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ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 25, 1998

11:10 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JOHN R. KUHL, JR., Acting President

STEVEN M. BOGGESS, Secretary

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
3 Senate will come to order, members find their  
4 places, staff find their places. I'd ask  
5 everyone in the chamber to rise and join me in  
6 saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and please  
7 remain standing for the invocation.

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

10 We're very pleased to be joined  
11 today by the Reverend Dr. Ernest Drake who is  
12 the pastor of the Metropolitan New Testament  
13 Missionary Baptist Church in Albany.

14 Reverend Drake, for the  
15 invocation.

16 REVEREND ERNEST DRAKE: If we  
17 could bow our heads. O, Maker and Creator of  
18 our universe, please provide guidance for our  
19 legislators as they meet and deliberate major  
20 issues affecting the lives of all of our 18  
21 million citizens of our great Empire State.  
22 Bless each legislator one by one and give them  
23 the desire of their own heart, as we ask these  
24 blessings. In His name, we pray. Amen.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Reading

1 of the Journal.

2 THE SECRETARY: In Senate,  
3 Tuesday, March 24th. The Senate met pursuant  
4 to adjournment, Senator Kuhl in the Chair upon  
5 designation of the Temporary President. The  
6 Journal of Monday, March 23rd, was read and  
7 approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Hearing  
9 no objection, the Journal stands approved as  
10 read.

11 Presentation of petitions.  
12 Messages from the Assembly.  
13 Messages from the Governor.  
14 Reports of standing  
15 committees. The Secretary will read.

16 THE SECRETARY: Senator Kuhl,  
17 from the Committee on Agriculture, reports the  
18 following bills:

19 Senate Print 473, by Senator  
20 Larkin, an act to amend the Agriculture and  
21 Markets Law;

22 4184, by Senator Kuhl, an act  
23 to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law;

24 4225, by Senator Kuhl, an act  
25 to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law;

1                   5546, by Senator Kuhl, an act  
2           to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law;  
3                   6018, by Senator Kuhl, an act  
4           to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law;  
5                   6160, by Senator Kuhl, an act  
6           to amend Chapter 182 of the Laws of 1993;  
7                   6189, by Senator Present, an  
8           act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law;  
9           and  
10                   6332, by Senator Kuhl, an act  
11           to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

12                   All bills ordered direct for  
13           third reading.

14                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: All  
15           bills ordered directly to third reading.

16                   Reports of select committees.

17                   Motions and resolutions.

18           Secretary will read substitutions.

19                   THE SECRETARY: On page 24,  
20           Senator Hannon moves to discharge from the  
21           Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill  
22           Number 20-A, and substitute it for the  
23           identical Third Reading Calendar 478.

24                   And on page 25, Senator Goodman  
25           moves to discharge from the Committee on

1       Investigations, Taxation and Government  
2       Operations, Assembly Bill Number 7096 and  
3       substitute it for the identical Third Reading  
4       Calendar 484.

5                    ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
6       Substitutions are ordered.

7                    The Chair recognizes Senator  
8       Bruno.

9                    SENATOR BRUNO: Thank you, Mr.  
10       President.

11                   Mr. President, I am honored and  
12       proud to welcome to this chamber our newest  
13       member, who will be added to the Republican  
14       Conference as a result of the election that  
15       took place last night. He is here certified,  
16       prepared to vote. We will do something on  
17       Monday that will be a little more formal.  
18       Charles, will be Senator Charles "Chuck"  
19       Fuschillo.

20                    (Applause)

21                    ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
22       Bruno.

23                    SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President,  
24       can we at this time call a Finance Committee  
25       meeting in Room 332.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  There  
2                   will be an immediate meeting of the Senate  
3                   Finance Committee, immediate meeting of the  
4                   Senate Finance Committee in the Majority  
5                   Conference Room, Room 332.

6                   Senator Farley, why do you  
7                   rise?

8                   SENATOR FARLEY:  There will  
9                   also be a meeting of the Banks Committee  
10                  immediately following the Finance Committee in  
11                  Room 332.  Banks committee will be meeting in  
12                  332 immediately following Finance.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
14                  Immediate meeting of the Banks Committee  
15                  following Finance Committee meeting in the  
16                  Majority Conference Room, Room 332.

17                  Senator Skelos, we have one  
18                  privileged resolution at the desk.

19                  Have a little order in the  
20                  chamber, please.  Members please take their  
21                  places, staff take their places.  If you need  
22                  to have a conversation, please take it out of  
23                  the chamber.  We have some business to  
24                  conduct.

25                  Senator Skelos.

1                   SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President,  
2           I believe there's a privileged resolution at  
3           the desk, sponsored by yourself. May we have  
4           the title read and move for its immediate  
5           adoption.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
7           Secretary will read the title of the  
8           privileged resolution.

9                   THE SECRETARY: By Senator  
10          Kuhl, Legislative Resolution 2972,  
11          congratulating the Jasper-Troupsburg Junior  
12          Senior High School Boys' Basketball Team on  
13          winning the New York State Public High School  
14          Athletic Association Section V, Class DD Title  
15          and on competing in the Class D Semi-Finals.

16                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
17          Question is on the resolution. All those in  
18          favor signify by saying aye.

19                                 (Response of "Aye.")

20                                 Opposed nay.

21                                 (There was no response. )

22                                 The resolution is adopted.

23                                 Senator Skelos, that brings us  
24          to the calendar.

25                   SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President,

1 just as a reminder, I believe the Finance  
2 Committee meeting is taking place now in the  
3 Majority Conference Room. Then there will be  
4 a meeting of the Banks Committee, and I  
5 believe Senator Nozzolio has an announcement  
6 also.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Chair  
8 recognizes Senator Nozzolio.

9 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you,  
10 Mr. President.

11 There will be a meeting of the  
12 Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and  
13 Corrections in the Majority Conference Room  
14 immediately following the Committee on Banks.

15 SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President,  
16 at this time if we could take up the  
17 non-controversial calendar.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
19 Secretary will read the non-controversial  
20 calendar.

21 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
22 35, by Senator Farley, Senate Print 2145, an  
23 act to amend the Banking Law, in relation to  
24 money transmitters.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:

1 Secretary will read the last section.

2 THE SECRETARY: Section 6.

3 This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
5 the roll.

6 (The Secretary called the  
7 roll. )

8 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 47.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
10 bill is passed.

11 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
12 71, by Senator Saland, Senate Print 3455, an  
13 act to amend the Family Court Act, in relation  
14 to appointment of law guardians.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
16 Secretary will read the last section.

17 THE SECRETARY: Section 2.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
20 the roll.

21 (The Secretary called the  
22 roll. )

23 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 47.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
25 bill is passed.

1 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
2 193, by Senator Skelos, Senate Print 1983-B,  
3 an act to amend the Domestic Relations Law, in  
4 relation to any action or proceeding involving  
5 custody of a child.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
7 Secretary will read the last section.

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

10 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
11 the roll.

12 (The Secretary called the  
13 roll. )

14 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 48.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
16 bill is passed.

17 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
18 227, by Senator Volker, Senate Print 522, an  
19 act to amend the Penal Law, in relation to  
20 consecutive terms of imprisonment.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
22 Secretary will read the last section.

23 THE SECRETARY: Section 2.  
24 This act shall take effect on the first day of  
25 November.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
2                   the roll.

3                   (The Secretary called the  
4                   roll. )

5                   THE SECRETARY: Ayes 48.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
7                   bill is passed.

8                   THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
9                   235, by Senator Balboni, Senate Print 5950, an  
10                  act to amend the Penal Law, in relation to  
11                  consecutive sentences and the calculation of  
12                  sentences.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
14                  Secretary will read the last section.

15                  THE SECRETARY: Section 3.  
16                  This act shall take effect on the first day of  
17                  November.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
19                  the roll.

20                  (The Secretary called the  
21                  roll. )

22                  THE SECRETARY: Ayes 49.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: That  
24                  happens to be Senator Balboni's first piece of  
25                  legislation that's passed this house.

1           Congratulations, Senator.

2                           (Applause)

3                           Secretary will continue to  
4           read.

5                           The bill is passed.

6                           THE SECRETARY:   Calendar Number  
7           440, by Senator Stafford, Senate Print 6484-A,  
8           an act to amend Chapter 303 of the Laws of  
9           1988, relating to the extension of a state  
10          commission.

11                          ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
12          Secretary will read the last section.

13                          THE SECRETARY:   Section 3.  
14          This act shall take effect immediately.

15                          ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:   Call  
16          the roll.

17                          (The Secretary called the  
18          roll. )

19                          THE SECRETARY:   Ayes 51.

20                          ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:   The  
21          bill is passed.

22                          THE SECRETARY:   Calendar Number  
23          483, by Senator Maziarz, Senate Print 6584-A,  
24          an act to amend the Social Services Law, in  
25          relation to authorizing payment.

1                   SENATOR PATERSON: Lay aside.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Lay the  
3 bill aside.

4                   Senator Skelos, that completes  
5 the reading of the non-controversial  
6 calendar.

7                   SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President,  
8 if we could call up the -- why don't we -- is  
9 there any housekeeping at the desk? Then why  
10 don't we stand at ease because I believe  
11 Senator Gold had questions to ask Senator  
12 Maziarz.

13                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senate  
14 will stand at ease for a few moments.

15                   (The Senate stood at ease from  
16 11:21 to 11:24 a.m.)

17                   SENATOR MAZIARZ: Let the  
18 record show that, although Senator Gold was  
19 not here, I was, prepared to explain my bill  
20 to the rest of the chamber, all right?

21                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senate  
22 will come to order. Members find their seats,  
23 staff find their places.

24                   Senator Skelos.

25                   SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President,

1 I know the Finance Committee is over and just  
2 a reminder, the Committee on Banks is going to  
3 meet, then Senator Nozzolio's committee, but  
4 at this time if we could return to reports of  
5 standing committees and have the report of the  
6 Finance Committee read.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: We will  
8 return to the order of reports of standing  
9 committees. Secretary will read the report of  
10 the Finance Committee at the desk.

11 THE SECRETARY: Senator  
12 Stafford, from the Committee on Finance,  
13 reports the following bills:

14 6097-B, Budget Bill, an act to  
15 amend the Corrections Law and the Criminal  
16 Procedure Law, in relation to reimbursing  
17 localities;

18 6100-A, Budget Bill, an act  
19 making appropriation for the support of  
20 government (Legislature and Judiciary Budget);  
21 and

22 6105-B Budget Bill, an act  
23 making appropriations for the support of  
24 government (Education, Labor and Family  
25 Assistance Budget.)

1 All bills ordered direct for  
2 third reading.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: All  
4 bills are ordered directly to third reading.  
5 Senator Skelos.

6 SENATOR SKELOS: If we could  
7 return to the controversial calendar and call  
8 up Senator Maziarz' bill Calendar Number 483.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
10 Secretary will read Calendar Number 483 on the  
11 controversial calendar.

12 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
13 483, by Senator Maziarz, Senate Print 6584-A,  
14 an act to amend the Social Services Law, in  
15 relation to authorizing payment.

16 SENATOR GOLD: Explanation.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
18 Maziarz, an explanation has been requested by  
19 Senator Gold.

