

STATE OF ILLINOIS
94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

119th Legislative Day

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The regular Session of the 94th General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desk? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Pastor Jerry Doss of the Abundant Faith Christian Center, here in Springfield. Pastor.

THE REVEREND JERRY DOSS:

(Prayer by the Reverend Jerry Doss)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Pastor. Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Maloney, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, sir.

SENATOR MALONEY:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Maloney)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

...you. We have several media outlets seeking leave to videotape the process. WICS Television, WCIA-TV, ABC Channel 7 in Chicago seeking leave to videotape the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Madam Secretary, good morning, and Reading and Approval of the Journal, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Journal of Monday, January 8, 2007.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Hunter moves to approve the Journal just read by the Secretary. There -- seeing no objection, so ordered. Good morning, Senator Axley. For what purpose do you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR AXLEY:

Personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

State your point.

SENATOR AXLEY:

I'd like to introduce to my colleagues in the Senate, I have two Pages for the Day today. I have Rachel and Marki Kaim from

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Elk Grove Village. Please welcome them.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Guests from Elk Grove Village, please be recognized. And welcome to Springfield. Senator Schoenberg, very happy new year to -- to you, sir.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Happy new year, Mr. President. It's my...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

For what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President. It's my pleasure today to introduce two very special young women who live in my community. Admittedly I'm a little more biased than one about the other. I love one of them like a daughter, because she is my daughter. My daughter, Michal, and her friend, Talia Wertico, are here today. They're fifth graders at the Bessie Rhodes Magnet School. And they may be watching us online today, so we'd like to give a special shout out to Bessie Rhodes. They'll be paging with us today and please give Michal and Talia a warm Senate welcome. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Welcome. And our guests from Evanston, Illinois, welcome to Springfield. Senator Wendell Jones, very happy new year to you, sir.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Happy new year, Mr. President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please state your point, sir.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Yes. In the President's Gallery today, we have friends from Schaumburg, Illinois, who have relocated to Effingham - old friends of my wife and I - Aliasha Kellogg and Chuck Kellogg, and also my wife is with them in the President's Gallery.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Our guests in the gallery please rise and be recognized? And welcome to the Illinois State Senate. Senator Geo-Karis, for what purpose do you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Good morning, Mr. President. Mr. President, Ladies and

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Gentlemen of the Senate, I have two guests here today. One is Juliana Owoo - O-W-O-O - Battlet - B-A-T-T-L-E-T - from West Africa. And the other one is Virginia Cabildo - C-A-B-I-L-D-O - from Glenview, Illinois. I would like you to welcome them here, because they're my two guests today.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Would our guests please rise and be recognized by the Illinois Senate? Welcome to Springfield. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a request by the Chicago Tribune to request to take still pictures. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 932, offered by Senator Dillard and all Members.

And Senate Resolution 938, offered by Senators Viverito, Emil Jones and all Members.

They're both death resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Resolutions Consent Calendar. Ms. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 490, together with House Amendments 1 and 2.

Passed the House, as amended, January 8, 2007.

We have like Message on Senate Bill 1959, with House Amendment 1.

Also passed the House, as amended, January 8, 2007.

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 1714, together with House Amendment 3.
Passed the House, as amended, January 7, 2007.

I have a like Message with respect to Senate Bill 2737, with House Amendment 3, which also passed the House, January 7, 2007.

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A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Joint Resolution 138.

It is a death resolution, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Consent Calendar on the death resolution.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the President -- pardon me. I'm sorry. A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Joint Resolution 154.

And it is substantive, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Madam Secretary, House Bills 1st Reading, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 5834, offered by Senator Lightford.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Wilhelmi, for what purpose you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR WILHELMI:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Please state your point, sir.

SENATOR WILHELMI:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, today is a great day for all of us here in the Illinois Senate and especially for our good friend, Senator John Sullivan, who is celebrating his forty-eighth birthday today and there will be cake in the mezzanine. So, let's -- let's hear it for our -- our great, distinguished Senator who's forty-eight today.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan, a very happy birthday. Madam Secretary, Messages.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the President, dated January 9, 2007.

Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Rule 3-5(c), I hereby appoint Senator Rickey Hendon to resume his position on the Senate Rules Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

I have a like Message from the President, dated January 9, 2007.

Pursuant -- Dear Madam Secretary - Pursuant to Rule 3-2(c) {sic} (3-5(c)), I hereby appoint Senator Rickey Hendon to resume his position as a member of the following Senate committees, effective immediately: Environment and Energy and Labor.

Sincerely, Emil Jones, Jr., Senate President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Ladies and Gentlemen, for the purposes of an announcement. Purposes of announcement. We'll be going to House Bills 3rd Reading, final passage. I'd ask all Members within the sound of my voice, please come to the Senate Floor immediately. We'll be going to House Bills 3rd Reading, final passage. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, can I have your attention? We will go to -- in the Calendar, on page 2 of your Calendar. On the top of page 2 on the Calendar is House Bills 3rd Reading. We have House Bill 822. On House Bill 822, Senator Forby, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House Bill 822.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Thank you. This bill makes a change to Illinois' Coal Mining Act. Last spring, the General Assembly approved a package

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of safe measure for underground workers at coal mines. Since that time, Congress has approved a set of measure -- safety measures and our own Mining Board has made recommending {sic} regarding the legislation we passed. This legislation reflects on some of the changes on the State and federal level. It addresses the storage location for additional breathing device for the underground mine, and the date on which the mining operators to file with the Mining Board to plan -- regulations to rescue chambers. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

...you. Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Rutherford, for what purpose you rise, sir?

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Question for the sponsor, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

...sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Forby, I was in committee yesterday when we had a rather impassioned witness testify. His concern was the fact that he did not believe that rescue chambers were a safe -- safe issue to put into the mines. Help me understand, and I believe that we -- that what your amendment does is clarify some real concerns on the existing statute, that it also puts in place a timeline before these rescue chambers would actually have to be into play, and between the enactment of this bill and the timeline that you've put into this, there should be some type of an evaluation or report from the federal government in regards to the potential safety, or lack of, of these safety chambers. Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Now what this does, they just need to file a plan before May 31st {sic} (1st), and if they -- if we hadn't run this today, they'd have to do it by February. What we're doing is prolonging this to let 'em run a plan and give 'em time to talk about the rescue chambers.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Forby, when -- when is the expected report from the federal government due on that? That will be before the May date?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

That's going to be the end of this year. End of this year. At the end of this year, the federal government's supposed to have a plan.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

...President. So -- so, if the plan from Illinois is required by the end of May, when is the time that it would be anticipated that they'd have to actually install the rescue chambers? And the -- the purpose of my question is, will it be after -- will it be after the time that the federal government comes back with their substantiation of the safety of these chambers? So that we don't require them before we hear from the federal government, is really what I'm trying to understand.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

That will be up to DNR to make that decision when the time is. But I still think, you know, with May 31st, then DNR has got to have time to study the plans and stuff and, you know, that could make two or three months, it'd be pretty close to the federal. And if there's an issue, we can always bring it back and -- and take care of it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Mr. President, thank you. In closing, I would stand in support of the legislation. I would hope that as DNR does look at this that they will look to have the implementation mandated upon our mines in Illinois to be after the date unto which we anticipate the federal report, so we will have some clarity as to

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their interpretation, 'cause there seems to be some debate as to the true validity of these safety chambers. So, I stand in support of your legislation. Thank you, Senator Forby.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Any further discussion? Senator Risinger, for what purpose you rise?

SENATOR RISINGER:

To the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill.

SENATOR RISINGER:

I stand in support of the amendment because it does things that -- that need to be cleared up in the law that we passed earlier. But I also am concerned about the safety chambers. They're untested at this time. There needs to be more study done. There's real concern about the -- whenever there's an explosion in a mine, there's always a second explosion. And the -- the -- the protocol before has been whenever there's an explosion to get out of the mine as quickly as possible before that second explosion takes place. And the people that testified against the safety chamber says that you will be killing people by keeping them in the mine longer in those safety chambers. So, there's real concern about testing what those safety chambers ought to be made out of and so forth. So I think that we may be seeing some more legislation at a later time to address this issue after there's been more testing done. But I do support the amendment, because I think it clears up some things that need to be done.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

...you, Senator. Any further discussion? Any further discussion? Senator Dillard, for what purpose you rise?

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR DILLARD:

I was in committee also where there was a very impassioned witness and I certainly trust Senator Forby to bird-dog the timing issue, Gary, with respect to when these safety chambers,

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if they're going to be required, follows what the federal government study will show. Gary, you probably don't realize it, but my mother's family is from Kentucky and the majority of all of my relatives - my uncles, my cousins - have always worked in the mines in Kentucky. So, anything dealing with mine safety, I very much care about the men and women that go -- beneath the ground, whether it's in Kentucky and certainly in -- in Illinois. But this bill, very simply, makes a law that was imperfect better. This is still a work in progress and I trust the Department to -- to do the right thing. But, Gary, as one of our colleagues, please, we look to you because -- along with Senator John O. Jones and Dave Luechtefeld, that actually have the largest number of miners in our State. You just need to stay on top of this and I'm sure you will. But this bill makes a bad law, or an imperfect law, better. And, Senator Forby, along with Senator John O. Jones, please just make sure that the timing issues here work out to protect our miners, as well as the mining companies, as well as possible. And I just want you to know, sir, and John Jones that, you know, while I may not have any coal mines up in DuPage County, I got a lot of relatives that go -- beneath the ground still today. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

...you, Senator. Any further discussion? Any further discussion? Senator John Jones, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Senator Forby, I -- I see in the analysis where it -- the American Coal Company, which you and I are very familiar with in Southern Illinois, is -- or was opposed to it. I -- I -- are they still opposed to it? And -- and for what reason?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Yes. And they're still opposed to the rescue chambers and that's what it was all about. But I'm not sure that he didn't

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understand that what we're doing is prolonging this, giving time to come up with an answer, or whatever his reasons.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. I was not in the committee, I believe Sunday afternoon, when -- when this was heard. Have you -- were they here to testify then and -- and have you had conversations with them since then?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Yes. They was here to testify, but I have not talked to 'em since then.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. Well, let me -- let me offer my assistance in -- in sitting down with them and -- and - you and I together - and -- and trying to explain to them where we're going to this. I mean, we all want safety in our mines. And -- and maybe it's just a miscommunication, a misunderstanding of the legislation to -- to American Coal, but it is a big employer in - - in your district and -- and some of those people live in my district. And -- and I will be more than happy to -- to sit down with -- with you and American Coal and try to -- to work out something with them. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Seeing no further discussion, Senator Forby, to close, sir.

SENATOR FORBY:

Just Christmas week in my district in West Frankfort, Illinois, back in 1950, there was a explosion that killed a hundred and nineteen miners. And what we're trying here today is do something for safety. And we don't want to do -- we don't want to -- we want to make sure what we do is right. So we're throwing this out here on the table and so if there's anything that we can do for safety to help our coal mining and that's what this bill's all about. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, shall House Bill 822 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 822, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Hunter, for what purpose you seeking recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR HUNTER:

Apparently I was having, Mr. President, problems, technical problems with my phone {sic}. I pressed Yes and nothing..

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The record will so indicate that your intention was to vote Yes on House Bill 822, ma'am. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on House Bills 3rd Reading, on the top of page 2 of your Calendar is House Bill 3752. Senator Delgado, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

House -- House Bill 3752.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Chamber. House Bill 3752 what -- will do the following. On the amendment, we'll exempt the day labor and temporary workers from ninety-day probationary wage of fifty cents below the State minimum wage. That will go into effect July 1st. And at this point, the amendment deleted the underlying bill. And at this point, I would be asking for your support. To finish, this is a cleanup to the Minimum Wage Law that we passed out of the House and inadvertently we excluded a -- a part -- a population of when a - - the day labor population or temporary workers. When they go into a -- to participate, they must have a ninety-day probationary period and we needed to find out when do those ninety days start and at the point. Is it ninety days consecutively or is it ninety days within five or six months?

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And at this point, this amendment will exclude them from that, and I would ask for your Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Senator Pankau, for what purpose you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR PANKAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, ma'am.

SENATOR PANKAU:

This bill was heard in Labor Committee, and if you remember the discussion on the minimum wage, this was also brought up at that time. Basically, if you are a seasonal, a temporary or a day worker, there's a good probability that in -- you will not work for one employer during that ninety-day period. So this immediately gives them that -- the minimum wage that we passed here so that they don't have to meet those qualifications - that initial period with an employer where it was considered a training period. So, this protects them. It went through unanimously through the committee and I join my new colleague, who I believe this is his first bill, in urging your Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Any further discussion? Senator Burzynski, for what purpose you seek recognition?

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield for a question or two?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. Senator, I -- I'm from northern Illinois. I grew up down in southern Illinois, in Senator Forby's district. And you know, this -- this term talking about day labor and day labor wages, would you care to really inform me as to the difference between day labor and night labor?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

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Thank you, Mr. President. I guess you'd have to have a light on in the dark and not have it on during the day. I mean... But no, day laborer, as you know, can work any particular shift, can work in the evening. A day laborer is someone who is working on a temporary basis for an agency and can be sent and supplied by an agency to a variety of corporations or companies, but works for the day labor agency. And as I shared with the committee, I'm a former worker for those day labor organizations, as I was an employee of Just Jobs back in my college days in Senator Ronen's community. And so I can assure you that there is no difference, other than they all should have a decent living wage.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Well, thank you for that -- that explanation. I think it was an explanation. No difference or -- or whatever. But, Mr. President, to the bill. You know, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I'm very concerned about this bill. And I think we've got a brand-new Senator that's coming into this Chamber that wants to tell us what women who are giving childbirth should expect to get paid. Now, I'm not sure that I understand that totally, but, Senator, that's the way I read this bill. You know, that you want to dictate what women who are in childbirth are being paid. And it's different if it's at night or if it's during the day. So, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I would encourage a No vote on this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, ma'am.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I rise in support of the minimum wage day laborer. As we worked on increasing the minimum wage, this was a portion in the legislation that Senator del Valle and I felt that had been omitted and not acknowledged. And I appreciate the sponsor coming forth with this legislation to address this problem as soon as possible. It's important that no

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loopholes are evident in any way to prevent all people from receiving a living wage. We need to encourage those who work hard to receive adequate pay. And so I would urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Hunter, for what purpose you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR HUNTER:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, ma'am.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Did I hear someone say that there was a problem with -- with women funding, or you had a problem with women or... If there's a problem with giving women monies for -- I know it is. Good luck on your new bill, Senator. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Wendell Jones, for what purpose you rise, sir?

SENATOR W. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to rise and defend the newest Member of the Senate. Perhaps lost in translation was the fact that Senator Burzynski was attempting to be humorous and I just wanted -- I just wanted everybody in the gallery to know that his attempt was something that goes back traditionally in the Senate; when a new Senator rises for his first bill, we attempt to tease him. And it -- over the years, it's getting shorter and shorter and shorter, and the teasing has almost gone away and has become too serious. For example, when I had my first bill - matter of fact, it was probably my only bill - the - the teasing went on for I think it was about a half an hour. And I just wanted to say, Senator Delgado, you're getting off very easy. You -- you didn't have very long in labor on this one and -- and we welcome you to the Senate and wish you well in your -- in your new post.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jones, to -- to answer your inquiry, we've now invoked the Senator Cronin rule, which was adopted a year or so ago, that if you're going to get up and speak on the freshman's new bill, you must be funny. Senator Geo-Karis, for what purpose you seek recognition, ma'am?

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SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, Mr. President, I apologize for the humorless statements that some of my people are making, but I want you to know, Señor Delgado, welcome and good luck to you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs, for what purpose you seek recognition?

SENATOR JACOBS:

Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR JACOBS:

First, I would like to compliment him. I've noticed since he's come over from the House to the Senate that he's certainly dressing better. And second, I would just like to know to confirm, has that chip been removed?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Wendell Jones, for the second time, sir.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. I think you used my name and we have another rule that if you use your name, you can speak. But in light of this new rule that you have to be funny, I would move that we strike Senator Burzynski's testimony from this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

All those in favor will signify...(microphone cutoff)...saying Aye. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, seeing no further discussion, Senator Delgado, to close, sir.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the -- of the Senate. I would just ask for your Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, shall House Bill 3752 pass. 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? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 1 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 3752, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared

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passed. Madam Secretary, Messages from the House, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 2674, together with House Amendment 1.
Passed the House, as amended, January 9, 2007.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Ladies and Gentlemen. Ladies and Gentlemen, to fulfill our responsibilities under Article V, Section 9 of the Constitution, we will now proceed to the Order of Advice and Consent. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you. Thank you. Test one. Am I on? Thank you, Mr. President. And I -- I advise that everyone pay attention, because this one is going to be a little juicy. I move that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on the appointments set forth on the Message of the Governor dated November the 16th, 2006, and the Corrected Message from the Governor dated March 9th, 2006.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Hendon moves that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on appointments set forth in the Message from the Governor dated 11/16/2006 and the Corrected Message dated March 9th, 2006. Madam Secretary, Committee Report.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senators Hendon and Geo-Karis, Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9, 2006, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate reject the following appointment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I hope everyone was paying attention. Mr. President, with respect to the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th, 2006, I will read the salaried

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appointment of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate reject. Reject. That means we need Noes or Presents.

To be a member of the Prisoner Review Board for a term commencing March 6th, 2006, and ending January 17th, 2011: John Stenson.

Mr. President, having read the salaried appointment from the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th, 2006, I now seek leave to consider the appointment on a roll call. Mr. President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. I was in Executive Appointments this morning and this particular person was rejected by the Chairman of the Committee. I don't know whether it was a last minute thing, but it did seem to be certainly a little out of the ordinary. I -- I guess I think -- hopefully you can give me some reason, Senator, of why you did this, why you did not want him approved.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Senator Luechtefeld. First of all, this is not the first time that we have rejected an appointee of the Governor. We have done it before. We will do it again. We have the constitutional responsibility to vet all appointees of the Governor, not to just rubber-stamp appointees of the Governor. I love the Governor, but there are occasions when we find an -- an appointee of the Governor that we do not feel should fill that position. It wasn't me alone. The vote was five -- I believe on this candidate, five to reject, two present and two not to reject. So the majority of the committee voted to reject this nominee. That's why we're asking for No votes on this nominee or a Present vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Luechtefeld.

