ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 13, 1995

3:00 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JOHN R. KUHL, JR., Acting President

STEPHEN F. SLOAN, Secretary

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

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Senate will come to order, ask the members to find their places, staff to find their places. Ask all those in the gallery and the members to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance with me.

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

In the absence of clergy, may we all bow our heads in a moment of silence.

(A moment of silence was observed.)

Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, March 12th. The Senate met pursuant to adjournment, Senator Farley in the Chair. The Journal of Saturday, March 11th, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President, I am curious. I would like to know whether or

not a message from the Assembly that would have indicated a special session for Tuesday of this week was included in the Journal for last Thursday, which is the one that we just read.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The desk informs me that it was not, Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President, we are informed that the message from the Assembly was delivered to the Senate at approximately 6:00 p.m. Wednesday evening, and so, if it's not in the Journal, with your permission, Mr. President, I would like to yield to Senator Stachowski who would read that message such that we can at least make a record of the fact that we believe it was submitted.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: A point of order. The Chair has indicated that the message from the Assembly was not in the Journal, so I see no reason for this message now to be read if the Senate has been informed that it's not been

filed in the Journal.

SENATOR STACHOWSKI: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Stachowski.

SENATOR STACHOWSKI: Can we inquire then if it was -- if it was signed for by Mary Carey at the Senate desk on Wednesday night, then why was it not included in Thursday's Journal?

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: For those members' information, particularly Senator Stachowski and Senator Paterson, I'm informed by the members at the desk here, the Secretary, that it is never and never has been referenced in the past, so at this point it would be my ruling that the Journal essentially is accurate as it has been in the past.

SENATOR PATERSON: And -

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Also, Senator Paterson, I'm informed by the desk that, in fact, the Journal that we're referring to now is the last Journal, and it was not last

Thursday's, that there has been a subsequent session since that time when Senator Farley was in the chair; so that regards to the Journal reference, it's not the last one, not the one when the Journal would have been reported.

SENATOR PATERSON: Well, Mr. President, Mr. President, I understand -

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, I believe that a point of order has been raised. Mr. President, I believe a point of order has been raised.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Yes. Again, Senator Paterson, if you recall what the Journal or what the clerk -- the Secretary, excuse me, read, the reference was to the Journal of Saturday, March 11th. This was as a result of the session on Sunday, March 12th, so the motion on the floor is to accept the Journal as read.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, I would at this point withdraw my motion, my point of order, I'm sorry, my point of order.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The point

of order is withdrawn. The motion on the floor is to accept the Journal as read.

All those in -

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson, on the motion.

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President, on the motion.

I understand that the motion that was read into the -- pertaining to the Journal today is for Saturday, March 11th. That was a real tough day. I'm sure we all accept it, but the last day that we were actually here -- in other words, that was an intervening legislative day. The last day that we were present was Thursday, March the 9th. On Friday, March the 10th, I'm sure we approved the Journal for Thursday, March the 9th. It's just that when we approved it, we weren't sitting here, so -

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, again I'll have to raise my point of order. If we're correcting a reading of the Journal, I be lieve it would be for Saturday, this past Satur

day, not from last Wednesday or last Thursday.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson, is -- do you understand the process here? We have a motion on the floor to accept the reading of the Journal, the reading of the Journal being that which was read on Sunday, March 12th, and your point relative to whether or not a message from the Assembly was included in that, I think, has been addressed by Senator Skelos and myself in that it would have been done prior to that, in a prior session, so if - if you're insisting that, or if you're objecting to the reading of or the acceptance of the Journal as read, then I'll take a vote on the motion. If you're not, then we'll simply note your remarks for the record.

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President, I don't -- I've not determined whether or not I'm going to object to the reading of the Journal, the acceptance of the Journal. I'm just asking the question whether or not this message, which actually arrived on Wednesday, March 8th, what I'm saying, Mr. President, is

that I don't have a remedy.

In other words, can you tell me when I could have objected to it if -- when I'm standing here today we are actually referring to Saturday's session? I would have had to come here Friday, I don't know what time the session started that day, to object to Thursday's Journal and on Thursday, I could have asked had it been received on Wednesday evening, but I couldn't have known that because we were -- we were actually accepting Wednesday's Journal which we accepted, because that occurred before the time that the message that I'm holding in my hand was actually received.

So I'm just asking the question, Mr. President, in the spirit of cooperation, as to whether or not the desk ever received this message from the Assembly. I'm just trying to resolve that, and once I know that, I would know whether or not I want to object to the -

SENATOR SKELOS: Well, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator

Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: I think we can -- we're dealing with the reading of the Journal. If we want to question whether a message was received from the Assembly, we can do that under messages from the Assembly. Right now we're dealing with the Journal of Sunday, so if you have corrections to the Journal of Sunday, that's one thing. If you want to deal with messages from the Assembly, that's another issue.

SENATOR PATERSON: Well, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: I have an idea. Why don't I argue your side of this debate? Let's say we wait until messages from the Assembly, and I try to mention this as a message from the Assembly and I'm then corrected that the message from the Assembly, the message we're referring to, are actually from today which is March 13th. That's the exact same

argument that would defeat me on messages from the Assembly that are -- that are beating me right now on the issue of the Journal.

What I'm just simply asking is, at what point in this deliberation can I raise the issue of the fact that I believe that the message was delivered to the desk? I honestly believe that. I have it here. We have a signature from someone who represents the Senate indicating that that message actually got here, and all I'm asking, Mr. President, is when can I put in the record what the message actually says? Is there any point that I can put that in the record today under our rules that we think that the message has said? I think that we can do that right now.