20 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Thank you  
21 very much, Mr. President.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Excuse  
23 me, Senator Maziarz. Before you enter into  
24 the debate here, if we might have the members  
25 please take your seats, please take the

1           conversations, if there are conversations, out  
2           of the chamber.

3                           SENATOR MAZIARZ: Thank you,  
4           Mr. President.

5                           The bill before us today  
6           authorizes payment through the state's  
7           Medicaid program for Medicare Part B premiums  
8           for Medicare beneficiaries whose income falls  
9           between 120 percent and 135 percent of the  
10          federal poverty level, and to pay a portion of  
11          the premium for beneficiaries with incomes  
12          between 135 percent and 175 percent of the  
13          federal poverty level.

14                          The federal government  
15          authorized reimbursement of the premium for  
16          the aforementioned income groups through the  
17          federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 for a  
18          period of five years. This Senate bill would  
19          authorize reimbursements to qualified Medicare  
20          beneficiaries retroactive to January 1, 1998  
21          and would sunset December 31 in the year  
22          2002.

23                          ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
24          Gold.

25                          SENATOR GOLD: Yeah. Will the

1 gentleman yield to a question?

2 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
3 Maziarz, do you yield.

4 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Certainly,  
5 Mr. President.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
7 yields.

8 SENATOR GOLD: Senator, how  
9 does it work if somebody becomes eligible for  
10 reimbursement or not reimbursement?

11 SENATOR MAZIARZ: It all  
12 depends upon the income of the individual,  
13 Senator. A person with an income -- an  
14 individual with an income between \$815 and  
15 \$918 a month, and for couples with an income  
16 between 1095 and \$1233 per month would be  
17 eligible Senator.

18 SENATOR GOLD: All right.  
19 Senator -- if the Senator would yield?

20 Senator, you said -

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
22 Maziarz.

23 SENATOR GOLD: You explained  
24 that -

25 SENATOR MAZIARZ: I will, Mr.

1 President.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
3 continues to yield.

4 SENATOR GOLD: Yeah, you  
5 explained that in the first go-round. What's  
6 troubling me, and I might as well get right to  
7 it, in the bill memo where it says "budget  
8 implications" it says, the line, "These are  
9 not entitlement groups. Therefore, upon  
10 depletion of the designated federal allotment  
11 for the year, New York State will terminate  
12 enrollment in these programs."

13 That language concerns me. I  
14 was just curious how it works. In other  
15 words, are we going to be giving this to  
16 people on a first come first served basis or  
17 is there some basis by which it's determined  
18 who gets or who doesn't get?

19 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Yes, it's a  
20 first come first served basis until the  
21 federal funds are depleted.

22 SENATOR GOLD: And is there any  
23 program to alert people to the fact that this  
24 is available, or how do people find out about  
25 it to become the first, for example, or to get

1 in early?

2 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Well, I would  
3 think that would be up to the members of the  
4 Legislature, the Department of Health, I know  
5 that the executive branch is going to be  
6 having an outreach program, Senator. I think  
7 it's either publicity churned out by people  
8 like yourself, who are very good at doing  
9 things like that, and myself who is not very  
10 good at doing things like that, Senator, but  
11 I'm going to get better watching you.

12 SENATOR GOLD: Well, Senator,  
13 last question. Do you have any idea how many  
14 people who are eligible will be able to get  
15 these benefits versus people that will get  
16 shut out because of the cutoff?

17 SENATOR MAZIARZ: It's my  
18 understanding, Senator, that there are  
19 approximately 122,000 individuals eligible for  
20 the full reimbursement and 288,000 would  
21 qualify for the partial reimbursement.

22 SENATOR GOLD: Well, I  
23 appreciate that, and -- but what I'm trying to  
24 find out, Senator, and if you don't know it's  
25 not going to change my vote. I appreciate

1 very much your answering the questions, but do  
2 you have any idea, if everybody that's  
3 eligible applied, would they all be able to be  
4 covered, or is there going to be a cutoff?

5 SENATOR MAZIARZ: I didn't hear  
6 the last part of your question.

7 SENATOR GOLD: Yeah. What I'm  
8 curious about, Senator, and obviously I'm  
9 going to support the bill because whoever gets  
10 help is going to get help, but what I'm  
11 curious about is, if everybody who is eligible  
12 gets their application, is there enough money  
13 for all of these people or how is it  
14 determined who is going to get the benefit and  
15 who is not? That's all I'm really asking.

16 SENATOR MAZIARZ: As we stated,  
17 it would be on a first come first served  
18 basis. I'm not sure if there would be enough  
19 money to cover all of that 122- or 288,000.

20 SENATOR GOLD: All right.

21 Thank you, Senator.

22 SENATOR MAZIARZ: Thank you.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Any  
24 other Senator wishing to speak on the bill?

25 Hearing none, the Secretary

1 will read the last section.

2 THE SECRETARY: Section 2.

3 This act shall take effect immediately.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
5 the roll.

6 (The Secretary called the  
7 roll. )

8 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 55.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
10 bill is passed.

11 Senator Velella, that completes  
12 the reading of the controversial calendar.

13 What's your pleasure?

14 SENATOR VELELLA: Mr.  
15 President, can we call up Senate Bill 6097-B,  
16 and have the bill read. Senator Stafford will  
17 be here in a moment.

18 SENATOR STAFFORD: Senator, we  
19 are here; we're here.

20 SENATOR VELELLA: Mr.  
21 President, while we're getting that bill, I  
22 want to remind the members that the Banks  
23 Committee meeting is -

24 SENATOR FARLEY: -- over.

25 SENATOR VELELLA: -- just

1 finished, and the Crime and Correction -  
2 Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections Committee  
3 will be meeting momentarily.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: For the  
5 benefit of the members, the Banks Committee  
6 meeting has concluded. The meeting of the  
7 Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections Committee  
8 is now taking place in the Majority Conference  
9 Room, Room 332.

10 Secretary will read Calendar  
11 Number 490, which is Senate Print 6097-B.

12 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
13 490, Budget Bill, Senate Print 6097-B, an act  
14 to amend the Correction Law and the Criminal  
15 Procedure Law, in relation to reimbursing  
16 localities.

17 SENATOR PATERSON:  
18 Explanation.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
20 Stafford, an explanation of Senate 6097-B has  
21 been requested by Senator Paterson.

22 SENATOR STAFFORD: Thank you.

23 Mr. President, this is known as  
24 the "language bill" and it is subdivided into  
25 nine separate parts. The first five parts (a)

1 through (e), contain statutory provisions  
2 necessary to implement the Senate's budget  
3 plan. Parts (f) through (i) contain the  
4 language bill provisions which direct the  
5 allocations of appropriations contained in the  
6 budget bill.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
8 Stafford -- Senator Stafford, may I interrupt  
9 you. I apologize for the interruption, but  
10 there is one awful lot of noise in the chamber  
11 and I don't know how those, particularly those  
12 who asked for the explanation, could even hear  
13 you, particularly when they're talking. So  
14 could we have a little quiet in the room,  
15 please.

16 SENATOR STAFFORD: Thank you,  
17 Mr. President, and you just interrupted me at  
18 the right time because I was just completed.

19 SENATOR GOLD: Mr. President.

20 SENATOR VELELLA: Explanation  
21 satisfactory.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Chair  
23 recognizes Senator Gold.

24 SENATOR GOLD: Thank you, Mr.  
25 President, and I recognize you too.

1                   This is the language bill, is  
2                   that correct?

3                   Mr. President, this language  
4                   bill -- would Senator Stafford yield to one  
5                   question?

6                   SENATOR STAFFORD: I will.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
8                   Stafford, do you yield? Senator Stafford  
9                   yields.

10                  SENATOR GOLD: Yeah, this is  
11                  the language bill that fits in with the  
12                  Republican budget which was voted upon, I  
13                  believe on Monday, and then we're voting on -  
14                  this is not -- so, in other words, Senator, if  
15                  we pass a budget which is really agreed upon  
16                  between the two houses and the Governor, I  
17                  assume there would have to be either  
18                  amendments to this or a new language bill, is  
19                  that correct or am I incorrect?

20                  SENATOR STAFFORD: Well,  
21                  Senator, as I've always pointed out, either  
22                  coincidentally or not coincidentally, you and  
23                  I, some would say have come up through the  
24                  ranks and others would say we haven't come up  
25                  through anything. You and I know that we've

1           been here long enough and we're here. We'll  
2           leave it at that.

3                         SENATOR GOLD: The answer is  
4           very satis... no, no.

5                         SENATOR STAFFORD: And you  
6           mentioned the type of budget it is. I would  
7           say that, you know, it is a budget that we are  
8           proposing and that your assumption is  
9           correct.

10                        SENATOR GOLD: Mr. President,  
11           with my gratitude to the Senator, no further  
12           questions.

13                        SENATOR STAFFORD: Thank you.

14                        ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Any  
15           other Senator wishing to speak on the bill?

16                        Secretary will read the last  
17           section.

18                        SENATOR GOLD: Oh, hold it one  
19           second.

20                        Oh, Mr. President.

21                        ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
22           Gold.

23                        SENATOR GOLD: Good to see  
24           you.

25                        ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: It's

1 nice of you to rise again.

2 SENATOR GOLD: Good to see  
3 you.

4 Mr. President, I believe  
5 there's an amendment at the desk which I've  
6 offered up, and I have a note from the desk  
7 that they'd like me to offer it so they can  
8 get rid of it. I would ask that the amendment  
9 be offered at this point. I waive its reading  
10 and opportunity -- ask for an opportunity to  
11 explain it.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
13 amendment is at the desk, Senator Gold. Your  
14 request for permission to have the reading  
15 waived is granted, and you now have the floor  
16 for the opportunity of explaining the  
17 amendment.

18 SENATOR GOLD: Thank you, Mr.  
19 President.

20 Mr. President, there has been  
21 some discussion about how much money we have  
22 or don't have, and this year as we did the  
23 last few years, we went through this farce of  
24 having an open meeting where people gave their  
25 budget estimates and we passed a law that says

1 we've got to agree on what the estimate is  
2 and, of course, we didn't do it, and all of  
3 our geniuses on all sides of the aisles are  
4 hundreds of millions or billions apart at any  
5 one time, but at any rate, this amendment  
6 really zeroes in on a problem without hurting  
7 anybody or embarrassing anybody.

8           The Majority in this house has  
9 told us that there is a certain amount of  
10 money available to do a budget, and what my  
11 amendment says is, gentlemen and lady, if you  
12 are wrong and there is extra money, we can now  
13 take care of a very significant problem and  
14 that is the problem of the schools, repairing  
15 schools and the problems we have with the  
16 physical plants of our schools, and this  
17 amendment would create a lock box and if there  
18 is more money than we all say there is in  
19 doing our budget, then that money would go  
20 into the lock box. There would be an  
21 appropriation, depending upon the various  
22 amounts that people get in their districts as  
23 school aid, and that money would be available  
24 for school repairs, construction, et cetera.

25           Now, I don't have to tell -

1 certainly don't have to tell Senator Padavan  
2 and Senator Maltese and Senator Goodman and my  
3 colleagues from New York City the desperate  
4 need for this money. I think it was last week  
5 there were at least, I believe, two incidents  
6 of bricks falling off of schools, and I  
7 believe in one situation there was a death of  
8 a child, in another situation some serious  
9 damage, and it is a problem that's got to be  
10 dealt with.

