ALBANY, NEW YORK

January 4, 1995

12:02 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

LT. GOVERNOR BETSY McCAUGHEY, President

STEPHEN F. SLOAN, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will come to order. All members please take their seats.

I'd like to ask everyone present to rise and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance with me.

(The assemblage repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. )

Please be seated.

The invocation today will be given by the Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. Father Hubbard.

REVEREND HOWARD J. HUBBARD: Let us pray.

O faithful and eternal God, the coming of a new year startles and challenges us and calls us to renew our hopes for and our efforts toward a more just and peaceful world, both nearby and elsewhere. In that spirit of renewed hope, we pray Your blessing, O God, upon all who are gathered here for the opening of the

1995 session of the New York State Senate.

In this new year of our state government, there are a number of changes, including those in leadership. What is unchanged, however, is that the men and women who represent us in New York State government are setting out together on a common mission, the service of the dignity, the needs and the aspirations of the people of our Empire State.

O caring God, You have endowed our leaders with varying gifts such as wisdom, compassion, imagination, foresight and a saving sense of humor. Bless, we pray, O God, the gifts that our new Governor, Lieutenant Governor and each legislator bring to the public service of our people. Bless our leaders and enable them to pool their very gifts and to channel their efforts and energies to address courageously the issues and the serious concerns of so many people including those who are unemployed or who suffer the severe plight of homelessness, hunger, drug and substance abuse, violence and affliction in so many forms. May

the efforts of the Senate this year help to bring about an improved business and economic climate, greater educational opportunities, more accessible and affordable health care, lower rates of crime and violence and compassionate concern for the poor and needy, especially the vulnerable young and elderly. For all this, we pray, O caring God of all people in the praise of Your sacred name. You Who live and reign both now and forever and ever. Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: Amen.

Thank you, Bishop Hubbard.

The Chair now hands down a message from the state Board of Elections, being the official certification of the duly elected members of the Senate and direct that the same be filed. So ordered.

I'd like to ask if there are any Senators present who have not taken their oaths of office.

Would you please come forward? This gives me great pleasure because this is one of my college classmates.

Would you please introduce yourself, introduce yourself, Catherine?

SENATOR ABATE: Yes. My name is Catherine Abate, duly elected from the 27th Senatorial District.

THE PRESIDENT: Vassar class of '69.

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

(Catherine M. Abate was sworn as a duly elected Senator of the state of New York. )

Congratulations, Catherine.

(Applause)

Senator Daly, it gives me great pleasure to administer the oath of office to you now. Please raise your right hand.

(Senator John B. Daly was sworn as a duly elected Senator of the state of New York. )

Congratulations.

(Applause)

The Secretary will call the roll

to constitute a quorum.

Oh, excuse me. Latecomers. Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, welcome. Would you please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

(Senator Suzi Oppenheimer was sworn as a duly elected Senator of the state of New York. )

Congratulations.

(Applause)

SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: And Senator Olga Mendez, would you please raise your right hand. Repeat after me.

(Senator Olga Mendez was sworn as a duly elected Senator of the state of New York. )

Congratulations.

Have we completed this business? The Secretary will call the roll to constitute a quorum.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Abate.

SENATOR ABATE: Here.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Babbush.
SENATOR BABBUSH: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Bruno.
SENATOR BRUNO: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Connor.
SENATOR CONNOR: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Cook.
SENATOR COOK: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Daly.
SENATOR DALY: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator DeFrancisco.
SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator DiCarlo.
SENATOR DiCARLO: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Dollinger.
SENATOR DOLLINGER: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Espada.
SENATOR ESPADA: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Farley.
Senator Galiber.
Senator Gold.

SENATOR GOLD: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Gonzalez.
SENATOR GONZALEZ: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Goodman.
SENATOR GOODMAN: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Hannon.
SENATOR HANNON: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Hoblock.
SENATOR HOBLOCK: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Hoffmann.
SENATOR HOFFMANN: Present.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Holland.
SENATOR HOLLAND: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Johnson.
SENATOR JOHNSON: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Jones.
SENATOR JONES: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Kruger.
SENATOR KRUGER: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Kuhl.
SENATOR KUHL: Here.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Lack.
SENATOR LACK: Present.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Larkin.
SENATOR LARKIN: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator LaValle.
SENATOR LAVALLE: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Leibell.
SENATOR LEIBELL: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Leichter.
SENATOR LEICHTER: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Levy.
SENATOR LEVY: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Libous.
SENATOR LIBOUS: Present.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Maltese.
SENATOR MALTESE: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Marchi.
SENATOR MARCHI: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Marino.
Senator Markowitz.
SENATOR MARKOWITZ: Here.
THE SECRETARY: Senator Mendez.