SENATOR SKELOS: Well, again if we -- if we -- if we -

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: If we complete -- if you're looking to correct the Journal of Sunday, that's one thing. You want to go to

messages from the Assembly and perhaps raise that issue, then I think that would be a more appropriate time.

SENATOR GOLD: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Gold.

SENATOR GOLD: May I make an inquiry of the Chair?

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Certainly.

SENATOR GOLD: The -- the minutes that we're being asked to approve are yester day's minutes then?

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Yes.

SENATOR GOLD: And I assume that yesterday there was some business of the Senate and the Senate approved the minutes of the day -- the Journal of the day before that or some other day; is that correct?

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: That's correct.

SENATOR GOLD: Well, my inquiry of the Chair is, if I were to have come

yesterday and, as the clerk read the Journal, I stood up and asked for a quorum call and it was determined that there was no quorum, I would assume that we could not have done any business. We may not even have had a legislative day. If I'm accurate, that means that from here on in for the rest of time, if a Democrat were to show up on one of your legislative days and call for a quorum, we could really make some changes in the practices of this house.

Now, I'm not saying we want to do that, but it seems to me that whether we're talking about the Journal of yesterday or whether we're talking about the Journal of five days ago, that the Deputy Majority -- Minority Leader asked the question, and that question is a proper question and we can avoid a lot of procedural hocus-pocus if the simple courtesy is given to answer his question and that is, basically, if I understand it, whether or not this house acknowledges that a message was sent by the Assembly over to this house and was at some point acknowledged formally by this house

and whether it was yesterday's Journal or Thursday's Journal, I don't think that's important. I think we don't want to get involved in a hysterical procedural situation, but you might be forcing that by telling the leader of our side that he can or cannot get the answer to a question.

So come to think of it, I guess I don't have a question, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President, I think that amplifies my feeling on this particular issue. I think we all know that, for purposes of cooperation, that the days between our last session day every week and the first session day next week are what we call intervening legislative days when we're all running out of the chamber and the Majority Leader is saying "there being no further business, the Senate will adjourn until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March the 13th, all days being legislative days intervening."

That's what that refers to. But the point is that it's almost in the spirit of cooperation that we all understand that we're actually not in the chamber. What I am suggesting is that because of that it's being asserted now in a way such as not to allow me to seek the answer to my question which continues to be whether or not the Senate is acknowledging receiving the message from the Assembly which we maintain arrived at 6:00 p.m. March the 8th, which was Wednesday and was signed for by Mary Carey.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Well, Senator Paterson, I thought that the Chair had answered your question, and the answer was and it was acknowledged, I think, by the people here at the desk, and that was that a message was received from the Assembly on Thursday morning, that it was not referenced in the next Journal or in today's Journal because it has been the practice not to do that, so that is the answer to your question.

Now, we're not dealing with that

acceptance of that day's Journal. We're dealing with the acceptance of the Journal of yesterday, March 12th. That is the motion before the floor, so if we're hearing no objection to yesterday's Journal, then the Journal stands approved as read.

Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Well, Mr. President, that was all I was seeking, an acknowledgement from this body that we received a message. Whether or not it's our procedure to put it in the Journal is a procedural decision that we make. You have answered my question and I will not oppose the motion to accept the Journal, and I thank you very much for the answer.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Tully.

SENATOR TULLY: Yes, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Lack, on page 13, I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 115, Senate Print Number 985, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Amend ments are received and adopted. Bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Tully.

SENATOR TULLY: Yes, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Goodman, on page 6, I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 97, Senate Print Number 926, and ask that said bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Amend

ments are received and adopted. Bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR MARKOWITZ: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Markowitz.

SENATOR MARKOWITZ: Thank you. Thank you for allowing me to express a few words.

Last week during Senate Calendar Number 68, S. 211, I must have run out of the chamber for a moment and was not particularly following the debate and, if I may, I rise today to express my opposition in allowing the military to recruit on State University campuses because it perpetuates and condones discrimina tion against gay and lesbian students on State University campuses.

While I should have expressed my opposition to this measure when it was initially debated and I should have known that this was such an important and intense issue for the lesbian and gay and my community of the state, I

looked at the bill from a different perspective.

I looked at the bill from the perspective that the military recruitment on our state campuses would expand the opportunities afforded to some inner city African-American youth. Such opportunity would increase the disadvantaged students' career, path choices and provide these young people the education and discipline at an early age -- early enough age to save them from the consequences of street life.

However, I am vehemently opposed to the military's ban on including gays and lesbians among their ranks and for as long as the United States military continues to uphold this policy of discriminating against this group of people, I can not and will not support the bill.

I am addressing -- I have addressed the Congressional chairs in Washington on this issue previously, and now I am mention ing it here in the Senate. I find it deplorable

that this nation's military would institutionalize discrimination, and I strongly feel that the state must not allow taxpayer-supported facilities to be used as a vehicle to sanction overt discrimination.

Had I been listening a hundred percent with both ears last week, I would have voted "no" on Senate 211 because it's the right thing to do. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection, the record will reflect that, had Senator Markowitz been present in the chamber, he would not have been recorded in the affirmative but would have voted in the negative.

Thank you.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Yes, if there are no other motions, could we go to the non-controversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will call the non-controversial calendar.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

31, by Senator Velella, Senate 19-A, an act to amend the Insurance Law in certain insurance premium reductions.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 1st day of January.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll. )

THE SECRETARY: Ayes 49.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 53, by Senator Rath, Senate Bill Number 208-B, an act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to prohibiting issuance of an order on bail upon conviction of a sex offense against a child.