11 Last year we tried to get the  
12 people to approve one method of funding this  
13 work, and the people said they didn't want to  
14 do it, and God bless the people, we're -  
15 we're their servants, and we've got to find  
16 another way and this seems to be a painless  
17 way.

18 It says to the Republican  
19 Majority in this house, and it says to the  
20 world, you're presenting a budget. That  
21 budget is based upon your estimate of what the  
22 revenues are. If you are wrong, we will not  
23 touch what you have offered. The money that  
24 you have spent goes where you want it to be  
25 spent, but if you are wrong and there is extra

1 money, let us put it in the box, let us get it  
2 around the state and let us do what we need to  
3 do for the safety of our own children.

4 Thank you, Mr. President. I  
5 move the amendment.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Any  
7 other member wishing to speak on the  
8 amendment?

9 Hearing none, the question is  
10 on the amendment. All those in favor signify  
11 by saying aye.

12 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
13 in the affirmative.

14 SENATOR LARKIN: Party vote in  
15 the negative.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
17 Secretary will read the -- call the roll.  
18 Excuse me.

19 (The Secretary called the  
20 roll. )

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record  
22 the party line vote, announce the results.

23 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 23, nays  
24 35, party vote.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The

1 amendment fails.

2 Senator Dollinger, why do you  
3 rise.

4 SENATOR DOLLINGER: Mr.  
5 President, will the sponsor yield to just a  
6 couple quick questions?

7 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
8 Stafford yields.

9 SENATOR DOLLINGER: I got  
10 through about 50 pages, Senator Stafford,  
11 reading as quickly as I could. On page 45,  
12 line 44, it talks about traditional and  
13 flexible school years. Are we changing the  
14 school year, the public school year in New  
15 York State in this language?

16 SENATOR STAFFORD: No.

17 SENATOR DOLLINGER: Do you know  
18 what we're doing with the flex... why the term  
19 "flexible school year" is mentioned in the  
20 budget? Could you tell me what we're doing to  
21 change to a flexible school year?

22 SENATOR STAFFORD: The answer  
23 -- I think your question is very, very well  
24 taken and many of us in various areas of the  
25 state are very, very concerned with changing

1 the school year and, as a matter of fact,  
2 there are others that argue that there are  
3 good reasons. I talked to our people at  
4 length concerning this issue, and as a matter  
5 of fact, to the best of my recollection, what  
6 this does do is give some of the districts,  
7 especially New York City, the option to really  
8 review and possibly experiment with changing  
9 some of the -- some of the calendars.

10 I would say to you that this  
11 will give us an opportunity to see if this  
12 really is something that will be helpful. I  
13 share the concern of changing the overall  
14 calendar myself, changing the school year,  
15 because I selfishly am very concerned about  
16 it.

17 On the other hand, I don't  
18 think we should stop the experimentation and  
19 let them really see if it is necessary.

20 SENATOR DOLLINGER: Again  
21 through you, Mr. President.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
23 Stafford, do you continue to yield? Senator  
24 continues to yield.

25 SENATOR DOLLINGER: I know this

1 matter has been talked about but do you know  
2 whether this has actually gone through the  
3 Education Committee, the question of creating  
4 a flexible school calendar that would allow  
5 the city of New York or others -

6 SENATOR STAFFORD: I know it's  
7 something -- I know again, your question as  
8 always is very well taken, and you're getting  
9 to the heart of the procedure of our house and  
10 I understand that, and in which you're  
11 entirely competent to do so, but I would share  
12 with you as one who's been here in the house,  
13 this is an issue that has been discussed,  
14 reviewed and discussed by the educational  
15 establishment, by those on the committee, by  
16 those who are interested in education and, of  
17 course, it has now come to being included. It  
18 is as an experiment. Whether that actual  
19 specific item was voted on by the committee, I  
20 see your point, but I assure you that it's  
21 something that's been out there and has been  
22 -- as a matter of fact, for those who don't  
23 agree with you and me, who think that maybe  
24 this is something we should really move  
25 toward, they think it's been discussed,

1 reviewed, and too much.

2 SENATOR DOLLINGER: Again  
3 through you, Mr. President, if Senator  
4 Stafford would yield.

5 SENATOR STAFFORD: Sure.

6 SENATOR GOLD: Just one final  
7 question. Does this language bill give them  
8 the authority to implement a flexible school  
9 calendar, or does it simply give them the  
10 authority to study? Is it a study bill or is  
11 it an authority bill?

12 SENATOR STAFFORD: Well, I hear  
13 you. It's an option. I think it's understood  
14 that it's more of an experiment and what we're  
15 doing, and again, I'm as concerned about  
16 changing the calendar as anyone. All you have  
17 to do is look at my district, where it is, but  
18 what we're doing, they're going to be able to  
19 experiment and study this and they won't lose  
20 school aid if they do.

21 SENATOR DOLLINGER: O.K.

22 SENATOR STAFFORD: That's  
23 really what it's for.

24 SENATOR DOLLINGER: Thank you  
25 for that clarification.

1                   Just one other series of  
2                   questions, and again I got only through the  
3                   first 55 pages. If Senator Stafford would  
4                   continue to yield.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
6                   Stafford, do you continue to yield? Senator  
7                   continues to yield.

8                   SENATOR DOLLINGER: Referencing  
9                   pages 53 through 55 which talks about the  
10                  relationship between boards of education and  
11                  the Dormitory Authority, does this language  
12                  bill allow a board of education to use the  
13                  Dormitory Authority to bond and borrow funds  
14                  for capital construction for school buildings?

15                 SENATOR STAFFORD: Yes, and  
16                 again I think this is something that's worthy  
17                 of discussion here on the floor, because I,  
18                 for one, have been one who has argued that we  
19                 should be using the Dormitory Authority rather  
20                 than creating new entities, new facilities, so  
21                 to speak.

22                 I think the Dormitory Authority  
23                 in the administrations that I have been here  
24                 and that's one, two, three, four, five, six -

25                 A VOICE: Decades.

1                   SENATOR STAFFORD: That's  
2           right, decades -

3                   SENATOR DOLLINGER: I was going  
4           to say decades.

5                   SENATOR STAFFORD: Not decades,  
6           no, administrations. You have to halve that  
7           as far as decades, but I think the Dormitory  
8           Authority has done well, and I think it's a  
9           good -- good agency, and I think it makes  
10          sense to have them here and to save money,  
11          which I think is good.

12                   SENATOR DOLLINGER: Again  
13          through you, Mr. President, if Senator  
14          Stafford will yield, and I know this is a  
15          budget bill, but and again I've only been  
16          through the first 50 pages, but this again is  
17          an issue that has been a subject of  
18          discussion, but I don't know that it's  
19          actually been reviewed and that we've got a  
20          bill from the Education Committee or from the  
21          Higher Education Committee about this topic.

22                   My question is, does this  
23          change the bidding procedure that a school  
24          district would use, and specifically does it  
25          allow a school district to avoid the Wicks Law

1 in the imposition of school contracting?

2 SENATOR STAFFORD: First, I -  
3 all at once, a light went on, and I do have to  
4 point this out, that when you said it hadn't  
5 been considered by the committee, the issue  
6 that we just discussed has been passed two  
7 years in a row through the Education Committee  
8 in this house, so I think that should be  
9 pointed out.

10 Finally, with the Wicks Law it  
11 would be exempt, as you know, because the  
12 Dormitory Authority is exempt from the Wicks  
13 Law.

14 SENATOR DOLLINGER: So in  
15 essence this would allow public boards of  
16 education to do their reconstruction, their  
17 capital projects, through the Dormitory  
18 Authority and avoid the restrictions of the  
19 Wicks Law?

20 SENATOR STAFFORD: The  
21 Dormitory Authority is exempt from the Wicks  
22 Law.

23 SENATOR DOLLINGER: O.K.  
24 Through you, Mr. President, I appreciate the  
25 chairman of the Finance Committee. Just on

1 the bill, briefly.

2 SENATOR STAFFORD: Sure.

3 SENATOR DOLLINGER: This is the  
4 -- I won't say the danger of the current  
5 budget process, but this is clearly one of its  
6 temptations is that I understand that this is  
7 a big bill. This is making policy choices,  
8 very significant policy choices, in critical  
9 areas and I've just been through the education  
10 part, reading enormously quickly, speed  
11 reading as fast as I could.

12 We're already doing two  
13 things. We're creating a flexible school  
14 calendar option for some school districts  
15 which would allow them to impose compulsory  
16 attendance on students in July and August.  
17 Very important issue. Maybe critical, I  
18 understand the difficulties in the city of New  
19 York, the idea of the year round education,  
20 all age, an important educational issue for  
21 this state; but here we are on the floor of  
22 this Senate doing a bill that has -- oh, I  
23 don't know, 600 pages of material attached to  
24 it and we're about to go into a commitment for  
25 a flexible school year, something that I think

1 we ought to debate in greater detail on the  
2 floor of this house, even though I know while  
3 Senator Cook and the Education Committee has  
4 been thinking about this issue, they've had  
5 conversations but certainly it's never come to  
6 the attention of me as a member of this  
7 house. I'm not a member of the Education  
8 Committee, but we're already going down that  
9 road in a huge bill with, the best I can tell  
10 from this Senator's, perspective 20 minutes of  
11 aggressive reading through the bill.

12 That is an enormous change in  
13 state policy, one that I think we should look  
14 at apart from the context of a huge budget  
15 bill.

16 The second policy change that I  
17 found, and again through quick reading, is  
18 we're now going to change the relationship  
19 between the Dormitory Authority and local  
20 boards of education, again an issue that is  
21 not new in the sense it hasn't been discussed  
22 by others, but nonetheless we're doing it in  
23 the context of this budget. We're now going  
24 to allow public boards of education to avoid  
25 the strictures of the Wicks Law by doing it

1 through the Dormitory Authority -- a  
2 significant change in public policy  
3 accomplished in the context of this budget  
4 with what I anticipate will be little or no  
5 debate on the floor of this chamber.

6 I would love to hear the  
7 enlightening arguments about why we're doing  
8 this, and the pros and cons, and have this  
9 issue debated in total if these were free  
10 standing bills. Instead, it's all wrapped in  
11 this grand compromise or this grand attempt at  
12 legislating quickly, so that we can meet our  
13 budget deadline.

14 These issues should be debated  
15 here on the floor in separate debates, and I  
16 -- I think I've indicated to the chairman of  
17 Finance that I'll vote against this bill. My  
18 fear is that this bill is loaded with policy  
19 changes like that, over which no one in this  
20 chamber other than members of the staff, and  
21 God bless them, they've worked very hard to  
22 put it together, but the staff may know a lot  
23 about what's in here that's changing public  
24 policy but I doubt that the members of this  
25 body know that, and I would simply like

1 everybody to have the time to read through it  
2 in greater detail and maybe better understand  
3 what we're doing -- creating a flexible school  
4 year, changing the relationship between local  
5 boards of education and the Dormitory, and the  
6 impact of the Wicks Law, two significant  
7 policy changes in the first 50 pages.