SENATOR MENDEZ: Here.

THE PRESIDENT: A quorum is present.

The opening day of a session is always a new beginning. It offers the promise of a fresh start, new hopes and goals, this year even more so. This is the dawn of a new era. The people of New York State have sent a clear message that they wanted a government that listens and works, and I know that all of you join me in the commitment to make this one of the most productive sessions ever.

This year, for the first time since Governor Myron Clark in 1855, our new Governor, George Pataki, is a former member of the Legislature. Every member of this house can take pride in this, and in a few moments we're going to have a new Majority Leader, Senator Joseph Bruno, someone of experience and skill, someone who understands where the people of New York want their state to go. Senator Bruno can help move us in that direction. He will be a great Majority Leader, and he's a great friend.

I would also like to welcome and congratulate Senator Martin Connor as the new Minority Leader. Senator Connor, I look forward to working with you. The year to come is going to be an exciting one with many challenges ahead. I'm confident that we will all join together to meet those challenges on behalf of the people of the state of New York.

The Chair now hands down a communication from the Governor. The Secretary will read it, please.

THE SECRETARY: Dear Madam President: I would appreciate the privilege of appearing before your honorable bodies in joint session on Wednesday, January 4th, 1995 at 1:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be convenient, to deliver personally my annual message to the Legislature.

THE PRESIDENT: This should be filed in the Journal.

SENATOR STAFFORD: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Senator

Stafford.

SENATOR STAFFORD: Thank you, Madam President.

I hand up Senate Resolution Number 1 and ask that it be read.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read it, please.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution Number 1, by Senator Stafford: RESOLVED that Senator Joseph L. Bruno be and he hereby is elected Temporary President of the Senate for the years 1995-1996.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Olga Mendez.

SENATOR MENDEZ: Madam President, I rise today to nominate my colleague, Senate Minority Leader Martin Connor, for the post of Temporary President of the Senate.

I have known and worked with Senator Connor for many years and he is uniquely qualified to lead this body into a new era of openness and accountability.

As the leader of our Conference

Marty Connor represents change as a new generation of leaders emerges in our state at a time when the public has clearly voiced dissatisfaction with the way New York State operates, demanding a leaner, more responsive government. Marty Connor is a perfect candidate to lead the charge in the Senate. He believes people should know how their tax dollars are spent and whether they're getting their money's worth. He believes important government decisions should be made in the open, in daylight with full public participation. He believes it's time for a real change in the way we do business in the Senate, one who will uphold and honor the principle of government of, by and for the people.

We anticipate that many of the changes will come to fruition in this session. Since Marty has spoken out for these changes for so long, we Democrats believe he should be the best choice to lead the Senate in implementing them.

Marty Connor understands the real

concerns of the people we all represent, and Marty Connor has worked the night shift on a factory production line and has known life on a loading dock as well as in the fancier places on Wall Street. His background testifies to the commitment to the working men and women in our diverse state. He knows the value of a job. He knows how painful it is when those jobs aren't available, and the difference that compassionate -- compassionate, intelligent and effective government policy can make to people who need a hand up on the road to success.

Marty Connor knows that we must find a delicate balance between providing the tax relief that New Yorkers so desperately need and providing the services that so many of our elderly, our children and other vulnerable members of our society must have to survive.

For all of these reasons and many more, I urge my Senate colleagues to join with me in supporting Senate Democratic leader Marty Connor for Temporary President. In doing so, you will be voting for a real change in the

Senate.

Madam President, I move the substitute resolution. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read the resolution. Please.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution, by Senator Mendez, providing for the election of Martin Connor as Temporary President of the Senate for the years 1995-1996.

THE PRESIDENT: On the substitute resolution offered by Senator Mendez, all those in favor aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Those opposed nay.

(Response of "Nay.")

