felt that you could be at ease with them. And I didn't seem them again until some time later. In 1981, I went to Greece, and while I was there, he had already been elected President of the United States. And let me tell you, Greece looked up to Ronald Reagan and -- like they had not looked up to many another president before, but they did look up to Ronald Reagan. As a matter of fact, they also had looked up to Harry Truman very much, too. Well, one of his days he -- he had a luncheon at the White House for lady legislators, and let me tell you, he and Nancy were most gracious to us. And I want you to know that I had supported Bush against him when he ran for President the first time, although I supported him the second time. But I -- but he was very gracious and so was Nancy, and he was a very honest, forthcoming fellow. I mean, he

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

-- he had the courage of his own convictions and he -- he believed in God and he believed in himself. And he had self-confidence of someone who's not afraid of anyone or anything except his God. And Nancy did a wonderful job for him. She -- she was the light of his life, the love of his life and there was no question about it, they had a great love affair. They were married about fifty-two years, I think it was, and Maureen, his oldest daughter who was Jane Wyman's daughter, Maureen was very close to her -- her dad and she was very close to Nancy. But Maureen, as you know, passed away from cancer some years ago. And I can honestly tell you that you felt confident with that man. You felt that he was honest and that he's truthful, and he was. And he was far more brilliant than people gave him credit. In fact, when you stop and think that he wrote most of his own speeches, when you stop and think that he did his own reasoning, when you stop and think that he didn't need the New York people to tell him what to do, he was a man of the people. Our only President born in Illinois, 'cause, as you know, Lincoln was born in Kentucky. And when you think of the goodness of this man, he was truly a good person. He was a forthright person and only he was able to manage the Russians the way he did because he was calm, he was poised, he was a gentleman. He was always a gentleman and he always looked like a gentleman. He -- he was proud of his roots, and all I can say is his mother must of done a great job on him because there's a man who was a credit not only to America, but to the whole world. And I was sorry he passed on, but typical of -- of Ronald Reagan, he told us about his Alzheimer's about ten, eleven years ago and -- to let the people know. He was very honorable, very honest, very truthful and a real gentleman and a person we'll never forget. I am closing my office Friday, and I can tell you, all I can say is his memory was wonderful. He was so gracious to us when we met him at the White House and so was Nancy. And God rest his soul and may God bless Nancy and her family and -- and God bless America.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Wojcik.

SENATOR WOJCIK:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

Thank you, Madam President. As I've been listening to the speakers I was just reflecting on a little bit of my life. I wasn't going to say anything, but then I started thinking about what Ronald Reagan has done for me. In 1976, my committeeman was Don Totten, and Don took it upon himself to support President Reagan at that time. Well, Congressman Crane wanted to become the President also. So there was some very interesting arguments in Kansas City and, of course, I was always for the person who was in office and never go against the person who holds -- the stars and stripes. So, therefore, I was a little disenchanted with the movement that was going on. Came 1980 I received a phone call from Don Totten and he said that he was going to support President Reagan again and he asked me to head up the small business women's for Illinois, which I joyfully did. After he was elected President, we went to the inauguration. It was the most awesome, beautiful event I have ever seen in my life. The fireworks were in the sky and Americanism was prevailing and you were so proud to be an American. With -- at the time when that gentleman came in, I had my own business and interest rates rose from nine percent to twenty-two percent within a year and a half. That man came in and he brought those rates down, but not only did he do that, what he reflected was a genuine concern for our country, our -- our patriotism, our -- to protect us. And as he said "Gorbachev, tear down that wall," I had the opportunity because of him to go to Berlin and witness the first free election that they held in East Berlin. It was awesome. Eighty-five percent of the people voted without having one piece of literature in their home, no television sets. They were so joyful with the freedom that they received. My -- my mother comes from the eastern side of Berlin so that had a very special moment for me. Again, Geo mentioned about the luncheon that we were invited to. There has been no President that -- under the time that I've been in office that has seen fit to invite women to the White House. President Reagan did. I sat at table ten. It was a perfect "10" day. If you come to my district office, you'll see the pictures and the -- the menu and everything. And President Reagan was very fond of his California wines and, of course, I'm very fond of California wines, so we had a most delightful