SENATOR LEICHTER: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Lay the bill aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 93, by Senator Farley, Senate 436-A, an act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in relation to the fee for a summer license for a vessel.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 1st day of November.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll. )

THE SECRETARY: Ayes 49.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 103, by Senator Volker, Senate 1186, an act to amend the Education Law, in relation to the practice -

SENATOR VOLKER: Lay the bill aside for the day.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Lay the

bill aside for the day at the request of the sponsor.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Bill Number 131, by Senator Cook, Senate 418, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to permitting certain direction signs in the Catskill park.

SENATOR PATERSON: Lay aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Lay the bill aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 138, by Senator Holland, Senate 466, an act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to access to the statewide register of child abuse and maltreatment.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll. )

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Excuse

me. Roll call will be withdrawn. Lay the bill aside.

Senator Skelos, that completes the non-controversial calendar.

SENATOR SKELOS: Controversial, please.

SENATOR WALDON: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Waldon, why do you rise?

SENATOR WALDON: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I was called outside a few moments ago while we were voting on Calendar Number 93. For the record, I would like it recorded that had I been here, I would have voted in the nay, and my reasons for that, if I may explain in 30 seconds, is that we're hurting for revenue in the state in the proposed budget, and though this is just a small diminution of the revenue, it is a diminution of the revenue that will be coming to the coffers of the state of New York, and that compels me to vote in the no.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection -- Senator Skelos, no objection - Senator Waldon will be recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 93.

SENATOR SKELOS: No objection.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will call the controversial calendar.

THE SECRETARY: On page 4, Calendar Number 53, by Senator Rath, Senate Print 208-B, an act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to prohibiting issuance of an order of recognizance or bail.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Rath, an explanation has been asked for by Senator Paterson.

SENATOR RATH: Surely, Senator Paterson.

The item in front of you today is somewhat different than one that came before us, I believe it was a week or two ago. This deals with persons who are convicted and awaiting sentencing, would not apply to someone who has been accused but not convicted of a felony sex

offense against a child under the age of 18.

There was a circumstance in Genesee County last year where a 27-year-old individual was convicted of first degree sexual abuse. The victim was a child under 11 years of age. The defendant was originally charged with first degree rape and subsequently entered a plea of guilty to first degree sexual abuse.

After entering a guilty plea, the defendant was released to await sentencing. While awaiting sentencing, the defendant was again arrested and charged with first degree sexual abuse acts committed against a six year-old girl. Now, had that defendant remained in jail while awaiting sentencing, the second incident would not have occurred, and I think we all know that there is a very high recidivism rate among sex abusers, and I think the most important thing we have to remember here is that this is someone who has been convicted.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Thank you very

much, Mr. President.

Would Senator Rath yield to a question?

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Rath, will you yield to a question from Senator Paterson?

SENATOR RATH: Yes, certainly.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator yields.

SENATOR PATERSON: Senator Rath, this may be one of those examples of a particular situation being highlighted to the extent that it will actually influence our law making, and on many occasions and this certainly seems to be one of them, this is very good. But the question I just wanted to ask you on this particular bill would be, what is the standard procedure in most criminal cases at the point of sentencing?

What this bill will do is obviously take -- put this into legal mandate and take it away from the sitting judge, and I don't have any real objection to it, but I just

wanted to know how it deviates from the standard.

SENATOR RATH: Well, generally speaking, the judges feel that they have to grant bail in these cases because these people are not convicted, so I think in the circumstance that we're talking about when someone has been convicted and considering the high recidivism rates of sex offenders, I think that this is the kind of thing we want to safeguard against.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. That answers my question. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the 30th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll. )

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Announce the results when tabulated.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes 49.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 131, by Senator Cook.

SENATOR PATERSON: Explanation.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Cook, an explanation has been asked for by Senator Paterson.

SENATOR COOK: Mr. President, there are a number of reasons why it might be important to have a very detailed discussion of this bill today, so I will try to go back and talk a little bit about the history and the rationale and hopefully set at ease some of the concerns that very many members may legitimately have about the bill.

If we remember the Lady Bird Johnson movement, which was to eliminate bill boards, there was a great concern that our scenic highways would be blighted by having

garish kinds of big billboards all over the place and that we, in fact, passed federal legislation that limited that on the interstate highways and, indeed, the state Transportation Department has been repeatedly at our door enforcing those laws.

I would like to reassure every one, however, that this is not an effort to punch holes in the "Lady Bird Johnson" law, that this indeed is not an effort to put large bill boards in the Catskill Park. In fact, neither is it an effort to be able to advertise automobile sales or real estate agents or any of the other kinds of retail businesses that might normally advertise through this medium. It is simply an effort by which those tourist-related businesses would be able to assure their potential customers and clients of the ability to locate that business if they indeed try to come into the country and enjoy their facilities.

Country roads, by their nature, are very crooked and they have a lot of branches

and forks and confusing turns in them and, as one who resides in the area, I can tell you that even I find a degree of confusion from time to time trying to locate facilities in those kinds of roads and would greatly welcome an occasional sign at one of these forks that would tell me that the place to which I -- which was to be my final destination was indeed on the right fork instead of the left fork, knowing that if I went the wrong way, I might go for many miles and spend an inordinate amount of time looking for the place in vain and indeed possibly getting lost and having all sorts of dire consequences.

The purpose of this bill, therefore, is to be able to establish some signs that would be of a nature, of a size and a color and a location designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation, such signs to be located at the intersections such as I've described, so that when individuals are indeed trying to find a particular hotel or a particular restaurant -- and those would be the two kinds of facilities that we're primarily

talking about here -- that these directional signs would be located at the appropriate intersections in order to give the traveler the information necessary to reach the destination they sought to go to rather than finding themselves on a scenic exploration of the dirt byways and climbing the mountainsides of my district.

