

STATE OF ILLINOIS
88TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

147th Legislative Day

November 16, 1994

PRESIDENT PHILIP:

The regular Session of the 88th General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks and will our guests in the gallery please rise. Our prayer today will be given by the Reverend Mrs. Jane Ferguson, Jerome Methodist Church, Springfield, Illinois. Reverend Ferguson.

THE REVEREND MRS. JANE FERGUSON:

(Prayer by the Reverend Mrs. Jane Ferguson)

PRESIDENT PHILIP:

Okay. We -- we have a request for WICS, WCIA, WAND to tape the proceedings. Is there leave? Leave is granted. The Reading of the Journal. Senator Butler.

SENATOR BUTLER:

Mr. President, I move that reading and approval of the Journals of Thursday, November 10th, and Tuesday, November 15th, in the year 1994, be postponed, pending arrival of the printed Journals.

PRESIDENT PHILIP:

Senator Butler moves to postpone the reading of the -- and the approval of the Journals, pending the arrival of the printed transcripts. There being no objection, so ordered. Resolutions.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Senate Resolutions 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915, all offered by Senator Ralph Dunn.

Senate Resolution 1916, by Senator Carroll.

Senator Trotter offers Senate Resolution 1917.

Senate Joint Resolution 196, offered by Senator Karpziel.

Senate Joint Resolution 197, by Senator Demuzio.

And Senate Joint Resolution 198, by Senator Stern.

They're all congratulatory resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT PHILIP:

Consent Calendar. Committee Reports. Messages from the

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House.

SECRETARY HARRY:

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

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has accepted the Governor's specific recommendations for change which are attached to a bill of the following title, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Bill 99.

Adopted by the House, November 15th, 1994.

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

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed a bill of the following title, the Governor's specific recommendations for change notwithstanding, in the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Bill 3457.

Passed the House, November 15th, 1994, by a three-fifths vote.

A Message from the House by Mr. Rossi, 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 1153, with House Amendment No. 13.

Passed the House, as amended, November 15th, 1994, by a three-fifths vote.

PRESIDENT PHILIP:

If I could have your attention, please. On page eight of today's Calendar is the Order of Secretary's Desk, Non-concurrences. On the Order is House Bill 282. Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I would ask the Body to, and I

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would make a motion to, refuse to recede from Senate Amendment No. 1 on House Bill 282.

PRESIDENT PHILIP:

Any discussion? If not, Senator Watson moves that the Senate refuse to recede from the adoption of Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 282 and that a conference committee be appointed. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the Secretary shall so inform the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

If I could have the attention of the Body, we're going to go to page nine - page nine - on today's Calendar, Motions in Writing, Override Total Vetoes. I'd like for the Members to be seated, and we are going to page nine, Motions in Writing, Override Total Vetoes. This will be a -- three-fifths majority needed. Thirty-six votes. And on page nine of the Calendar is the Order of Motions in Writing to Override a Total Veto of the Governor. Senator Topinka, on Senator 1369. Mr. Secretary, would you please read the motion?

SECRETARY HARRY:

I move that the -- Senate Bill 1369 do pass, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding.

Filed by Senator Topinka.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Topinka.

SENATOR TOPINKA:

Yes. Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, the total veto of 1369 -- probably the single biggest component of this bill, which has numerous components, is a property tax freeze - a levy freeze - at 1993 levels for senior citizens who are sixty-five years of age and older and making thirty-five thousand dollars or less. Now, I'd like to make it very clear that I

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understand the Governor's veto, and I understand his reasons why. I think we both move in the same basic direction, in terms of an attempt to get property tax reform. We're just coming at it slightly differently. So nobody should try and blow this override out of perspective or somehow feel that this is some kind of a major argument between us, because it is not. It is just a very gentle agreement to disagree. This particular bill is needed. I think we have created, when we voted on this in both Chambers with great, great numbers of voters, an implicit contract with the public acknowledging that senior citizens -- Mr. President, could I have some order in the Chamber, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Yes. I would agree completely. Let's -- this is a pretty important vote. There's many Members who want to speak. I think we should listen to the sponsor of this motion. And if our Members could be seated, I think it would be best for all of us. Let's have some order. Senator Topinka.