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

conversation. He took us to the Rose Garden. I was with Nancy. I was able to have some conversation with her about being a female in office. Maureen was there. It was just like family. We're losing somebody who has been a perfect example what America should be. And may his soul be rested now and may Nancy find the peace that she needs to find after all those years of taking care of her beloved husband.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Wojcik. Senator Watson, to close.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you very much, Madam President and thank you, Senate President Jones, for allowing us to have this memorial service here today in honor of our -- our fallen comrade and our former President and a great Illinoisan. One of the previous speakers talked about his radio prowess and I don't know if you recall this, but he -- I think you said WOC and WHO. He -- he used to recreate the Cub baseball games. They'd come across on teletype and then you had to fill in, you know, and had to say something about what was going on, not -- not seeing the game, not knowing what was going on. And -- and I've -- I've heard some recordings of -- of that and -- and he obviously did quite well and -- and he was an avid Cubs fan. And I think it would be appropriate for me to tell him, as I watch the teletype here on my computer screen, that St. Louis is now winning 12 to 4 in the top of the ninth inning, and I know his beloved Cubs and he's not happy about that, but anyway I -- I just appreciated so much -- he was a very avid sportsman and -- and sports fan and I -- I think that's -- that's so important for us, to recognize there's other aspects of life and -- and he participated in life to the fullest. I had the opportunity to meet him on several occasions and I found him to be a very genuine individual and -- and he caught a lot of ridicule, as you remember, just being an actor. You know, you'd see him on TV and he would be this guy that would be -- portray himself as very sincere and, "Ah, he's just acting." Well, that isn't the way -- that isn't the way he was at all. He -- he was very genuine and -- and I'm glad to hear Senator Rutherford had the experience that you -- you had, because he is -- he -- he just was interested in you and interested about you. And -- and that -- that, to me, was very

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

important as I got involved in politics and then this was in -- in 1974 I got interested in politics. I'd been interested before, but not presidential so much. And I read his book, and he had a book that was primarily on conservatism and -- and kind of followed a lot of what Barry Goldwater talked about and -- and -- and was very fiscally conservative and believed in -- in the opportunities of -- we all have and we have that ability to reach our goals based on what we do and how we -- how we handle it ourself. And we -- don't -- don't rely on government. Don't rely on someone else propping you up. You have the ability. You do it. And that was the message that he delivered to me and I felt -- I -- I received that message, and in 1976 when he ran for President I supported him. And, of course, Gerald Ford was the candidate, and -- and like you, Kay, I -- I did support him in the primary even though at this point in time Illinois was pretty well -- the race had been decided. But I -- that set up the 1980 situation and, of course, I ran for State Representative in '78. And, I don't know if you remember this, Dan, or not but when he came to Illinois in 1980, they -- they had a bus trip and it came through southern Illinois and -- and one of the stops happened to be my hometown of Greenville. And he was there and it was a thrilling day for a small little town in southern Illinois to have a presidential candidate stop by and -- and -- and to visit with the people. And it was a great turnout of -- and it rained and it was -- but -- but it -- it didn't matter. It didn't dampen the -- the enthusiasm of those who -- who -- who were present. And I happened to have the opportunity to introduce them. I was a sitting State Representative and it was actually orchestrated by Don Totten and -- and Dave Regner who -- who were trying to help me get re-elected to the -- to the -- to the Illinois House. But anyway I -- I and then I come to Springfield and I -- and I really truly have tried to emulate what I think were his principles and his beliefs. And somebody mentioned welfare reform and -- and that's exactly -- we were the party of welfare reform. We -- we -- we are the party of giving people opportunity, and that's what Reagan was all about, was let's get to work, let's get on the business of -- of making your life meaningful. And I think that welfare reform is something that -- that is certainly

STATE OF ILLINOIS
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

125th Legislative Day

6/9/2004

important to this side of this aisle. And I -- was obviously very important to him, and we get national recognition here in Illinois for what we did and we've -- we've made some meaningful change in people's lives who were stuck in the quagmire of -- of poverty and we had -- maybe you had to kick a few hind ends along the way, but we got 'em -- into the process of being productive members of society. And that's what welfare -- reform was -- was truly all about. I just -- and I -- I want to thank -- and I -- the President, once again, for giving us this opportunity. Obviously this was a man who was a true hero and -- and the loss of a great man. And -- and we commemorate his life here today as -- as meaningful to -- to us and all of us. And, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson moves for suspension of the Senate rules for immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 87. All in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Watson now moves for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 87. All those in favor of this Resolution, please rise. The resolution is adopted. Senator Trotter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Ms. President. I would like at this time on -- on House Bill 2726, I would like to remove my motion for Postponed Consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

That is in order. Thank you, Senator Trotter. The Senate is now adjourned until Friday, June 11th, 2004, for perfunctory Session. Senate stands adjourned.