The nays have it. The resolution is defeated.

(Applause)

On the resolution, Senator Stafford, proceed, please. Senator Stafford is recognized.

SENATOR STAFFORD: Thank you, Madam President.

Your Excellency, Bishop Hubbard, members and friends of Senator Bruno all: It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me today to rise and support Resolution Number 1 electing Joe Bruno Temporary President of the New York State Senate for years 1995-96.

Madam President, I'm sure that you will be welcomed -- welcomed much more eloquently by our new Majority Leader but, in recognizing me, I would be remiss if I did not say that we welcome you and we're pleased to have you with us.

Madam President, we often use humor when we're dealing with each other in conducting business here in the Senate. Sometimes I do to a fault, but today I ask you to be serious with me for a few moments while I speak on Resolution Number 1 that has been handed up.

The voters spoke last fall and there was a message and a mandate, and I suggest there's no better Senator to carry out this mandate as our leader here in the Senate than

Joseph L. Bruno. Majority Leader Bruno and Governor Pataki will be working together as partners leading us in responding to the message and to this mandate delivered on November 8th.

Madam President, Senator Bruno knows what it's like to work. He was raised in a working family. Joe's father, Vitaliano, earned his living by the sweat of his brow and he was proud to do so right here in New York State.

At an early age, Joe Bruno developed what de Tocqueville called "the habit" -- "the habit of taking responsibility for one's actions. If the people of a democracy lack this habit," de Tocqueville said, "self government is impossible, for without it they will look to others and not to themselves for the solution to the problems besetting us."

This is why Joe Bruno will be such a valuable partner to our Governor and will be helping again, as I've mentioned, the Governor in expanding opportunities throughout our state so that others can do what Joe Bruno

and George Pataki have done. Indeed, electing Senator Bruno is the best way we can support the Governor in implementing the changes that will restore our New York State to its former greatness.

By now, most New Yorkers are familiar with the Joe Bruno story. Tragically, his mother, Catherine Rachel, affectionately known as "Kate", died at an early age of 44 and left eight children. Older Bruno siblings helped and guided Joe as he helped his younger brothers and sisters as they were growing up. Joe learned at an early age what it means to work, whether it was selling newspapers or working on an ice truck. He knew what it was like or what it is like at a young age to work, to take money home to help support his family.

Senator Bruno has always been most active in his church, his community, his government and civic organizations. Among his many accomplishments was the founding of a company that he took public and was most successful. As in everything he does, he was a

tireless worker, indefatigable.

On a lighter note, I would say no one can keep up to Joe Bruno and if you don't, he'll remind you that you're not. But I also know what an excellent chief executive officer he was, because I served on his board of directors.

After serving as chief of staff to the Speaker of the Assembly and Republican - and Rensselaer County Republican chairman, Senator Bruno ran for Senate -- for the Senate and he was elected in 1976.

Madam President, all I'm trying to say here today is summed up in the point I'm about to make, and in my mind is the most important of what I say here today. When Senator Bruno came here to the Senate, he was a bit older. He was mature. He had been successful in business, government, and in the proverbial political fray. He had established his values. He had defined his own parameters. He knew what he believed in, what government should do and more importantly what government

should not do.

He had a presence about where he -- about where he was in life. He stood for something and he never waivered. Many times he has taken less than the easy road. He stood up when he felt he had to.

We will see changes right here in our procedure. You'll be interested to know that Senator Bruno earned his college degree in night school. He does not like night sessions. (Laughter)

And, Madam President, I would like to share with you another quality which makes Joe the fine leader that he is. He will listen; he will discuss. There'll be no limit on the time whether in a meeting or on the floor. He will talk the issues out and, Madam President, he will make a decision and, as you know, when it is necessary, he never hesitates to speak his mind.

As the great poet Dante wrote about those who maintain neutrality in great struggles: Quote, "Those who were loathe when

living to be either blamed or praised," close quote, suggesting they deserve worse than the lowest depths.

Madam President, Senator Joe Bruno has never been neutral in a struggle.

Madam President, I move the resolution.

THE PRESIDENT: On the resolution nominating Senator Bruno as the Temporary President of the Senate, all those in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Opposed nay.