8 I don't doubt there are lots of  
9 other complicated changes in public policy  
10 included in this budget that won't even be  
11 talked about today and that may surprise us  
12 when we finally find out what we voted on.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
14 Stafford.

15 SENATOR STAFFORD: Mr.  
16 President, Senator Dollinger and I this year,  
17 we're setting an example of the epitome of  
18 collegiality, and we find that we get a lot  
19 more done that way.

20 I want to say that, when we  
21 passed the budget bills last week, I want to  
22 make it very clear that no one criticized it,  
23 so I got thinking about, I kind of criticized  
24 myself, because I tend to say too little, when  
25 it comes to bills in debate, and -- but I've

1       been here 33 years, and I've learned that what  
2       I learned when I came down here in 1956 and  
3       1957 -- I was a junior in college in '56 and a  
4       senior in '57.

5                   Most of the work and the really  
6       substance that goes into this with the various  
7       committees, various members, various staff  
8       members, various people involved who have  
9       interest in legislation. You find that most  
10      of the work is done -- I hate to use this  
11      term, but it's true -- it's done off the  
12      floor. I mean it just is; it is. When it  
13      comes to these bills, and your point is well  
14      taken, I think we've got to continue to make  
15      sure that we do things in the light of day,  
16      and without being argumentative, I would point  
17      out, for instance -- for instance, we've taken  
18      the provision that was in the Governor's  
19      Article -- the Governor's Article VII bill  
20      since January, and that was the item with the  
21      -- I wanted to make sure they were both  
22      there, in the Dormitory Authority provisions  
23      and in the flexible school year, so that's  
24      been in front of us for three months. Now,  
25      three months, some days have 31 days, others

1       have 30, but if we multiply just say 30 days,  
2       that means that it's been in front of us for  
3       90 days.

4                       Now, the only reason I say  
5       this, when the bills come out, we can all say  
6       there's a lot here and, wait a minute, have  
7       we -- I'm not saying there aren't exceptions,  
8       I think we have to guard against it, but I  
9       want to point out that after the years I've  
10      been here, when the legislation passes, for  
11      the most part and almost always it's issues -  
12      it involves issues that have been considered,  
13      been debated, been reviewed, in other words  
14      they've been there, and this legislation is no  
15      different.

16                      I will not say that we don't  
17      have to be careful, that we just don't put  
18      something out that's never been considered,  
19      but to the -- to compliment the leadership in  
20      both houses and to compliment the Governor, my  
21      friends, and you know you get so sick of  
22      hearing, Oh, you should have seen the way it  
23      was the old ways, I know we get fed up with  
24      that. We cannot have it any more where we  
25      just pass things that have never been

1 considered, because the first thing you know  
2 there'd be more than one or two of us standing  
3 up.

4 Now, do we have to make sure  
5 that we have items, that we have consideration  
6 of issues that have matured, that have been  
7 reviewed? Yes, and I will stand here and say  
8 that those are two issues that have been out  
9 there and, interestingly enough, you have  
10 people on both sides of this issue and there  
11 are many of them who feel it's been considered  
12 too long, you know, and now we finally got  
13 something in writing which I think has been,  
14 New York City have an interest there, and  
15 rightfully so. They want to really look at  
16 this and see if they can do something with the  
17 flexible school year, and I have said for  
18 years, well, I'm very concerned about it, but  
19 I don't think we should be blocking it, and I  
20 think this is again just putting it out  
21 there.

22 SENATOR DOLLINGER: Mr.  
23 President. If I could, Mr. President, just  
24 briefly.

25 I agree with Senator Stafford.

1 I don't so much critique the process. I  
2 understand the compromise necessary to get  
3 this -- and that this, because it's a language  
4 bill, has lots of details in it, and ideas in  
5 it, proposals that may come from the  
6 Governor's budget and certainly the concept of  
7 compulsory education in July and August is not  
8 new. It's just never been specifically  
9 debated on the floor, that I recall, and the  
10 same thing is true with the Dormitory issue  
11 and the school districts, and I'm just  
12 suggesting that I understand the political and  
13 other needs to get this done in a big package  
14 and to put other things on it so that the  
15 snowball has everything, a concept for lots of  
16 people to make a compromise work. I don't  
17 criticize that, Senator Stafford. I'm just -  
18 I want to make sure that I know what I'm  
19 voting on, and seeing those two issues just  
20 suggest to me that there are a lot of other  
21 changes in here as well that further we could  
22 find.

23 So thank you, Mr. President.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Is  
25 there any other Senator wishing to speak on

1 this bill?

2 SENATOR STAFFORD: Last  
3 section, please.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
5 Secretary -- Senator Paterson.

6 SENATOR PATERSON: Mr.  
7 President, I believe, recognize Senator  
8 Lachman. We have another amendment at the  
9 desk.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Chair  
11 recognizes Senator Lachman.

12 SENATOR LACHMAN: Thank you,  
13 Mr. President.

14 These amendments that I will be  
15 discussing should not be considered as hostile  
16 amendments. They're not so hostile, because I  
17 consider them to be enhancement amendments. I  
18 consider them to be enhancement amendments  
19 because they enhance the possibility of  
20 children to learn and the possibility of  
21 teachers to teach, and these enhancement  
22 amendments provide enhancements in education,  
23 not only for the children of the city that I  
24 attend, that I live in and represent, but also  
25 for the Big Five cities. Let me take them one

1 at a time if I may, Mr. President. O.K.

2 The first amendment deals  
3 with -

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: You  
5 would need to address -- Senator Lachman.

6 SENATOR LACHMAN: -- teacher  
7 support aid.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: All  
9 right. You're asking -- you're offering that  
10 amendment up, asking -

11 SENATOR LACHMAN: I'm offering  
12 that amendment now.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: And  
14 asking that the reading of it be waived and  
15 that you be afforded an opportunity to explain  
16 it.

17 SENATOR LACHMAN: I'm asking  
18 that the reading for this amendment be waived  
19 and that I may be permitted to speak on the  
20 amendment.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Reading  
22 of the amendment is waived. You now have the  
23 floor for the purpose of explaining the  
24 amendment.

25 SENATOR LACHMAN: O.K. This

1 amendment supplies greater funding to teacher  
2 support aid that is currently supplied, and it  
3 supplies this aid in a way that enhances the  
4 learning of students, and it does not limit  
5 this enhancement to New York City as the  
6 Assembly bill does. It increases the  
7 enhancement to the Big Five, Buffalo,  
8 Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers and New York  
9 City, and they comprise -- their students  
10 comprise 42 percent of all public school  
11 students in the state of New York.

12 Now, the New York State  
13 Education Department figures show a  
14 discrepancy between the pupil-teacher ratio,  
15 the median teacher salary and the teacher  
16 turnover rate from the Big Five urban areas as  
17 against -- in comparison to the rural areas  
18 and to the non-urban suburban areas in New  
19 York.

20 The Big Five should stand  
21 together, and that is Buffalo, Rochester,  
22 Syracuse, Yonkers and New York City, but they  
23 should not stand together against the rest of  
24 New York. They should stand together with the  
25 rest of New York. As I earlier this week

1 emphasized in supporting the barn and farm  
2 amendment that was introduced by Senator  
3 Hoffmann, we are one state, and if you find a  
4 pupil-teacher ratio in New York City and the  
5 large city districts, the Big Five, of about  
6 15 percent and districts excluding the Big  
7 Five of 14 percent, if you have salary  
8 discrepancies of 3- to \$4,000 a year and if  
9 you have teacher turnover rates that are  
10 double what they should be in other parts of  
11 the state, then we know we have a serious  
12 problem.

13 Now, NYSUT, the New York State  
14 United Teachers, and the UFT claim that the  
15 teacher support aid, if it is not reinstated,  
16 the teachers in New York City and other cities  
17 would lose thousands of dollars each. The Big  
18 Five school districts and New York City need  
19 teacher support aid in order to compete with  
20 the higher salaries offered in nearby suburban  
21 districts. The Big Five districts, again  
22 Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers and New  
23 York City, because they have this competition,  
24 this higher turnover of teachers and lower  
25 salaries and poor working conditions, are in

1 need of this amendment which would increase  
2 teacher support aid by the tune of \$10,800,000  
3 and I urge the adoption of this amendment at  
4 this time.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Any  
6 other member wishing to speak on the  
7 amendment?

8 The question -- Senator  
9 Stavisky, on the amendment.

10 SENATOR STAVISKY: Mr.  
11 President, I'm going to comment on the higher  
12 education implication of this amendment, and  
13 waive the reading and request the opportunity  
14 to explain it.

15 We are a single state, and I  
16 recognize that, and that's why this deals with  
17 a restoration of funds to compensate for the  
18 cuts that are in the Governor's budget for  
19 CUNY and SUNY, and we are suggesting that the  
20 restorations take place in the reduction of  
21 tuition by \$250 in each instance.

22 More about this when my  
23 amendment comes up. I thought it was all part  
24 of a single amendment, so I will defer my  
25 comment now.

1 Thank you.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
3 Paterson, why do you rise?

4 SENATOR PATERSON: Mr.  
5 President, why don't we vote on the amendment  
6 that is on the floor and then move to the next  
7 amendment.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
9 Question is on the amendment offered by  
10 Senator Lachman. All those in favor signify  
11 by saying aye.

12 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
13 in the affirmative.

14 SENATOR LARKIN: Party vote in  
15 the negative.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
17 Secretary will call the roll, record the party  
18 line votes and announce the results.

19 (The Secretary called the  
20 roll. )

21 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
22 35, party vote.

23 SENATOR PATERSON: Mr.  
24 President.

25 SENATOR LACHMAN: Mr.

1 President, I have another amendment dealing  
2 with teacher centers. I'd like to have the  
3 reading waived so that I may speak on it.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
5 Lachman, the reading of your second amendment  
6 is waived, and you're now afforded the  
7 opportunity to explain the amendment.

8 SENATOR LACHMAN: Thank you. I  
9 have read many studies dealing with the  
10 improvement of education via the changes in  
11 the governance of education, and they have  
12 mixed results. Studies that I have read  
13 dealing with teacher centers and how this  
14 improves education in elementary and secondary  
15 education, are universally positive. Teacher  
16 centers do provide a positive impact upon the  
17 learning experience of children in the public  
18 schools of New York State.

19 My second amendment provides an  
20 additional \$10 million to teacher resource and  
21 computer training centers for the coming  
22 school year. Teacher centers are not new.  
23 They have been around for at least a decade,  
24 and they are designed and they are operated  
25 and run by teachers and provide useful

1 training and skills development. They have  
2 played a major role, Mr. President, in taking  
3 a number of the SURR schools off the list of  
4 New York City. This is what I consider  
5 another education enhancement amendment.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
7 Stavisky, on the amendment, did you wish to  
8 speak now?

9 SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: He has an  
10 amendment.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
12 Oppenheimer.

13 SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: Thank  
14 you, Mr. President.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: On the  
16 amendment.

17 SENATOR OPPENHEIMER: Yes, on  
18 the amendment.

19 I just want to speak on behalf  
20 of teacher centers which are so vital to at  
21 least education certainly in my area, and I  
22 would assume around the whole state.