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SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Senator, I -- I know that the vote went your way, but it -- it definitely seemed to be a vote that they didn't seem to really understand why. They simply agreed with and respected the Chairman of the Committee. And -- and I think we, certainly as a -- as a Body, deserve some explanation. I understand that this -- this individual said that he had voted with the majority in -- on decisions some ninety-seven, ninety-eight percent of the time. I'm sure that most of the members of that committee could say that same thing. And I guess I -- I understand, or have been told since, that you were not for him because he was too tough -- Is that right? -- on some of his decisions. That there weren't enough people paroled? That's a question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Senator, I don't know who told you that, because I did not say the man was not too tough. I said there are times when people do not deserve to get out. I also said there are times when people have reformed themselves. I'd like to believe that we do not have a system where a person can't go in and reform themselves after committing a crime or being convicted. Because everyone who's convicted is not guilty. Just because you're convicted, don't mean you're guilty. But I do believe that the system allows people to reform themselves and those people should be given a second chance. But I never said Mr. Stenson was not too tough. I said he served with distinction. I said this to the reporters. He served with distinction. He served two and a half years. Now it's time to just go in a different direction.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Senator, is this just one case that you disagree with him on? Because it seemed to be sort of a surprise to the other members. It certainly was a surprise to the Senator who -- from your side of the aisle who had recommended his appointment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

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Senator, I have nothing but respect for Senator George Shadid. Nothing but respect. Been sitting across this side of the aisle from him for the longest. He is a great man. But George Shadid's name is not before us today. John Stenson's name is before us today. If this was George Shadid's name, I'd be yes all the way. Of course, we would. But he's not responsible for every action taken by a nominee that he prefers. I love George Shadid. His -- the -- the Senator that's replacing him is also a wonderful person, but their name is not before us today.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Senator, it just seemed -- and I -- I -- I think I'm right on this, that this was a situation which you personally did not want this and were able to either, whatever, convince the other members that this is what you wanted to do. I -- I didn't see a lot of information and a lot of -- no investigation, no -- no reasons why, other than basically... You're saying more now than you said on -- in -- in the committee meeting. It -- it just seemed to be sort of a railroad situation, and -- and if that's the case, that's fine. I can deal with that. You're probably going to win this battle, too. But that one didn't look good, Senator. I'm sorry.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Millner, for what purpose you seek recognition?

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President. I -- when I was police chief, I worked with John Stenson and I can tell you that he was -- he was considered to be a very fair, professional and hardworking police chief. And I want to hopefully change Senator Hendon's idea of him. He's a -- he's a good man. He's hardworking, impartial, and he was considered to be very, very qualified. If -- if he has voted against releasing prisoners, I think because of his background, he -- he certainly felt that they did represent a threat to society. I know, as a police chief, he was fair. He had to make a lot of tough decisions, both for people and against people. But he was able to do both. And there are criminals who have been convicted of their crimes

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and who are asking for special consideration. And we want to support people like John Stenson who has thirty-seven years of -- I believe thirty-seven years of law enforcement - over thirty-seven years. He's well educated and he's a good man. And -- and I would hope that you'd reconsider. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, sir. Any further discussion? Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Just a request of the Chair that before we call this vote, if you'd please restate clearly what a Yes vote and a No vote means. 'Cause we don't vote on this motion very often and I want to make sure...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Before -- before we go to a roll call, we'll let the Members know what -- what -- what we're voting on. Further discussion? Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I -- I'm very puzzled about why we should reject this gentleman. This gentleman, Mr. Stenson, was the -- in law enforcement in Peoria. He rose to the position of Chief of -- of Police in Peoria. He has a very distinctive -- distinguished record of serving in law enforcement. He's a highly educated person, and I haven't heard any reasons why we -- we should reject him. He worked with George Shadid. George Shadid, Senator Shadid, recommended him to the Governor. The Governor appointed him and I think he's served well in the time that he's been there. I haven't heard any reason for us to reject the Governor's appointment. I know we have the right to do that, to advise and consent. And -- and I take that very serious. But -- but we need to have a good reason why we would reject what the Governor is proposing. And I haven't heard anything on this Floor that tells us that. I know Mr. Stenson personally. He is a -- a gentleman of high respect and I think he has served well and will serve -- continue to serve well on the Prison {sic} (Prisoner) Review Board.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Any further discussion? Any further discussion? Senator Carol Ronen, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am? Nice

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to see you and a very good afternoon to you.

SENATOR RONEN:

Good afternoon, Mr. President, may I say.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. For what purpose are you seeking..

SENATOR RONEN:

I'm -- I'm rising to speak to the -- the motion at hand.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the motion, ma'am.

SENATOR RONEN:

Thank you very much. I -- I just wanted to speak in favor of Senator Hendon's recommendation. I know I've been hearing for at least a year or two years from many of the different prison reform groups and advocacy organizations that work within the prisons and review issues with the parole board. And many, many times, the issue of the fairness and the objectivity of this candidate have been questioned. And I just want to thank the committee for responding that way. Whenever they have mentioned issues, I told them to share those issues with the -- the Chair of the Appointments Committee and that's what they've done, and I think he's listened very carefully. And I think he's made a wise decision and I'd recommend that all the Members support Senator Hendon's recommendation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Any further comments? Any further discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. If the sponsor would yield for a couple of questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR DILLARD:

So, just so I'm clear, Senator Hendon, are you asking us to reject this gentleman because he doesn't want to release convicted criminals from prison early?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Chairman Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Senator Dillard, you've never heard me say that. You will

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never hear me say that. That is not the case. And while I have the mike I have to respond to Senator Luechtefeld, who I have nothing but tremendous respect. To say that we're railroading somebody is a -- a total insult to me. Personally I'm offended by it. To come from a person of such high esteem as you, really is mind-boggling to me. As Senator Ronen said, I have gotten many, many calls over the past year about this particular gentleman. So, I did not railroad it. It is not something I did in haste and there was no big bear behind me at -- forcing me to do anything. I am Rickey Ricardo Hendon. I do my own bidding. Okay? This was my doing based on information that has come to me. I said before, I have no problem with the gentleman being tough. I think he served with distinction for two and a half years, but it's time to go in a different direction. Period.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Senator Hendon. And, you know, I serve on your committee and I have tremendous respect for you and I very much appreciate, as the Chairman of our Executive Appointments Committee in the State Senate, you take your role very seriously and you have the intestinal fortitude to stand up for the Senate's right to advise and consent of gubernatorial nominees. And for that I really, really do commend you as -- as Chairman. I just want to make sure. I mean, this gentleman was the Chief of Police of Peoria for -- for multiple years and he was in law enforcement for thirty-seven and a half years. And with all due respect to the new Senator, Senator -- or, Koehler, you know, George Shadid's the former sheriff of that area, and George is pretty adamant that this is a -- a good gentleman. Rickey, I -- I think you know that I, probably as much as any Member on my side of the aisle, work with you and -- and work with Chairman Cullerton in the Judiciary Committee to make sure that we have a fair penal system. And I give second chances to people and I support sending juveniles to their own department of justice rather than the Department of Corrections. But it just troubles me when we're going to tube this guy who was the Chief of Police in Peoria and another one of our long-standing colleagues, someone involved in law enforcement, says he's a good guy. And I

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just want to make sure, Senator Hendon, that you are as sensitive to this as anybody. You know, rejecting this guy today without us knowing the intricacies of these cases is like a job applicant getting tossed in the wastebasket because he once committed a misdemeanor without asking what was behind that misdemeanor. And I'm just a little worried we're acting in haste here and I guess my question, Mr. President, is, you know, Senator Hendon, have you talked to Governor Blagojevich about this particular appointee and asked the Governor to withdraw him, rather than us forcing a vote that might be viewed as anti-law enforcement, because this gentleman apparently is the law enforcement guy on the Prisoner Review Board? Why won't Governor Blagojevich withdraw this gentleman's nomination so that we don't have to take this difficult vote right now?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Senator -- Senator Dillard. And I really, out of tremendous respect for you, I'll -- I will go a little further with my reasoning so maybe you all can feel a little more comfortable. It's like in a divorce proceeding. You can divorce a person and be mean about it or be harsh about it, or you can be nice about. You're still divorced. And I think sometimes Mr. Stenson was a little more harsh in his divorce sort of situations as it relates to some of these people who were trying to get in and out. If you're not letting 'em out, there's a way to say you're simply not getting out. You're simply not going to get -- but you don't have to be harsh about it. You know, that's all I'm saying. There's a way to do anything and it's how you do it. So, yes, he served with distinction. Yes, he has some credentials, but a little rough around the edges. I have to give you that. He's a little rough around the edges in his presentation. Okay? Did I talk to the Governor's Office? Yes, I did. Over a year ago. I warned the Governor's Office about this particular situation. Why the Governor didn't pull him out, let me first say -- let me couch this by first saying, I love my Governor. But is there some arrogance up there now and then? Yes, it is. So, perhaps this was his arrogant moment or he got some bad advice. Either way, he -- he will learn the lesson that

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advice and consent is in the Constitution and we take it seriously, as I always have. I learned from Senator Petka how to run this committee. And I've run it the way he ran it. This is the way he ran it. And -- and you know, Kirk, if it's a Republican nominee, I would always acquiesce to Geo-Karis. I would always acquiesce to the Republicans on that side, say, "What do you think?" And if -- if you guys want to reject a Republican, I said fine. I did it. And you know that's the truth. So I've always worked with you and I'd ask you to work with me today.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, Senator Hendon does an excellent job as a committee chairman. But I have a sense of conscience, too. And I try to be fair. And I know Senator Hendon's trying to be fair. But I feel that there's not enough, in my conscience, to reject this man who's had a good record. He might be a little tougher. That I can understand. He's been in -- in jail stuff, in jail work and what have you for so many years. And that toughens you whether you like it or not. So, I would like to ask you, if I'm going to vote against Senator Hendon's motion, which is the right vote?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

...goes -- this goes to Senator Rauschenberger's question as well. Maybe I can answer it together. If you're going to vote to reject, you're going to vote No or Present or you won't vote at all. If you're going to vote to accept him, no matter what I've had to say today, then you vote Yes. So, if you're going to vote with the Chair, you're going to vote No. And that is you are rejecting him, so you are voting No. A No or a Present will reject the nominee.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is -- Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

In other words, Senator Hendon, if I were to vote Yes, then that goes against your vote. Is that correct?

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator -- Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

That is correct. That means you'll be voting with the Governor over this handsome, debonair, intellectual Senator that's your good friend.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you. Senator Hendon, I guess following up a little bit on Senator Geo-Karis' questions. She articulated that she's not heard enough about why this person should be rejected to reject them, and so ask you directly -- you've talked about a little rough around the edges. And you've talked about the person's been a little bit - and you didn't use this word - but I -- coarse. Person's been a little coarse in the way they've handled things. Can you give me an example or example of cases from which you're drawing those statements?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Senator Righter, I would not want to get into individual cases. Many of these cases may still be pending. Many of these people may be coming back up before the Prisoner Review Board, but let me make it clear that there were also members of the Prisoner Review Board who had in -- confidence said things to me that were not favorable to this nominee. So, it wasn't just some lawyer groups or -- or some prisoners writing me letters from jail. I'm talking members who served with this particular person had issues with style and the way that some things went forward. But this gentleman has a bright career and future in front of him so I don't want to go into any -- say anything that might halt him from being able to make a very good living in another area.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Righter.

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SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Hendon, you've also, at least a couple times, said that it's time for us - and I assume you're making that decision as the Chair - to go in a different direction. Can you articulate for the other Members here what kind of direction it is you're looking for us to -- to go into?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Actually I will be talking to the Governor's Office, asking them to put another law enforcement person there. I would love to see another sheriff or a -- a lieutenant from the police force or another police officer in that position. A police chief. I have no problem with that. Just a different person, that's all.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. And I appreciate, and I think all of us would encourage you to speak to the Governor's Office about this, Senator Hendon. But you're asking us to vote on this now. And so, again, I'm going to ask the question again specifically. When you say it's time for us to go in a different direction on the Prisoner Review Board, what do you mean? I mean, saying that I'm going to go back and ask that another law enforcement person be put on there is not about going in a different direction. It's about going in the same direction. So, it's not -- if it's not where the person came from, it must be about the decisions they're making. Can you articulate on that a little more, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Well, I respectfully disagree with you. It's just like, we no longer have Senator Roskam here. He had a different style than the Senator that's taking his place. That's all. But it's still a Republican.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

To the motion. Excuse me. To the motion.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

It's not a motion, sir. It's a question.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

To the question. Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen, Chief Stenson is eminently qualified to serve on this Board. And other than hearing that we want to go in a different direction on the Prisoner Review Board, which has still not been defined, and that he's a little rough around the edges - and let me suggest to the Senator and the Body that if we're going to remove from boards and commissions in this State people who are a little rough around the edges, there's going to be a fire sale - that's all you heard about why this person should no longer be in their position protecting Illinois citizens on the Prisoner Review Board. What we do know about Chief Stenson in that -- is that he is probably the most qualified people to serve on that board right now, and that he's made decisions that he thinks are required to protect Illinois citizens. If that's the direction you think we should continue to go, I would encourage you to vote Yes to approve the nominee. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any further discussion? Any further discussion? Senator Cullerton, for what purpose you seek recognition?

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. I do not know Mr. Stenson. I met him today when Senator -- former Senator Shadid introduced me to him. And, of course, I have great respect for Senator Shadid. But I -- I will pass on to you, and I -- perhaps you deserve to have some more information, as you've asked, concerning the hearsay that I have heard concerning Mr. Stenson's time on the Board. There's a number of practitioners who go before this Board who have told me that they don't think this man should be still on the Board. They have told me that other members of the Prisoner Review Board do not think he should be on

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the Board. They gave me some specific examples - a case where he was the arresting officer of a defendant who came before the Board and he refuses to recuse himself on that matter and voted against him, and on other occasions when he is viewed as an automatic No vote. Now, again, I don't know the gentleman. I have great respect for George Shadid. But I'm going to support Senator Hendon. And if for some reason this gentleman is -- in spite of Senator Hendon's motion, is approved, I would hope that if he continues on the Board, he'd be aware of the sensitivity that has been raised by these people who practice and by his fellow members of the Board, and if these things are true and he's still on the Board, I hope he'll be more sensitive in the future. But now I'm going to support Senator Hendon's motion.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Any further discussion? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Senator, is it your understanding -- Senator, is it your understanding that the applicant is a retired chief of police?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Yes, that is my understanding, because this is not the first time he came before us. He -- he was appointed before. And I know he's a retired chief of police. And that's a wonderful thing.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

As such, Senator, does he collect a pension?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

As far as I know, he does collect maybe more than one pension. So, he'll be financially okay.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Any further discussion? Any further... Senator Koehler, for what purpose you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Thank you, Mr. President. To speak to the motion -- to the question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the question, sir.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Mr. President, thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the -- of the Senate, I was hoping that my occasion of first rising to speak to this group would be a little more pleasant. I know John Stenson very well. I served on the Peoria City Council for eight years, during most of the nineties. During that time, John Stenson was in the police department and rose to the ranks of chief of police. He has a outstanding reputation and has had just a stellar career in terms of law enforcement. John Stenson came from Peoria as one of Peoria's favorite sons. Being raised in the Black community, but really serving the whole community. His reputation is without question. He is not only a friend; he is somebody who I've worked with in a professional capacity as well for a long time. And I think I -- I know I speak for Senator Shadid as well, who is the initial sponsor, and I was happy to sponsor him this morning, that this is a good man. And this is a man that probably should have that position. I don't know all the reasons that have been stated as to why the committee decided as it did, but I felt that I really had to speak to a -- to a friend and to a colleague and somebody that I know has the -- the kind of abilities that he could serve this -- this State well. And therefore, I respectfully will vote against the committee and will vote to have him approved. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Hendon. Seeing there's no further discussion. Senator Hendon, to close on your question, sir.

SENATOR HENDON:

Very briefly, Mr. Stenson is African-American. Black like me. So, you know I had to look at this seriously. But guess what? As being Chairman of this Committee, I have to be colorblind. Race does not matter. Race does not matter. I'm

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proud that he's African-American, but unfortunately, in this situation, he should go on. He did two and a half good years. Let him go on and do something else. I ask for a No or Present vote. And the -- Mr. President, having read the salaried appointment from the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th, 2006, I now seek leave to consider the appointment on a roll call. Mr. President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Yes, sir. Now, before we go to the question, let me make this very clear to the Body. I will ask all Members, please pay attention. Yes vote means you accept the Governor's nominee. A No vote means you reject the Governor's nominee. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointment just read from the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th. All those in favor will vote Aye. All those opposed will vote No. The voting is open. Have all voted a wish? Have all voted a wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 25 Ayes, 25 Nays, 8 voting Present. A majority of Senators elected having refused to give their advice and consent by record vote, the Senate rejects the appointment of John Stenson for the office of member of Prison {sic} (Prisoner) Review Board. Madam Secretary, continuing on Committee Reports, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senators Hendon and Geo-Karis, Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of November 16, 2006, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate reject the following appointment. With my apologies to the Body...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Madam Secretary, let's start over again. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senators Hendon and Geo-Karis -- Senators -- Hendon and Geo-Karis, Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Corrected Message of November {sic} (March) 9, 2006, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and

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consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Mr. President, with respect to the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th, 2006, I will read the salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate advise -- do advise and consent:

To be members of the Prisoner Review Board for terms commencing March 6, 2006, and ending January 17, 2011: C. Edward Bowers, Craig Findley, Milton Maxwell, and Nancy Bridges-Mickelson.

Mr. President, having read the salaried appointments from which the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th, 2006, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Mr. President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 1 voting Present. A majority of Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, continuing on Committee Reports, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senators Hendon and Geo-Karis, Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of November 16, 2006, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate reject the following appointment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. So the Members will know, this is another rejection notice. Mr. President, with respect to the Governor's Message of November 16th, 2006, I will read the

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salaried appointment of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate reject - reject. That's a No or Present.

To be Assistant Director of the Department of Central Management Services for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending January 15th, 2007: Shonda Morrow.

Mr. President, having read the salaried appointment from the Governor's Message of November 16, 2006, I now seek leave to consider the appointment on a roll call. A reject appointment on a roll call. Mr. President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? The kind and gentle, Senator Petka, for what purpose are you seeking recognition?

SENATOR PETKA:

Mr. President, I am sorry that on that previous vote, I intended to vote a Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The record will so reflect that...

SENATOR PETKA:

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

What your intentions were, Senator. Thank you. Seeing no discussion. Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is... Now, before we go to the vote, let me once again remind the Body that a Yes vote accepts the Governor's nominee, a No vote means you reject the Governor's nominee. The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointment just read from the Governor's Message of November 16th. All those in favor will vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 11 Ayes, 36 Nays, 9 voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected having refused to give the advice and consent by record vote, the Senate rejects the appointment of Shonda Morrow for the office of Assistant Director, Department Central Management Services. Madam Secretary, continuing on Committee Reports, please.

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SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senators Hendon and Geo-Karis, Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of November 16, 2006, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I do want to note that since today we rejected two African-Americans, I never want to hear from anyone else about the ethnicity of a person that we have to reject. Mr. President, with respect to the Governor's Message of November 16, 2006, I will read the salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be the Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum for a term commencing November 1st, 2006: Rick Beard.

To be the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission for a term commencing July 26th, 2006, and ending January 15th, 2007, and for a term commencing January 16, 2007, and ending January 17th, 2011: Abner -- Mikva.

To be a member of the Illinois Labor Relations Board for a term commencing July 1st, 2006, and ending January 25th, 2010: Michael Coli.

To be a member of the Illinois Labor Relations Board for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending January 28th, 2010: Michael Hade.

To be a member of the Prisoner Review Board for a term commencing September 22nd, 2006, and ending January 15th, 2007: Salvador Diaz.

To be a member of the Property Tax Appeal {sic} (Appeals) Board for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending January 20th, 2011: Walter Gorski.

To be a member of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission for a term commencing June 26th, 2006, and ending January 15th, 2007: David Gore.