(There was no response. )

The ayes have it. Senator Joseph L. Bruno is the duly elected Temporary President of the Senate for the years 1995 to 1996.

(Applause)

Senator Bruno, please stand and be sworn in as the Temporary President of the Senate. Raise your right hand.

(Senator Joseph L. Bruno was sworn as the duly elected Temporary President of

the New York State Senate. )

Congratulations.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: To Senator Stafford, I'd like to say a very heartfelt thank you. Ron and I, for many of you who don't know, go back almost an adult lifetime. I think I supported him when he was my Senator when I lived in Warren County, and the first time I ever entered this chamber, it was as, I believe, president of the New York State Young Republicans, and I stood there to greet Ron and he and I visited, and I remember looking around this room and thinking what an elegant dignified chamber this was, and I was awed by the things that Ron was doing and that the people in this room did, and I never, ever forgot that thought and I don't think I've ever shared this with you. That was the first time I'd ever stepped into this chamber and Ron was as hospitable as he was gracious with your remarks here, and I thank you, Ron, for your friendship for all of that.

And to our Lieutenant Governor, I bid you a very, very warm welcome and thank you for your kind words and let me tell you that I was as pleased as I could be with your very first motion in banging that gavel with great authority, and I also am so pleased that your hearing is so astute in terms of the elections that take place in this chamber. You are going to do great, and you are going to be the great Lieutenant Governor that all of us, when we voted for you, thought you would be. So we look forward to working together with you in this chamber.

And Bishop Hubbard, thank you for being here and for the prayers that we all so desperately need.

And Marty, Marty -- I can only tell you that, Olga, I've never heard you as eloquent, let me tell you, but I wanted to say, Marty, that I look forward to working with you and your colleagues and our colleagues on this side of the aisle because we have one objective this year and that is to serve the people of

this great state of ours and that objective, we share together on both sides of the aisle.

When you think in terms of what goes on in your life, and I've thought about this for some hours and days and a lot of things go through your mind and what comes to my mind really over and over again is thank you and, by the way, I want to wish everyone in this room a belated Happy Thanksgiving.

(Applause)

Thanksgiving at my house was just a little bit different this year than it has been in the past, but I want to thank my family and they're here, wife and children, Kenny and Sue, and Kate sitting up there on the stairs and my granddaughter Rachel. Hi, Rachel! My wife Bobbie, who had a day of disruption and about 20 minutes of nice turkey dinner.

My brothers, all five, and my two sisters are here, and I very much appreciate that because they come from Virginia and New Jersey and other parts of this state. I really appreciate their being here. My sisters Rose

and Florence and my brother Pete, my big brother Pete up here in the front, and Anthony and Bob and Arthur and Vito. And who did I forget?

Thank you very, very much for being here. My family has been very, very supportive in my life, and I really have to say thank you because there are times when all of us know this, our work, they do without us and they help us just by the support they give us by allowing us to do what we do for the people that we represent. So thank you.

Lot of friends in this room, really great friends who have helped me in my life, and it's very difficult to talk about individuals, and it really is difficult but there are people here, you know who you are and I know who you are and others know who you are who just have helped me throughout my life politically and personally, and I really thank you for that.

There's one gentleman here that was my town chairman when I moved into Rensselaer County and he encouraged me to get

into politics in an elected way when I had moved into Rensselaer to really concentrate on my business, and he would not take no for an answer, and he personifies the support that I've had from colleagues and from friends, and he is here with me today, and he really personifies all of the support and friends that I've had and I just wanted to acknowledge him by name. He is 93 years young, A. Frank Bentley.

(Applause)

I want to officially say a word of welcome to my good friend, Senator Hoblock, and Vinnie Leibell and Senator Abate, and we welcome you to this chamber and we look forward to working with you on behalf of your constituency and our constituency. Thank you for being here with us.

I can continue to say thank you because in my life I have a lot to be thankful for, and I really could go on and on, and I can't go much further without just saying I also have to thank the good Lord for the blessings that he has given me in my life, and many of you

have an awful lot goin' for you. I can tell you that I've had very little going for me, so I needed special support, and I got that special support from my mom and dad, and if my pop and mom could be here they'd be proud because with eight children, and Ron said it right, my dad was a laborer, never learned to read or write. We never had a car. Never learned to drive, worked as many as three jobs to feed the family.