23 Teaching tends to be an  
24 isolating experience. A teacher normally is  
25 in a single classroom most of the day and

1 doesn't have much opportunity to communicate  
2 with other teachers. The teacher center  
3 offers that opportunity. The teacher center  
4 also offers the opportunity to enhance  
5 skills. The fact is that many of my teachers  
6 say that some of their children in their  
7 classes could teach them about the -- how the  
8 computer works and how they can benefit from  
9 utilization of the computer in their  
10 preparation of their daily lessons.

11           It is so significant to the  
12 advancement of the learning of our  
13 teachers. I was fortunate enough to be taken  
14 into one class in a teacher center in my  
15 district, and I must say it was a very  
16 edifying experience. They are remarkable,  
17 teacher centers, when they work well. They  
18 can work in consolidation with several  
19 different school districts. I have an example  
20 of that, and the cross-fertilization that  
21 occurs when teachers are able to explore new  
22 fields, advance their learning in fields they  
23 already know and communicate with one another,  
24 it is simply extraordinary and we need to  
25 support additionally the teacher centers by

1 the amount of \$10 million.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Any  
3 other Senator wishing to speak on the  
4 amendment?

5 Hearing none, the question is  
6 on the amendment. All those in favor signify  
7 by saying aye.

8 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
9 in the affirmative.

10 SENATOR LARKIN: Party vote in  
11 the negative.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
13 Secretary will call the roll.

14 (The Secretary called the  
15 roll. )

16 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record  
17 the party line votes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
19 35, party vote.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
21 amendment is lost.

22 Senator Montgomery? Excuse  
23 me. Senator Leichter, did you have an  
24 amendment on this that you'd like to offer?

25 SENATOR LEICHTER: I believe I

1 do, Mr. President.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Are you  
3 asking that the reading be waived at this  
4 time, Senator Leichter?

5 SENATOR LEICHTER: Yes, the  
6 reading be waived and if I may have an  
7 opportunity to explain it.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
9 reading is waived, and you have the floor to  
10 explain the amendment.

11 SENATOR LEICHTER: Yes, Mr.  
12 President, thank you.

13 My colleagues, this amendment  
14 really deals with the legislative budget. The  
15 reason I'm bringing it up at this time is  
16 because, as you know, we now need to make any  
17 language changes to the language bill. What  
18 my amendment does, very simply, is itemizes  
19 the legislative budget. As you know, for  
20 these many years, I've stood up on this floor  
21 and beforehand in the Assembly, and pleaded  
22 with my colleagues to do what is required by  
23 law, to be honest with the public and to  
24 itemize the legislative budget.

25 I guess it's a reflection on my

1 persuasion that 30 years later, that budget is  
2 in almost the identical form that it was 30  
3 years ago. It's a budget that's shrouded in  
4 secrecy, has lump sum appropriation. Nobody  
5 can figure out really what the monies that are  
6 being appropriated -- and they're very  
7 substantial sums -- are really going to be  
8 spent for.

9                   So I've argued with my  
10 colleagues, Democrats in the Assembly as well  
11 as Republicans in the state Senate, that we  
12 ought to be honest, that we should not be  
13 contemptuous of the public, and I think if the  
14 fact that we continue to have the same budget,  
15 maybe reflects on my powers of persuasion or  
16 lack thereof, I think it also reflects on a  
17 certain cavalier and contemptuous attitude  
18 that the Legislature has for the public, and I  
19 guess you could describe it, Listen, as long  
20 as we can get away with it, we're going to do  
21 it; but it's unfortunate, it's sad, and I  
22 think it's one of the reasons that this  
23 legislature is not held in the high esteem  
24 that all of us would like to see it.

25                   There's no reason in the world

1        why we can't honestly, fully, openly describe  
2        to the public how we're going to spend the  
3        money.  If we don't think we're spending it in  
4        an appropriate manner, then maybe we shouldn't  
5        be spending it and, if it is appropriate, if  
6        the money is going be spent for the public  
7        good, if it's going to be spent in a way  
8        that's reasonable and sensible, why can't we  
9        let the public know?  What are we hiding?

10                I think we know some of the  
11        things that we're hiding.  We're hiding, one,  
12        a great disproportion between what goes to the  
13        Majority and what goes to the Minority.  Total  
14        unfairness.  Majority in the Assembly  
15        completely discriminates against the Minority  
16        and some of you served in the Minority in the  
17        Assembly, and you know, our recent colleague  
18        Senator Balboni, I'm sure, could tell us about  
19        the bias and the discrimination in the  
20        allocation of funds that exists in the  
21        Assembly and, of course, the same thing exists  
22        here in the Senate, and it's inexcusable.

23                One of the reasons or one of  
24        the ways that that is achieved is by having  
25        this undetailed legislative budget, a budget

1       that really shouldn't be called by the term,  
2       quote, "budget", unquote, because budget means  
3       that you specify and you detail what  
4       expenditures are being made; but that's not  
5       the case with this budget. Some people have  
6       said in excuse and rationale, well, it's  
7       difficult to set it forth, and so on. Not  
8       difficult at all. Very simple, and my  
9       amendment shows how you could have very  
10      simply, very easily and very clearly a  
11      detailed budget.

12                   Now, I regret to say that the  
13      Majority Leader is failing to keep a promise  
14      that he made to this body three years ago when  
15      I got up and complained about the legislative  
16      and judicial budget in 1995, had a debate with  
17      Senator Bruno. Here's what Senator Bruno said  
18      on the floor. This is from the record:

19                   "Senator, I think all of us in  
20      this chamber are in agreement that we should  
21      have more detailed budgets, that the public  
22      has a right to know and, as I assume the  
23      leadership in this house, I publicly declare  
24      that we will have in the Legislature, in the  
25      Senate, full disclosure of all the

1 expenditures in this Senate, and we are  
2 presently contemplating that starting January,  
3 as we have mentioned before, of next year,  
4 that you will see every cent -- every cent  
5 that we appropriate and spend itemized -- your  
6 staff, my staff, Senator Gold's staff, even  
7 Senator Stafford's."

8 "SENATOR LEICHTER:" I replied,  
9 "Just so that I'm clear, Senator Bruno, as I  
10 understand it, that itemization and that  
11 information, that openness that you have  
12 committed yourself to, will also be reflected  
13 in the legislative budget?"

14 Senator Bruno replied: "I think  
15 you will be very happy, very satisfied, as  
16 will my colleagues here, to see every cent  
17 that we spend itemized, so that everyone's  
18 salary is itemized, all the expenditures, for  
19 travel, for office expense, for your district  
20 office, itemized, and don't know how much more  
21 fully we can disclose than that."

22 Well, I'm sorry, Senator Bruno,  
23 that itemization isn't there. Not only don't  
24 you tell us how every cent is spent, you  
25 don't tell us how millions are being spent.

1 Now, it's true that we finally forced this  
2 body to come out with an expenditure report,  
3 but that comes out six months later. That's  
4 not a budget. A budget, you should know in  
5 advance, this is how the money is going to be  
6 spent. To come six months later and to say to  
7 somebody, Well, thanks for appropriating this  
8 money, here's how we spend it, is certainly  
9 not the same thing.

10 You know, there's no reason, no  
11 justification for not having an itemized  
12 budget. We ought to do it, and as long as I'm  
13 in this chamber or in this Legislature, and  
14 have been here some say too long -- I don't  
15 know whether it will be longer, maybe it will,  
16 maybe it won't -- but I certainly will get up  
17 and make this point. Some have said, you  
18 know, Why don't you give up, and so on. Well,  
19 I'm not going to let ennui, I'm not going to  
20 let discouragement overcome me.

21 I just think what we do is  
22 wrong. We can be better; we can do the right  
23 thing; we can do what the executive does, what  
24 we demand of the executive, have an itemized  
25 budget. We can do what Senator Bruno

1 committed himself to do which is to itemize  
2 every cent.

3 So, Mr. President, that's what  
4 my amendment does, and I hope finally after 30  
5 years, I'm a little more persuasive and we'll  
6 pass it.

7 SENATOR STACHOWSKI: Party vote.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:

9 Question is on the amendment. All those in  
10 favor signify by saying aye.

11 (Response of "Aye.")

12 Opposed nay.

13 (Response of "Nay.")

14 The amendment is lost.

15 The Chair recognizes Senator  
16 Montgomery for the purposes of an amendment.

17 SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Yes, Mr.  
18 President. I believe I have an amendment at  
19 the desk. I would like to waive the reading  
20 of it.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
22 reading of the amendment is waived, Senator,  
23 and you are now afforded the opportunity to  
24 explain.

25 SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Yes, I

1 would like to explain my amendment.

2 Mr. President, I have an  
3 amendment to this budget, the language budget,  
4 which simply would ensure that we are  
5 including school-based health centers as part  
6 of our overall Child Health Plus insurance  
7 program. It would do several things.

8 Number one, it would require  
9 that Child Health Plus insurers include  
10 school-based health centers in their network  
11 of health care providers in order to be  
12 eligible to offer the program.

13 Secondly, it would stipulate  
14 that Child Health Plus providers must have  
15 appropriate experience in providing services  
16 to children and youth, and be of sufficient  
17 size and cover a large enough geographic area  
18 to ensure access for children; and

19 Three, it would allow the  
20 school-based health clinic to function as an  
21 outreach and enrollment location so that they  
22 are part of our very, very important mission  
23 of enrolling larger numbers of eligible  
24 children.

25 Mr. President, this amendment

1 is, in fact, an amendment that if not  
2 overlooked by the Governor, it would have been  
3 supported and included by him because it will  
4 assist in making it possible for us to reach  
5 the goal which has been stated by the Governor  
6 himself, through his Commissioner, and that is  
7 to expand our child health insurance program  
8 and to enroll larger numbers of children into  
9 -- so that they're covered by health -  
10 health insurance.

11 The amendment goes one step  
12 further in that it brings out the access issue  
13 into the equation so that not only do we  
14 insure those youngsters but we also provide a  
15 network of accessible health care clinic  
16 programs at their school sites, and it reduces  
17 the need to go out and find them. They are  
18 already there.

19 We will be providing for them  
20 the health care that they need. We will be  
21 covering them with insurance, and basically  
22 with this amendment today, when we all vote  
23 yes on it, we will be fulfilling the mission  
24 of our Governor.

25 So, Mr. President, I ask that

1 we have a yes vote by all parties in the room  
2 on my amendment.

3 Thank you.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:

5 Question is on the amendment. Secretary will  
6 call the roll.

7 (The Secretary called the  
8 roll. )

9 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
10 in the affirmative.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record  
12 the party line votes, announce the results.

13 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
14 35, party vote.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
16 amendment is lost. Secretary will read the  
17 last section.

18 THE SECRETARY: Section 2.  
19 This act shall take effect April 1.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
21 the roll.

22 (The Secretary called the  
23 roll. )

24 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record  
25 the negatives and announce the results.

1 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 59, nays  
2 one, Senator Dollinger recorded in the  
3 negative.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
5 bill is passed.