To be members of the Illinois Workers' Compensation

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Commission for a term commencing June 26th, 2006, and ending January 19th, 2009: Yolaine Dauphin, Nancy Lindsay, Paul Rink, and Barbara Sherman.

Mr. President, having read the salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of November 16th, 2006, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Mr. President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Garrett, for what purpose you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR GARRETT:

Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President. I inadvertently pressed the Yes button on the last vote and wanted to press the No button. So, if the record could reflect that, I would appreciate it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Yes, ma'am. Senator Garrett -- inadvertently went Yes and her intentions would be to vote No. The record will so reflect that. Ladies and Gentlemen, seeing no discussion on the gentleman's question, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Message of November 16th. All those in favor will vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. A majority of Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Senator Althoff, are you seeking recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Yes, Mr. President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please state your point.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

I do not believe that there is any individual that serves this Body in the General Assembly that does not recognize the importance of staff. And I would just like to recognize Peg Mosgers this morning. It is also her birthday today. Peg, happy birthday.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Peg, please stand and be recognized. And a very happy birthday. Very, very happy birthday. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senators Hendon and Geo-Karis, Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9, 2006, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator John Sullivan, were you seeking recognition, sir?
Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. With respect to the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th, 2006, I will read the non-salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be a member of the Illinois Community College Board for a term commencing March 6, 2006, and ending June 30th, 2007: Angela Miller.

To be a member of the Illinois State Board of Health for a term commencing March 6, 2006, and ending November 1st, 2007: Steven Derks.

To be the Public Administrator and Public Guardian of Knox County for a term commencing March 6, 2006, and ending December 7th, 2009: Dawn Conolly.

To be a member of the -- and Chair of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority for a term commencing March 6, 2006, and ending June 30th, 2009: James R. Thompson.

To be a member of the Illinois Sports Authority {sic} for a term commencing March 6, 2006, and ending June 30th, 2008: Joan Krall.

To be a member of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority for a term commencing March 6, 2006, and ending June 30th, 2007: John McCarthy.

Mr. President, having read the non-salaried appointments from the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th, 2006, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Mr. President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, sir. Is there any discussion? Senator Geo-Karis, you seeking recognition, ma'am? ...no discussion, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Corrected Message of March 9th. All those in favor will vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. A majority of Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Senator Geo-Karis, were you seeking recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I thanked a lot of people last week and I just want to say that I thank Senator Frank Watson for his many courtesies and wish him well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Madam Secretary, continuing on Committee Reports, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senators Hendon and Geo-Karis, Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of November 16, 2006, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Mr. President, with respect to the Governor's Message of November 16, 2006, I will read the non-salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be members of the Board of Aeronautical Advisors for terms commencing August 7th, 2006, and ending January 15th, 2007, and for terms commencing January 16th, 2007, and ending January 19th, 2009: Bruce Carter, Kevin Dohm, William Foster, Rudolph Frasca, Alan Lehr, David NewMyer, and Linda Schumm.

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To be a member of the Illinois Air Service Commission for a term commencing July 10th, 2006, and ending January 1st, 2009: William Clevenger.

To be a member of the Illinois Air Service Commission for a term commencing June {sic} (July) 10th, 2006, and ending January 1st, 2007: Brad Henshaw.

To be members of the Illinois Air Service Commission for terms commencing July 10th, 2006, and ending January 1st, 2008: Derek Martin and Jeffrey Steinkamp.

To be members of the Illinois State Banking Board for a term commencing October 4th, 2006, and ending December 31st, 2010: Robert Dolan and Jay Sul.

To be a member of the Capital Development Board for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending January 21st, 2010: Glyn Ramage.

To be a member of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees for a term commencing October 4th, 2006, and ending January 17th, 2011: Betsy Hill.

To be members of the Illinois Finance Authority for terms commencing September 1st, 2006, and ending July 17th, 2009: Magda Boyles, James Fuentes, Edward Leonard, Lynn Talbott, and Bradley Zeller.

To be members of the Illinois Housing Development Authority for terms commencing September 14th, 2006, and ending January 12th, 2009: Mary Kane and Mark Kochan.

To be a member of the Illinois Housing Development Authority for a term commencing October 10th, 2006, and ending January 12th, 2009: George Lampros.

To be a member of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending June 1st, 2010: Sam Toia.

To be the Public Administrator and Public Guardian for Madison County for a term commencing August 28th, 2006, and ending December 7th, 2009: Rene Butler.

To be the Public Administrator and Public Guardian of Will County for a term commencing October 2nd, 2006, and ending December 7th, 2009: Joseph Cernugel.

To be a member of the Quality Care Board for a term commencing September 1st, 2006, and ending September 18th, 2009:

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Richard Karpawicz.

To be a member of the Quality Care Board for a term commencing September 1st, 2006, and ending November 3rd, 2009: Maria Lopez.

To be a member of the Illinois Racing Board for a term commencing August 28th, 2006, and ending July 1st, 2012: Angelo Ciambrone.

To be a member of the Illinois Racing Board for a term commencing September 11th, 2006, and ending July 1st, 2012: Joseph Sinopoli.

To be a member of the Illinois Racing Board for a term commencing July 1st, 2006, and ending July 1st, 2012: Paul Smith.

To be a member of the Southeastern Illinois Economic Development Authority for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending January 15th, 2007: Michael Donnewald.

To be a member of the Southwestern Illinois Economic Development Authority for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending January 15th, 2007: David Miller.

To be a member of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority for a term commencing June 19th, 2006, and ending June 30th, 2009: Timothy Ray.

Mr. President, having read the non-salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of November 16th, 2006, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Mr. President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon, could you repeat that, please? Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Message of November 16th. All those in favor will vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. A majority of Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. And before I move to

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rise from Executive Session, I want to make sure that everyone knows, tomorrow after swearing in, after the President's reception, everyone is welcome to the Hilton where myself, new Representative LaShawn Ford and the Black Caucus will be holding a reception. The twenty-first floor, in the suite. We will be dancing, eating soul food and having a good time. No squares. Even if you voted against my bill, you can still come. It's bipartisan good time. And we ask everyone to come tomorrow night at 5 o'clock. And I move that we arise from Executive Session.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Hendon moves that the Senate arise from Executive Session. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. The Senate has arisen from Executive Session. Seeking recognition is Senator John Sullivan. Senator Sullivan.
SENATOR SULLIVAN:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

State your point, sir.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

I have a young lady here with me today. Her name is Amanda Wallen. She is from Macomb. She is a senior at Knox College in Galesburg. She interned in my Macomb office, my district office, for quite a -- quite a period of time. She's a very bright young lady. I'd like everybody to welcome here to Springfield.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Welcome to the Illinois State Senate. Welcome to Springfield. Senator James Clayborne, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

State your point, sir.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

You know, it's indeed a pleasure, but with much reluctance, I -- I arise and -- and recognize my assistant who I've had for the last -- since '03, Carol McGuckin. Carol -- has retired, but she came back to help me through this week. Carol has indeed been a -- a pleasure to work with. She's very hardworking and

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Carol is from the old school. So, for those of -- those individuals trying to replace Carol. Tell you a story about Carol. In -- in '03, when I -- when we first started working together, believe it or not, I closed my door and I started working, returning my phone calls, and I opened the doors about 7 p.m. at night and Carol was still sitting at her desk. And I said, "Carol, why are you still sitting there?" Carol said, "Senator, you didn't tell me I could go home." That day I fell in love with Carol, because I realized it was about helping me and not about what she had to do. And I truly appreciate Carol. I will -- will miss Carol, but at the same time I understand that Carol has to live her life. She wants to travel. She wants to spend time with her family and -- and her husband. And -- and I truly will miss her. But I -- I truly thank God that -- that Carol assisted me during the times that I was here and has always been on my side and has always worked for my benefit. And truly, Carol... Come up, Carol. I'll tell one -- one other story and I'll stop. Down -- when I used to be downstairs on the first floor, there were three of us at the time. I think it was Ira and Pat Welch. Well, Carol every day, she -- well, one day she put my picture up in front of the typewriter so that she -- she said she wanted to see my smiling face every day that she was at work. So, Carol, not only is she a wonderful lady, she has great taste and a lot of class. Thank you, Carol.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Carol, congratulations on your retirement. We'll certainly miss you. Congratulations on your many years of service to the Illinois State Senate. Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I would like to acknowledge that Linda Hinton has been my secretary for six years, has done an excellent job for me. Has been a good friend and a terrific lady. And I -- I'm very pleased that she was with me and I hope that she'll get a -- as nice a boss as I was in the future. But she's done a -- a terrific job. She's a terrific friend and a well -- well-rounded woman in -- in politics. I met her many years ago when she married a boy from Waukegan. And she's been living here, of course, for many years. And she is one outstanding individual. So, I take my hat off to

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Linda Hinton and to our Pages, by the way, who've been very good, to our staff. Our Republican staff has been very good. We've had a terrific staff and -- and we can't -- we can -- we can't -- we can't think of anything to say except they are the best. And God bless all of you and God bless America.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Thank you so much. Senator Silverstein, nice to see you today.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Good afternoon, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

My friend and colleague, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please state your point, sir.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

I'd just like to introduce to the Body one of our top notch staff people who are visiting us. Sam, who did a -- a stupid thing by going to law school. But thank God she's made it through. She has one more semester and I'm hoping that maybe she will return. I'm submitting her résumé. So I want to let the Chamber welcome Sam back for a short visit. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sam, congratulations on law school, and welcome back to the Illinois State Senate. Madam Secretary, Messages from the House, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 2300, together with House Amendments 1, 3 and 4.

Passed the House, as amended, January 9, 2007.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Madam Secretary, do we have any resolutions on file? Ladies and Gentlemen, for the purposes of announcement. Ladies and Gentlemen, for the purposes of announcement. We're going to go

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to retirement resolutions for Members leaving this august Body. So, I'd ask all Members please be in their seats. I'd ask staff -- all Members of staff, please retire to the rear of the Chamber, please. Mr. Secretary, do you have any resolutions, sir?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Yes, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 933, offered by Senators {sic} Watson and all Members.

(Secretary reads SR No. 933)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Watson now moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and the adoption of Senate Resolution 933. Those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed will say Nay. And the Ayes have it and the rules are suspended. Senator Watson now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 933. Is there any discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President and -- and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. When Senator Dave Sullivan retired, he was my officemate downstairs where Ira Silverstein is, down on the first floor in a two, kind of, office suite. And Dave was a very good friend of mine and I thought, wow, you know, I'm losing a great officemate and a great friend. And then he was replaced by this wonderful, wonderful person in Cheryl Axley. And while I miss Dave, Cheryl was not only a good officemate, but she was an excellent Senator in her time here. For those of you who had the honor to work with Cheryl, you know that she's extremely bright. She is a very, very nice person and she has classed up this Chamber, is how I like to refer to it. I hope as Cheryl -- she's way, way too young to retire. I hope that Cheryl stays active in public service, as the end of this resolution offered by Senator Watson says. Cheryl has so much to offer, not only the suburban Cook County area, but the State of Illinois. And I hope whatever her future endeavors are includes some form of government service. In addition to being a State Senator and a lawyer, and a good lawyer, Cheryl is the mother of three teenagers. And anybody who has teenagers or raised teenagers knows that it takes in this world, in the 21st Century, a very special hand in

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raising your children, and she does that difficult job very well too. But, Cheryl, we will -- we will greatly miss you. You were a great addition to this Body. I hope that whether it's the Governor or anyone in their wisdom continues to use your services and we will greatly miss you. Once a Senator, always a Senator. Please come back and continue to class up this building and this Chamber. But for your time here, it was my honor to serve with you, madame. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

...you. Senator Althoff.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, echo Senator Dillard's comments. Not only was I fortunate to gain a great colleague who shared my passion about education, about drunk driving, I gained a new personal friend. And I really am going to look forward to being able to continue our professional relationship outside these Chambers. And if there is any advantage or if there is any positive about the departure of this fine woman, it's that I no longer will be introduced as Senator Axley.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

My friend and colleague, Senator Carol Ronen.

SENATOR RONEN:

Thank you. Thank you, my friend, my President. I'm anxious to speak. I just wanted to say a few words. First of all, I wanted to clarify Senator Althoff's comment about her passion for drunk driving and make clear that her passion was against drunk driving, as I'm sure Senator Althoff's is as well. I just wanted to say a few words on behalf of Cheryl Axley from our side of the aisle. I want to thank you for the great work you've done in the Senate. And you've been a real strong advocate for your district and sometimes that meant, you know, voting in a different way than maybe other members of your caucus. You supported the children's health insurance program. You were there on the -- raising the minimum wage. And I think the -- your constituents very much appreciate that and we appreciate that and I'd like to think that the reason your election was so close was because -- because of those courageous moves that you made and I hope you continue to make them. And I look forward to working with you in the future. I know this is just the beginning of a long career

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of public service. And I hope that you'll continue to call on us and work with us and ask for our help and I know we'll be seeking your -- your help on the programs that are important to us in our districts. So, best of luck in everything you do.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I certainly am going to be losing one of the most attractive seatmates that one could have in this Chamber. But since she first came on the scene here, she's been a very delightful entertaining person. I enjoyed her company and I also enjoyed all the Members from the other side of the aisle coming over. I thought they were coming over to kind of talk to me about legislation, but obviously the two young ladies I have on my left seem to be more interesting. Anyway, we wish you well in your future endeavors. We know you're going to stay involved in politics and maybe we'll see you back here in the Chamber some time in the future. Good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. The lady from Cook, Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. As Chairman of the Senate Financial Institutions Committee, I just want to express or articulate how it was an honor and a privilege and a pleasure to have Senator Axley sit on the Financial Institutions Committee. I found her to be a very intelligent, engaging and committed and devoted young woman. And it's always good to be in a Chamber where women are recognized for their intelligence as well as for their other attributes. And so I hope we have a ongoing relationship. I will rely on your expertise as relates to financial institutions and real estate. I think you deal with real estate law. And I just want to thank you for the opportunity and wish you Godspeed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Trotter reminded me that this was my last chance to say something to you officially from the Senate Floor, Cheryl. So, I will say I will miss you and I

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hope I see you around here or -- and the rest of your life be wonderful. I do want to say that I appreciate the time when I stumbled and may have went over the top a little bit on your first bill, that you handled it like a lady. And I will always appreciate that. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. To Senator Cheryl Axley, you're a pleasure to work with, very smart lady and I know you're going to do very well in your law practice. God bless you and I wish you all the best.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator -- Leader Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. President. And this is, I guess, unfortunately, first in a series of resolutions that we're going to have with some of our departing Members here on this side of the aisle. Our caucus is obviously changing. Some of our colleagues have gone on to bigger and better things. Others are just going into retirement, and obviously we wish them well. They've all been friends of mine. They've all served with distinction and represented this caucus in a manner in which I'm very proud. And I want to wish them all success and happiness. Now, in Cheryl's situation, I just -- we didn't really get to know her. It's one of those situations where we wish we'd have been able to spend more time with you. Fact that you were here a pretty short time and -- and the manner in which you've conducted yourself here in this Chamber and the manner in which you've represented your constituents, you need to be -- you can be very proud of that. You -- when discussions you and I would have about issues, it was what was important to your district and what was important to the people you represent. And I think that we all should recognize that that's who sent us here. Those are the people who -- who we represent and that should be our first -- first calling. I have to also just say something about the fact that I don't know how you -- as a mother of three, a single mother of three and being a Senator and the demanding times that it takes to balance that and to -- to raise a family in this kind

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of an atmosphere is very, very difficult and you should be congratulated on your ability to do so. And I -- we are going to miss you. It's -- you've been a class act here in the Senate. And we can't say enough good things about you, Cheryl, but we wish you well and appreciate the service that you've brought to your -- your district and to our caucus. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Watson, I apologize, but two late lights came on and I'd like to recognize two speakers. Senator Susan Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Thank you, Mr. President. Cheryl and I are suburban legislators and Cheryl has done an exceptional job, I believe, of representing the suburbs and -- and some of the key issues, especially the emerald ash borer issue. I think that you took a leading role in that. And -- and she has also been a friend, I think, and has worked in a very bipartisan way, making sure that as suburbanites we worked together no matter what our -- our partisan affiliation is. And so, in a very collegiate way, I'd like to say good luck to you and I hope our paths cross in the future.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. And our last speaker speaking -- seeking recognition is Senator Cullerton. Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. I just wanted to say that I may have been one of the first Senators to congratulate Senator Axley on her appointment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Cullerton, because of -- we're having still some audio problems, could you get real close into the mike, please?

SENATOR CULLERTON:

You know, Mayor Daley used to shut people's mikes off at the City Council. You're not doing that to me, are you?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thinking -- we're thinking about it.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Senator Axley and I have a mutual friend who -- who told me that she was going to be appointed, so I called her and congratulated her and -- and got to know her through that mutual

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friend. And I -- I know that it probably came as a -- somewhat of a shock to her when she -- she thought we were friends and then she called me on the phone, or had somebody else call me on the phone and say how come you gave money to my opponent. And I said, well, you know, it's politics. It's -- we're -- we're friends, but we're in different parties and sometimes that's a -- that's a hard lesson. But I -- I really do know that this -- this service you've given to the Illinois Senate has had a -- an adverse effect on -- on -- or your -- your law practice and -- and on your time with your -- your family and that is something which many of us know about, but the public doesn't appreciate. And -- and -- and I know how dedicated you have been to your job. I know that, for example, we serve on a -- on a panel with the Secretary of State that's going to meet today and you're going to continue giving us advice and I certainly appreciate it. The people in your district appreciate it. And I -- I really hope that you will stay active with us on the many issues that we debate and I wish you well. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. And to the Body, I apologize, but our last, last speaker, another light that just lit up. Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I echo all the comments made by -- about Cheryl Axley. What a terrific lady to have three teenage children and do all the kind work that she does and the -- and the good work. And she's done a great job in the Legislature and I wish her well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Okay, Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, shall Senate Resolution 933 be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is unanimously adopted. Senator Cheryl Axley, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am?

SENATOR AXLEY:

...privilege. Mr. President, I certainly didn't expect a retirement resolution. I mean, I'm still in my forties, you guys. Come on. But I am very touched and it's been an honor and a privilege to serve with all of you. You're all very special people and I wish you all well -- the best, as well. Thank you

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very much for this honor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Ladies and Gentlemen, for the purposes of announcement. We will have a Rules Committee meeting immediately. Rules Committee meeting immediately. Would all members of the Rules Committee please report to the President's Anteroom immediately. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - House Bill 1261.

Senator Viverito, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to Judiciary Committee - Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2737; refer to Labor Committee - Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 -- Nos. 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 490; refer to Local Government Committee - Floor Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 1261; refer to Revenue Committee - Motion to Concur with House Amendments 1, 3 and 4 to Senate Bill 2300; refer to State Government Committee - Motion to Concur with House Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1959 and Motion to Concur with House Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2674.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Crotty, for what purpose you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR CROTTY:

For a point of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

For purpose of an announcement. Please state your announcement, ma'am.

SENATOR CROTTY:

At 2:30, Local Government will be meeting in the Stratton Building in A-1.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

2:30, Local Government in A-1 at the Stratton Building. 2:30. Thank you. Senator John Cullerton, for what purpose you rise?