But you know what my father taught me? To be proud to earn a living and to work for what you get. Wouldn't take anything from anyone, supported eight children with a wife and a mother that was sick from the time she was 33 years old. She had thirty -- seven major operations in those years with eight children, and I remember my dad going and coming from work, but I never, ever saw him under the influence of alcohol, and there was enough going on in his life that it took a pretty, pretty strong man to handle himself the way he did.

And my mother passed away when

she was 44 with eight children. My dad kept us together, and we all worked. Ron talked about my work. Every one of my brothers and sisters worked, not because they wanted to but because we knew we had to and the money we earned, we helped support each other, and I learned from that and I appreciate that.

My dad always worked hard and I respect him for that and I thank him for all of the good things that he did in my life. My mom really was a very special lady. (Pause) There isn't much more that I have to say, I think, than that.

We have a job to do in this chamber. Our Governor-elect on Sunday set the tone for this state which is up and up and up. There's been pain in this state and there's been suffering, but the message now is one of optimism, and it's of hope, and it's of a new direction and it truly is the dawn of a new era, an era that will hold us all in good stead, and with his leadership, we are going to move this state forward.

We're going to get the pain and the suffering behind us because we know what we have to do. We all know what we have to do and it's going to be difficult, but we are going to do it, and we're going to do it together, this side of the aisle and this side of the aisle, this house and the Assembly and the Governor, and together we will govern.

And while we're praying, we all want to pray that each of us individually recognizes our responsibility to ourselves, to our constituency and to the constituency of this state, and that we put our individual wishes and desires aside at times when it's appropriate and act collectively on behalf of the people of this state because they desperately need our help. That message on November 8th was loud and clear. The people of this state want our help and that's why we're here.

We will change the direction of government in this state. It is no accident that over the last four years we in this state have led the country in job loss. 40 percent of

all jobs lost in this country come from New York in the last four years. It's no accident that we are lagging in the recovery in jobs the rest of the country. If we were just staying with the average state in recovery, there'd be a million more jobs in this state today.

We can't continue because we have lost our way here in this state. The Governor elect said it right. He talked about the Revolutionaries. He talked about the immigrants who came here with hope and prayers in their hearts and looked for opportunity. But somewhere along the way we in New York State took a little different direction and we thought that government was the answer to everything, and it isn't.

Government should be there to be supportive of the people, to do for the people what they can not individually or collectively do for themselves, and government should serve no other realistic purpose. We want to create opportunity for people and we want people as they get that opportunity to know that

government is here to support them, to be their partners and that we will work together because it is business that drives the economic engine of this state. It is not government, and when business prospers, business pays taxes and employs people and people pay taxes and it's that revenue that allows all of us to do the things that we have to do for the needy, for Medicaid, for education, for roads and bridges. It's the revenue that comes in from people and businesses that are employed and prosperous.

So we're going to change that and we're going to do it together, sincerely and effectively and we start here. We are going to lead here in the Senate by action. We're going to lead by example. We're going to do things that may be obvious but haven't been done. We're going to start sessions on time, with your help.

(Applause)

It's been a joke around the Capitol that it's Senate time and real time. Senate time was an hour to two hours behind real

time. Senate time and real time have just become the same time, so we're going to start on time. And there will be no all night sessions and that I can promise you, and we're going to have regular conferences two o'clock on Mondays we will conference. We'll do things in an orderly way. Why? Because it's more efficient. It's more effective.

We have reforms that we're going to propose for this house, and we're going to have a press conference on Monday and we're going to share those reforms that we have been working on with my colleagues and this side of the aisle as well for weeks. It's going to change the way this house operates. It's going to open it up, be more responsive, more effective, more efficient for all of us. Why? So we can serve the people of this state and that's our mission and that's our goal and that's our objective and we will do all of that together.

So thank you. To my colleagues, I've just got to say thank you. You have been

-- you've been just absolutely great. You stood up and were there and I appreciate that and I thank you. You know, it's funny, and I'm going to sit down, because we have to move to the Assembly and I sure don't want to be late for our Governor Pataki, but I was thinking on Thanksgiving week on that Monday morning, of what I was about to do, and I hadn't talked to a lot of people about it, but I said a little prayer and asked, you know, for help in terms of what I was going to be doing, because I was kind of trying to scale a cliff and need a lot of support and a lot of help and, you know, it's funny when you're in that mode, I was listening and I was thinking, you know, maybe I'll get a message on what I should be doing. So I said, you know, "Lord, how about making a few phone calls for me?" And I listened, and guess what? I heard an answer loud and clear, "Make 'em yourself." (Laughter).