6 Senator Skelos.

7 SENATOR SKELOS: Would you call  
8 up Senate 6100-A, please.

9 THE SECRETARY: The Secretary  
10 will read the title to Calendar Number 491,  
11 it's Senate Print 6100-A.

12 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
13 491, budget bill, Senate Print 6100-A, an act  
14 making appropriations for the support of  
15 government on Legislature and Judiciary  
16 Budget.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
18 Secretary will read the last section.

19 THE SECRETARY: Section 5.  
20 This act shall take effect immediately.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call  
22 the roll.

23 (The Secretary called the  
24 roll. )

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator

1 Hoffmann, why do you rise?

2 SENATOR HOFFMANN: May I have  
3 my name called to explain my vote.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
5 Hoffmann, to explain her vote. Record the  
6 negatives that have their hands raised. Will  
7 the members who are voting against 6100-A  
8 please raise their hands.

9 Senator Hoffmann.

10 SENATOR HOFFMANN: Mr.  
11 President, I share the concerns voiced by  
12 Senator Leichter with such eloquence and  
13 brevity, and I will not take any more of this  
14 chamber's time today, but I would like to  
15 assure my colleagues this is an issue which  
16 does not go away when we leave this chamber or  
17 when we do eventually pass a budget.

18 The taxpayers of this state  
19 would like to know how their money is being  
20 spent by their legislators. Sooner or later,  
21 we will find it politically expedient if not  
22 in our deepest personal interest to make it  
23 clear to people that we are spending their  
24 money in an appropriate manner.

25 So I will vote no until such

1 time as I can safely assure them that it is,  
2 in fact, all being spent in an appropriate  
3 manner and is fully documentable.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
5 Announce the results.

6 THE SECRETARY: Those recorded  
7 in the negative on Calendar Number 491 are  
8 Senators Dollinger, Hoffmann, Leichter,  
9 Montgomery and Seabrook. Ayes 55, nays 5.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
11 bill is passed.

12 Senator Skelos.

13 SENATOR SKELOS: Would you call  
14 up Senate 6105-B, please.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
16 Secretary will read the title to Calendar  
17 Number 492, Senate 6105-B.

18 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
19 492, Budget Bill, Senate Print 6105-B, an act  
20 making appropriations for the support of  
21 government (Education, Labor and Family  
22 Assistance Budget.)

23 SENATOR STACHOWSKI:  
24 Explanation.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator

1       Stafford, an explanation of Calendar Number  
2       492, which is Senate Print 6105-B, has been  
3       requested by Senator Stachowski.

4                 SENATOR STAFFORD: Thank you.

5                 Mr. President, this, like all  
6       the budget bills, is important, but many would  
7       argue that this is one of the most important  
8       and I would -- I would agree. This is the  
9       Education, Labor and Family Services Budget.

10                Now, this part of the budget  
11       increases spending by 196.6 million over what  
12       was originally proposed and sent to us. The  
13       increase is a combination of 330 million in  
14       increased elementary and secondary school aid  
15       for the 1998-99 school year and 55 million for  
16       increased higher education support offset by  
17       lower public assistance expenditures.

18                This budget bill finances the  
19       total year of increased -- aid increase of 846  
20       million, or 7.7 percent, and I might add this  
21       is the largest increase in the history of the  
22       Empire State. The bill funds an \$18 million  
23       TAP increase for the 1998 academic year, a  
24       \$150 per pupil increase in community college  
25       aid for both SUNY and CUNY and provides a \$5

1 million Bundy Aid increase for independent  
2 colleges, and expands the current economic job  
3 training contract course program which many of  
4 us have found very beneficial, and just  
5 tremendous in our areas.

6 And finally, the bill lines out  
7 the SUNY and CUNY capital projects be included  
8 in the Governor's five-year \$3 billion program  
9 based upon the capital plan submitted by both  
10 SUNY and CUNY.

11 Thank you.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Any  
13 other Senator wishing to speak on the bill?

14 Senator Gentile.

15 SENATOR GENTILE: Mr.  
16 President, I believe I have an amendment at  
17 the desk.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: There  
19 is, Senator Gentile. You asking that the  
20 reading of it be waived?

21 SENATOR GENTILE: I do, sir.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
23 request is granted, and you are now afforded  
24 the opportunity to speak on the amendment.

25 SENATOR GENTILE: Thank you,

1 Mr. President.

2 Last -- in the Environmental  
3 Bond Act this state made a commitment to  
4 convert the coal-burning furnaces in our  
5 schools across New York State, and in the  
6 first allocation of money from that bond act  
7 and in the second allocation, it has become  
8 clear to those in this state, especially those  
9 in the public schools, that the money  
10 allocated in this and the slow pace of these  
11 conversions of coal-burning furnaces is not  
12 acceptable. It is such a slow pace that those  
13 students who are now attending grade school  
14 will graduate with their high school diploma  
15 before all the schools in this state have  
16 converted their coal-burning furnaces under  
17 the Environmental Bond Act.

18 It is certainly -- it is  
19 certainly a sight to see as schools are using  
20 19th Century technology as we are about to  
21 enter the 21st Century, as you go around and  
22 see them actually shoveling coal into the  
23 burners in the schools.

24 My amendment, Mr. President,  
25 increases, therefore, the appropriation for

1 the clean air -- Clean Air for Schools program  
2 funded through the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond  
3 Act to a recommended level of \$53 million. 53  
4 of the 279 schools with coal-burning furnaces  
5 in New York City, for example, are ranked 1-B,  
6 2 and 3-A by the Board of Education, the  
7 highest rankings meaning the worst schools  
8 with the coal-burning furnaces.

9 It costs approximately a  
10 million dollars per conversion to complete  
11 this work. Therefore, our amendment that we  
12 are proposing here today, that I am proposing,  
13 would ensure that the work -- that the schools  
14 get fixed on an expedited basis. Indeed, in  
15 my district, in Brooklyn for example, district  
16 20, 65 percent of the schools still burn coal  
17 as their heating source. That's 19 schools,  
18 19 schools, just in my district in Brooklyn  
19 still burn coal in their burners, and I'm sure  
20 the other members of the New York City  
21 delegation can say much the same about their  
22 districts too.

23 I also have four schools in the  
24 Staten Island portion of my district that  
25 still burn coal. Again this is as we enter

1 the 21st Century, we are still using 19th  
2 Century technology. It's clear as has been  
3 studied that the coal-burning furnaces pose  
4 health hazards to the faculty and staff at the  
5 school, certainly to the students of the  
6 schools. The pollution it creates in the  
7 community and the soot and grime it creates  
8 throughout the community is something that we,  
9 as we enter the year 2000, should not have to  
10 be saddled with.

11 The money in a surplus year can  
12 be provided to expedite this process. That's  
13 the purpose of this amendment, and I ask that  
14 we pass it.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
16 question is on the amendment. All those -  
17 Senator Markowitz on the amendment.

18 SENATOR MARKOWITZ: I'd like to  
19 join with Senator Gentile. There are several  
20 of these schools that are located in my  
21 district. It's kind of hard to explain to the  
22 kids and the staff that work in these schools  
23 that -- that they're still burning coal in  
24 1998. You can just imagine the fumes, the  
25 dirt, the inefficiency and, frankly, we should

1 all be ashamed of ourselves whether we're here  
2 in a state Legislature or other responsible  
3 educational agencies, to allow a condition  
4 like this to be existent in 1998.

5 We're not even talking about  
6 the decrepid quality of the buildings  
7 themselves and how we can expect our kids to  
8 learn when the schools are in such horrible  
9 condition, but certainly passing Senator  
10 Gentile's amendment would be an indication to  
11 the students and their families in New York  
12 City that this would be a positive step and a  
13 value in their educational future.

14 So I urge all of us, let's make  
15 this amendment the first time in the modern  
16 history of the state Senate where the  
17 Republicans join with the Democrats together  
18 in passing this wonderful amendment. I'm  
19 going to keep my fingers crossed, Senator.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
21 Waldon, on the amendment.

22 SENATOR WALDON: Thank you, Mr.  
23 President.

24 There are four such schools in  
25 the area that I am representing, and I just

1 want to go on record that I want the children  
2 in Southeast Queens to have the same quality  
3 of environment that other schools have and  
4 have the same ability to be heated in the  
5 winter when it is very difficult to learn in a  
6 cold classroom, so Al Waldon is now on record  
7 that not only do I support this amendment, but  
8 I want some of that money to quickly find its  
9 way into Southeast Queens.

10 Thank you very much, Mr.  
11 President. I applaud Senator Gentile's  
12 amendment.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
14 Dollinger, why -- the question is on the  
15 amendment. All those in favor signify by  
16 saying aye.

17 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
18 in the affirmative.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
20 Secretary will call the roll, record the party  
21 line votes, announce the results.

22 (The Secretary called the  
23 roll. )

24 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
25 35, party vote.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
2 amendment is lost.

3                   Senator Stavisky.

4                   SENATOR STAVISKY: Yes, Mr.  
5 President, I indicated previously that I would  
6 like to speak on part of this package and  
7 we're now at that point.

8                   The Governor has spoken about  
9 tax cuts for families, moderate income, middle  
10 income families, so that people will have more  
11 money in their coffers and will be able to  
12 take care of their families' needs.

13                   At a time when the goal is to  
14 provide higher educational opportunities for  
15 increasing numbers of students in the state of  
16 New York, I am proposing that we cut by \$250  
17 all of the tuition increases that have been  
18 put into effect previously and make this a way  
19 of giving the equivalent of a tax cut to the  
20 people of this state.

21                   The net effect of this would be  
22 to reduce to \$320 the tuition at CUNY and to  
23 \$340 the tuition at SUNY. There are various  
24 ways to grant reductions, and this would be  
25 one of the most civilized ways to provide for

1 aid upstate and downstate as well, and one of  
2 the amendments now before you would implement  
3 that program.

4 Certainly it would do one other  
5 thing. It would increase aid for part-time  
6 study by \$10 million. Part-time study is now  
7 increasingly utilized by students who, for a  
8 variety of reasons, family obligations, the  
9 need to continue their commitment to their  
10 institutions, is now used increasingly and yet  
11 the TAP award is not made applicable to all of  
12 the students who are in part-time education.

13 So the second part of this  
14 amendment raises from 90 percent to 100  
15 percent the support the state of New York  
16 gives to TAP programs, students who are  
17 studying under the TAP program.

18 Finally, it increases the goal  
19 of the state of New York in fulfilling  
20 obligations to different parts of the state,  
21 in fulfilling the need to be even-handed in  
22 the way that aid is apportioned at the higher  
23 educational level.

24 We have -- we have in this  
25 amendment aid to part-time study, which goes

1 from 15 million to \$25 million more, something  
2 that was provided in previous budgets,  
3 something that was denied in the current  
4 Governor's proposal, so we're asking for  
5 part-time study increases; we're asking for  
6 the reduction in the CUNY and SUNY tuition  
7 rates, so that in place of a tax saving, there  
8 will be a return to the taxpayer, to those who  
9 are providing for study in the higher  
10 educational institutions of our state, and  
11 also in the City.

12 I hope that these changes will  
13 be recognized. I hope that they will be  
14 incorporated in the budget that we finally  
15 adopt, and I ask every member of the  
16 Legislature, every member of the Senate, to  
17 come on board in support of this form of  
18 reduction of burden by government, a cost of  
19 government to the people of this state.