SENATOR CULLERTON:

For the purposes of an announcement.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

State your announcement, sir.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

The Judiciary Committee will meet in Room 212 at 3 p.m. Judiciary, 3 p.m., Room 212.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you very much. The gentleman from Oak Park, Illinois, Senator Don Harmon, for what purpose you seek recognition?

SENATOR HARMON:

For purposes of an announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

State your announcement, sir.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you. The Senate Revenue Committee will meet today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 400. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Demuzio, how are you today?

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

I'm doing fine. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

For what purpose do you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

I -- for an announcement. State Government will meet today at 3:30 in A-1.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you very much. My friend and colleague, Senator Forby, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR FORBY:

Thank you, sir. Labor, Room 400 at 4 o'clock. Room 400 at 4 o'clock, Labor Committee.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you very much, Senator. Mr. Secretary, do you have any further resolutions on file? Once again, Ladies and Gentlemen, can I ask all Members please be in their seats? And again, can I ask staff to retire to the rear of the Chamber? We're going back to farewell resolutions. All Members please be in their seats and staff retire to the rear of the Chamber. Mr. Secretary, resolutions, please.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

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Senate Resolution 934, offered by Senators {sic} Watson and all Members.

(Secretary reads SR No. 934)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Watson moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 934. Those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Chair would like to recognize one of our great Constitutional Officers arrived here on the Senate Floor, the Secretary of State, the Honorable Jesse White. Ladies and Gentlemen, our Secretary of State. Okay. Senator Watson now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 934. Ladies and Gentlemen, is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Kirk Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen. This is truly a historic day here in the State Senate. Adeline Geo-Karis is the Dean of the State Senate. And I would venture to say, when you speak about the State Senate throughout Illinois, many of us are not known in certain places. But Adeline Geo-Karis, affectionately known as "Geo", is really someone who is known and has a persona statewide. A lot has to do with her personality and some for her longevity, but basically her charm. And I first met Geo when she was a member of the Illinois House and I was Governor Thompson's legislative liaison and we were working on the parochial busing bill. And Jim Thompson was not necessarily, in the beginning, on the right side of that issue, but after a lot of arm-twisting by Adeline, Governor Thompson eventually worked out a compromise, and in some cases, children who go to parochial schools, because of Adeline Geo-Karis and the late Jane Barnes and others, have that opportunity, if they live along a bus route, to pop on a public school bus. Let me tell you, as one who lobbied Geo for a couple of different Governors, she can be a stubborn lady. But in the end, she generally, as always, did what was right. I will never forget when I worked for both Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar, both Governors shook with fear when the receptionist would come back to the Governor's Office and they would say, "Senator Geo-Karis is sitting on the couch out

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there, Governor." And Thompson or Edgar would say, "Hey, I'm busy. I have other things to do." And they basically said, she's not going away until she talks to you. And both gentlemen were better off because they always acquiesced to whatever request Senator Geo-Karis had that day. But they always met with her. And I will tell you, having sit in confidential meetings with just Adeline and two Governors, she can be one persuasive, tough old Mediterranean Greek woman who changes the minds of Governors on her bills, and on behalf of whatever cause she takes up that particular day. I have a Greek-American best friend since second grade, best man at my wedding, and it's helped me, understanding a little bit about what it's like to be around a Greek family. Not necessarily unlike the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding". But I have an affinity for the Greek community. And that has helped strengthen my bond with Senator Geo-Karis over the years. Adeline is a trailblazer, and I know some of her women colleagues are going to stand up, but I have two young daughters and people like Adeline who served in the United States Armed Forces and we have many women in the Armed Forces today, but when Geo served in the United State's Navy, a woman in the United States Navy was a rare thing. And I'm sure it was not an easy thing to be a woman in the male-dominated military when Adeline was in the Navy. Senator Sieben can probably attest to that, being a Naval veteran that he is. And Geo was even in the Navy probably a little earlier than -- than Todd. The other thing is - I'm a graduate of DePaul's Law School - Geo went to law school. And DePaul University's Law School now has a majority of women. But I'll bet you in Geo's class, she may have been one of two women in that law school class back then, or she might have been the only one. The bottom line is, there weren't many women in law school when Adeline went. She is a role model to women. I know my wife adores her and she thinks that Adeline Geo-Karis is a pretty cool lady, even in her eighties. And she is a pretty cool lady. Let me just close by saying, you know, I have a lot of respect for the history of this place. You know, I love -- I love seeing Fred Smith's picture out here and it won't be the same without Adeline in this particular Chamber. Baseball announcer. Senator DeLeo's in the Chair. Rickey Hendon's back there. You know, Adeline, I hope, at a minimum, you get to keep

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coming back here to announce our baseball games. Some of those crude comments that you make that Rich Miller sometimes is afraid to print. We need you. When the Senate comes up to bat, Sweetheart, we need you cheering us on. And I'll miss that voice when I come up to bat in those Senate softball games, not hearing you insult us or tell us how fat or slow we are. So, I hope you keep doing that. And then just -- just to close, again, you know, there are -- it's always tough when a Member leaves here. Sometimes it's -- it's tougher than others, and in the case of Adeline Geo-Karis, at least for this one particular Senator, this institution will move on without her, but it won't be the same. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Chair would recognize the Majority Leader, Senator Halvorson.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Geo, where do we even start? You know, as a woman that came here ten years ago, I relied on you for a little extra touch and you were always there for me. Not a day goes by that someone walks past Senator Geo-Karis and she doesn't have a nice word for them as they pass her desk. I can remember being up in the Chair, and when Geo puts her light on and you don't call on her right away for her turn to talk, she goes, "Hey, what about me? My light's on." So, Geo, let me tell you when I'm up there, a little secret that I have is, I try to balance it - one Republican, one Democrat. I try to go back and forth. But as soon as I see your light go on, I call you. You've been one of the mentors of me and I surely appreciate all of your care that you've given me. It's not always easy to be a woman serving in this Chamber. But you've helped me be where I am today. And so I just want to tell you, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Geo-Karis, you are truly a great lady, very smart lady. You've done an outstanding job. For the few years that I've been here, it's been an honor to serve with you. You've been very helpful. You've done a great

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justice for your community and the entire State. I wish you the best and God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Geo, this is a great day and a great time to honor you for your distinguished service here in the Illinois General Assembly. And we share a few things in common. I know there are many that want to speak and I'm only going to touch on just a couple of things that I think have touched my heart over the years that I've known you here in the General Assembly. We serve and we share our Navy service, as Senator Dillard referred to, and what that did in our young lives to -- to help mold our character and what -- what that service to our country meant as we've gone on and served. And I think one of the things that I've so much appreciated about you: You've never let us forget our veterans. Whether we're here on Memorial Day or Veterans Day or whatever it is, if there's time that we're here in the spring, you've always made sure that we had some type of a time set aside. Whether the Republicans were in the majority or the Democrats were in majority, you said it's time we take a few moments to remember. Whether we were at war or not at war, whatever, you made sure that we took time to recognize and remember the veterans that were currently serving and those of us who have served in the past, and I salute you for that. And certainly I remember the time when you and Ray Soden and I, and we were on that Veterans Task Force. And you knew how to mix -- mix things up a little bit. When we were up in the suburbs and we had that large group of people in, the veterans asked -- you -- your tenacity, I guess, would be the word. You'd say straight up to those veterans, you know, "Tell us what you want us to do. You know, don't beat around the bush. Tell us what you got on your mind. What -- what aren't we doing?" And you would challenge people in such a way that would make them come forward and share their concerns. You cared. And especially with the help of Ray, I think we got -- we made some good recommendations when you chaired that task force. But you always knew that there was a time for a little fun. And I remember getting done with that meeting, we were all tired, we'd been there for a couple

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hours, and you say, "Now we're going to the Greek restaurant. We're going to go get something good to eat." And -- and you said -- we got there and one of our staffers was there and you said, "I'll take care of ordering." So you did. You knew what we needed to have to have a little fun and you took care of ordering the food that day. But I do remember, we each paid our own bill. But it was, you know, we had, I guess ability to do... The second thing I'd mention is, from day one in my role in agriculture and supporting agriculture and the importance of renewable fuels and bio-diesels at that time and then ethanol and we -- continued to promote legislation and -- and pass legislation for the ethanol tax credits or whatever it might be, you always were the first one to say "I want to sign on your bill; I want to be on that ethanol bill. I believe that that's the future of our country, part of the future of our energy independence." You never hesitated to be a strong supporter for agriculture and for those of us from the downstate part here that believed in -- in promoting and -- and incentivizing the use of ethanol as part of our energy future. So, I thank you for that, and on behalf of those of us involved in agriculture, thank you for your support of the ethanol industry as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to say -- I know there's been so many things said, Geo. But you know, being a pretty strong guy myself, democratically, and loyal to the beliefs that you and I share as Greek-Americans or Italian-Americans, how proud we are of our heritage, and you've been there. You've been proud of being a veteran. You have been a star to me, because your word has always been so good. You have always been honest with all of us. And you voted for things on many occasions that maybe some of our colleagues didn't always believe, but you voted your conscience. And me, I looked at you as someone that could inspire all of us to do the things that sometime even hurt, to take the tough vote. And you were able to do that. And I know you and I have some mutual Greek friends, you know, we think so very much about. Over these years, we've talked about it, and Jimmy DeLeo, with the Kaulentis family, and

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with him and all of us together. I cannot say that -- but to say from my heart, I truly am going to miss you and thank you for letting me to be a little part of it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. And I just want to stand to salute the superb statesmanship of Senator Geo-Karis. I remember coming in as a freshman legislator and Senator Geo-Karis was one of the first Senators to reach out to me, invite me to dinner, and over the dinner meal, she shared so much wisdom, advice and counsel. And so I want to thank you for your graciousness, for your gentleness, for your kindness. And as -- in another piece of legislation that you were very instrumental in supporting me very strongly was a little bit -- it was a little bit controversial, but I remember extending the statute of limitations on sex crimes against children. And I know I came to you for your advice as an attorney and -- and as a lawyer. And I just want to publicly thank you and recognize you for that strong support. And as a Northwestern alum, I just want to thank you for being a tremendous role model, mentor, and perhaps more importantly, a friend. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, especially Madam Dean, Senator Geo-Karis. Just a couple of affectionate anecdotes. When I first became a Member of this august Body in 2002, the -- I had dinner with a prominent former member of the other Chamber of my party and he'd been there many years and he asked me how I liked the Senate. I said I love it, everyone is so gracious. And I went through a list of -- of -- of people and I mentioned Senator Geo-Karis. I said Senator Geo-Karis, as -- immediately, as Senator Collins just alluded to, reached out her hand and offered any support or advice. And he said to me, "Oh yeah, she's extremely able, very bright - but never vote against any of her bills." I said, "Okay." He said, "I voted against one of her bills in 1979 and she reminded me of

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it in 1997 at a dinner party. I couldn't recall the bill." So, I said, "I'll keep that in mind." Well, in the -- in the Session, we had a Judiciary meeting and the Senator brought in a bill and I, in good conscience, didn't vote for it. It was a week later. I was at one of the bistros around town and walked through. She was on the other side of the room. She waved me over and I walked over, and said, "Senator, good evening. What could I do for you?" And she said, "Billy, why did you vote against my bill?" I said, "Senator, I..." And before I could answer she said, "You didn't read the bill did you?" I said, "Perhaps I didn't understand the bill." She said, "Yes, you didn't understand the bill." I said, "Yes, Senator, I will try better next time." And that was it. And then a few months later, she graciously called me over when we were waiting for the budget to be hashed out - this was 2003 - and we sat together for three or four hours doing the Chicago Tribune crossword puzzle, which was a -- actually a very good way to spend the time during that period of time. And like Senator Sieben, I appreciated very much her interest in veterans. And that Veterans Day program has always been cherished by me in my time here. And I recall vividly the -- the riot that occurred - I believe it was 2004 - and we went from a riotous division to peace and tranquility at the deft touch of the Dean of the Senate. Thank you very much, Senator, for your service.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Senator, I just want to say thank you for all your many years of service to the General Assembly. As Dean of the Senate, that's a distinct honor that has been for many, many years of serving. And I just want to say thank you as a -- from the bottom of my heart, that as I arrived here, when I arrived here at the Senate, you were one of the first individuals to greet me and wish me well. And so my -- I certainly want to say thank you for your years. I wish you Godspeed and good health for many years to come. Again, my blessings on you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

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Thank you, Mr. President. Geo, you've been a friend to me from the time I first walked into the door. You've given advice and you've just given a lot of motherly advice and motherly love. And I really appreciated that, because as a freshman I didn't know a lot. I'm still learning a lot. And you were there for me, as well as all the other freshmen, and I really, really appreciate that, so that to the point where, whenever I come on the Floor, I had to stop by your desk just to give you a kiss and just to say hi to you, because I've always looked forward to seeing you sitting right there in that chair every time we were in Session. So I am going to miss you. So now I need to get a picture so I can at least have it by my desk or put it up in the office or something so that I can continue to look at your wonderful face. So, thank you for speaking up for us, especially when it was time for freshmen to introduce their first bill and everyone was picking on us. And I just love when you would say, "Ah, shut up and leave her alone." You know. And that -- that -- that made me feel good. So, I'm going to miss you, Geo. Thank you for your service and God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Wendell Jones.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. I'd be remiss if I didn't stand up and -- and say thank you to Senator Geo-Karis. And just a word of caution to Senator Haine, I know you gave a good speech, but you are not forgiven for voting against that bill. Geo, thank you very much for all you've done for me. I got endorsed by the Greek community when I ran for the Senate and I took a letter down from you and I walked in and I said I would like to be endorsed. And they said, "Well, Senator Geo-Karis already told us. You can leave now." That's all that was needed. Geo, thank you very much for everything you've done for me.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. When I first arrived here in '98, it wasn't I didn't learn the process quick enough to know not to vote against Senator Geo-Karis. I went a step further. I

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actually bill-jacked Senator Geo-Karis. I used to work for the Department of Central Management Services, and MAFBE, the Minority and Female Business Enterprise Program, their legislation was coming up for sunset. I didn't know that there was any type of quorum that says there's leaders who have certain issues that they follow. It's almost a given that it's their bill. Well, I picked up Senator Geo-Karis' bill, under the leadership of Pate Philip. And you guys controlled Rules Committee, so it wasn't my fault, Geo, that they gave me that bill. They allowed it out of Rules. But Geo called me up. And I was so wet behind the ears. I had been here about two months. And Geo called me up and she says, "Hey, you know, you picked up my bill." And I said, "Oh, I'm -- I'm real sorry about that, but I'm really concerned about this department." And then she allowed me to share with her my personal opinion about how the department was being ran. And from me being there as an employee and her being here as a Member, she took my recommendations and suggestions at heart. And she allowed me to carry the bill. But she gave me the best advice right away. She told me to call them in. She said, "Call them into your office. And you find out what's going on and you tell them what you want." And so, from that day, I knew the process of negotiating with directors and agencies and deputy directors and -- and demanding that they fulfill certain obligations. So, Geo, you taught me well immediately coming in the door and I just want to thank you for that. But you extended yourself further by inviting me to dinner and I thought I was the only special one. Now I come to find out Senator Collins was invited to dinner too. So, I don't know how special I really am. But during my pregnancy, you were so, so very helpful to me. I don't know that a day went by that you didn't inquire how I was feeling, if I needed anything. You sometimes called to check up on me. And I really appreciate that. And then once my son arrived here, I don't know if you remember, but you allowed him to do the prayer when he was three years old. And I'll never forget that you allowed that and then you actually told me what a outstanding job I'm doing as a single mother when he was done. And so, I'm just going to remember all those things about you. And I just think you're a beautiful person. You're very bold. Your boldness shines through and I

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just want to wish you nothing but continuous blessings and I just hope that I live to make it to your statesmanship and leadership, make it to your legacy, and -- and it's just a blessing to have you here serving in the General Assembly. So, thank you so much and God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Mr. President, thank you. I've had the fortune, of course, to serve with Senator Geo-Karis here, but my relationship goes back to 1978. A long time ago, when I graduated from Illinois State University, I was an aide for State Representative Tom Ewing here. And I got to know Senator Geo-Karis at that time. And as a young, fresh out of college at the age in awe of the State Capitol, to have the recognition, nod and smile from Senator Geo-Karis, just lifted your boat and made you feel good all day. And when the time came that the mansion was opened by Governor Thompson at the direction of Senator Geo-Karis to make that into one of the biggest Greek parties I think the Midwest had ever seen, was an exciting moment in the Illinois State Capitol. Senator Geo-Karis made sure that baklava and -- and ouzo and all the type of wonderful things that the Greek community from Chicago would bring down. And they made that mansion lawn, driveway an exciting place to be. Senator Geo-Karis, those were memories that young guys like I had of you and the times there. Something too Senator Geo-Karis has done, an adventure that a few of us have done - she ran statewide. And when Senator Geo-Karis went to the trails across Illinois, you could feel her energy. When she ran for Comptroller that year - again, many of us were young starry-eyed politician wannabes - and she would come into our communities in our area and talk about the things that she would do and the energy and effervescence that she carried. Senator Geo-Karis, that too in part helped seed the wonder and appreciation that the people of Illinois have for you around the State. I came in the State House in the election of '92. Senator Geo-Karis helped embrace me at that time. And when I came over here to the State Senate, she not only was the kind that would help you understand the legislative process and good political counsel, but she would

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also tell you when your tie looked bad, and if you didn't have a haircut quite right for you, she wouldn't be too shy about telling you that. So, Senator Geo-Karis, as I look back on the multiple decades that I've had the good fortune to have you touch my life, I just want to say thank you for who you are, thank you for helping many of us be who we are today, and God bless you, Senator Geo-Karis.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator John Sullivan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. You know, we -- we all have our fond -- or, first memories of -- of meeting Senator Geo-Karis or having a chance to visit with her. And mine was -- mine was when I introduced my first bill. And as is customary, there was a great, great, great deal of joshing and questioning and silly questions, and it'd gone on for quite some time. And as is customary for Geo, she -- when it was her turn to be recognized, she said, "Now, I believe that's enough giving this young man a difficult time. I think that's about enough. This is a good bill. Let's all vote for the bill." And the bill, as a matter of fact, dealt with ethanol. And after the vote, we -- I went over to Senator Geo-Karis and thanked her for her kind words, and she told me, she said -- she said, "Young man, I was working on ethanol legislation before you were born." And I don't doubt that. Any in my mind, Geo, you are the queen of ethanol and you were -- you were way ahead of -- you were way ahead of your time back when ethanol was pretty much unknown. And I -- I want to thank you for your support, but most importantly, I want to thank you for being you, for being genuine, for being sincere, and most -- and, obviously, thank you for your friendship.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator John Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Dean Geo-Karis. I got to know and meet Geo-Karis -- Senator Geo-Karis prior to coming to the General Assembly, and at that time I knew her to be someone who served to truly make a difference. And that you continue to do, Geo. If you look at Geo-Karis, there's a few words that you could just say, "This is about Geo." She's a

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woman of compassion. She's someone who understands what empathy is all about. Someone who's -- dignity and someone who's been a true leader. She's been a leader in this Body. She's been a leader to me and she's been a mentor to me. And so I would like to say to you, Geo, thank you so much for that. Thank you for being my mentor. Thank you for being the leader that you are. Thank you for listening and thank you for being a friend. May God bless you on your new career, whatever that may be.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sandoval.