And you know what? But I wanted to -- I only mention this because the Lord's always right, because I recognize that my

colleagues wouldn't even listen to the Lord at that time. But I say thank you for having listened and having allowed me the privilege of serving you as your leader here in this house and let me tell you, dreams do come true and we're going to help make dreams come true now for all of the people that you represent and I represent and that we represent together.

Thank you very, very much and God bless each and every one of you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes that a delegation from the Assembly is present. Assemblymen Farrell and Straniere.

ASSEMBLYMAN FARRELL: Madam President, the Assembly is organized; Sheldon Silver has been elected Speaker, and we wait upon the Governor and the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. The Chair will acknowledge that we have also received a communication from the Senate Democratic Conference that Senator Martin Connor was elected on November 21st, 1994 as the Minority Leader of the state Senate.

Senator Connor.

(Applause)

SENATOR CONNOR: Thank you, Madam President, and let me pledge on behalf of my colleagues, our cooperation with you in your role as presiding officer even though, once again, we've been disappointed. We've seen a long succession of Lt. Governors, many of whom were Democrats whose hearing on voice votes was just as bad as your own, but we'll suffer through that, Madam President.

My congratulations to Senator Bruno on his victory, and I don't feel like I lost to him. I've never been so happy to lose an election in my political life as, of course, that makes me the Minority Leader, and the representative of my colleagues.

And, of course, my thanks to Senator Mendez for -- for her wonderful words in moving the substitute resolution and to all my colleagues on this side of the aisle whose support in the past and upon whose support, of course, I count in the future, I do thank you

very deeply for the trust you've given me.

If I may, as Senator Bruno noted, we all don't just arrive here. We all come from somewhere, and I am very, very privileged to have here with me today, with us today two people who, I guess, had more influence -- I know had more influence over me than any two other persons or any other persons possibly could, and they taught me, besides raising me in an atmosphere of love and caring, they taught me values like hard work from a very early age. They taught me that you had to work to get what you wanted. As Senator Mendez alluded, they helped me as I bounded home from college or vacation, for Christmas vacation, to be told you're on the night shift tonight in a factory.

They understood those values, and out of necessity to pay for my education they contributed and I was expected to and did contribute by working when I -- when I could. My -- my mother, any of you and I know some of my colleagues here have shared in it, my mother also taught me how to cook and bake, those of

you who've seemed to think I'm pretty good at it, because that was another aspect of family responsibility that my parents taught me.

They also taught me the importance of my religion, the importance of the values that that embraced, the importance of respect for other people. And so I do -- would like to acknowledge Harry and Sally Connor who are here from New Jersey today with me. Thank you.

(Applause).

And I do want to mention naturally I was blessed with four wonderful grandparents. As many of you know, my maternal grandmother passed away last May. She was a Democratic committeewoman most of her life. She taught me a few things about politics, and I think I learned those lessons pretty well. My other -- my paternal grandparents are deceased, but one person who was not able to be here but who did visit with us 10 or 12 years ago is my grandfather, Martin O'Brien, who is 104 and is in pretty good health today but not in good

enough health to travel three and a half hours, but I know he's with us in spirit.

When I was first elected to the Senate in 1978, I was given some small sum for a staff allocation as things were then, and I blew a large portion of it to hire somebody away from Wall Street. I think she was making 10,000 a year and I offered her eleven-five to come to work and be not only my first staff member but in those days my only staff member in a district that embraced two boroughs in the district office. She set up that district office. She worked it as we all know working a district. She covered the meetings. She also was going to college at night and she got her Bachelor's degree summa cum laude and went on to law school nights for four years, wasn't -- certainly wasn't above cutting class to go to community meetings -- I guess we can say that the statute of limitations on the academic degrees having expired, and was just a superb staff member. So good that I fired her, absolutely. Came up one day in early 1984 and I said, "You're fired" and

I said, "You want to have dinner tomorrow night," and months after she was fired she became my wife, and that's Christine, my partner.