SENATOR TOPINKA:

Thank you, Mr. President. And maybe if I talk a little louder, it'll work better. But nevertheless, when we look at the problems that senior citizens on fixed incomes have, with an ever rising and disproportionate problem that we face in this State of an overreliance on property taxes, these folks just cannot keep up. What we do is put them at risk of either losing their homes, because they can't afford to keep them up, or not maintaining their homes. Because if it comes to a question of are they going to maintain them or pay their property tax, it's a major point of contention, or a major point of contention, can they afford to pay for property taxes or prescription drugs, which keep them going and not in hospitals at significantly more costs, or, you know, -- can they pay for their very food because they have to pay for property taxes. There is no question that we shift the burden to

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others who are in a better position to be able to handle this. But it is far cheaper to invest on the front-end than drive these senior citizens out of their homes, where their assets are fixed. They don't have access to the money that their property is worth until they sell it. It is not a cash flow situation for them. Do we indeed want to drive them out and ultimately have them use up whatever assets they have and drive them into the Medicaid system, which is significantly more costly? One way or another it is going to cost something. Better we do it preventively on the front-end and live up to the legislative intent that both Chambers very, very strongly put forward just a couple of months ago. The situation has not changed. The only thing that has changed is we had an intervening election. If the situation was the same before an election and we made these grandiose promises and we voted very strongly in favor of this bill and then proceeded to campaign on this bill, I think it would be absolutely a gross violation of this whole process to now back off and not move this bill forward in the way that it was intended. I certainly would be willing to ask any -- answer any questions. There are other components of this bill which we can discuss, but I don't wish to take up your time at this time unless somebody has a specific question about them.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Topinka has moved that Senate Bill 1369 do pass, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding. Is there any discussion? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Will the sponsor yield for some questions?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Yes. The sponsor says she will yield, Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

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Senator, we all know how we voted on this bill last time, and it's one that we thought was a good idea at the time - still may be a good idea under certain circumstances. But this is a mandate to local governments. It's my understanding that fourteen million dollars will be lost in education dollars alone. What, if anything, is our plan to make up those dollars? This is an unfunded mandate, and that goes without saying what the dollar costs may be for the local unit -- other units of local government.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Topinka.

SENATOR TOPINKA:

Yes. Senator Jacobs, it is not a mandate on local governments because you are looking at projected future revenue. No one knows the future. It's something that has not been calculated into anybody's mix, because it's not out there. It is designed for a very narrow sector of the population.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Well, you may be correct; it may not be a mandate because there is another side to this issue. And I think the Governor said it best in his veto message that these are dollars that are going to have to be made up by others in the community. It's going to be -- have to be made up by our middle class, our middle-age group. It's going to have to be made up by our very, very young, in order to be able to ensure that the dollars are -- are there for the schools. What are we doing to ensure that there's protection for those people also? Is this a prelude, if you will, to a future which says that property tax abatement should be abated entirely and gone to another method?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

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Senator Topinka. But before Senator Topinka responds, one more time, I think we owe the consideration to those people who are wanting to discuss the issue and to the sponsor. Let's give us -- let's give some attention to those people and the questions that are being asked. Can I ask for order one more time. Can we ask for some order. Senator Topinka.