20 I move the amendment.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
22 Stavisky's amendment is before the house. The  
23 reading is waived. The Chair recognizes  
24 Senator Markowitz, to second the amendment.

25 SENATOR MARKOWITZ: Thank you

1 very, very much, Mr. President.

2 Senator Stavisky, I appreciate,  
3 we all do, the persuasiveness of the reasons  
4 why we should all join together in adopting  
5 this amendment, and I have to say that, as  
6 someone who has been your student for many  
7 years, there will be no one more qualified or  
8 more articulate in fighting for both public  
9 education and higher education ever in this  
10 Senate than you, and I think Senator Stavisky  
11 laid it out very directly why we should  
12 unanimously pass this amendment, and I know  
13 I'm looking at Senator Dean Skelos, and I know  
14 you feel the way I do, and I know, Nick Spano,  
15 you definitely for sure, all of us  
16 representing whatever part of the state have  
17 units of SUNY and CUNY, and I can't think of a  
18 better way -- look at these poor students who  
19 over the last number of years, because of our  
20 budgets in this state, that tuition has  
21 dramatically increased -- dramatically  
22 increased -- and believe me, it's hard  
23 sometimes to understand that a couple hundred  
24 dollars a semester more for a student may be  
25 the difference between them seeking a higher

1 education or not.

2 We're not all wealthy, not even  
3 Senators, that's for sure, and a lot of us  
4 that live on this income know what a struggle  
5 it is just to live on the income we get paid  
6 as a state Senator. Just imagine if you're a  
7 student who -- whose only income is a few  
8 bucks your parents may give you or after  
9 school or week ends, so this is a way that we  
10 can return something back to the students of  
11 the state of New York, and further by helping  
12 part-time students. Now, I'm an example.  
13 Whether you laugh or not laugh, I'm an example  
14 of a part-time student. Had it not been for  
15 tuition assistance when I went to school, and  
16 I don't know when it was right now, but  
17 whatever years it was, it seems like  
18 yesterday. 1898 -- it may have been, but I  
19 mean I went to college nine years at night as  
20 a part-time student because I knew that it was  
21 important to graduate, and no matter how long  
22 it would take, I knew I had to do it. Had it  
23 not been for assistance in those days when we  
24 had free tuition or very modest tuition in the  
25 City University, I imagine that hundreds of

1 thousands, millions of students that today are  
2 in their careers would have never had a  
3 chance.

4 So I know Senator LaValle is  
5 listening to me. He is someone who has  
6 sponsored and supported higher education. I  
7 turn to you, Senator LaValle, join us and we  
8 join you in returning a modest decrease of  
9 tuition to the students of the state of New  
10 York, in SUNY and CUNY, and also increase  
11 part-time assistance to students like me and  
12 today's generation that need it even more -  
13 even more than in days -- than in yesterday.  
14 So I hope you'll join us, and I'm going to  
15 keep my fingers crossed that this will be the  
16 amendment that all of us will adopt together.

17 Thank you very, very much.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:

19 Question is on the amendment. Secretary will  
20 call the roll.

21 (The Secretary called the  
22 roll. )

23 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25.

24 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
25 in the affirmative.

1 THE SECRETARY: Nays 35, party  
2 vote.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
4 amendment is lost.

5 Senator Gentile, why do you  
6 rise?

7 SENATOR GENTILE: Mr.  
8 President, I believe I have another amendment  
9 at the desk.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: There  
11 is.

12 SENATOR GENTILE: There is?  
13 I'd ask the reading be waived and allow me to  
14 explain the amendment.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Reading  
16 is waived. The floor is yours for the purpose  
17 of explaining the amendment.

18 SENATOR GENTILE: Thank you,  
19 Mr. President.

20 My amendment would provide for  
21 an increase in pre-K education by \$17  
22 million. It provides an additional \$17  
23 million appropriation for the universal pre-K  
24 program, that commitment we made in the  
25 1997-98 budget. It provides the necessary

1       appropriations in addition to what was  
2       previously appropriated.

3                       Now, we all know that  
4       commitment that we made here, both Republicans  
5       and Democrats alike in this house, in the  
6       Assembly and with the Governor, in committing  
7       last year's budget to universal pre-K. We all  
8       have learned of the benefits and the viability  
9       of a pre-K program on the education of -- and  
10      the educational success of four-year-olds and  
11      so there's no question that the universal  
12      pre-K is something that is good for this  
13      state, and I believe that is why we all joined  
14      in a bipartisan way to support universal pre-K  
15      in last year's budget, and thank God we did.  
16      Thank God we put universal pre-K into the  
17      state -- directly into the state education  
18      budget because no longer then will pre-K be  
19      subject to the whims of a Majority Leader as  
20      happened in this house last year.

21                      The Majority Leader impounded  
22      member item dollars promised to the  
23      four-year-olds in my district for pre-K  
24      programs in 1997. As a result, those pre-K  
25      programs closed. Now, we may have a political

1 war waging in this house, but to make -- to  
2 make four-year-olds, four-year-olds, the  
3 victims of that war is really outrageous  
4 partisanship.

5 With universal pre-K, we will  
6 never again nor can we put politics over  
7 four-year-olds. Politics will not take  
8 priority over four-year-olds. Never again  
9 will majority politics pit your kids against  
10 my kids and punish the good people of my  
11 district because of the political loss of a  
12 Republican Senate seat. The most outrageous  
13 show of partisanship was the impounding of  
14 that pre-K money last year.

15 Now, hopefully, with universal  
16 pre-K, something like that will be a thing of  
17 the past. It will be history. Yet, New York  
18 City officials tell us with this universal  
19 pre-K funding that to properly implement the  
20 universal pre-K even on the phased-in basis  
21 that we propose to do, additional funds may be  
22 needed to adequately run even just several  
23 programs per district. Indeed the Board of  
24 Education officials in New York City estimate  
25 that on a statewide basis, a large number of

1 districts will apply for this program and that  
2 the current funding in Phase I will not be  
3 enough to cover.

4 That is why this amendment adds  
5 an additional \$17 million. The Assembly  
6 budget bill recognizes this potential need.  
7 They have put it in their bill. We should do  
8 so too. We should put our legislative votes  
9 where our legislative vision has been, and  
10 that is to adequately fund the commitment we  
11 make to universal pre-K. Let's make it a  
12 reality once and for all.

13 Mr. President, I ask for a vote  
14 in the affirmative.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
16 Question is on the amendment. Secretary will  
17 call the roll.

18 (The Secretary called the  
19 roll. )

20 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
21 in the affirmative.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record  
23 the party line votes, announce the results.

24 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
25 35, party vote.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  The  
2                   amendment is lost.

3                   Senator Seabrook.

4                   SENATOR SEABROOK:  Yes, Mr.  
5                   President.  I think I have an amendment at the  
6                   desk.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  There  
8                   is.

9                   SENATOR SEABROOK:  I'd like to  
10                  ask the waiving of that and permit an  
11                  explanation.

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  The  
13                  reading of the amendment is waived and you are  
14                  now afforded the floor for the purpose of  
15                  explaining the amendment, Senator.

16                  SENATOR SEABROOK:  Mr.  
17                  President, this is a chapter amendment to the  
18                  Senate Bill 6105-B, and it adds an  
19                  appropriation authority to the Office of the  
20                  Aging and that these dollars would be used as  
21                  follows:

22                                 It adds \$4 million for the  
23                                 community service for the elderly.  That's the  
24                                 CSE program which provides transportation,  
25                                 shopping assistance, homemaker, housekeeper

1 and other services for the elderly. It also  
2 adds \$1 million for the community service  
3 initiative which provides services through  
4 governmental or non-profit organizations in  
5 community settings and provides information,  
6 support and referral service.

7 It also adds \$4 million for the  
8 expanded in-house service for the elderly  
9 program, ISEP, which provides personal care,  
10 homemakers, case management service as an  
11 alternative to nursing home placement.

12 It also adds \$6 million for the  
13 supplemental nutrition assistance program  
14 which is SNAP, for the elderly. The most  
15 notably active is Meals on Wheels, and, Mr.  
16 President, this amendment would provide for  
17 those who have been the most loyal troopers in  
18 this state who have provided to sustain our  
19 existence here in this state and that's the  
20 seniors who, many of us, are at that point and  
21 certainly a number of us who are approaching  
22 that point; and what a fine way to deal with  
23 sending a message to those who are in need and  
24 those who will be in need, is by voting for  
25 this amendment for the seniors, and this has

1       been their package on which they have come to  
2       Albany on numerous occasions this year to talk  
3       to legislators about the importance of their  
4       agenda, their needs. So we should not have  
5       them making a choice between their medicine  
6       and their meals, and we have a golden  
7       opportunity with a surplus that's rumored in  
8       this budget, that we should provide this small  
9       token of appreciation to those who have given  
10      so much.

11                   So I say and urge all of my  
12      colleagues to vote on this amendment because  
13      perhaps one day it might be beneficial to all  
14      of us.

15                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:

16      Question is on the amendment. Secretary will  
17      call the roll.

18                   SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote in  
19      the affirmative.

20                   (The Secretary called the  
21      roll. )

22                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record  
23      the party line vote, announce the results.

24                   THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
25      35.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
2 amendment is lost.

3                   Senator Waldon, for purposes of  
4 an amendment.

5                   SENATOR WALDON: Mr. President,  
6 I have, I believe, an amendment at the desk.  
7 I waive its reading and respectfully request I  
8 be afforded an opportunity to explain same.

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Your  
10 request is granted. The reading is read -  
11 excuse me, the reading is waived -

12                   SENATOR WALDON: Thank you, Mr.  
13 President.

14                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: I'll get  
15 that right, and you now have the floor for the  
16 purpose of explaining the amendment.

17                   SENATOR WALDON: Thank you, Mr.  
18 President.

19                   This amendment is in regard to  
20 Senate Bill 6105-B, and I wish to have placed  
21 on page 127, after line 38, the following:

22       "\*\*\* for additional services and expenses  
23 related to programs providing special  
24 delinquency prevention or other development  
25 delinquency prevention services for youth. No

1 expenditure shall be made from this  
2 appropriation until a plan has been approved  
3 by the Director of the Budget and a  
4 certificate of approval allocating these funds  
5 has been issued by the Director of the  
6 Budget." The amount involved is \$30 million.

7 Now, Mr. President, my  
8 colleagues, we can no longer say that crime is  
9 driving our budgets in regard to the criminal  
10 justice program. Over the last 10 or 11  
11 years, crime has remained at the very least  
12 stable and in many areas has gone down. So  
13 what is driving the criminal justice budget  
14 and the absence of improving prevention  
15 programs is the fear of crime, not the crime  
16 itself.

17 When I look at the proposals  
18 from the Assembly, those proposed in the  
19 Majority's budget pale in comparison. The  
20 juvenile delinquency program in the Assembly  
21 has appropriated \$24 million for the specific  
22 program that I want \$30 million. It has  
23 proposed \$3.3 million for post-placement,  
24 after-care, substance abuse treatment to youth  
25 leaving residential facilities. It has

1 proposed \$2.3 million be added for pregnancy  
2 prevention programs.