SENATOR SANDOVAL:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Geo-Karis, you are truly the grand lady of the Illinois Senate. And it is defined in the dictionary that you are a person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life. That is the definition of what is a hero. You are truly a hero in the annals of the history of the State of Illinois. When I came here to the Illinois Senate, I had been briefed even before I arrived of the grand lady of the Illinois Senate, Adeline Geo-Karis. And it was in my first year that I come to know Adeline Geo-Karis in my many feats as an early young Jedi Senator in this great Body. Thank you for being there for me. Thank you for being there in your office as I trailblazed through my first term as an Illinois Senator. Thank you for being passionate. Thank you for being compassionate. Thank you for your -- your -- your dedicated service to the people of Illinois. We love you. I will miss you and God bless you. Vaya con Dios.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I remember when I first got here, I was young, wild, westside, thought I was going to change the entire world. Then I met Pate Philip and found out that I couldn't do everything I wanted to do. And the day came when we were fighting over something. I believe it was racial profiling or something like that, minority participation. And Walter Dudycz and I got into it. I got very upset and I stormed out of the Chamber and I actually went outside and started crying. Me

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crying. Westside Rickey Hendon crying. I was crying. And I came back in, I sat down here and I hated everybody over there. I just hated everybody. And Adeline was waving to me. I'm sitting here. She's waving. I'm sitting there, I'm saying, "What does this white woman want with me?" Keep waving at me and winking at -- waving. So, I reluctantly got up and let me go over here and see what she wants. And you sat me down right next to you and you said, "Baby, you know you need to calm down." And you told me about life and you told me about myself and you actually saved my life that day. You saved my life, Geo, because I was on my way to high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, whatever. I was there. I was just that upset. And you also showed me what love was all about again. You let me know that when I left your side that race really doesn't matter at all. Where you come from really doesn't matter at all. What you -- whether you're Black or white or rich or poor, just a person. And you saved my life. I remember leaving from sitting over there next to you, and came back here and I sat there and I didn't hate Pate no more, wasn't mad at Walter no more. I looked at life different. I learned a lot from you that day. You even kept me married another seven years. And God knows that was a miracle. Because you always talked to me about the importance of family and staying with little Rickey and Skye. And I just loved you for it. And then you were the only one other than me that believed we could beat that other side of -- that other Chamber in softball. I remember I got here, you told me we hadn't won in fifty years, but you believed we could do it. We got Frank Watson to start coaching us, and next thing you know, you got out there and you inspired us and we beat those rascals in the House five years in a row. We had a good time. We partied up in here and we had a wonderful time. And you called those games and you told us, "Don't drop your balls, Senators." And as long as we didn't drop our balls, you told us, we would beat those House members and we learned how to hold 'em up. We didn't drop 'em anymore. I always flirted with you on this Senate Floor. My only regret, because I heard, baby, when you first got here you was just as fine and pretty and had the nicest legs anybody ever wanted to see. They say you was a piece of work. I sure wish I served with you at that time. I would have been flirting with

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you for real, Geo. Because I hear you was one foxy mama. And you still are. I professed my love for you on this Senate Floor many times and I truly, sincerely meant it then and I mean it now. I went home to the westside and I told my organization about this Senator that I met and how you changed my life. And my entire organization will always know about Geo and how you changed my life. You told me -- you compared me, I believe, with Senator Lemke? Leo {sic} (Leroy) Lemke, something like that. And you said how he used to get up and scream and holler and a lot of what he was trying to get done was lost in the yelling and the screaming. And you told me to just bring it down here. I could get more done. I got more done. I'm Assistant Majority Leader - would have never made it without you. President Jones would not have taken me if I hadn't calmed down. And you taught me to calm down. I always have loved you. I will always love you. I was so upset when some of those on that side of the aisle went against you, 'cause we knew we couldn't beat you. But we knew we could beat anybody who did give you a problem. And history proves that out. You are the grand lady of the Senate and I will always, always love you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, calm, quiet Hendon. Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. I -- I took note, too, of how Senator Hendon's role has changed. He -- he doesn't have high blood pressure, but now he just gives it to everybody else. But I -- I would -- I would -- I would just like to say it's interesting how people's responses about Senator Geo-Karis revolve on their first bill. And mine is no different. I remember my first bill, and as John mentioned, we got the usual razzing and everything. And Senator Geo-Karis finally stopped and said, "You know, I think we've given this young Irish boy a bad time long enough." And Geo, at fifty-six years old that was pretty nice to hear myself called young, because it's been a long time and it hasn't happened since. But I -- I thank you for your service to the people of the State of Illinois, and thank you for your service to the Illinois Senate. God -- God bless you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Senator Schoenberg, how are you today?

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

I'm fine. Thank you, Mr. President. And you?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Good. Good to see you.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you. I -- Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I used to play on that other softball team. And until I issued that play-me-or-trade-me ultimatum, I used to get great delight out of beating the Senate, until one day I was put in my place. I was fortunate enough to hit a triple. The next inning, when the House was in the field, I was catching. I was getting ready to receive the pitch from the pitcher. I was bending over. Senator Geo-Karis was at the microphone. Senator Hendon, could you stand up for a moment, please? Senator Geo-Karis started talking about some of my attributes when I bent over. My face was as red as Senator Hendon's coat. But I didn't mind, because I knew that it came from one of the kindest, warmest, most selfless people I had ever met. Senator Geo-Karis, you have been a touchstone to so many. We have all learned so much from you, and I particularly -- will always remember fondly, and I know Senator DeLeo and Senator Link, Senator Viverito, the President, Senator Garrett, the adage of the commercial "what happens here stays here." On those plane rides from Palwaukee to the capital, I'll always remember the free-flowing conversation, the lessons learned, the hardships and good times shared, all in a brief period of time when everyone's guard was down. Those conversations were priceless. And I want to thank you for them - not just on my own behalf, but on behalf of everyone. We've all learned so much from you, Adeline, and we will continue to do so for years to come. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. I probably go back as far as anybody with Senator Geo-Karis. I knew her before she was elected to anything. And she has indicated she knew me before I was even born. She knew my father when he was at -- worked at Great Lakes Naval Base. And she knew him at that time. So, the

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other day I was trying to think of what I could say about Geo. And I started thinking about things that we agreed on. And after I come up with nothing, I meant through the years I don't think Geo and I agreed on too many things. We never fought, but we never agreed on too many things. We had a personal relationship and we had a political relationship. But we always had interesting relationships. I thought of a lot of great stories. I remember the time that Geo was the attorney for Vernon Hills and my now wife was working for the Village of Vernon Hills. And she sat next to Senator Geo-Karis as the attorney. And Senator Geo-Karis asked her, she said, "Are you dating anybody these days?" And Senator Geo-Karis had this problem of having a George Bush thing of not knowing that the microphone was on. And she said, in front of the mike, about are you dating anybody. And she says, "Yeah, I'm dating this young man." She says, "Well, let me know a little bit about him." She says, "Well, he's a nice young man." She says, "Well, tell me about him." And she started, you know, slowly going into it. She says, "Well does this guy have a name?" And Susie was a little reluctant to say the name. And then she finally said to Geo, "Well, his name's Terry Link." And Geo said at the time, very loud and in front of the microphone, "With all the Republicans in Lake County, you got to find the only Democrat?" So, Geo fondly embraced me at that time also. She was at our wedding. Geo became a friend as she always was a friend personally through my life and my career. And as I said, she -- we didn't agree politically. We were on the opposite sides, but we were never adversely against one another. We had a -- kind of an agreement with one another that we would not say things against one another. She opposed me. She endorsed my opponent four years ago. Course, a few years earlier, I put up an opponent against her as Chairman of the Party. But we never did anything nasty against one another. But we always maintained our friendships. We went to dinner together. We sat together. As Senator Axley and Senator Cullerton indicated, you can be friends, but there's a political part difference. She called when there was health problems in my family, as I called when there was health problems with Senator Geo-Karis. We will always maintain that friendship, because there are certain unique people in this life, and Senator Geo-

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Karis is one of those unique people. She's given a lifetime for things that she has believed in. You can disagree, but you don't have to be disagreeable. And you can only commend somebody for standing up for what they believe in. And that's what she's done. She's given opportunities. As a father of four daughters, she's given a lot of opportunities for women to get ahead in this life. And as a father of four daughters, I commend her for that. She's allowed opportunities for Senator Halvorson to be called Madam President. She's given opportunities for women to become judges in Lake County and for women to become assistant State's attorneys and other things in Lake County. Like I said, I may not agree with her politically, but I totally agree with the commitment and the dedication that she's given to the people of Lake County and the State of Illinois and this nation in her career. And if any legacy should be remembered, that's the legacy that should be remembered about Senator Geo-Karis - not what happened in 2006, but what happened for the thirty to forty years preceding that. Because I want to remind a lot of people, and some of the people that are sitting in this Chamber and some of the people that are sitting in Lake County, that they would not be in the positions that they are in if it had not been for her. And I'll tell you what, if someone had tried to take some of those people out of those positions, it was tough, because she put in a lot of good people in positions and she helped get people elected and in the positions. That's the legacy that should be remembered of this woman. I will always consider her a friend. I will always consider her as someone that gave it her all. And, Geo, the one thing I will miss the most is our power breakfast the first time, because we gave one another hell all the time, but we hugged afterwards because we philosophically disagree with one another, but we'd never back down from one another. God bless you and may you be around for many, many, many years to come. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Leader Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. President. And it's very difficult to follow that, Terry. You -- that was very well said. You obviously meant it, and legacy is important. And this lady

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is going to have an excellent legacy and we -- we do have to remember for the long haul, not the short haul. And that -- we've had our differences, Adeline, and -- Geo. I want to call you Geo, 'cause that's affectionately what -- the resolution said, we call you Geo. And we've have our differences, Geo. And -- and -- especially the last couple years, but that doesn't deter from my appreciation for the service that you've given this caucus, the Republican Party, the dedication to the people of this State and your district, and certainly the people of this country as you served in the Naval Reserves. And as a -- and so I do -- I wish it had gone differently, Geo. But that's not the -- that's not what happened. But what Terry said is right. It's the long haul. It's the -- what happened over the lifetime of service that this lady has brought to not only the people here in -- in her district, but certainly to us. And it's -- it is really remarkable and wonderful to hear everybody have the stories about how you've impacted their life, Geo. And you should take that as an extreme compliment of the manner in which you've conducted yourself here in the General Assembly. Now, when it said Geo that -- when you say Geo, you -- you know -- you know what we're talking... It's kind of like Cher and Madonna, Fabian. I don't know if we put you totally in that category, but as Rickey Hendon said, there was a time, and if we've seen those pictures of you in your Naval uniform, that was certainly one of those times. A very, very attractive lady. And you still are in -- in your own way, Geo, in your own way. We all will -- we all will hope to get to the age of eighty-eight. You mentioned that earlier - yesterday, I believe it was. I believe that's correct. We all hope we get to it in the same manner in which -- which you have. And I -- Senator Rutherford talked about the -- the -- the campaign for Comptroller and I -- probably most of you don't even recall that, but Geo had a convertible that she drove around. I don't -- I don't know where that convertible is now. It's probably long gone, but to see Geo in that convertible and she had so much enthusiasm and she did such a great job of articulating the -- the views and the concerns of the -- of -- of our party, of the Republican Party. And you did yourself proud in the manner in which you were the standard-bearer for us in the -- in that race for Comptroller. I think you -- you obviously

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have to be very proud of the -- of the work that you've done for the -- your community, in serving at various different levels, the service to -- obviously, to the people of Illinois, thirty-four years here in the General Assembly - twenty-eight of them right here in -- in the Senate. You have to be proud of the service to your country. And we talked about the U.S. Naval Reserves and the fact of what -- I think that the Memorial Day celebration, or Memorial Day event that takes place now on the Senate Floor means more to us than what had transpired earlier. Now, those of you who may not have been around for that, it -- it was certainly honoring our veterans. But what we do now - and, Geo, you were the one who established that - by having our veteran Members of this -- of this august Body get up and talk about their experiences at a -- as a veteran, I don't want to see that end. If Geo's -- Geo's leaving. Okay. We understand that, but part of the legacy needs to be the way she respected those people who wore the uniform for this great country. And that ceremony means a lot to all of us, Geo. And obviously we appreciate you for that. The -- the Greek parties, there's just a few of us here that can remember that over at the -- at the mansion, and Governor Thompson, and it was a very, very fun time. We used to have a lot of those kinds of -- of events and we don't anymore and that's -- that's unfortunate because I think that's - - when we get outside of this -- outside of this building, I think many times we're different people, and in that kind of a surrounding like the -- the Greek celebration was one in which we -- we could handle ourselves differently with each other. And more of that needs -- needs to take place. I just -- once again, I can't tell you how much I have appreciated, Geo, even though we've had our differences, the manner in which you have handled that. There's been -- there's been times and others -- others would have handled it much differently. In this Body and in our caucuses, you handled it with -- with a great deal of dignity. I appreciate that. We will always remember you and I wish you well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. In closing on the resolution, the -- the Chair would like to recognize President Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

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Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. I believe during my tenure here in the Illinois Senate, we've had many resolutions honoring Members who are leaving. I don't believe that I've heard as many people speak as those who have spoken this far on behalf of our colleague Adeline Geo-Karis. I first met -- met Adeline, we were freshmen together in the Illinois House. And times and things were a little different then. And, Senator Watson, when we had those three-Member districts back then, the appropriations staffs from both sides of the aisle and the Members would get together after Session and have a big celebration party. There was less partisanship back then. And I recall a major issue was before us in the Illinois House, and like Senator Hendon, I made some smart remarks, and Adeline came over to me to explain to me why I should be supporting this particular piece of legislation. She -- she said, "Do you know what it's like to be a woman in the military where people think, you know, it's something that's predominantly male? Do you know what it's like being an attorney in a -- in a male-dominated profession? Also being a Member of this Body in a male-dominated Legislature." That was during the days of Henry Hyde and all those other guys in the House who were -- was -- most of them were opposed to anything progressive, equal pay for women and things of that nature, legislation that we pass in this Body here, but way back then when members of her own party and a lot of my party would not even support. So Geo began to educate me, and we were both freshmen, on those issues and -- and -- and explaining to me why I should be supportive of such. So, I want to thank you for that, Adeline. I really want to thank you for it. And I recall out on Clearlake Avenue there used to be a supper club by the name of -- I think it was the Southern Air, where everybody would always go. We would go out there and I believe those people -- I know who they were now, Adeline. 'Cause Adeline always called me her Mediterranean cousin. And she -- she came up to me one evening, she was just getting there, said "Some of your brothers got me." I believe someone had jumped Adeline and robbed her. But I believe they were from the west side, Senator Hendon's. But, Adeline, you will always be very, very close to me and you know that. We get to debating issues down here and many of those issues aren't really

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political, but the Members make them political. There's something that goes far beyond being a Democrat or Republican or Independent, and that is relationships and friendships. And I've always considered Adeline my friend. A friend is a person who will tell you something that is the best thing to do or the right thing to do. And I always appreciate that about you, Adeline. Being sincere. And we, the Leaders, have access to planes. We're in Session and we can set our plane to get the Members back and forth, and when I became President, all of a sudden my good friend did not have access to a plane to bring and take her home. And I said, "You can fly with me." And some of my Members complained about it. "No, we're Democrats. You can't have no Republican on the plane." But she's my friend. And anything that we discuss on that plane, Senator Schoenberg, 'cause you were on some of those flights, we were just discussing. But I wasn't worried about Geo going back saying, well, you know, they talked about this or they talked about that. There are some things more important than whether or not you are a Democrat or whether or not you are a Republican. I think relationships go a long ways toward us working together on issues that impact the people of the State of Illinois. Geo, you done a outstanding job. You've really been wonderful. I asked Senator Link, I want to see the Illinois State Adeline Geo-Karis sign up, Terry Link. And you better call the Governor. I want to see it in big large huge letters with her name on it. And the reason why I want to see that because, Adeline, you invited all the lawmakers to Illinois State Beach Park or the Adeline Geo-Karis Park for our big coho fishing night. And we all went up there and had such a great time. But as we move forward, let Adeline be the guiding light that guides our actions in this Body. We may have some political differences, but your friendship goes a long ways toward improving the relationships that we have in this Body. And we could be more successful, because in my opinion, Adeline, you are always right. And I respect you for that. I want to thank you for making me a better lawmaker, making me fight for issues and things that impact on people. Even though at the time you were telling me that, I recognize even more today, that the members of your own caucus at that time and perhaps even today would not support those things as you would've liked for them --

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to have done. But, again, that's the reason why I respect you for that. And we all wish you well. We all wish you well, and I'll be up in Zion to see you and we're going to go to that State Park. And Terry Link, I want to see the -- the big letters up there, Adeline Geo-Karis' name, because you should be remembered and remembered well for the great service you done for the people of the State of Illinois. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, shall the Senate -- shall Senate Resolution 934 be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Chair recognizes Senator Adeline Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President and President Emil Jones, and our Leader Frank Watson, and all of my colleagues here, and all the personnel, too. It's been a pleasure serving. I -- I will be finishing thirty-four years in the Illinois Legislature tomorrow. And I'm not sorry at all. I have no regrets and it's time for me to do something else. Thirty-four years is a long time to do something. And that's not the -- what I usually do. I always have something else to do. However, I want you to know that I appreciate all of your kind words. I hope I can always live up to them. But I have found the collegiality and the -- comradeship that we've had here has been very good. And when we had the Greek night at the -- Governor Thompson's mansion, we had a lot of fun. I used to have friends of mine bring thousands of pieces of Greek pastry and -- and Jim Joyce from the Democrats was arranging for the chickens and the lambs and so forth. But you know, we had a lot of fun. Jim and -- Jerry Joyce, by the way. All I can tell you is, I've enjoyed my tour of duty. I've enjoyed each and every one of you. I don't hate anyone. And even though I may disagree with you, you know, like Terry said, we don't have to be disagreeable. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Kirk, all the rest of you, for your very, very kind words. And God willing that you do the best job possible for the State of Illinois and I know you will. And take care of yourselves with good health and happiness and prosperity. And God's been very good to me and I thank him for giving me the opportunity to

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serve thirty-four years in this great Illinois Legislature. God bless all of you and thank you, thank you, thank you for all your kind...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Halvorson in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Mr. Secretary, do you have any resolutions on file?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Yes, Madam President. Senate Resolution No. 936, offered by Senator Watson and all Senators.