SENATOR TOPINKA:

Well done, Mr. President. First of all, this does not discuss property tax abatement in any conceivable way, Senator Jacobs. Also, too, since this money is not -- is -- is future money - it is not in anybody's budget at this point, nor calculated into anybody's budget at this point - I think what you're suggesting is strictly making book on the future, and you really don't know how that will come out in terms of who this will ultimately affect and in terms of -- of any type of a makeup. I addressed that issue in my opening statement. There is no question in my mind that others will have to make up some of this differential. But they are in a better position to do so, and any taxing that we do in that state is based on that idea that we are moving things around and changing proportionate -- proportions. Taxation by its very nature is not necessarily one hundred percent fair or equal to all.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Well, Senator, I'm not sure if the very young working at less-than-adequate wages, trying to raise a family, are truly in a better position to pay for it, than what the senior citizens are. But that aside, I think it is a tax abatement, because we are saying in the future their taxes will not increase if they fall in this area. Next year is the quadrennial assessment and most taxes will be going up next year anyway. This bill, when passed, will

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stop that, I would assume, number one. But it's going to have to mean that -- in the quadrennial reassessment, that there will be a greater increase for the rest of the people of the State of Illinois to make up for those dollars that are lost in the future because of a property tax freeze.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Was that a question, Senator, or just a comment? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

It -- it was a comment, but...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Okay.

SENATOR JACOBS:

...but let -- let me just close if I will. I -- I'm with you, Senator. I'm probably going to vote on this, and I'm probably going to vote Aye, but I'll tell you, it's one that clearly shows -- I think whenever we had the election Tuesday -- which incidentally, congratulations, Senator, on your victory -- that the people told us, "Keep out of our lives." I think that's one thing that they're really telling us. So here's a case where on one hand, we're saying a segment of our population can get a future break, but the rest of the population is not going to get that break, so we are interfering with their lives. And I guess in -- in closing I would just say it's really a bill that's hard to vote on, which -- which -- which you had -- had truly indicated at the beginning. But now we can get social security at sixty-two. Why sixty-five instead of sixty-two? AARP says you can be a member of AARP -- you're a senior citizen at fifty. So, where do we really end up with this thing? Where is it going to end up? And I think the only true solution is to probably go with property tax relief for all by changing our method of taxation for all of the -- the State's business and the local governments' business. I think

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that's something that this -- this legislature should be about.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Hendon, further discussion.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President. I, too, rise in support of our illustrious Treasurer's motion to override. It -- there comes a time when we sincerely have to look out for our senior citizens with these property taxes. As Treasurer-elect Topinka said, they are the ones that have the hardest chance of -- of paying higher taxes, because most of our senior citizens are on a fixed income. I think this is a very good bill. I voted for it and cosponsored, matter of fact, when it came out originally. And I hope that all of us on both sides of the aisle get the message that the voters are clearly sending across this country that taxes are simply too high and we cannot continue to raise them, and in fact, we should give a tax break whenever possible. And I believe this particular bill -- as -- as Senator Topinka said, many of us campaigned on it, told the senior citizens that we were going to vote for it. We did, and now we must continue that with this vote for the override. And I rise in strong support of Senator Topinka's motion. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Berman.

SENATOR BERMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I rise in strong support of this motion to override. First let me point out -- let me point out that there is an item in this bill that relates to economic development. There is a provision in here to allow a new research park authority to issue State bonds. It will benefit research parks at the University of Illinois, at Southern Illinois...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

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Senator Berman. I -- I mean, I don't know what we have to do, Senator Berman, to -- to bring our Membership into some sort of order. If we have to ask people to leave the Floor, we'll do it. But I think the speakers and the sponsor have -- ought to have the courtesy of the Membership to listen to the discussion. This is an important vote. And if anybody's got a conference, take it off the Floor. Senator Berman, proceed.

SENATOR BERMAN:

Thank you. Mr. President. There is one item in this bill that I think is very important for everyone to note. It deals with an area of economic development that is moving very quickly forward, and the veto of this bill may bring that forward movement to a halt. I'm talking about the research park authority that is provided in this bill. It will give bonding support to research parks at the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University and Northwestern University. The research park located in Evanston, sponsored by Northwestern University, has had dramatic results in bringing new ideas, small business investment, small business encouragement, small business development that is the key to future development for jobs, for economic development in Illinois. And this is a proposal that is good business for Illinois. In addition, I just want to make a comment regarding the major portion that Senator Topinka has already related to. In my constituency - and I'm sure that it's reflective of all of yours - I have areas where seniors have lived in their homes for ten, twenty, thirty, forty years, and because of the increased value of those homes, they are being driven out of their homes because of increased property taxes generated by those increased assessments. Regrettably, to my seniors that fit into that category, they -- the increased value doesn't mean anything more to them. Their home is still just their home. And yet, they're being driven out by increased property taxes. Now, I'm not to say