So the bill is carefully crafted. It is done in a way where the Department of Environmental Conservation continues to have total control over the size, the color and the placement of the signs, and it is, at the same time, going to serve the needs of both the visitor to the area and the businesses in the area by assuring that people will be able to find the locations.

Senator Skelos, is that enough explanation of this?

SENATOR SKELOS: Yes. That's fine.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Would Senator Cook yield for a question, Mr. President?

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Cook, do you yield for a question?

SENATOR COOK: Yes.

SENATOR PATERSON: Has the DEC or anyone else that's in favor of this piece of legislation considered the proliferation of directional signs in the actual park? I mean I don't think -- I think we all empathize with a business seeking to maximize its contact with the public through the use of advertisements, but what we're wondering is, if each business has four signs, then how many businesses do they estimate are going to use this? In other words, the -

SENATOR COOK: Senator, the nature -- the nature of where these particular signs would be located -- and remember they're only within the park, so they're in areas where most of the land is still owned by the state. The amount of land that's available for private development is very limited, so you consequently

have only a very few, perhaps one or two of these businesses on a given road, and so that the concern that people might have that you're going to end up with 25 or 30 of these signs at a given intersection, you can set your mind at ease on that point because it will not be that kind of a situation.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Chair recognizes Senator Oppenheimer.

SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: Thank you, Mr. President. It's very good, excellent peripheral vision there.

Senator Cook, you just said that there won't be a proliferation. I understand - I understand what you're saying, and I think you understand what I'm about to say. We're talking four additional signs for a large number of businesses and hotels and things and, if you add four times the potential numbers that want to have the signage -- and I understand that the roads do wind and twist, but we have to have some way to balance these things.

The park, if it has many signs

going up in it, will lose the -- the openness and the non-commercial look and the open space look and the integrity which it now has, so we do have this very complicated, you know, balancing act between the needs for business and the needs for the park to stay open and -- and as natural as possible.

It's a conundrum, and I think there has in the past been a balance struck between the commercial interests in the park and visual integrity of the park, and this bill has been revisiting us many, many times and it invariably has not been able to be made into law because there are many who see this as an area that we are trying to preserve as pristine as possible.

So the Environmental Lobby, Planning Lobby is opposed to this bill and there are several Senators who historically have voted against it, and they are Senators Connor, Dollinger, Gold, Jones, Leichter, Montgomery, Ohren...Onorato, Smith, Solomon, Stachowski, Stavisky and on your side of the aisle, Senators

there have been Goodman, Hannon, Holland, Lack, Padavan, Spano and Velella.

Thank you.

SENATOR COOK: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Cook.

SENATOR COOK: Senator Oppenheimer, I wish you'd sort of remind the Environmental Planning Lobby and folks of a very important fact. The underbrush in these areas is very thick, and the only place that the birds have to land to sun themselves is on one of these signs and, if we don't have them, there are going to be all these birds aren't going to have any place to sit, so I wish that we could get this done.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will read the last section.

Senator Oppenheimer, to explain your vote.

SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: I would just like to commend the Senator on his really wonderful creative thinking. I really

appreciate that, and I will have to give this information back.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll. )

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Announce the results when tabulated.

Senator Paterson to explain his vote.

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President, I just wanted to explain my vote by saying again that we're not trying to limit business but we do have a certain scenic integrity to our parks. Many of our parks have become over commercialized, and the reason for our objection is just that years later, we go and we find out little bits of land and we try to, in a sense, hold them up as being symbols of the society that lives in a certain time and we call that

landmark preservation.

This is an opportunity for us to preserve land, to preserve the integrity of the park. People go to parks often to get away from directional facilities, from directional signals, and we think that perhaps they are being over-saturated.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson, how do you vote? Senator Paterson, how do you vote?

SENATOR PATERSON: Oh, I vote no, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson voting in the negative.

Senator Cook to explain his vote.

SENATOR COOK: Mr. President, to explain my vote.

Probably most of us have traveled in national parks, Yellowstone Park, for example, being one of the most famous, and at each intersection at these national parks, there are signs that tell us where the various

attractions are located, and they have a little arrow pointing to the left or to the right.

We don't have in the Catskill Park those kinds of official locations, but nevertheless the destinations that people -- to which people want to go are the same types of destinations, that is they're the places that are necessary for people's enjoyment of the park, and this bill is presented in that spirit and, therefore, I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Cook will be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

Senator Tully to explain his vote.

SENATOR TULLY: Yes, Mr. President.

I had occasion last week to speak to the Executive Director of the environmental advocacy group, the Environmental Planning Lobby, Lee Wasserman, and I asked him a question as to how it was that he was in opposition to this particular bill when we had a similar bill

in the Adirondack Park sponsored by Senator Stafford which dealt with signage as well, but the difference between the two bills being that besides geography, that in the case of Senator Stafford's bill the signage was called a kiosk.

Now, it may well be that, in the Adirondacks, they've advanced beyond the stage in that mountain area or that of the people in the Catskill area who still call them signs, and I couldn't really get a resolution, Senator Cook, as to how there was a difference in attitude with respect to the position of the Environmental Planning Lobby in those two bills. But I was given to understand by Mr. Wasserman that he did understand Senator Cook's problem in this particular area, the need for these directional signs to assist local enterprise, and he knew also of Senator Cook's deep commitment to the environment, and he believed that in the not-too-distant future there would be a way that, once and forever, it might be that they would be working in tandem jointly for the betterment of the people in that

community, and this state; and it's for all of those reasons, Mr. President, that I join Senator Cook in support of this bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Tully will be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Leichter to explain his vote.