(Secretary reads SR No. 936)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 936. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Watson now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 936. Is there any discussion? Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Madam President, Members of the Senate. For those who know me, I don't -- as a rule do not get up and get into all this sentimental stuff, saying goodbye and -- and saying a lot of good stuff, about anyone. But since I feel that there's probably not going to be anyone after me to speak about Steve, I thought I would. At this point, I'll make the exception to what I normally do. And -- and I do that because, one, out of the -- all of us, the fifty-nine of us here, I believe we are probably the -- the two that have worked more hours together on bipartisan issues than anyone. I mean, over the years - and we came into the Senate together fourteen years ago - we've worked together as mentioned in the resolution on healthcare issues - not just appropriation, but dealing with KidCare, passing the clean needle exchange bill, which -- addressing the AIDS issues. We've worked together on national issues as well. Steve has brought me along as he ascended to the Presidency. I'm on the Executive Committee. I've chaired the Finance Committee, have worked with him there on budgets. So, yes, I -- I believe I -- don't say I know him. I don't think anybody knows the guy. But the thing is, as someone who has -- has really learned to really appreciate

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and enjoy the times and -- and the lessons that he's taught, again, I -- I believe I'm one of the few people. Through the years, Steve has done something that many of us hope that we can accomplish, and that is we come in with a set of principles, a set of ideals, and -- and you work on those principles and -- and push forth those ideals. Well, he's leaving us now and we can say he still has retained those principles, his integrity and his commitment to serving all of the people of Illinois. His -- his work ethic, one of being prepared, certainly is something that I've tried to emulate since I've started sharing the committee, something that we all need to -- to really try to do. His thoroughness of -- of knowing the issues, knowing both sides of the issues, has -- has really been a learning process for -- for me and then also for many other individuals who sit in the committees and listen to him speak. And as we know, that's -- one of his attributes was also one of his faults. Steve is truly, in my mind, one of the most brilliant people here in the State of Illinois, someone who understands government. His downfall is he wants everyone else to know how brilliant he is as well. But -- but Steve, in all seriousness, what you've done for this process, what you've done for this State, your constituents and -- and for everyone else, you certainly have been an open mind as far as dialoguing with anyone and everyone, 'cause we know that you will speak and talk to everyone. Before I close, and -- 'cause I'm running out of good things to say, I'm -- I'm compelled to ask you and I sort of warned you earlier of -- again, 'cause Steve -- Steve has a way of presenting different issues and -- and things and we don't always agree with him, but it's always interesting and -- and the delivery that -- that he -- he deals with us, or he gives us. And again -- I was -- just happened to be reading this article from the -- the Elgin defender or whatever you call it, the paper up there. And you may not be able to answer right now, but when you have an opportunity I want you to solve some of these riddles for me. If I may quote the great Steve Rauschenberger: There's fifty-nine Members of the Senate, and I would tell you that one of 'em needs to go to jail, two should retire because they have trouble remembering names, and a couple of them are so dumb I wouldn't let them lay sod in my yard without yelling, Green side up!, with

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some expletive. But -- but on balance -- but on balance that body is smarter, hardworking and better than any group of furniture executives I've ever worked with in the fifteen years in the furniture business. So, Steve, when you get an opportunity - maybe you might not want to put it on record - I know many of us are interested to know who those guys are. I -- I went through this exercise last night and I -- we came up with a couple names; we just want to see if they -- if they jive with you. Steve, thank you so very much, man, for -- for your -- your leadership and most of all for your friendship. You will be missed in this Chamber. And certainly I look forward to working with you in other endeavors, whatever they may be.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. That quote was just Steve talking about just the -- this side of the aisle. Just think if you brought in your side what it would be. You know, it's been said that leaders don't force people to follow, they invite them on a journey. And, Steve, it has been quite a journey over these fourteen years serving with you. You know, in sports, we talk about impact players - players that really make a difference - players that stand out during a game. And when we look at politics, we see Steve has been a impact player here in the Capitol. He's been an impact player here in the State of Illinois. And for those who don't know Steve, he arrived here in the Senate fourteen years ago as a true citizen legislator, someone who didn't come from a political background, someone who came with no other agenda other than he wanted to leave his community and leave his State just a little bit better than what he found it. Steve understood that when he came in he had to make a difference. So, in 1992 when he was first elected, he dug in, he started to learn the issues. He started asking questions. He started studying all the different laws and, yes, he started to ruffle a few feathers. Quite a few feathers. In fact, ruffled more feathers than I think the Tyson processing plant. But Steve knew, to make a difference, that you had to ruffle feathers. Just to give you a couple of examples of events and things that Steve did that really stood out, one of those was a

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new member on the Energy -- E&E Committee. Here, starting off as a -- a freshman, before him in the committee was Sam Skinner. And for those who know Sam Skinner, here is a former U.S. Director of Transportation. He was the Chief of Staff for President George H. Bush. And was the CEO of Commonwealth Edison. So, a major player sitting there at the table, along with his aides and attorneys, pushing a piece of legislation, and then Steve jumps in with his line of questioning and taking no prisoners throughout the legislation. And it's interesting that even afterwards people wondered who was this guy that even though they had a disagreement had such a knowledge on those -- on those issues. There's the other time I think that people -- I think he still holds the record, when we had to sustain, I think, almost a billion dollars in budget cuts on one day. And the way it was set up, we had to have four hundred different votes on sustaining that -- those cuts. And so for hours and hours and hours, we sat here as Steve passed four hundred votes during one-day period. I think that still stands as a record. And he did that all on just one or two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and a little bit of water. Steve was never afraid to take on the powers regardless of the issues. You know, it's interesting, people criticize Steve because he has questioned a lot of things that have happened under this Governor. Well, they know that he asked even tougher questions under the previous Governor. Steve really believes in the open process. For those who have sat through those hours and hours and hours on the budget committee, you realize how open he wanted that process. And we would spend hours, until -- until the late nights, going over budget issues because he wanted to be so thorough. Now, the one good news is, he always provided great dinners for us while we were working in there - something that certainly hasn't continued under Senator Schoenberg. But -- but he wanted that process to be open. And I still remember one of the big arguments he had was some of those in leadership on our side of the aisle back when he wanted to make sure, before there was a vote on the budget, that he had the opportunity to sit down with -- along with Senator Trotter, sit down and go through the budget with the Democratic Caucus, which was not uncommon for him to be pushing that. And he made sure and one of his demands on this side of the aisle was he wanted to

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make sure as budget chairman that everybody had a thorough understanding of the budget before they voted on it. Couple of other things. Steve was certainly not afraid of the press. In fact, he, as was noticed, has given the press plenty of ink over the years. This has obviously gotten him into a little bit of trouble over the years, but I think the press also deeply respected him because of his thorough knowledge. They knew that when Steve would give him an answer, he would give them the honest answer, he would give 'em a factual answer and unfortunately would give 'em too lengthy of an answer. You know, as you know, Steve had -- he's had a couple of unsuccessful bids for statewide office and I think that has a lot to do with his style of politics. You know, in today's political climate, what people are looking for, unfortunately, is that slick sound bite, quick political answer. And unfortunately that's not Steve's cardigan sweater wearing, long and detailed answer type of a politician that he is. But truly I think it's a loss to all of us that we don't have him in that position. Steve, you have been a great friend and I've enjoyed our great friendship over these fourteen years. You have made a difference in the lives of not only this Body, but you've made a great difference in the lives of the people of Illinois. And your impact will be felt for many, many years to come. Thank you for the commitment that you have made to this State and to the people of this State. God bless.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Madam President. Like Senator Trotter, I rarely get up to talk on these things, but I think we can all agree that Steve is a pretty rare Member. So, I know you're going to hear a lot today about his tremendous intellectual gifts, his work ethic, the difference he's made here in the State, his creative thinking, and all that is -- is truly a contribution, but I want to focus on something a little bit different and that is something I know a lot of us have experienced and that is his genuine friendship, his encouragement, his incredible generosity with his time, his knowledge, with whatever kind of support we might need, and that's truly made a difference to a lot of us.

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And I'd like to share a little story with you about the difference Steve made in my life. I first met Steve in 1992 and he was pretty new in the Senate. And I was, at that time, a village trustee in LaGrange and I was coming to testify at a Senate Committee. And this was the first time I had done anything like that and I was incredibly nervous, partly because staff had told me in advance you can't read anything, you have to be really fast or they're going to get very annoyed with you. So, I was already nervous. Then I got all that. So I'm shaking in my boots testifying in front of this committee and Steve was on that committee and he immediately engaged me in questioning and really put me at ease. And it was -- you know, I felt really good about this experience when I walked out of Room 212, which is where it was. And he came running out of the door after me and said, "Oh, you did just a great job", and wanted my name. And you know, I thought, man this is -- this guy's so nice. So that was great. I went home. I felt good. And a few days later, and this is a little like John Sullivan's story with Senator del Valle, I get a letter. Nice handwritten letter saying, you know, you did such a great job, you ought to think about, you know, being in politics and let me know if I can ever do anything to help you. So, like John, I saved that letter in my special little cedar box of important communications. And about four years later I decided to run for the Senate. And because I ran against a Republican incumbent, it's often very difficult to get anyone to return your phone call if you are outside of the system. And that was the case. And no one would call me back. I'm trying to get information about running. So, I pulled this letter out and I called Steve Rauschenberger, who I'd had no contact with in the meantime, and he said, at least he told me, he remembered me. And he was extremely encouraging. And I often think if at least one person didn't say, "Go for it and do it," maybe I wouldn't have done it. I mean, it meant a huge amount to me that he said do this, gave me some ideas of what it is I needed to do, and again, spent time with me, educating me on the issues, which was to some parallel, you know, when you're supporting people that are running against incumbents, it's not always an easy thing to do. But he did that because I think that he genuinely wanted to give me an

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opportunity. And I know many of us have experienced that, that he is willing to do whatever it is to make you a better person and, again, being very generous in every way, shape and form. So, I just want to say how much I am going to miss you as a Senator, but we most definitely will stay in touch and I look forward to that.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Madam President. I -- I, too, want to rise and talk about my colleague Steve Rauschenberger. I came in near the end of the Session and I got appointed to the Appropriations Committee. And we spent a lot of time, as everybody said. If you knew the committee back then, it was just one committee. And Steve Rauschenberger took the approach to be very open and allow everybody to speak their voice and -- and to ask questions. And I wasn't sure if I was asking the right questions, but I -- I did want to participate and Steve Rauschenberger allowed me to participate. I remember one time, it was early on, and I guess I've been here almost twelve years, and my son now is - I don't know if -- if Steve remembers this - my son now is fourteen years old and we had gone, it probably was 9 or 10 o'clock at night and I got into it with one of the directors, Director of State Police, which was Terry Gainer. And -- and actually, at the time, my son was asleep at the inn and I kind of grilled Terry probably pretty good for about forty-five minutes to an hour, because it was very important to me. And not at one time did Steve or anybody complain. And -- and I truly appreciate the -- the time that he gave me to question Terry Gainer and many others throughout the -- throughout the course of our Appropriations Committee. I was very impressed and still is -- I'm still impressed with the knowledge that Steve has in terms of taking time out to spend time probably with every agency and every agency budget director to really understand what was going on in the agency. And I truly appreciate the fact that I feel like whatever knowledge of State government and how it runs, it came as a result of participating, being a member of that committee and the questions that Steve Rauschenberger asked the different agency directors and his thorough knowledge. Steve was very

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intense. You always knew when he got started that he would spend an hour on each agency. And that's probably why we were there ten, eleven hours -- ten -- well, ten to twelve hours sometimes. But truly it was appreciated. You know, I want to tell a story. I -- I -- and this may have been about five years ago. Steve Rauschenberger had to go home and he wasn't really -- I was surprised by the fact that he wasn't really stressed out about it or anything like that. I said, "Steve, I heard that your neighbor shot your dog." He's like, yeah, he shot my dog and I have to go home. And I -- I thought that was a little strange that he wasn't in an uproar. But Steve was cool, calm and collected, and -- and it said a lot about his character. But when I -- yeah, or his dog, right. Early on -- what nobody did say, he was compassionate. But early on though, I remember, I think it was Senator Luechtefeld and -- and Senator Watson, Steve convened a meeting in our district. Well, actually it wasn't in our -- it was in our area. And Steve convened a three -- was it three-day -- it was a three-day meeting. Two golf tournaments. Went to a game. You know, and Watson and I were looking at each other. I think Dave said, "What is this guy doing?" You know, but he came and had a three-day event in our district and just showed you the -- the amount of respect that those people had for -- for Steve. When I first came, I was in the minority. Democrats were in the minority, and -- and I had some challenges and people know most of the challenges I've -- I've had in dealing with projects in my area, because for whatever reason, I've had some opposition in the other Chamber. And there was a -- about a twenty-five-million-dollar project to improve the community college and to expand SIU and there was some concern. And Steve came up to me and told me, he said, "Don't worry about it. I know the importance of this project. I've been to the area. I've talked to the individuals, and I'll do whatever I can to assist and to help make sure that that project remains viable." And that was my -- that has been my relationship with Steve, is that he's been very helpful in any way that he could help. And I truly appreciate the things that I've learned from you, Steve, and -- and the friendship that we've developed, and I wish you all the success in the future and Godspeed. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Wendell Jones.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Thank you very much, Madam President, Members of the Senate. Just very briefly. My retirement's next - I feel a little like batting after Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth, because I'm following two -- two legends in the Senate. And certainly, Steve, I think you're in that category. It's -- the first place I went when I was appointed to the Senate in '98 was to Steve Rauschenberger's office to get some much needed advice on how to set up an office and how to be a Senator. And, Steve, I really appreciate the advice. It's put me in good stead for the last eight years and I appreciate it. It's great to have Steve. He's from Elgin. You know it's -- it's famous for the Elgin Watch Company and certainly Steve, if you ever ask him what time it is, he'll tell you how to make a watch. Anyway, thanks for all of your help and your guidance, Steve. And thanks for your service to the people of the great State of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you very much, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber. I remember when I served in the House, and the Republicans were in the majority over here in the Senate, hearing about Steve Rauschenberger and what kind of zen-like wizard he was when it came to knowing facts and figures and examining agency directors about their budgets and, quite frankly, embarrassing them because he knew them better than they did. And, you know, we've all had an experience when we hear about someone, we see someone, we have someone tell us about someone and then you finally meet that someone, you have an experience with that person, and it's a little bit disappointing because it didn't quite live up to what it -- you thought it would be. My first experience with Steve Rauschenberger was not when I came over here. And I didn't go to his district, he came to mine. Steve came to my district to -- at the invitation of former Senator Judy Myers, to address a group of local school superintendents. About thirty or thirty-five of them. And you know there's old -- the old saying in politics that you can never tell the truth like when you're in -- than when like you're like

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in someone else's district. And Steve demonstrated that clearly and unequivocally that day and sat and told that large group of public school administrators exactly what he thought needed to happen to the public school system in Illinois. And they walked away mad. I walked away with my jaw dropping saying, "Wow, I can't believe that's -- that's the guy." And then when I got to serve with him and get to know him a little better, I wasn't disappointed at all, because he lived up to everything that I'd ever heard about how talented he was and how intelligent he was on policy matters. But the experience that for me, in my view, had exceeded expectations was when two of our former colleagues, Representatives Tim Osmond and Doug Hoeft, passed away a few years ago. And many -- like many of our colleagues, I went up to northern Illinois. I went to Representative Osmond's visitation and then the next day went to Representative Hoeft's funeral. And as some of you probably know, Senator Rauschenberger gave the eulogy, and it was hands down the most compassionate, most caring and most moving speech that I have ever heard or ever read. And, Steve, I'll tell you, for impressed as I have been with all that you've demonstrated since I've been a colleague of yours, I was never more impressed with you, either as a person or as a public servant, than I was that day. Thank you for being my colleague.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Madam President. Long before the Berlin Wall came down on this side of the building about five years ago, if you were in the Democratic majority in the House and you wanted to have your legislative ideas see the Governor's Desk or at least have a fighting chance, you had to be enterprising and find a Republican in the majority to be the sponsor of your bill. And I frequently sought out Steve Rauschenberger to do just that and assume that role. Because -- we've spent a great deal of time in recognizing his proficiency with numbers, but what has always impressed me about my friend Steve Rauschenberger has been his commitment to transparency in government. And transparency in government knows no ideology. You can be liberal, you can be conservative, you can be a Democrat, you can be a Republican, but transparency in government and that level of accountability with

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what we do with the tax dollars the people who work so hard and send us here to represent them, there -- there's no lowering that standard. So, indeed, about ten years ago, I sued the Edgar administration and the State of Illinois, along with a handful of my colleagues about -- on a sweetheart real estate deal. And we won the first round in court in Cook County - thankfully. On the merits, no doubt. And because we felt that the constitutional separation of powers had been violated. The administration had locked us into a long-term lease on a built-to-suit project for a building that didn't need to be built in downtown Chicago when there was plenty of office space available, and we weren't asked. That's not a Democratic issue. That's not a Republican issue. We weren't asked. And we should have been asked. So, on principle, I sued. And we ended up -- after we won the first round in court, it was suggested that cooler heads should prevail and that we should come up with a -- try to settle. And indeed, as part of that settlement agreement in 1996, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the most sweeping, comprehensive purchasing and contracting reform laws that this State has ever known. And prior to that, if somebody in State government had a cup of coffee with two friends on two separate occasions, that used to formally constitute a competitive bidding process. Well, Steve Rauschenberger was my partner in helping put that to bed. We came up with a very thorough and very comprehensive contracting reform package that set a lot of sacred cows aside. Not the least of which had to do with the fact that always up until then it was an article of faith that the Toll Highway Authority could not be held to the same standard as the rest of State government. And for me that was a deal breaker. For the former Senate President, something he felt very strongly about to the contrary. But for -- in my view, the Toll Highway Authority, that the money that people put into the toll box, that that was the same as any tax dollar and that we needed to have a higher standard of accountability and we were going to hold the Tollway to that higher standard. If we couldn't do it, then this was not going to happen. Steve Rauschenberger very easily could have walked away. He didn't, and he didn't because he shared a belief in greater transparency and greater accountability in government. Now, I'm fond of saying that how we spend our money and how we

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spend the taxpayer's money here at the Capitol is not just a reflection of our priorities, but a reflection of our values as well. And holding -- holding people to higher standards of accountability and transparency in government, regardless of your affiliation, regardless of your ideology, that's a character trait of his that I have always admired. Like many others, I, too, have appreciated his insatiable appetite for knowledge. Not just here at the State Capitol, but we had the opportunity along with his wife, Betty, to travel to the Middle East several years ago. And fortunately I took it as a great compliment that Steve let me bargain on his behalf in the Arab market in Hebrew. When he was willing to pay full price, I said, "Wait. We can do a little better than this. Steve, trust me." Truth be told, he did get a better price. Some of you may feel like I might have had him pay more in the end, but he did -- he did get a better price. And in closing, I just want to say that long before others on the -- nationally on the other side of the aisle abused the term "compassionate conservatism", I always felt that regardless of our ideological differences, regardless of being on the other side of the partisan divide, I always felt that Steve Rauschenberger was indeed a compassionate conservative. He, unlike others, has adhered to that standard consistently and it's that level of consistency, that level of commitment that I've always admired in him and will continue to do so as he goes to the next chapter in his career. Thank you, Steve, for all you've done.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Madam President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, our friend, Senator Steve Rauschenberger, comes from a family tradition of public service. Steve's father served for eighteen years on the Kane County Board as a member of the Kane County Board. And Steve's mom, Shirley, served as a trusted advisor and as a strong campaign manager. Steve's mom is loved by many and is a lady who is accustomed to being obeyed. I can only imagine what the dinner table conversations were like when Steve was a boy. We're joined today with -- on the Senate Floor by Shirley Rauschenberger, along with Steve's lovely wife, Betty,