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that there ought not to be other approaches to address other people's needs, but in this bill we are recognizing a great unfairness that we have allowed by underfunding of our schools from the State, from allowing property taxes to increase by local governments and by our local schools. The seniors are entitled to this relief. And we're talking about -- and I want to acknowledge again, as I did on 3rd Reading, the cooperation of Senator DeAngelis and our Revenue Committee staffs on both sides of the aisle that have defined the thirty-five-thousand-dollar threshold, so we're talking about honest dollars. This includes pension money. It includes -- government municipal tax revenues, all those other kinds of things that people may use to avoid taxes. All of that is covered here. So we're talking about a senior family over sixty-five years of age that has nothing more than real thirty-five-thousand-dollar income. They deserve some relief, and that's all this is is relief. It's not a tax cut. It freezes their assessment. They'll still see some increase because of local taxing increases, but not because of assessments. I urge an Aye vote on the override.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? The Associated Press has asked leave of the Body -- or, we -- ask leave of the Body so that the Associated Press can take photos. Do we have leave? Leave is granted. Senator Fawell, further discussion. Turn your light out then, Senator. Senator DeAngelis.

SENATOR DeANGELIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, on a point of personal privilege, I would like to introduce, in gallery on the left, a person who is tied for the best looking grandmother in my district - she's tied with my wife for that - Ann Brink. Ann, would you stand up and be recognized? And her granddaughter, Margaret Perry, who's serving with us today as a Page.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Well, we welcome them both to our Chamber and we appreciate their attentive manner in which they will, I'm sure, listen to this speaker.

SENATOR DeANGELIS:

I -- I would like to address a couple of the issues that are myths of this bill. First of all, I -- I am really stunned that there are people here talking about losses of revenue. My friends, this is a freeze of the current assessed valuation; it is not a reduction, and there is no loss of revenue. What there might be is a diminution of some increases, and at best probably a minimal amount. Secondly, there's a discussion on the -- this significant shifting. Let me just tell you: If there's a unit of government that is at max rate and there's a substantial increase in the assessed valuation, there is no shifting when they levy because you can't raise the rate any higher than the max rate. Now, let me advise those of you who are in Cook County: There are only school -- two school districts in Cook County that are not at max rate, and one of them is in Skokie, which is nine cents under their max rate, and the other one is in Stickney, which is eleven cents under their max rate. So let's cut out the myth about shifting. In addition to that, what has been lost in this also is the fact that if a senior citizen, like my mother, is forced to move out of their house, the likelihood is that a person with children will move in, which is an additional expense to the school district. But also what's not mentioned is that when you freeze the assessed valuation, the school districts whose assessed valuation has been frozen, in these instances, is eligible for more State aid because they have less EAV behind every student. But, you know, in closing, let me make one mention for those of you who may not be aware: 1990 Census produced one very startling result. It was the first time in the history of the State of

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Illinois that the percentage of home ownership decreased. And let me just tell you where the percentage decreased: It was in the senior population. I urge support for the override of Senate Bill 1369.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Maitland.