SENATOR LEICHTER: Yes, Mr. President. Just to point out to Senator Tully, because we don't want to appear as if we have some disagreement or animosity against Senator Cook in supporting Senator Stafford's bill where we wouldn't support Senator Cook's bill. In fact, I think everybody on this side of the aisle have as great a respect for Senator Cook as distinguished from some of his bills, but the distinction was that Senator Stafford's bill indeed had been worked out with environmental groups and provided for these directional signs in rest areas of the Thruway and also had the involvement of the Adirondack Park -- Adirondack Park Agency, so I think it had environmental safeguards, and I think, as Senator Oppenheimer

said, it is a balancing act, but in that instance I think a good balance was struck and I hope we might be able to work out something similar with Senator Cook and see a bill that not only is annually going to pass the Senate, but I'm sure that Senator Cook would like to see a bill that's going to be signed into law.

We understand his problem, we'll work with him and hopefully we will see a good bill that will help the region and also help the environment and that will be signed into law.

I vote in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Leichter will be recorded in the negative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Those recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 131 are Senators Abate, Connor, Espada, Gold, Holland, Jones, Kruger, Leibell, Leichter, Markowitz, Onorato, Oppenheimer, Paterson, Smith, Stachowski, also Senator Goodman, also Senator Montgomery. Ayes 36, nays 13.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The bill

is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 138, by Senator Holland, an act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to access to the statewide register of child abuse and mal treatment.

SENATOR PATERSON: Explanation.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Holland, an explanation has been asked for by Senator Paterson.

SENATOR HOLLAND: Yes, Mr. President.

This bill allows mental retardation and developmental disabilities service providers to access the child abuse registry in order to check the background of prospective employees of non-residential family support and early intervention pre-school programs.

Currently providers of services to persons with mental retardation and develop mental disabilities are only allowed to access the child abuse registry to check backgrounds of

persons considered for employment in residential programs.

However, far more children are served in non-residential programs. These children are often severely disabled and extremely vulnerable. It is vital that the persons entrusted with their care be checked for a history of child abuse and/or neglect.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson.

SENATOR PATERSON: Mr. President, we are very impressed with Senator Holland's bill and thank him for his work on it.

Actually, one of our members would like to expand the scope of it. There is an amendment at the desk and only with your permission, Mr. President, we would recognize Senator Jones.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Paterson, I understand there is an amendment at the desk. It was duly served.

The Chair would recognize Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Yes. I'd like to call up my amendment, please, waive its reading and I'd like an opportunity to explain it.

I voted -

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Amendment is at the desk. We'll waive the reading. Senator Jones to explain the amendment.

SENATOR JONES: I'm fully supportive of what Senator Holland is trying to do with the two agencies he has in his bill. However, what I'm asking is if the bill could be amended to include an agency that is viable in my community and perhaps others as well.

The Catholic Family Services in Rochester operates several residential homes. They have recently been told that they may not -- the ones that are funded through OASAS, they may not have access to the child registry to check on their employees. They can if the programs are funded through Social Services. However, they have residential programs that involve -- do involve drug treatment and there are people who -- who are left, children are

left in the care of people while their mother or whoever is in treatment, so they are asking that they also be included in this so that they could also have the opportunity.

I don't think in this day and age when we're working so hard to protect our children that we really want to leave any stone unturned that does not allow everyone access to these records who needs it and this was a special request of Catholic Families in Rochester, who does run many excellent programs and they are asking to perhaps amend this bill so that they could be included as well under OASAS.

SENATOR HOLLAND: May I ask that we lay my bill aside and we'll talk to the Senator.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: All right. At the request of the sponsor, Senate Calendar Number 138 is laid aside.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Recognize Senator Goodman, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Goodman.

SENATOR GOODMAN: Mr. President, had I been in the chamber last Tuesday, March the 7th, I would have voted, wished to be recorded -- wish to indicate that had I been here on Wednesday, March 8th, I would have voted in the negative on Senate 211, by Senator Holland.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Goodman, the record will reflect that had you been in the chamber when that vote was taken that you would have voted in the negative.

SENATOR GOODMAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Chair recognizes Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, are there any other bills to be debated at this time?

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: That completes the controversial calendar, Senator Skelos.

We do have a couple of substitutions if you'd like to do those at the moment. Secretary will read the substitutions.

THE SECRETARY: On page number 6, Senator Goodman moves to discharge the Committee on Investigations, Taxation and Government Operations from Assembly Bill Number 1700 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Calendar Number 98.

On page 9, Senator Farley moves to discharge from the Committee on Banks Assembly Bill Number 2463 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Calendar Number 151.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection, substitutions are ordered.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, at this time could we return to motions and resolutions, and would you please recognize Senator Volker.

SENATOR VOLKER: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Return to motions and resolutions.

Senator Volker.

SENATOR VOLKER: I believe there is a resolution at the desk honoring Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator Volker, there is a privileged resolution at the desk. What's your pleasure with regard to that?

SENATOR VOLKER: We would like to have you, if possible, read the entire resolution, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Secretary will read the resolution in its entirety.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative Resolution welcoming the Honorable Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein to the United States and to the state of New York upon the occasion of the American-Irish Legislators Society's Annual Dinner March 13, 1995.

It's the sense of this assembled body to walk in the noontide of righteous resolve, in the eternal light of peace with the imperishable hope of freedom for all the nations

of the world.

Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this assembled body to welcome to our nation and to the state of New York the Honorable Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein and former Westminster Member of Parliament for West Belfast.

Consistent with Gerry Adams' commitment to peace, a determination so visible in his successful effort to suspend the campaign of armed struggle in the north of Ireland, it is further the intent of this assembled body to register its support for the sons and daughters of all Ireland as they strive for peace.