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and his two sons, Michael and Hank, and his very staunch ally and brother, John. And if these guests would rise, I would ask you to indulge me and welcome them to the Chamber. The Rauschenbergers.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Will our guests -- guests in the Chambers please rise. Welcome to Springfield. Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Senator Rauschenberger has always been a man of ideas, action, and most importantly, personal relationships. He came to the Illinois State Senate fourteen years ago as one of the "Fab Five", five independently minded Republican small business owners who set aside their personal financial goals making money in order to offer their skills and devotion to public service. Steve quickly established himself as the cream of the crop. Peter Fitzgerald, a wonderfully intelligent and honest person, and I diligently did our homework. Pat O'Malley gave beautifully sophisticated speeches. But, it was Dave Syverson and Steve Rauschenberger who concentrated on building strong reciprocal personal relationships - Dave with his sense of humor and broad prospective, and Steve with his penetrating ideas and energy. While other freshmen went over orientation notes and studied legislative language, Steve did that too, but realized early where we typically ended up by the end of Session: tired, overloaded and buried with more work than any one person could do. So, while others merely studied briefings, he was building bridges with staff members and colleagues. And once in a while, it involved buying a beer at a local establishment or hosting social gatherings at his place. But when the -- the crunch time came that swamped the rest of us worker bees, good ideas, suggestions, solutions, and help were traveling on the bridges that Steve had already built from the beginning. His obvious confidence was recognized and rewarded as Steve was elevated to Chairman of the entire Senate Appropriations Committee after only two years. That's when we saw Steve's contribution to his constituents and to all people of Illinois; that it was not about holding a fancy powerful title, it was about actually doing the work. He demonstrated his respect for every person by listening and including them. Senator Rauschenberger held members of the

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Appropriations Committee, as Senator Clayborne had said before, to a higher standard of work ethic by keeping us late many nights for weeks at a time so that every person who traveled to Springfield to petition his or her government was given the opportunity to at least testify. You know, behind the scenes, my office was next to Steve's for six to eight years, and there were many nights that I'd be leaving my work at 9, 10 o'clock at night and Steve would still have social service providers, education advocates, and other people concerned about how the State budget would effect the poor, the old, the sick, the desperate. I was simply amazed by Senator Rauschenberger's -- no, Steve's patience and stamina. How could he bear to take so many people's serious, complex problems and work on them so conscientiously to solve them? Steve also traveled the State tirelessly to see for himself what the problems are and how our work in the Senate can make things better. He went to Senator Hendon's to review the Chicago public housing as the high-rises were coming down. He went to Senator Syverson's to listen and learn in Rockford about our disappearing manufacturer's muscle. Steve went to Senator Clayborne's at least on two visits, other than the golf outing and I think the baseball game, to hear what community college advocates and human service providers in the Metro East area had to say. Whenever we needed help, Senator Rauschenberger was there and he demonstrated respect for others and profound respect for the process and institutions of the Senate. He's been a good steward. We'll miss our friend, Steve Rauschenberger. His dogged and determined pursuit of truth and transparency in State government, it's been consistent with the fine family tradition of -- of conscientious public service from which he has come. His sterling example of integrity, where he has not used his position or status to enrich himself or his friends, demonstrates that he is highly principled but never stuffy or self-righteous. His good reputation has grown nationally as he was elected President of the National Conference of State Legislators {sic} (Legislatures), mostly based on his expertise in utility regulation and sales -- or, sales tax reform. Finally, most of the Members in this Chamber understand how really tough the last three years have been for Steve and his family. Tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of people were disappointed

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that Steve did not receive a majority of the vote in the U.S. Senate primary or in his run for Lieutenant Governor. It's only small comfort to observe that God doesn't make mistakes in our lives, but sometimes the voters do. Steve made the proper decision in his political career that he was going to either move up, where he felt that he could use the skills and experience that he had gained for the benefit of most people, or was going to move on to devote his valuable time and talent to other important goals. He just wasn't willing to sit on the sidelines as the State's mortgage debt was doubled, as unfunded liabilities continue to grow and as unpaid bills continue to stack up. Steve decided to put into practice what Martin Luther King advised: Substitute courage for caution. Substitute courage for caution. And that's exactly what Steve has done. There was no error in this judgment. With his skill, energy and intelligence, it would only have been a shame for Steve Rauschenberger to not make the attempt. This portion of Steve Rauschenberger's public service is now complete. It's up to the rest of us to -- on both sides of the partisan aisle, to emulate, to live up to, the high standards of respect for others, enormous energy and work habits, hunger for practical solutions, stewardship of State resources, courage and determination that Steve had demonstrated through his fourteen years in the Senate. I'll miss you, Senator. I deeply respect and admire you and your family. We all appreciate the sacrifices that you have made to serve honestly and competently in the Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Ronen.

SENATOR RONEN:

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to add my voice to indicate the deep respect that I -- I have for you, Senator Rauschenberger. Probably on the political spectrum, we're way, way, way apart. But there have been those handful of policy issues that come up and I've been really -- there's nobody in this Chamber whose advice or whose expertise or who -- whose wisdom I sought more on those - whether it's telecommunications or energy deregulation, things of that matter. And I'm very, very proud to note that I think on those important policy issues we have voted alike. And that makes me feel good. So, I want to

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-- I want to thank you for that. And lastly, I just wanted to say, in this time of cynicism about government and about public officials, you set a extremely high standard for the public. But just as important, I think, is that you don't have the kind of cynicism about government that sometimes creeps into people. You understand the role of government. You understand the process. You respect the process. And I think that speaks so well of you and it's -- it's why I think you've accomplished so much in the years you've been here, and I look forward to watching your career as it grows and giving you my support in everything you do, except if you run for office. So, thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. There's advantages and disadvantages to going last. One of the disadvantages, obviously, is so much has been said and that -- and -- and in the manner in which shows a -- a great deal of respect. I appreciate that side of the aisle, 'cause I'll tell you what, there wasn't -- sometimes there wasn't probably a bigger partisan over here than Steve Rauschenberger. But to hear -- and hear you get up, and especially you, Donne Trotter, 'cause you worked close with him over the years and you've grown to respect him. And I think that's -- it's wonderful we see this kind of response to a -- to a guy who's given an awful lot to this process. He is an expert on the State budget. Every time, in fact, when the media would come to him and it would be in the paper, he's the respected individual in the Senate who probably knows as much about the budget as anyone. That would be in the -- that would be in the article. That would be mentioned. And a lot of that is because of what was said - a straight shooter and a guy who knows what he's talking about. And he's honest with 'em and that's all anybody asks. I've relied in the last four years and -- and -- on Steve a great deal. This caucus has -- has relied on -- on Steve a great deal. It's going to be certainly a changing time for us and we've always appreciated his passion, his vision and his ability to kind of cut right to the chase. That's what -- Steve was good. He could see through the big picture and go right into what it's all about. You're -- you're leaving this

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process way, way too soon. You're young in the eyes of -- of most of us here. I -- I had the opportunity, the last couple years, to see Steve in a different arena, the National Conference of State Legislators {sic}. And I know some of us here are involved in that organization. Steve gave an incredible amount of time to that -- that group, and we were -- some of us had the -- the fortune to go out to Seattle when he was elected and then in Nashville to see the final of his term -- final year of his term. And -- and to see and to talk to the people who work with him on another totally -- and these are Republicans, Democrats. It didn't matter. The respect that this man has nationally and they -- and -- and what he's brought to Illinois. The respect from that organization can't be measured. We are looked to, this State is, we are looked to because of leaders like Steve Rauschenberger. And, Betty, I have to thank you for all the time that you've given of Steve to us and organizations like NCSL. He went tirelessly all over this country selling a -- a belief that he holds very passionately, that he -- and he is a -- very much of an individual who has beliefs. He doesn't put his finger in the air to see which way the political winds are blowing. He's got some principle about him. And one of those was a streamlined sales tax. Unfortunately this State has not embarrassed that concept at this point, but I -- over half of the -- have of the states in this country have. And I would have to say, individually he's responsible. There wasn't a state that didn't call and ask for him to be there that he didn't go. Testify, talk about what -- what it would mean for your particular state. Incredible. There wasn't a task in this caucus that he would not undertake. I mean, it didn't matter what. If you wanted to get it done, this was the go-to guy. Someone said his car was here when you came in the morning and it was here when you left at night. Some of us thought he slept here. But it was tireless work and something that's -- that will be missed by this caucus certainly. The Appropriations Committee, and I don't think many of you on the other side know this, but a lot of the issues that you feel very passionately about even though, as Carol Ronen said, you may be on a different spectrum politically and philosophically, but a lot of those issues that you felt very strongly and still do feel very strongly about, this man would

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bring it to our leadership when he was chairman of the committee. If you can make a case -- if you could make a case for your position, it didn't matter what the issue might have been, if it was AIDS, early childhood, whatever it was, if you could make a case of why State money should be appropriated for your particular concern, he'd go to bat for you. He -- I've never seen anybody as accessible as this guy was -- as Steve Rauschenberger has been to the people of this State, whether it was an agency or a constituent or the littlest individual that might come into this Capitol. He did go tirelessly all over this State and -- and make himself available to constituencies in our respective districts, and it was a very bipartisan approach to that process. And I'm -- that's why I'm so glad to hear so many of you acknowledge the fact that Steve operated and worked in a very bipartisan manner when he was Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Now, those of you that know Steve outside of the Chamber here and -- and outside the walls of this wonderful State Capitol know that his wardrobe is very limited. If it wasn't -- you know, we go to all these functions and we get T-shirts and we get shirts. If it wasn't for that, this man would have no wardrobe. I have no idea what's going to happen when he leaves the Senate. So, I wanted to just present with him today one of our softball jerseys, which I'm not sure you ever went to a softball game. You went once. Well, anyway, the Regional Commerce and Growth Association of St. Louis will now be proudly placed on the back of Steve Rauschenberger as he goes on down his road of success in whatever it might be. We wish you well, Steve. Glad to have some fun with you. Obviously, you're going to be missed by -- by everyone in this Body. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall Senate Resolution 936 be adopted. All in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is unanimously adopted. Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Thank all of you very much. It's been a long day and I'm in a new wool suit in a leather chair, so I'm thinking I'm creasing up my new suit. We're taking way too long talking about Rauschenberger. But -- but I do need to tell you how much I appreciate what everybody has done for me. The success I've had

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and I think any of our successes down here is always the sum of the investments other people make in us. When I got down here, I did not know the budget. I did not have an understanding of the electric distribution system or -- or its generation system or any other system. I didn't understand the procedures of the Senate. I didn't know how to build the bridges necessary. People here invested in me. From Mike Bass - who maybe somewhere is listening - my first appropriation director, who patiently sat with Chris Lauzen and I and helped us develop an amendment that I voted Yes on and Chris voted No on, after we'd written it - which shows you, Chris and I were on track ready to go from the very beginning. To Carter Hendren, to Members of the Senate here. We live in a very, very rich opportunity environment. If you care about learning, there is no finer, warmer place to be than in the State Legislature. And I encourage, as you guys go forward, all of you to take advantage of that. You know, it's a rare thing to be in a job where you can pick up the phone and have the University of Chicago economist call you back to -- to answer your questions, because people care about what we do here. And so, I just have to say a thousand thanks to the members of staff, Republican and Democrat, House and Senate, who have patiently spent time and explained to me for the ninth time how the Medicaid program works. I have to say thank you to patience -- people like Don Trotter, who put up with me and my noisy rattling for almost -- fifteen years we worked together almost, trying to figure out how to make both Emil Jones and Pate Philip happy simultaneously - somewhat like getting a man on the moon. I have to thank my colleagues here who spent time and put up with very, very long appropriation hearings, because I did feel at the time when I was entrusted with the stewardship of the State budget in the Senate that I didn't want any of you ever to have a constituent call and say, "I tried to talk to the Appropriation Committee or the appropriation chairman and they wouldn't see me." And I think, in those eight years, no one could ever say that, and I think that's an important part of what we do as stewards down here. So, first let me say, thanks. We're all part of everybody. The success I've enjoyed down here is an investment many of you have made in me in patience and time and in effort, and obviously, the -- the forbearance of my family.

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The second thing I -- I just -- it -- one -- each of us does make a difference here, and as you struggle to find the new shape of the Senate with the new larger majority, with -- with the conditions you have today, just -- just remember that each one of you does make a difference. There's colleagues here who remember many, many times that Pate Philip was not speaking highly of his Approp Chairman when he and I were done with discussions, that it does matter what you do. Whether you do it quietly in small ways, it does matter when you reach out to candidates or potential candidates to colleagues across the aisle and across the Rotunda, 'cause the Senate is the sum of all of our parts. Don started today with another colorful quote that I had in a newspaper. And it's interesting, because I probably said that. It's a way I use of humanizing the Senate. 'Cause I -- you know, you can't just say the Senate's great, because nobody believes it. So, I always have this kind of throwaway comment. I say, you know, "Well, the Senate -- fifty-nine Members, you could put one in jail; you know, two of 'em are so dumb, they can't remember my name; and some of 'em you wouldn't want laying sod in your yard unless you were yelling, 'Green side up!'" But I go on to say that there is no finer place to work. And I have never worked with a group of fifty-nine leaders who are any brighter, any more prepared or anymore committed. And that's absolutely the truth. It has been a rare privilege and a pleasure to be part of this Body. I will miss it. God bless you all.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Mr. Secretary, are there any other resolutions on file?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Yes, Madam President. Senate Resolution No. 935, offered by Senator Watson and all Senators.

(Secretary reads SR No. 935)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 935. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Watson now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 935. Is there any discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

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Thank you, Madam Chairman. I will be brief, but I'd be remiss if I didn't get up and say goodbye to a man that I have known for a long time. I knew Wendell before he was a State Senator. I was on staff here and Senator David Regner was the Steve Rauschenberger of those days - sort of the guru, the king of the appropriation's process. And Dave was not a very -- one who was enamored with public education. And I remember one day, as a staffer, I was scared to death and he barked at me and he said, "We need a conservative school administrator to come down here and bolster me on my arguments or ideas." And I said, "Where do you find a conservative Republican school administrator?" And he goes, "Oh, I got one back in Palatine." And I first met Wendell Jones when he came down here and offered his expertise as an administrator in special needs children. And I got to tell you, Wendell looked the same back in the 1970s as he did today. And he had the wit and the humor. But he was someone who was conservative but also had a great compassion about children with special needs. And he was someone who was passionate about special education and continues to do that and offer that and advocate on their -- on the needs of schoolchildren who have special -- special needs. I'm going to miss Wendell at the Senate softball games, because he always made me play a little harder and a little better, because if you put a Dodger silk jacket on him, he is Tommy Lasorda, the great Dodger manager's look-alike. I do want to warn Senator Jones that Senator Pate Philip, the former Senate President and poker-playing buddy of Senator Jones, is -- he's here in the building today. In fact, I think Senate President Philip wants to come over, take a look at these new Chambers, but his son-in-law -- or stepson, actually, is going to be inaugurated tomorrow. But I wanted to warn Wendell that when you retire, Wendell, you get a little less money in your monthly stipend or paycheck and I know that Senator Philip wants to find you up in the suburbs to take a few more pennies playing poker in -- in your retirement. I will miss Wendell. Wendell has a gift of a perfect mix - sort of like Dave Syverson does - between humor and having a very, very serious side. And I mentioned Wendell's expertise in special needs children. But we need that mix. Some -- times in this business maybe some of us take ourselves or this process too

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seriously. Wendell has the right mix. And you know, Senator Cronin and others may not think your jokes are funny, Wendell. I think they're funny most of the time. And I'm going to miss you and your jokes. God bless you, sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator John Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. Wendell, I would be remiss if I didn't stand up and -- and say a few words about you. But you know, this is a happy day and it's a sad day as we honor you, Cheryl, Geo and Steve. But I -- I'm going to miss your humor. You know, serving in some of the committees with you and the like, I -- I always enjoyed your humor. Mimi and I have really appreciated getting to know you and Jane. And I think I may be one of the fortunate ones, I know your Florida address. And you can be assured that Mimi and I will be stopping down in Florida and seeing you and Jane. But I -- I recall a couple years ago when you came down to Marion County. Senator Frank Watson used to represent Marion County and now I do. The Marion County Farm Bureau has adopted you. And they're -- they're losing a -- a great friend. You made a big impression to those people down there, as we had dinner that afternoon, late that evening, in a shed on Ed and Marilyn Gerstenecker's farm, which was in the shed with all the horseradish. They're big horseradish farmers. And you know, we're going to miss those times with you. The other thing I'm going to miss is that in the twelve years I've been here, the eight years in the House and now four years in the Senate, I was able to be in the majority in the -- with the Republicans in the House for two years, but for the last four years, I've still been in the majority in the Jones Caucus. And with you leaving, you know, it's going to be tough with me and, you know, the President of the Senate - you know, one Democrat and one Republican in the Jones Caucus. So, I would like to ask you when you make your remarks if it'd be possible that you might make a motion to make John Jones the chairman of the caucus for a couple years, until we can pick up another Jones, you know. I don't think Emil would mind that too much. But, my friend, we are going to miss you and -- and the others, too. God bless you and Jane both.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, especially Wendell Jones. There are -- some Members of this Body bring a brilliance of mind to the proceedings. Some bring incisive and quick commentary and analysis of bills. Some bring great boredom to this Body. Wendell Jones brings not boredom, certainly the first two, and last of all, great wit and unfailing graciousness. When I was first elected and became Chairman of Local Government in 2003, as new chairman in a -- in a majority party that was new, Senator Jones was my Minority Spokesman. And he could have embarrassed me on numerous occasions as the new chair. Fortunately, he let me do that on my own and stayed out of it. There were numerous other Senators, much more experience - Senator Walsh, Senator Link, Senator Barack Obama, the next President to the United States - who served in that committee, and we enjoyed a great fellowship. We went out to dinner together as I recall, which was a great treat, because of Senator Jones' wit, his -- again, his unfailing courtesy. He brings to the table a -- a common sense and experience. Someone referred to -- Senator Schoenberg referred to Senator Rauschenberger as a compassionate conservative. That also applies to Senator Wendell Jones. His years teaching special ed, his years as village board president gave him - Oh, am I fined on this, too? - gave him a perceptive knowledge of what was good for -- what was the -- good for the people that could be common good. I'd like to express my appreciation to you, Senator Jones. And appearances are deceiving. You may look the same as you did thirty-four years ago. Senator Maloney and I noticed in the -- in -- the way the new computerized images appear on film, you even look like you have a distinguished head of hair, which is deceiving. But we are going to miss you. We're going to miss your wit and your common sense and your leadership and your -- your courage. From -- from myself, Senator Lloyd Bridges, I wish you Godspeed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON:

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Thank you, Madam President. Ah, yes, where do I begin for the Senator? I've know Jane and Wendell for many years. They go to my church in Palatine, and when I first was elected to the House, part of my House district was in the Village of Palatine. And I remember Wendell and many of his political forays in local government, and I think the last one I worked on was your failed attempt to become -- be reelected or come back as president of the Village of Palatine. But we knew they were saving you for bigger and better things. So... But in our various conversations we've had some great humor, as has been expressed by the colleagues here in this Chamber. And you certainly will be missed and we will envy you being down in Florida enjoying the good weather, you and Jane. And I know we all wish you Godspeed, and have great adventures down in -- in Florida. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. First of all, I'd like to start out by saying I missed my last -- wanted to say a few words to Senator Rauschenberger. I must have went to the back and didn't put the light on. So, to my friend, I wish you very -- the best. You're -- done an outstanding job here. It was a pleasure serving with you. And we shared a few secrets together when we -- in that little vault of Room 212. So, I wish you the best. And to my colleague, Senator Jones, we pretty much came in as freshmen together. You were appointed about a month or two before I actually got inaugurated. We had a lot of laughs together. It was great coming in as a freshman with you, although you had been a elected official for a number years, where it was just the beginning of my career. And it was great working with you. We shared a number of conversations when we were on committees together and I thank you for that, and from my -- my knowledge over the years, you've never had a bad day. So, I wish you the best. Enjoy your grandchildren and your family and God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I appreciate that. And

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why don't we -- while we're at it, why don't we introduce Jane, in the gallery here?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Will our guest in the gallery please rise? Welcome to Springfield. Thank you for being here.