SENATOR MAITLAND:

Thank you very much, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. This is cruel and deceiving property tax relief for seniors. As the Chicago Tribune stated in one of its editorials, it's a poor excuse for a tax break. I don't, in any way, shape or form, criticize those who purport to help senior citizens, because they are truly trying to do something. We have failed for 10 these many years to address the rapidly escalating taxes on all sectors in this State, and we have failed - failed - miserably. My concern, my fellow Senators, is this: If you go back, as some of us do, when we froze the homestead exemptions at -- at -- at 1979 levels, as we then brought on the senior citizens' exemption, it got us off the hook. Look what we've done for seniors. Look what we've done for homeowners in this State. And it allowed us to step aside from the real problem that we have in this State: shifting the burden of funding education to the property owners. And that is wrong. Senator Berman, I have given your speech all across this State. Very same speech. Senior citizens buy their home thirty-five years ago for twenty thousand dollars and a tax rate of a dollar, and today on a fixed income and a house with a value of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars and a five- or six-dollar tax rate, and they are now on a fixed income. That is terribly wrong. But this doesn't right that wrong, and don't be deceived by it. Let's treat our senior citizens fairly and let's address the problem accurately and properly. We can do that. But let's don't sent this wrong signal; let's don't eliminate the goal

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that we all have in mind: to address real property tax relief in this State. And I urge defeat of the motion.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Shaw.

SENATOR SHAW:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise in support of Senate Bill 1369, because I think a few days ago that we all was talking about big government and government -- too much government, and I think that what this bill does is take government's hands out of the pockets of the senior citizens and leave their purse closed. And out of the twelve years serving in this Body, I think this is one of the finest pieces of legislation that have ever come forth, because we have to do something for our senior population. Those people are suffering. Taxes are steadily going up, but their paycheck who -- those who are on fixed income, don't go up at the same rate that tax structure go up -- the real estate tax structure go up. So I want to commend the sponsor of this legislation for putting this forth, and certainly I urge a Aye vote on this legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Woodyard, what -- for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR WOODYARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. I apologize for interrupting in the middle of a debate today on a very important override. But on a point of personal privilege, I would like to introduce to you, from the gallery -- I would have preferred doing this here from the podium, but in my district the Casey-Westfield girls' champion softball team, junior high, is in the gallery, and I would like the Senate to extend a very warm welcome to them.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Would our guests please rise, or raise your hand maybe?

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Welcome to Springfield, and congratulations. Further discussion?
Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I don't know about some of my colleagues, but I have loads of senior citizens in my district who have been forced to sell their homes because they couldn't afford the taxes. All this bill does is freeze the property taxes at present time, and I think we have to try it, because by the time we give some real property tax relief, it'll be awhile before we get our gears in -- going and getting it done here. I think the bill should be tried because there is no way to accurately predict the future increase in assessed value of residential parcels owned by senior citizens with household income of thirty-five thousand dollars or less. And I think we should at least give it a try. I am in favor of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senator Topinka, I clearly have a great deal of sympathy for senior citizens who may benefit from this particular bill, but this is the first major vote that this Body is going to make after last Tuesday's election. And I think we learned one thing in last Tuesday's election, and that's that the populace of this State said they don't like bills that are omnibus bills; they want us to make tough choices, and they want us to take a comprehensive look at the tax structure of the State of Illinois. And the first major bill that we address as the State Senate after last Tuesday's election is an omnibus bill. It's a bill that is much more complex than just giving tax relief to senior citizens. And I think if there was one thing that both Mrs. Netsch and Governor Edgar agreed with, it was this particular veto of this particular

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bill, in the fact that this is a major tax shift to other segments of our population. When I was going door to door about two weeks ago in my election, through Downers Grove, Illinois, I came upon a -- a working man who was forty-five years old, and he said to me, "What are you going to do with a senior citizen's property tax bill that -- that the Governor vetoed this summer?" And I told him that I did not know what I was going to do, and that was the case. And he said, "Hey, I got two kids. I make forty-five thousand dollars a year. I'm scrapping for everything I can get, and I want to show you the house three doors away. Those people over there make about twenty thousand dollars a year, but they're senior citizens. But their mortgage is done with. They have a Winnebago trailer; and they live better than me, and I got two kids, including one that's going to go to college in a year or two. And all you're doing is moving their burden onto me." And that argument, to me, is compelling. And -- and, Senator Topinka, I commend you. You've been a champion all of these years for property tax relief, especially senior citizens, but I believe we need to take a more comprehensive look next spring, with your help as the State Treasurer, and not move a piece of Jell-O around to other pieces of the pie, where we have middle age - people my age - and others who have children in school, children in college, and all we're doing is shifting that burden. And just to close, I happen, and I'm very fortunate, to represent a property rich -- or property tax-rich district. But I guess it astonishes me that -- that some of you, especially those on the other side of the aisle who stand up in support of this, would be for this, because all of -- all this really does is exacerbate the problem between those school districts that are the haves and the have-nots. And that's not necessarily a problem for my district, but I guess I'm just astonished; that this exacerbates the problem of those poorer districts - poorer in terms of property tax wealth - and that they