Gerry Adams, married with one son, in 1983, was elected president of Sinn Fein, an all-Ireland party which seeks an end to British jurisdiction in the six northeastern counties of Ireland, and supports the unalienable right of the Irish people to self determination.

That year, and again in 1987,

Gerry Adams was elected the Westminster Member of Parliament for West Belfast.

Gerry Adams has written widely in freedom's cause. A PATHWAY TO PEACE, in 1988, one of several of his publications, contains the passage: "Peace in Ireland is not simply the absence of war or conflict; it is the existence of conditions of justice and equality which eradicate causes of the conflict."

In recognition of Gerry Adams' commitment to peace, President Clinton's administration has lifted the 25-year policy of visa denial with Sinn Fein. This action which Gerry Adams has called "courageous", allows to address the American-Irish Legislators Society this evening.

In 1993, in talks with the SDLP leader, John Hume, Gerry Adams initiated the process which resulted in IRA's decision to announce a complete cessation of military operation.

Upon the occasion of its annual expression of solidarity and shared concern, it

is the intent of this assembled body to join with the American-Irish Legislators Society in renewing our commitment to the McBride principles, noting in turn the obvious success of that policy in nurturing the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Winds of March enkindle the flames of an ancient dream. Let us listen that we might hear footsteps of long ago. Like an Irish echo, history reverberates with the resilience and consistency of a sacred commit ment that Ireland might be free.

On April 24, 1995, it will be 79 years since Padraic H. Pearse, poet, school teacher and principal source of Republican inspiration, read this words atop the steps of the General Post Office in Dublin: "Irishmen and Irish women, in the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom..."

In every walk of life, in the

arts, in the sciences, in the political world, in every manifestation of the human spirit, the Irish people have excelled.

No nation on earth has sent to the shores of America a people more spiritual than the Irish. Throughout the ages, they have left their causes forgotten among the lilies. From the mode and from the texture of that endowment, the cathedrals and colleges of our nation were built, a heritage largely formed, our American character greatly forged.

Upon the eve of the 1995 tribute to Ireland's greatest saint, St. Patrick, it is the sense of this assembled body to walk with Gerry Adams, with the sons and daughters of "Cathleen Houlihan" noting, in turn, with unswerving affirmation, the words of Padraic Pearse: "People that I've loved, shall we not answer together?"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this legislative body pause in its deliberations and most joyously welcome Gerry Adams to the United States and to the state of

New York, commending his commitment to peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, and to the Honorable Richard J. Keane, president of the American Irish Legislators Society, Albany, New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Volker on the resolution.

SENATOR VOLKER: Mr. President, first of all, let me say in behalf of Senator Holland and the Majority Leader and myself, that any -- what I'd like to do is open up the sponsorship of this resolution. I would suggest that, unless somebody objects, that we do the normal procedure for these kinds of resolutions. Unless someone objects, everybody would be placed on the resolution. That would be my suggestion.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: With the acquiescence of the acting Majority Leader, we will place all members on the resolution except

for those people who wish to not be on the resolution. We ask them to identify themselves at the desk.

No objection. Senator Volker continuing on the resolution.

SENATOR VOLKER: Yes, I want to say that we fully intended to have Gerry Adams here and, in fact, he is in the complex some place, but he's been slowed down today by - he's got a fever and cold, and so forth, I guess and we're hoping that, before we adjourn, that he would be able to come here but it looks as if he may not get here before the Senate recess.

But let me just say that -- about this gentleman, that, as somebody whose grandfather came directly from Ireland and who has a great deal of my family of Irish descent, I don't believe that many people realize the enormity of what this gentleman has done in leading his Sinn Fein party to attempt to find peace in northern Ireland.

I know from some of my relatives how difficult it is for any leader of the IRA to

suggest that the group stop military action if you want to call it, which is what, of course, the IRA has been doing, and seek peace by stopping the killing in Ireland.

That takes a great deal of courage, by the way, because I think, as many people are aware in this day and age, once a course of action is committed to, it is very difficult to change it, and I know very well that it must have been -- taken a great deal of soul searching for this man who is very articulate and who has led his party for many years in Ireland, to make the decision that he did.

I think there is one thing that I think maybe a lot of people do not realize, and that is that Gerry Adams was always considered to be a moderate, even while the fighting was still going on, and that is that I think he tried to, wherever possible, keep the fighting to -- down, and it was among his own people and, of course, has lobbied for a great long time to bring the fighting in Northern Ireland to an

end.

He is to be at our American-Irish Legislators party tonight, and he is to speak to us. We are most happy to have him. We had, as I say, planned on having him here on the floor of the Senate, but so far it doesn't look like he's going to be able to be here, but we do want to congratulate him and say that we are very happy to have him here in Albany seeking peace.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Is there any other member wishing to speak on the resolution?

Senator Holland.

SENATOR HOLLAND: I might also say that my great, great grandfather came over directly from Ireland, fought in the Civil War, just to back up Dale's comments.

I am very happy and proud to welcome Gerry Adams to this house, to this nation, this city of Albany, especially during the week of St. Patrick, but Gerry represents only the latest link between Ireland and the United States. The home of our president, the

White House, was designed by James Hoban, a noted Irish-American architect. Benjamin Franklin, the envoy of the American Revolution, was received by the Irish Parliament. Ever since then, our interests have been joined. Franklin sent leaflets to the Irish freedom fighters, encouraging them to fight for freedom.

Irish volunteers played such an important part in the American army during the American Revolution that Lord Mountjoy said in the British Parliament that we have lost America to the Irish. Charles Stuart Cornell, the famous Irish nationalist whose mother was born in America, addressed the American Congress on Irish freedom. Our two nations, divided by distance, have been united by history.