SENATOR WATSON:

And they are a team. And we obviously are going to wish you both well as you spend your time as -- as you wish in Florida and -- and with, obviously, your grandkids, which you love and adore so much. You know, there's people that come through this business of politics and in life in general that just kind of make a difference in -- in your attitude about the day, the week, yesterday, whatever it might be, and this is one of 'em right here. It's been -- it's been mentioned here about his -- his wit. He is a very quick wit. It's -- I love sitting here behind him, and as things are said on the Floor and he'll turn around and say something. I mean, it -- it does bring a different light to the whole process and it -- and it makes it certainly more enjoyable to sit through here when, as someone said, we do go through a very boring process. But Wendell's comic is almost a -- a relief valve for us. He -- his life experiences, and that seems to be what he's brought to -- to us here, and those of us who've had any conversation with him recognize the fact that what he's done in his life brings him to this place here in serving the people of his district. And -- and that in itself, the common sense was mentioned. He has a -- a approach to him that is -- that is totally common sense. And that -- that is why I so much appreciate and I'm going to miss that. We talk about people who -- who have beliefs and principles, and -- and truly this is a man who's driven by that, who -- and his life experiences have brought him to those types of beliefs. And I appreciate that. I appreciate that. And an individual who -- who has taken the experience that life has brought him to them and made a difference in their approach to this process here in Springfield. And Wendell has done that. He isn't a wind in the air type of individual. Not at all. He's a team player though. And those of us who get to the position that we get to appreciate team players. I'm just telling you, from personal experience, he has been that. When we've needed something done, whether it's a

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project, a vote or whatever it may be, he understood that the caucus is important, that the caucus and the beliefs of this particular side of the aisle are important. And he embraces the philosophical beliefs. He gave me a picture yesterday of Ronald Reagan. A great picture. Now, that's kind of the -- that's the guy who got me involved in this business back in the early 70s, was Ronald Reagan. Kind of my hero. Wendell gave me a picture of Ronald Reagan and I believe that that's the kind of man that Wendell emulates, is the principles and beliefs that that President brought to us. Philosophy is important. And he's -- in a business that sometimes we throw it out the window, Wendell has a philosophy that drives him. And that is so, so important. And one thing he said to me yesterday, and he said, "You've never heard this before?" And maybe you've -- you have, but he said, "If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything." Now, if you don't stand for something, you can fall for anything. And that's the way Wendell's been here in this Senate Floor and in our caucus and representing the people of his district. A wonderful human being. A great sports fan. The Tommy Lasorda, you're right. Where'd we -- were? We went to a Cardinal game, didn't we? And -- and you -- somebody said, "There's Tommy Lasorda over there." It might have been a -- may even been a Rams game. I don't remember. But anyway, you were in St. Louis and -- and they believed it was Tommy Lasorda. So, and he is a great Dodger fan, unfortunately that. But we have a -- we've had a lot of -- lot of good talks about sports and athletics, and -- and -- and I -- I share those, obviously, with him. So, anyway, Wendell, you and Jane, thank you for what you've done, what you've brought to us here in Springfield. We wish you well, and I know that life's future will treat you good. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall Senate Resolution 935 be adopted. all in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it and the resolution is unanimously adopted. Senator Jones.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. Thank you all for your kind remarks and many of you have expressed them to me over the last several days and weeks. I've been here since

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December 1998, after succeeding Peter Fitzgerald. Who in this room would thought -- would have thought that I would retire after Peter Fitzgerald. Let me give you four Republican and four Democrat names who were here when I first arrived: Pate Philip, Stan Weaver, John Maitland, Laura Donahue, Vince Demuzio, Denny Jacobs, Art Berman, Howie Carroll. In fact, thirty-three -- thirty-three out of fifty-nine are no longer here. After tomorrow, it'll be more than that. My first appointment was to the currency exchange subcommittee. I later found out -- Weaver came down. He said, "You're on the currency exchange subcommittee." I said, "What's that?" He said, "It meets at 4 o'clock in your apartment." The purpose was to exchange money from my pocket to theirs. In the future I would suggest that you have a Senator exchange program so that all of you get to know each other better across party and geographic lines. Go to Marion County. One of my favorite days as Senator was my visit to Marion County, to the corn and soybean fields, as well as the hog farm. I'm still looking for some of my pork projects. Blagojevich sat on 'em for a while, but he did give 'em back just before the election. In the 2000 election I was a target, as many rookies are. I called Pate Philip for advice. And Pate was always willing to give me his advice. He told me to go to Florida for a week. I called Stan Weaver. He told me to peddle my own papers and keep my mouth shut for four days. After a whopping nine-hundred-and-thirty-four-vote victory, Emil Jones came over, he put his arm around me and said he wanted only one Jones in the Senate. And I said, "Me, too." Recently Emil was in Springfield having dinner and a man overheard someone call him Senator Jones. He said, "Senator Jones. You're my Senator." Emil said, "I am?" He said, "Where do you live?" And the guy said, "Arlington Heights". Not quite Emil's district. A few years ago Emil had a minor car accident that made the Chicago evening news. My neighbor called and asked how I was feeling. My sincere thanks to Secretaries Ann Blockyou, Sheila Sims and Deb Johnson. Deb Johnson. Please give her a hand. I also appreciate the fine work in my local office by Jason Pappas and Rita Wiley. They've -- they've done a great job. To our staff on both sides of the aisle, you are simply outstanding and I thank all of you. Thanks to my wife, Jane, and my adult

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children, Tim, Julie and Janelle, and my four grandchildren now. My sincere thanks to my Leaders, Pate Philip, in the first four years, and Frank Watson, in the past four. Frank, thanks for your support, leadership and service to Illinois. A few weeks ago, Senator Cullerton said there are six ways to leave the Senate. I've decided to retire. As Pierre Trudeau once said, "I was my best successor, but I decided not to succeed myself." Actually, I'm retiring because I need to spend more time in the fitness center. When I lived in Lincoln Tower, I used the fitness center, as Senator Maloney can tell you. One day I got on the exercise bike and it told me to put in my age, my height and my weight and wait for instructions. The readout said, "one of you get off." It's -- it's been a great ride, but it's time for me to get off. As Lincoln said from this City a hundred and forty-six years ago, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Mr. Secretary, are there any other resolutions on file?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Yes, Madam President. Senate Resolution 937, offered by Senator Watson and all Members.

It is non-substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Resolutions Consent Calendar. Ladies and Gentlemen, just to bring you up to date, the committee schedule is a little different than earlier announced. So, I will reread the committees and what time they're going to meet. Local Government will now meet at 4. Judiciary will meet at 4:30 in 212. Local Government in 400. No. A-1. Judiciary at 4:30 in Room 212. 5 o'clock will be Revenue in 400 and State Government in A-1. 6:30 will be Labor in 400. And after committees, we will be coming back to the Floor for Floor action. Oh, I'm sorry. I read this wrong. Labor is not at 6:30. So you don't have to anticipate a long Revenue Committee meeting. Labor, in Room 400, will be 5:30. Okay. I have a new announcement. So, please pay attention, 'cause things are changing. Local Government will not be meeting. Therefore, we're moving each one up to the other slot. So, in other words, Judiciary will be at 4, Revenue and State Government will be at 4:30, and then Labor will be at 5. After committees, we will be returning to the Senate Floor - that

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part has not changed - for Floor action. The regular Session of the Senate will stand in recess to the call of the Chair. Again, after committees, the Senate will reconvene to receive Committee Reports and for further Floor action. The -- again, Local Government is cancelled. The Senate stands in recess to the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate will come to order. If all Senators within the sound of my voice can please come to the Senate Chambers. We want to get on with the business of the evening. Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Senators Cullerton and Dillard, -- Co-Chairmen of the Committee on Judiciary, report the Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2737 recommended Do Adopt.

Senator Garrett, Chairperson of the Committee on State Government, reports the Motions to Concur with House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 1959 and House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2674 recommended Do Adopt.

And Senator Forby, Chairperson of the Committee on Labor, reports that the Motion to Concur with House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 490 recommended Do Adopt.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Ladies and Gentlemen, if I could have your attention, please, we're going to get started. And if you're not in the Chambers, please come as soon as possible. Senator DeLeo, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you very much, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise on a point of personal privilege, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your point, Senator.

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you very, very much. If I could have everybody's attention for just a couple moments, please. I'd like to take a

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few minutes of our time today to recognize an individual for twenty-five years of distinguished service. Ladies and Gentlemen, Rick Pearson, the political writer for the Chicago Tribune, is marking his twenty-fifth year covering the Illinois General Assembly tomorrow. Ladies and Gentlemen, Rick began his career writing as a reporter for the Metro-East Journal back in 1978. Then he moved to the Collinsville newspaper after the Metro-East closed. He ruined another newspaper. In 1982, he started working in Springfield for the United Press International. That was the day before the budget address. He moved on to the Rockford Star Journal, and as an employee of Gannett News Services, he wrote a story about the Chicago White Sox Stadium that appeared on the front page, back then, of the USA Today. Rick moved onto the Tribune in 1988 and became the paper's political writer in 1997. An award-winning journalist, Rick has been part of the Tribune's Presidential Election coverage team, he has been a guest on numerous local and nationally broadcast television and radio programs. He's served as co-moderator of the 2002 Tribune/WGN-TV debate, along with the Illinois candidates for Governor. Ladies and Gentlemen, you don't last in Springfield, Illinois, for twenty-five years as a journalist without honesty, being fair and integrity. I'd like all of us to salute Rick Pearson and take a moment with me and join him in congratulating him on twenty-five years of service in the Illinois State Capitol. Ladies and Gentlemen, Rick Pearson.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Supplemental Calendar is being distributed at this moment, and we will be going to Secretary's Desk, Concurrence of Senate Bills. Our first one will be Senate Bill 490. Senator DeLeo. On the Order of Concurrences is Senate Bill 490. Senator DeLeo, do you wish to proceed? Mr. Secretary, please read the motion.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 490.

Filed by Senator DeLeo.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator DeLeo, to explain your motion.

SENATOR DeLEO:

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Thank you very much, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This just came out of the Labor Committee just a couple minutes ago. I move to concur in House Amendment No. 1, which actually gutted the bill. Amendment No. 2 actually becomes the language of Senate Bill 490. And let me, if you just have the Body's attention, I'd like to explain what it does. Senate Bill 490 was -- been agreed to by the business and labor communities. It will meet -- it will permit the State to meet the terms of a recent settlement agreed with the U.S. Department of Labor. We had a situation where the State had overpaid some trade readjustment allowance benefit to Illinois workers. U.S. Department of Labor came in and audited us and they conducted a - - a statewide poll. We committed to a seven-million-dollar payment for TRA benefits. The initial agreement deadline has been -- was set for December 31st, but we had to get an extension to work out the payment cycle. And it will be extended to -- by February 15th. We -- one of the questions that came up in committee is -- hopefully this will never reoccur. I've been told by the General Counsel from Employment Security - he testified in the committee just moments ago - that the Department of Labor has recently conducted a statewide random sample of the claims for individuals enrolled in this program and they did not find a reoccurrence of any issues that prompted this settlement. I ask for a concurrence, Madam President, in Amendment No. 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 490.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Pankau.

SENATOR PANKAU:

Thank you, Madam President. I also join in asking for your Aye votes for this bill. Having to pay the federal government back seven-some odd million dollars is nothing that anybody wants to do. But I think that with the agreements of the labor groups, and the business groups, we have worked out a way of doing it. More importantly to this Body is the assurances that we got in the committee that the proper steps had been taken, the proper definitions are now understood by both the federal government, and the State government, that this should not happen again. And if it does happen again, it won't be hidden or concealed and brought out. It will be joined by everybody and we'll work it

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out as we do so many other things. I urge your Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 490. 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? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate has concurred -- Senate concurs in House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 490, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Schoenberg, on Senate Bill 1959. Mr. Secretary, please read the motion.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1959.

Filed by Senator Schoenberg.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Schoenberg, to explain your motion.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I move to concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1959. House Amendment No. 1 guts the underlying bill, which had strengthened the process by which we would review the disposition of -- of property that was considered to be surplus. And the bill allows the State to sell all of or a portion of the John J. Madden Health Center property to the Loyola University Medical Center at fair market value if the property is declared not needed by the Secretary of Human Services. This is an issue that Senator Lightford has worked on exhaustively and there's no known opposition and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you, Madam President. The Committee -- all of us, this is a great bill. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1959. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have

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all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 51 Ayes, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1959, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Demuzio, on Senate Bill 2674. Mr. Secretary, please read the motion.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2674.

Filed by Senator Demuzio.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Thank you, Madam President and Members of the Senate. Senate Bill 2674 with House Amendment No. 1 provides that the budget address shall occur no later than the first Wednesday in March of 2007. Currently, right now, it's the third Wednesday in February. What this does would -- would address the budget address deadline and it returns it to the third Wednesday in February beginning 2008. I ask for a favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you. Just a question of the sponsor, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates she'll yield.

SENATOR WATSON:

I'm sorry, would -- would you repeat once again why -- I don't know if you said why we're delaying it, or what is the reason? Or do we know?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

...you -- thank you, Senator Watson. The -- this is not the first time that this has -- we have asked for an extension, or the Governor or the administration has asked. Back in 1992, I believe Governor Edgar asked for some time, that rolled it into April. Any time that there is perhaps maybe shifting of -- of

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priorities in terms of budget or trying to find revenue streams or personnel, that's -- this is not an unusual request to ask for an extension.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Will the sponsor yield, please, Madam...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates she'll yield.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I'm -- I'm sorry, Senator. It's -- it's a little noisy in here. I didn't catch what you said in answer to Senator Watson's question about why the administration has asked for the delay.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

...Senator, for the question. This is a -- this particular bill would address perhaps maybe changes or give an extension of time for perhaps maybe personnel working in the fiscal office or -- or just perhaps trying to get revenue stream. Just trying to get a different type of -- giving a little extension of some time. It only -- it only matters to about two weeks. And this is not unusual.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. Senator Demuzio, is there a concern with your leadership about the adjournment date now? I mean, you're moving the budget -- address back thirty -- about thirty days or so. I mean, sometimes, particularly on budget matters, we're pretty compressed here anyway. Is there an issue with that at all?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

...that, Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter. Any further discussion? This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House

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Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2674. All those in favor -- House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2674. 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? Take the record. On that question, there are 46 Yeas, 3 voting Nay, 1 voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2674, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Raoul, on 2737. Mr. Secretary, please read the motion.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2737.

Filed by Senator Raoul.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I move to concur with House Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 2737, which deletes all and becomes the bill. Senate Bill 2737, as amended, is -- is a bill that has come about to deal with results of years of police torture that has led to false confessions -- coerced confessions. Senate Bill 2737 creates the Civil Rights Act of 2006, which establishes a statutory cause of action for victims of coerced confessions or for those who are retaliated against for opposing or reporting coerced confessions. It clarifies a mental state of a defendant who would need to have -- who -- it -- it clarifies a mental state that a defendant would need to have when inflicting or threatening bodily harm, and also clarifies that in the case of a threat, there must be a threat of imminent bodily harm. And it increases the penalty for police misconduct that involves inflicting bodily harm. Finally, it also tolls the statute of limitations for prosecution of police misconduct aimed at obtaining a confession while the victim is incarcerated. And it also tolls the statute of limitation in civil actions where coercion of a confession has led to the prosecution of the plaintiff during the time that the plaintiff is incarcerated or until the time that a prosecution has been adjudicated in favor of the plaintiff. I ask for your support.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Madam President. The State's Attorneys Association has not logged in on this bill. And we heard it in the Judiciary Committee. This amendment, as -- as offered by Senator Raoul is fine, but I just wanted to let people know, we don't have really the official opinion of the State's attorneys, but I intend to vote Yes on this concurrence. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. Would the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR MILLNER:

I'm not -- I just read this now. Is -- what are we talking about, "coerced confessions"? I mean, how do we define that? I mean, obviously torture and things that -- what's a coerced confession? Is it one that the court would say that the confession isn't valid for whatever reason? All of a sudden it becomes coerced, now the officer's liable for criminal penalty?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Coerced confessions will -- will involve confessions that come about as the result of infliction of physical harm or the threat of imminent physical harm.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

So that would be, then, defined in the bill about either physical harm or threat of eminent {sic} physical harm. Is there anything about -- psychological coercion?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

No, there is not.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

So therefore, there's only two parts of the bill that talks about physical coercion and threats of -- of physical coercion?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

It's -- it's physical harm and threats of imminent bodily -- imminent bodily harm. That's it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Raoul, to close.

SENATOR RAOUL:

I ask for your support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2737. 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? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. -- House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2737, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HUNTER:

I rise because my button was stuck again, and I should have registered Yes on this -- on this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The record shall so reflect. Senator Harmon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. On both Senate Bill 1959 and Senate Bill 2674, I had intended to vote Yes, but I'd ask the record to reflect my intention.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The record shall so reflect. Mr. Secretary, Message from the Governor.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Message from the Governor, by Joseph B. Handley, Deputy

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Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs, dated November 30th, 2006.

Dear Mr. President - The Governor directs me to lay before the Senate the following Message:

To the Honorable Members of the Senate, 94th General Assembly - I have withdrawn the nomination of the following named person to the office enumerated below and respectfully ask the acknowledgement of this withdrawal to be officially reflected in the record of your Honorable Body.

Signed, Rod Blagojevich, Governor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now be proceeding to Resolutions Consent Calendar. We will now proceed to the Order of Resolutions Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body, all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

No objections have been 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. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries and the resolutions are adopted. Mr. Secretary, do you have any resolutions on file?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Yes, Madam President. Senate Resolution 939, offered by Senator Hunter.

(Secretary reads SR No. 939)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hunter moves the adoption of Resolution 939. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Excuse me, Ladies and Gentlemen. Regarding Senate Resolution 939, I need to add the fact that Senator Hunter moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 939. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Now, Senator Hunter moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 939. All those in favor will say

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Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senator DeLeo, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DeLEO:

Ladies and Gentlemen and -- Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I believe that concludes the business of the 94th General Assembly. Having said that, I move that the Senate stands adjourned and went Sine Die, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator DeLeo moves that the Senate adjourn Sine Die. All in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the Senate stands adjourned Sine Die.