

STATE OF ILLINOIS
96th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

1st Legislative Day

7/14/2009

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Senate will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? Will our guests please rise, in the galleries? The invocation today will be given by Reverend Martin Woulfe, Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Church {sic}, Springfield, Illinois. Reverend Woulfe.

THE REVEREND MARTIN WOULFE:

(Prayer by the Reverend Martin Woulfe)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Maloney. Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Jacobs)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

...Secretary, Communications from the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY ROCK:

I have a Message dated July 1st, 2009.

Dear Secretary Rock - Enclosed please find a copy of Proclamation No. 2009-219, filed in my office on July 1st, 2009, by the Legislative Leaders, calling for a Special Session of the 96th General Assembly, to begin at 2 o'clock p.m. on July 14th, 2009. A notice and accompanying Proclamations have been mailed today to each Member's office.

Sincerely, Jesse White, Secretary of State.

(Secretary reads Proclamation No. 2009-219)

Filed July 1st, 2009.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Senate of the 96th General Assembly is convened to a Second Special Session. Under the practice of this Body since -

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- since -- the 88th General Assembly, the rules adopted in the 96th General Assembly and its officers and committees are in effect for the continuous period of the 96th General Assembly, including any Special Session. There are three organizational resolutions that will be adopted today. These resolutions inform the House that the Senate is ready to conduct business, create a Senate Committee of five to await the Governor, and create a Senate Committee of three to approve Journals for the Senate for all the days of the Second Special Session. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution 1, offered by Senator Lightford.

(Secretary reads SR No. 1)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lightford moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate adoption of Senate Resolution 1. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Lightford now moves the adoption of Senate Resolution 1. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution 2, offered by Senator Lightford.

(Secretary reads SR No. 2)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lightford moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate adoption of Senate Resolution 2. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Lightford now moves the

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adoption of Senate Resolution 2. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution No. 3, offered by Senator Lightford.

(Secretary reads SR No. 3)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lightford moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate adoption of Senate Resolution No. 3. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Lightford now moves the adoption of Senate Resolution 3. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Dana Jay from WSIL seeks leave to videotape. Leave is granted? Leave is granted. Mike Melchiorre from ABC 20 seeks leave to videotape. Leave is granted? Leave is granted. Senator Dahl, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR DAHL:

Moment of personal privilege, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

State your point, Senator.

SENATOR DAHL:

Thank you, Mr. President. Behind me, here today, we have with us Jennifer and Shay Scheri, from Peru, several of my constituents that were -- here with us today to see the action in the State Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Will our guests please rise? Welcome them to the Illinois

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Senate, Senators. Welcome to the Senate. Senator Collins, for what purpose do you seek recognition, dear?

SENATOR COLLINS:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

State your point, Senator.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, my colleagues, I would like you to welcome my interns from Chicago today. They're aspiring public servants and I would like for you to meet Anthony Vega and Ashle Robinson. I'm very proud to have them working in my office and I would like for you to give them a warm welcome to the General Assembly.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Welcome. It's always great to have young people here in the Senate. Senator Jacobs, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR JACOBS:

Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

State your point, Senator.

SENATOR JACOBS:

I'd like to introduce my Page for a -- for a Day. I have Taylor Brobeck. And Taylor Brobeck is the daughter of Lisa Brobeck, who is a Secretary to Senator Frerichs. I'd like you to give her a warm Senate welcome.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Welcome. And you're working with two fine Senators in Frerichs and Jacobs. Will all

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Members under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? And after you come to the Senate Floor, we're going to stand at ease for a few moments.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Senate is back in Session. Matt Fortin from WCIA seeks leave to videotape. Leave is granted. Leave is granted. Senator Hutchinson, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR HUTCHINSON:

Thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. I am saddened..

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Excuse me, Senator. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, this is very important, dealing with one of our brave young people in the military. I demand quiet. Senator Hutchinson.

SENATOR HUTCHINSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'm saddened to report that a member of our Illinois Senate -- I mean - I'm sorry - Illinois National Guard was killed on July 7th in Afghanistan. His name was First Lieutenant Derwin Williams of Glenwood. Glenwood is a town that I actually share with Reverend Senator Meeks. He was killed in action on July 7th and he leaves behind his wife, Felicia Williams and his two stepdaughters and three children. I would ask for a moment of silence to honor this brave soldier.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Will the Members please rise in a moment of silence, and our guests in the galleries. (Moment of silence observed)

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Thank you. The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Senate is back in Session, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate and in the gallery and in the press box. Ladies and Gentlemen, if I could have your attention, please. Unfortunately -- unfortunately, we have to go to Senator John Jones for a point of personal privilege. Senator Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. Just a point of personal privilege. A couple weeks ago, a young soldier in -- in my district also lost his life over in Afghanistan. Twenty-three years old, Casey Hills. Governor Quinn did come down for the visitation and spoke to the family. But this young man, twenty-three years old, actually volunteered to go on the mission that he went on and -- and was killed on, because the person that he replaced, Casey replaced him so that he could take his test to become a U.S. citizen. That's the kind of young man that Casey Hills was. And so he volunteered to go on this mission and -- and lost his life so that other young soldier could become a U.S. citizen that was defending this country. So we owe an awful lot to our soldiers, men and women both, that are serving all over the world, but especially in Afghanistan and Iraq right now. And so if we could just have a moment of silence for Casey Hills and his family, I'd deeply appreciate it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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Will the Senate -- please rise, and our guests in the gallery, for a moment of silence for the loss of our brave young soldier. (Moment of silence observed) The Senate will stand at ease.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Senate is back in Session. As the Chief Operating Officer for the moment, I wanted to just take this privilege to thank Governor Quinn for signing the capital bill yesterday. Leader Radogno was there yesterday at the signing of the capital bill and did an outstanding job, as well as Leader Cross, and I know our President was returning. But it's a wonderful thing and maybe we can put some people back to work here in the State of Illinois. We appreciate the bipartisan cooperation on the capital bill and hopefully we can do the same going forward. President Cullerton, for what purpose do you seek recognition, my Leader?

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. I would also like to congratulate ourselves collectively for coming together and working on the capital bill. It, to me, symbolized the dysfunctionality in the last six years by not -- being able to put together an agreement. And even though we really didn't, as it turned out, need the votes of the minority party, we -- we -- we sought them out and we worked together to -- to get an agreement, and we're happy that the Governor finally did decide to sign that bill and we expect that we're

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going to start putting people back to work soon. Today we have come back into Session to work on a responsible budget that would maintain vital services. And we are making great progress. We had a meeting with the Legislative Leaders and the Governor. We are going to work together to stabilize our fiscal condition. This evening, the Legislative Leaders will meet again to finalize a plan to preserve those State services. And we look forward to taking action tomorrow. We are committed to working to resolve this budget crisis as quickly and as painlessly as possible. I expect that we will be coming back into Session at noon tomorrow and we will be voting tomorrow on a number of pieces of legislation to accomplish our goal. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Mr. President. There -- there being no further business to come before the Second Special Session, the Second Special Session of the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on Wednesday, July 15th, 2009. The Senate stands adjourned.