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would be for a support of this override motion. I wish that we would not have this quandary. I believe that this is something that needs to get taken with a bigger, comprehensive, overall look. But I clearly think that this is not the way to go and oppose this override motion.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Fawell.

SENATOR FAWELL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I have been debating to myself whether I should stand up and admit something that perhaps a few of you may not know. And that is, I am a senior citizen. By law, I am a senior citizen. And this is a lousy bill. And I will tell you why it is a bad bill and why a lot of us senior citizens think it is a bad bill, and it's very close to what Senator Jacobs said. I have children. I have grandchildren, as most seniors do. I happen to be supporting four people on this magnificent salary that we have. I happen to pay almost seven thousand dollars in real estate taxes. So if anybody is quote "poor", I should be among them. But this is still a bad bill. I still have a mortgage to pay, but hopefully by the time I get out of here, maybe I will be close to having it through. I put my children through college. I don't have that expense anymore; my children do. My grandchildren need an education. My grandchildren must be put through college. My grandchildren must have a home to live in, and my children must support them. Somebody helped my children out when my children were going to school, and it is now my turn to help my grandchildren out. Thirty-five thousand dollars is way too high. Perhaps we should raise the amount for the circuit breaker, but not to thirty-five thousand. I can do it. There's -- lots of us that are senior citizens can do it, and have been doing it. This is a bad bill. I think if seniors take a good look at it, they're going to

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understand why some of us feel very strongly that we don't want to leave this burden to our children, and therefore are going to vote No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

First I'd like to congratulate the sponsor of the motion for an exceptional win in the election, and I'd also like to thank Senator DeAngelis for one of his patented explanations of the Property Tax Code that again left me thoroughly confused. But -- but I would like to rise and ask the Members of this Body to think carefully before they cast a vote on this bill. If we can be frank and honest - and if last Tuesday didn't tell us that that's what the voters want - if we can be frank and honest with ourselves and take a look at this bill, what we're -- what we're about to do is vote on a short title, not on a good piece of legislation. There aren't a handfull of people in this Chamber who think this is good legislation, but we're afraid of the short title. If last Tuesday didn't tell us that -- that the public wants change, that the public wants reform, that the public is tired of -- of pork stuffed inside short-titled bills, then what message was last Tuesday? Last Tuesday was the largest electoral turnover in the history of the United States, and the first action we take should not be to advance a flawed, omnibus bill which includes an industrial park financing in it that doesn't belong there. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Karpriel.

SENATOR KARPIEL:

Well, thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. I also rise in opposition to this, for two reasons. The first one has to do with the -- what we call the property tax relief in this

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bill. First of all, I am opposed to it because it does, in fact, shift the burden to other taxpayers. I have many taxpayers in my district who perhaps jointly - between both spouses - make thirty-five thousand or -- or not even that, in working two jobs. They are raising children, trying to pay high property taxes, trying to live the good life, and finding it very difficult to do so. This will shift. This is a mandated tax increase for those taxpayers. And on that basis, I oppose it. I also oppose it -- and I'm surprised at the Chairman of the Revenue Committee and another Member of the Revenue Committee over there espousing this bill, when we've been having hearings around the State on changing the Tax Code in Illinois and coming up with, perhaps, a different mix, a different kind of Tax -- Tax Code. And we're doing nothing here but another -- another Band-Aid, another just something that sounds good, instead of really getting at the kind of reform that we need in our Tax Code. I also stand in opposition to it on the basis of another portion of the bill which has been hardly mentioned. We are creating another bonding authority in this bill. We fought over creating bonding -- different bonding authorities on many different issues in many different bills last year. And here we are without even any kind of information, without any kind of debate, we're again raising the bonding authority of the State of Illinois and creating another authority to do it. I would urge a No vote on this ill-conceived piece of legislation - a No vote on this motion to override.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Mr. President, on a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