No people ever believed more deeply in the cause of Irish freedom than the people of the state of New York and no country contributed more to building our nation than the sons and daughters of Ireland.

It was the Irish who worked hard

without complaint to build this Empire State. They built the Erie Canal; they built the railroads. They built families and a culture which is still in presence in our state today.

Many of our ancestors left behind their hearts, their fields and a nation yearning to be free, but they still came to our shores with a vision of hope. There are those who feel that history of pain, war and exile are better forgotten. There are those who feel that we should forget the bitterness of the past. There are those who feel that we should completely start anew, but to really start anew, we must understand the meaning of pain and bitterness for the present and the future, and it is the present and the future of Ireland that today holds so much promise, thanks to this man, Gerry Adams.

Henry Grattan once said that a country enlightened as Ireland, committed as Ireland, armed as Ireland and injured as Ireland, will be satisfied with nothing less than liberty.

Gerry Adams represents that liberty. He represents a proud Ireland. He has led the fight to drive tyranny from Ireland's shores, and he represents the new and stronger Ireland. However, as I am sure Gerry can attest to, there is much work to be done. We in New York are still united in our Irish brothers and we will never forget their struggle.

This house was instrumental in the passage of the McBride principles. These principles work for fair employment to reduce employment discrimination at firms doing business in Northern Ireland. The McBride principles were first implemented in 1986. Dr. Sean McBride, a Nobel Prize Laureate and Irish citizen, first composed the McBride principles to ensure that U.S. companies with Northern Ireland interests did not lend a hand in creating job discrimination that occurs against Catholics in Northern Ireland.

I was proud to sponsor this important legislation in this Senate. As you all know, we in New York never forgot Ireland.

The British have finally come to the negotiating table. After 300 years of genocide, peace is coming to Ireland, and Gerry is part of that new peace.

My friends and colleagues, Ireland's hour has come. It has something to give the world, something more, a future of peace and freedom, thanks to Gerry Adams.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Connor.

SENATOR CONNOR: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to join in this resolution welcoming Gerry Adams to New York and to the Senate.

I think the history of the Irish nation's struggle to be a nation is one that's been replicated and paralleled by the experience of other subjugated people. As it's often said, Ireland was Britain's first colony, and its last colony. It was over 800 years since the (Gaelic), a word in Gaelic, which means the stranger, and that is the Irish word for English

stranger, since the strangers came amongst the Irish. It was the history that initially involved feudal exploitation among warring clans and alliances, and so on, and evolved and certainly has been for at least 300 years a struggle for a people to recognize freedom, to express their unique identity, something which the colonizer in a rather arrogant way never would recognize.

Churchill said, Gee, the Irish are odd; they refuse to be British. And why not? They saw this culture subjugated for hundreds of years. They saw a language nearly destroyed. They saw a people decimated 150 years ago by the very great hunger, and the Irish call it the great hunger because there was no famine in Ireland from 1845 until 1850. Record crops were exported to England, record grain crops, livestock, enough to feed the Irish people four-fold over. Yet two million men, women and children starved in the roads and fields, literally starved to death. Millions more fled to the new world, starving masses many

of whom died en route. The best estimates are that a third of the Irish immigrants during that period were thrown overboard from the ships before they reached New York and Boston. Often so-called coffin ships, very seaworthy ships sunk laden with Irishmen, women and children in emaciated condition.

That was political genocide. The then Queen Victoria deigned to contribute a penny to Irish famine relief. It was clearly a political move. British politicians said, Well, this will further subjugate this island. Before the great hunger, the Irish peasantry was the healthiest in western Europe. Indeed, they averaged three inches taller than the average Englishman, but they didn't control their land. They didn't control their political destiny, they didn't control the distribution of their own wealth that they created, and they starved as a result of it.

The Irish presence spread throughout the world. In the 17th and 18th century there were Irish nurseries in the courts

of Europe and Irish regiments in all the European armies, the so-called "wild geese" chased from their home land.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Australia, the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, saw the Irish land in search of freedom. In some cases they were landed in chains among the first slaves brought to the new world in the Caribbean. They also experienced for 200 years the so-called penal laws, whereby unless they abandoned their faith, their religious faith, they were denied the right to vote, to be educated. It was a crime to teach a Catholic in Ireland to read and write.

Yet they persevered, they persevered in hedge schools and continued in every generation to assert Ireland's right to freedom and arms.

And so it is we come down to this day 10 years after the great hunger. We find a modern Ireland ready to put down ancient divisions, to sit at a negotiating table and to search for peace. We also find an Ireland that

doesn't forget its old wrongs, but is willing to build upon them a new future.

One thing that has always -- I've always found not so remarkable, if you know what happened 150 years ago, there are organizations in Ireland that are, whenever famine occurs in Asia or Africa or wherever, they're first there with food because that stinging pain of a country that lost a third of its population in a mere five years is ever present in the Irish memory.

Today we welcome to Albany Gerry Adams, someone who has struggled, someone who has been in prison, someone who has the courage of years of armed struggle to say, Let's opt for peace. Let's make politics in Ireland a matter of negotiation, discussion and put aside the gun.

On that basis, a new future looms for all the Irish people putting aside ancient differences because of sects which were fostered by the colonial power, and a new hope springs for a land that is so beautiful and for its many

sons and daughters throughout the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Oppenheimer on the resolution.

SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: Well, I'm not Irish by birthright, but I guess I'm an Irophile, I think that's the word for someone who admires Ireland and has been there often by choice, as recently as a few months ago when I was hiking in the very section that Senator Connor has just mentioned, which is the area that got -- after the famine the people left their farms and there was absolutely no farming going on there now. It's the area called Connemara, it's kind of an isolated area that has a whole lot more sheep than it has people in very scattered small communities, but it's a very beautiful area to walk in, and I walked for a week from a very small town called Linnan.