(Applause)

And my two wonderful sons are here, Marty and Brian, sitting patiently through this. Yesterday when I was driving up with them, Brian said, "What are you going to do in Albany?" I said, "I have some meetings." He said, "Meetings! All you do is talk" -- he's five -- "talk, talk, talk. I don't like these meetings." I said, "You have a point there," but they are here.

My other friends and relatives, my long-time staff members, Hedy Weinberger, Carol Larrivee, Amy Solomon who has been with me off and on for many, many years, someone who was just very important to me politically who passed away last year, my dear friend Billy, many of you know of whom I speak. I think he's here with us in spirit today, but my other friends and staff who are here, I thank all of you

because I don't arrive here without a lot of people being behind me.

As we look forward to the coming session, Senator Bruno, we will cooperate. We will undoubtedly disagree. Well disagree within that traditional framework of debate and discussion. That is a legislative body. And I know we will see changes here. We will credit you, of course, and your colleagues with doing some of them. We will, on this side of the aisle, I think you will suffer us saying we had the idea a while ago. We were -- tried to persuade.

I think, though, the people will be well served and again, we have -- we share many of the same goals, my colleagues on this side of the aisle about taxes, about jobs, about protecting our people against crime. We may differ about ways to get there, that's why we have a Legislature and that's why we will un doubtedly have many debates, many discussions all before midnight.

So again, Madam President, thank

you very much.

(Applause)

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Madam President, I believe there are several resolutions at the desk.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read these, please.

THE SECRETARY: Concurrent Resolution Number 3, by Senator Bruno: RESOLVED that the Senate and Assembly shall meet in joint assembly in the Assembly Chamber at 1:00 p.m. today for the purpose of receiving a message from the Governor.

THE PRESIDENT: On the resolution, all in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Opposed nay.

(There was no response. )

The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. The Secretary will read it, please.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution Number 4, by Senator Bruno: RESOLVED that the

President appoint a committee of two to inform the Governor of the election of Joseph L. Bruno as Temporary President of the Senate for the years 1995-1996, that the Senate is organized and ready to proceed with business and will meet with the Assembly in the Assembly Chamber at 1:00 p.m. today to receive the Governor's message.

THE PRESIDENT: All in favor of the resolution say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Opposed nay.

(There was no response. )

The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

The Chair appoints Senator Kuhl and Senator Abate to wait upon the Governor.

The Secretary will read, please.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution Number 5, by Senator Bruno: RESOLVED that the President appoint a committee of two to wait upon the Assembly and inform that body of the election of Joseph L. Bruno as Temporary

President of the Senate for the years 1995-1996, that the Senate is organized and ready to proceed with business and will meet jointly with the Assembly in the Assembly Chamber at 1:00 p.m. today to receive the Governor's message.

THE PRESIDENT: On the resolution, all those in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Opposed nay.

(There was no response. )

The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

The Chair appoints Senator Skelos and Senator Kruger to wait upon the Assembly.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: I'd like to hand up the following resolution and ask for its adoption.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read it, please.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution Number 6, by Senator Bruno: RESOLVED that the rules of the Senate for the years 1993-1994 as

last amended be adopted as the rules of the Senate for the years 1995-1996.

SENATOR CONNOR: Madam President, with the understanding, I think, from both sides that the issue of amending the rules and changing the rules will remain open to a future date.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

On the resolution, all those in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Opposed nay.

(There was no response.)

The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Madam President, can we have the next resolution, please.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary will read it.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution Number 7, by Senator Bruno: RESOLVED that, unless otherwise ordered, the hours of meeting

of the Senate shall be as follows: Mondays and Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m., Wednesdays and all other days at 11:00 a.m., provided that no session shall be held between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., except to complete action on a measure or measures upon which debate was begun prior to 12:00 a.m., or to act on a measure or measures for which a message of necessity has been received from the Governor.

THE PRESIDENT: On the resolution, all in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Opposed nay.

(There was no response. )

The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Madam President, there being no further business to come before the Senate, I move that we adjourn until Monday at 3:00 p.m., and intervening days being legislative days.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate stands adjourned.

(Whereupon at 12:57 p.m., the Senate adjourned. )