State your point.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

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I, too, like Senator Fawell, have a conflict. I'm a senior citizen. However, I am going to vote my conscience and the needs of my district.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. -- thank you Mr. Chairman. Naturally, anyone listening to the debate today knows that there are very good arguments on both sides of the issue. And it is regrettable that the bonding capacity has been added to this bill, because certainly those two things don't go together. But as long as we're going to interpret election results, I think that what -- what -- last Tuesday demonstrated that when politicians make a commitment to the voters, you keep it. Everyone in this room had a chance to vote on this a couple of months ago. The final vote was 56 Yeses, 2 Noes, 1 Present. I think that what the voters want is some consistency. For all of us and for -- who want to interpret those results, and all of you in this room who voted Yes before an election, and then many of you who ran on that platform, need to vote Yes after the judgment day is over. So, for all fifty-six people who voted Yes, I think that you owe it to the voters after the election to be consistent in your vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

I see no further discussion. Senator Topinka, you had to literally scream your opening remarks. I hope that the Members will listen to your closing marks, and we will proceed with the roll call. Senator Topinka, to close.

SENATOR TOPINKA:

Yes. Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of -- of the Senate, I think we've had a very good debate on this. And in -- in listening to Senator Dillard, and I appreciate what he has to say, that indeed this legislative Body is designed to make tough

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choices, and certainly the first bill out of the box in this Veto Session after this election, as I interpret election results, is make those tough choices, be consistent, promises made are promises to be kept. What do we hear on the federal level? Bill Clinton promised a middle-class tax decrease. And what do we get? Nothing. And a whole list of other follow-up promises made that weren't delivered. I don't think we can afford to do that. The public has said, you know, "Make these choices; get out of our lives. Let us stay in our homes. Don't forcibly make us compete to have to live by -- by fighting against this limited amount of money that we have for food, for housing, for prescription drugs, for the ability to maintain our properties. Just leave us stay -- let us stay in the neighborhoods where we grew up, where we raised our children, where we contributed countless hours of civic activities, where we are and were a part of what went on here. Don't price us out of the market, which is what you're doing." Nothing has changed in this bill from a month ago. The people are the same; the high property taxes are the same; the whacked-out tax policy of this State is still the same. Nothing has changed, except an election. I don't think that's enough to change the votes in this Senate. A promise made is a promise that has to be lived up to. And I think our promise and our contract with the public is very strong on this bill. I would ask for a very positive roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

The question is, shall Senate Bill 1369 pass, the veto of the Governor contrary notwithstanding. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting will be open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 50 voting Yes, 8 voting No, no voting Present. Senate Bill 1369, having received the required three-fifths vote, is declared passed, the veto of the

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Governor to the contrary notwithstanding. Senator Hendon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HENDON:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

State your point, Senator.

SENATOR HENDON:

Yesterday, Mr. President, I intended to vote Aye on Senate Bills 357, 1200 and 1726. I would appreciate it if you would allow the record to reflect that. And also...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Yes, certainly.