Last night, I saw a play on Broadway that was written by Brian Friel, who gave us Dancing at Manassah about four years

ago, and this is a play that deals with the very subject that Senator Connor was talking about, that is a hedge school, and about the people trying to maintain their language, their heritage by not learning English, by not being co-opted, and it's a beautiful play. I urge you all to see it. It just came to Broadway.

I have been working for several years now as co-chair of the Irish Northern Aid Committee here in Albany, and I so welcome Gerry Adams to -- to Albany and his search for peace and his desire. I praise his burning desire to move from the violence that has disrupted the whole country to a peaceful resolution. It is such a welcomed change, I feel that if the PLO and Israel can sit down together, then surely England and Northern Ireland should be able to work out some accord, and I wish them Godspeed, and I'm just very delighted that Gerry Adams came to America and that our President opened his arms to him and said, We welcome you. We urge you to continue your search for peace, and we are not going to

be tied into the follies of the past.

And I also hope that he will feel better shortly. I understand today he has the flu and a raging fever. So far he is managing to continue on in spite of all these immediate problems. He's an admirable person who is working for peace now.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Espada.

SENATOR ESPADA: Thank you, Mr. President.

Gerry Adams is a vessel in which a path towards peace can be achieved. He was the embodiment of a global lesson in morality and in courage, and so the people of the 32nd District, through their servant here in the Senate, salutes this type of courage. We seek to learn from it, we identify with it and once again, we salute it, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The question is on the resolution.

All those in favor signify by

saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

Opposed nay.

(There was no response. )

The resolution is unanimously adopted.

Senator Stavisky.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Mr. President, without objection, I should like to be recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 131, Senate 418.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection, Senator Stavisky is recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 131.

Senator Santiago.

SENATOR SANTIAGO: Mr. President, may I request that I be recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 131.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection, Senator Santiago is recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 131.

SENATOR NANULA: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator

Nanula.

SENATOR NANULA: Without objection I, too, would like to to be recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 131.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection, Senator Nanula is recorded in the negative on Calendar Number 131.

The Chair recognizes Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, we'll just stand at ease for several moments.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Senate will stand at ease for several moments.

(The Senate stood at ease from 4:10 to 4:16 p.m.)

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President. Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senate will come to order.

SENATOR SKELOS: Could we first have a little order in the Senate, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: I'll ask the members to find their chairs, ask those

joining us to find a place around the outside, ask you all to kindly give your attention to Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, at this time would you recognize Senator Holland for the purposes of an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Holland.

SENATOR HOLLAND: Mr. President, I'll be very brief. I won't repeat the two-page speech that I read before, but it really is my pleasure to welcome Gerry Adams on behalf of everyone in this state and everyone in this house to the state of New York and to the city of Albany.

We -- many people in this house are of Irish descent. We're very proud of what you've done, the freedom that you've brought to Ireland and Northern Ireland, and we anticipate that that will continue, and I know that you want to say a few words. We'd just like to say welcome, thanks for coming, and wish you God speed and good luck, not only in your fund

raising, but your bringing freedom and the counties of Ireland altogether.

Welcome.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, at this time, I'd ask unanimous consent if our distinguished guest could address the Senate.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection, the Chair will recognize the Honorable Gerry Adams and ask him to take the favorable spot up here on the dais to address all of you. Such notables as General Graves, Superintendent of West Point and Lou Carnisecca have addressed the body from this point, and we'd ask Gerry Adams to do the same.

The floor is yours.

THE HONORABLE GERRY ADAMS:

Senators and the President, can I thank you for the welcome you have given me here and for the opportunity to address you. I want to thank you for the work that has been done by the different Senators in this house, and to this house the message which has been sent right back to Ireland and right back to the British

occupied part of Ireland.

The people from different back grounds coming to this country and people from my own country coming here have not forgot the cause of freedom and justice and peace.

Your spirit has set a leadership role on issues of justice against discrimination and support of the McBride principles and on other issues of democracy, and I think we back in Ireland have not yet peace, but a space in which peace can grow and that we, as we continue to widen that space and to broaden that space, I am sure that we will continue to have the support of the people here assembled.

St. Patrick's Day is a very special time for Irish people, Protestants and Catholics, agnostics and pagans, and I was asked by someone next door, what about the Jews, and Jewish Irish as well, together do enjoy the creativity of Ireland, to enjoy what we are and our diversity and in our right to be free and to live at peace with ourselves and at peace with the other island, John Bone's island.

St. Patrick's Day is a special day because it comes at a time when all those possibilities have opened up for us. For the first time in 25 years, and some would say for 75 years, we actually see a future free of conflict with the absence of injustice and in the presence of freedom.

So I thank you all for your support, for the honor you have given me today and those who I represent back in Ireland, and I wish you all a very healthy St. Patrick's Day.

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The Chair recognizes Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, I was out of the chamber at the time of the resolution. I really just want to add my voice to so many others in welcoming Gerry Adams here. We all know what kind of courage it takes to separate yourself from what is going on and what people consider to be a normal way. It took a lot -- took a lot of courage, a lot of

vision, a lot of wisdom. So he's a real leader and I'm just honored to have him in the chamber, Mr. President, and just want to wish him a happy St. Pat's and a great, great week and a safe journey throughout New York State and the United States.

(Applause).

Mr. President, there being no further business to come before the Senate, I move that we adjourn until tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without objection, the Senate stands adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, at 3:00 p.m.

(Whereupon at 4:25 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)