SENATOR HENDON:

Also, Mr. President, if I could very briefly -- if I could -- could we get a little -- just a little order?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Well, once again, we've got to ask our Membership for order. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

And, everyone, I'll be -- I promise I will be very, very brief. But there is a -- a holiday coming up and I placed on everyone's desk a letter from me making a personal appeal for food and toys for the poor children in my district. This is the eighth year that I've had a food giveaway and -- a food and toy giveaway for Christmas. And we have over two thousand people on our list, and we don't have enough food for but a -- slightly over a thousand people. So I'm making a personal appeal to the Members of the caucus - especially those that are better well-off, like Peter Fitzgerald and Chris Lauzen, my good friends see if they can find it in the kindness of their heart to come up with some nonperishable goods for the people in our district. And come on down, Peter, so they can meet you, and, Chris, since you may be a

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senatorial candidate, and see if you can find a few friends over there on the west side. And I thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Demuzio, to explain how well off he is. Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

I -- unfortunately, I didn't hear a thing about it. Mr. President, if I might, I do have, in fact, a -- an inquiry to make of the Chair. And the inquiry of the Chair that I might pose to you is that most of our Members over here would like to know what the schedule will be now for the remainder of the day, and most importantly, we would like to know what the schedule is for tomorrow, particularly in lieu of the fact that we have little or nothing left to do.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

We have a few more matters, Senator, before the Body today, and we will come in tomorrow at 9 a.m. We will now proceed to -- on page -- Senator Demuzio?

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Might I inquire, Mr. President, as to what we will be doing tomorrow then, if we have all these important issues that we're going -- going to take care of this afternoon? What -- what important issues are left for tomorrow?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

The -- many of the Messages will be coming over from the House. I'm sure we'll have a Calendar, and there will be Session at 9 a.m. tomorrow. Senator Demuzio, for the last time.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Well, Mr. President, for the last time forever, or for the last time on this issue? Thank you, Mr. President. Then might I inquire as to why we're not in perfunctory tomorrow then, just allowing those Messages to be read in, and those Messages to be

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put upon the Calendar, and we will handle those when we come back? I don't know what the purpose is for us to be here tomorrow. I guess that's what I'm asking, because we can handle those matters with some dispatch and we could do those on a perfunctory basis.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Well, I appreciate your concern and we will now proceed to page seven on the Calendar. Senator Palmer. On Secretary's Desk, Concurrence, Senate Bills, Senate Bill -- pardon me, Senate Bill 1454. Senator Palmer. Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HARRY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1454.

Filed by Senator Palmer.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Palmer.

SENATOR PALMER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move to concur. Mr. President, it's LRB's advisory <sic> bill. There's nothing, just technical changes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Is there any discussion at all? This is final action. Senator Palmer, maybe if you could explain this a little further.

SENATOR PALMER:

All that it does is to insert the combining provisions of Article II and the technical provisions of Article III. It's just a technical change. It's the annual LRB advisory <sic>.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Well, this is final action. And the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1454. Those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting

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Yes, no voting No, no voting Present. Senate Bill 1454 -- the Senate does concur in the House Amendments No. 1 to Senate Bill 1454, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Will -- the Membership will be advised we are now going to page three. On page three is the Order of House Bills 3rd Reading. On that Order is House Bill 1124. Senator Weaver, do you wish this bill to be returned to 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment? Senator Weaver. Senator...

SENATOR WEAVER:

I would ask leave to bring it back to 2nd Reading for the purpose of an amendment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Weaver seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 1124 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. On that Order -- on the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 1124. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Weaver.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Weaver, to explain your amendment.

SENATOR WEAVER:

Thank you, Mr. President. This is a conveyance of two-thirds of an acre in Douglas County to the -- from the Department of Conservation to the Monahan Company, and for the amount of seven thousand eight hundred dollars. All parties have agreed. The appraisal has been made, and I'd move for its adoption.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for

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consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

3rd Reading. Senator Weaver, on the Order of 3rd Reading we have House Bill 1124. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HARRY:

House Bill 1124.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Weaver.

SENATOR WEAVER:

Thank you, Mr. President. There is nothing other than this one amendment on House Bill 1124, and I'd move its -- your favorable consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall House Bill 1124 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Yes, no voting No, no voting Present. House Bill 1124, having received the required three-fifths majority, is declared passed. Is there any further business to come before the Senate? If not, Senator Weaver moves that the Senate stands adjourned until 9 a.m., Thursday, November 17th.

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