3 The total increase recommended  
4 by our Majority colleagues is \$2 million for  
5 added delinquency prevention and youth  
6 development programs. That is insufficient.

7 The anomaly which occurred  
8 yesterday in Jonesboro, Arkansas, is just  
9 that, an anomaly. An 11 and a 13-year-old -  
10 I can't hear, Mr. President.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Your  
12 point is very well taken, Senator Waldon. Can  
13 we have the members please take their chairs,  
14 staff please take their seats. There's a lot  
15 of activity, a lot of conversation in the  
16 chamber. Please show the member some respect  
17 for his position and his amendment.

18 SENATOR WALDON: I thank you,  
19 Mr. President.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
21 Waldon.

22 SENATOR WALDON: What happened  
23 was an anomaly. An 11-and a 13-year-old  
24 dressed as Rambeaus in camouflage uniforms  
25 murdered children and a school teacher. I

1 don't know what we could do to prevent that  
2 act. I don't know how we can console the  
3 parents of the children who were killed and  
4 the family of the teacher who lost her life.  
5 What can we offer to the parents of the  
6 children who committed these murders?

7 I don't know what we can do in  
8 those kinds of instances, but I believe that,  
9 if we were to take a stronger stand in regard  
10 to prevention overall and to shoring up our  
11 children and giving them a sense -- a better  
12 sense of self, giving them more activities,  
13 creating viable programs to prevent  
14 delinquency, that maybe there will be more  
15 frequent in the future situations occurring as  
16 did yesterday.

17 I believe that we ought to look  
18 at the three Ms, monitoring, men-i-toring -  
19 mentoring, I'm sorry, and ministering in  
20 regard to our juveniles. We should monitor  
21 their activities to a greater degree than  
22 we're doing now so that we will at least know  
23 where they are, what they are doing, and what  
24 activities they are involving themselves  
25 with.

1                   We must mentor them better than  
2                   we have. In the Greek language -- I'm just  
3                   finding the spot please -- the term "mentor"  
4                   occurred in regard to Odysseus and his  
5                   mentoring of Telemachus. The term is  
6                   synonymous with "counselor", "guide", "tutor"  
7                   or "coach". Obviously, when we have 57  
8                   percent of our children with parents not at  
9                   home to care for them, we need mentors. We  
10                  need people who they can relate to, people who  
11                  will be adults and responsible for them and to  
12                  them.

13                   But because of things like  
14                  Jonesboro, we need even something beyond  
15                  mentoring, so I would like for this body to  
16                  focus on the concept of ministering and  
17                  incorporating that into whatever we do. When  
18                  someone ministers to a child, he takes  
19                  responsibility for that child in perhaps a  
20                  religious setting, but certainly within a  
21                  community setting and says, "I will make a  
22                  difference in this child's life."

23                   So I think that we not only  
24                  need to appropriate more money and have a more  
25                  hands-on policy with regard to our juveniles,

1 but I think we need to monitor them, to mentor  
2 them, and to minister to them.

3 We, in this state, are about to  
4 have an explosion of youth come the 21st  
5 Century, and if all the indicia are right from  
6 the national level, when that explosion  
7 occurs, unless we take the kinds of steps that  
8 I'm talking about, we will have an explosion  
9 in crime amongst our youth.

10 So I encourage my colleagues  
11 today to vote with me on this amendment. It  
12 is but \$30 million, a droop in the bucket if  
13 we can save lives and if we can turn lives  
14 around.

15 I move the amendment.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:

17 Question is on the amendment. Secretary will  
18 call the roll.

19 (The Secretary called the  
20 roll. )

21 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
22 in the affirmative.

23 SENATOR ALESI: Party vote in  
24 the negative.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record

1 the party line votes, announce the results.

2 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
3 35, party vote.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:  
5 Amendment is lost.

6 Senator Paterson.

7 SENATOR PATERSON: Mr.  
8 President, I'd like to inquire of the Chair  
9 how many amendments have been brought before  
10 the house today.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: On this  
12 bill five.

13 SENATOR PATERSON: Five.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: One of  
15 the prior bills I believe three. Excuse me,  
16 four. Four.

17 SENATOR PATERSON: Four. And  
18 how many have been won, Mr. President?

19 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: This is  
20 a tough tally, Senator Paterson. It probably  
21 will take me a couple minutes so you'll  
22 probably be best served by my recollection,  
23 and that is that none have passed.

24 SENATOR PATERSON: I see.  
25 Well, thank you, Mr. President. This is the

1 tenth amendment and, Mr. President, as Ed  
2 McMahon once said to Karnak, This is the last  
3 envelope.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Read  
5 the last section. No.

6 Senator Paterson, for the  
7 purpose of offering an amendment.

8 SENATOR PATERSON: Mr.  
9 President, this amendment involves a \$700  
10 million surplus that the state has received in  
11 terms of temporary aid for needy families, and  
12 we find that to this point 458 million have  
13 probably been spent on other programs, leaving  
14 us about 242 million and some will obviously  
15 go to defer some other costs, and so for that  
16 reason, we wanted to try to find a prudent way  
17 to bring some money to certain areas of  
18 temporary aid for needy families, spending  
19 without it impacting on the budget process.

20 Actually, in a previous nine  
21 amendments, there have been less than \$300  
22 million added to what's being proposed. So  
23 what the Minority has tried to look at, in  
24 addition to need, is also the sense of  
25 budgeting priority.

1                   Already, the Senate has added  
2                   \$65 million to child care. We are proposing  
3                   an additional \$40 million for child care.  
4                   Already, the Senate has added \$12 million to  
5                   compensate counties for drug testing, drug  
6                   screening and drug rehabilitation. We're  
7                   proposing another \$18 million, and finally,  
8                   the Senate has already proposed \$7 million  
9                   for transportation of individuals who are  
10                  going back and forth to work, and we're  
11                  proposing to round that figure off to 10  
12                  million.

13                  So when we look at the three  
14                  areas that we would like to address, we're  
15                  talking about \$61 million added on, 40 million  
16                  for child care, 18 million for substance abuse  
17                  and 3 million for transportation.

18                  Child care, the state would  
19                  have an average of \$3.5, so we're talking  
20                  about bringing people back to the work place,  
21                  and one of the areas we'd like to address is  
22                  the stabilizing of child care for those who  
23                  are now going back into the work place.  
24                  Probably 30 or 40 years ago it became the  
25                  philosophy that perhaps there wasn't enough

1 money that the individual could make on net  
2 and so, therefore, it would probably be better  
3 to keep these individuals on social services.

4 In the '90s, our point of view  
5 now is that the more people we can have work,  
6 the better and so to subsidize that and to  
7 provide assistance to those who are trying to  
8 assist themselves, we would find that, even in  
9 passing this amendment, we would still be only  
10 servicing one out of every 12 children who  
11 would be -- meet the eligibility threshold,  
12 but the fact remains that we would still, by  
13 passing this amendment, benefit 10,000  
14 children who aren't getting adequate child  
15 care right now while their parents are  
16 attempting to work under the new Welfare  
17 Reform Act that we passed last year; and so we  
18 think that \$40 million is a modest addition to  
19 what the Senate has already proposed and would  
20 also like to point out that, in the area of  
21 substance abuse, we have many unfunded  
22 mandates to cities and townships who, unfor-  
23 tunately, are having to bear the cost of drug  
24 testing, and also of scrutiny of substance  
25 abuse.

1                   What we are proposing is an  
2                   additional \$18 million, which also goes for  
3                   substance abuse treatment and also to some  
4                   areas of prevention. Obviously, individuals  
5                   who are coming back into the work place,  
6                   individuals who have had these problems cannot  
7                   spend their entire lives on social services.  
8                   It would be helpful for them in terms of job  
9                   maintenance, and we think that this would be  
10                  an offer that would not cost any great deal  
11                  since it would be pretty much enveloped by the  
12                  surplus that we have currently in the area of  
13                  temporary assistance for needy families.

14                  Finally, one of the most  
15                  difficult aspects of employment of those who  
16                  are coming back into the work place is  
17                  transportation and the ability to get back and  
18                  forth from one's work place and also the  
19                  ability to afford transportation, so that it  
20                  does not significantly reduce the revenue that  
21                  one can generate just from having a job, that  
22                  which the Senate has already recognized to the  
23                  tune of \$7 million, and we think that to add  
24                  an additional \$3 million will benefit a great  
25                  number of workers.

1                   One last point about child  
2                   care, Mr. President. One of the reasons that  
3                   we feel there must be more revenues devoted to  
4                   that particular area is that the individuals  
5                   who are coming back into the work place are  
6                   not always just getting 9:00 to 5:00 jobs.  
7                   They're getting whatever jobs are available  
8                   and so, therefore, child care that fluctuates,  
9                   child care that goes far into the late evening  
10                  is something that they need because their jobs  
11                  are not necessarily regulated, and it's  
12                  something that we feel is important for us to  
13                  address through our budget as we negotiate  
14                  this year.

15                         So that is the amendment, Mr.  
16                         President. It's done with prudence and care  
17                         and it's done in the understanding that this  
18                         is the last chance to pass an amendment today;  
19                         and so I'm very optimistic that we will have a  
20                         favorable vote on this.

21                         I would like to thank Senator  
22                         Mendez for her assistance and the staff who  
23                         prepared these -- these amendments, and also  
24                         the Majority who will now have the foresight,  
25                         will have the wisdom that they come to

1 recognize the validity and the need of these  
2 amendments, in all seriousness.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
4 Paterson's amendment is before the house. The  
5 reading of it has been waived. It has been  
6 explained.

7 The Secretary will call the  
8 roll.

9 (The Secretary called the  
10 roll. )

11 SENATOR PATERSON: Party vote  
12 in the affirmative.

13 SENATOR SKELOS: Party vote in  
14 the negative.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
16 Secretary will record the party line vote,  
17 announce the results.

18 THE SECRETARY: Ayes 25, nays  
19 35, party vote.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
21 amendment is lost.

22 Read the last section.

23 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
24 act shall take effect April 1.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Call

1 the roll.

2 (The Secretary called the  
3 roll. )

4 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Record  
5 the negatives, announce the results.

6 Senator Gentile, to explain his  
7 vote.

8 SENATOR GENTILE: Thank you,  
9 Mr. President.

10 Notwithstanding my comments  
11 earlier on the amendment for increased  
12 funding for pre-K, this bill does contain the  
13 funding -- some funding for the pre-K program  
14 and it's critical, I believe, to my area and  
15 every area of the state, and that is the  
16 reason I am voting yes.

17 Hopefully, in conference, we  
18 can see the light of day and come out with  
19 some more money in the final version of this  
20 budget.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Senator  
22 Gentile will be recorded in the negative.

23 SENATOR GENTILE: No,  
24 affirmative.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL:

1 Affirmative. I misheard you. Thank you.

2 Announce the results.

3 THE SECRETARY: Those recorded  
4 in the negative on Calendar Number 492 are  
5 Senators Dollinger, Leichter and Seabrook.  
6 Ayes 57, nays 3.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: The  
8 bill is passed.

9 Senator Leichter, why do you  
10 rise?

11 SENATOR LEICHTER: Mr.  
12 President, may I have unanimous consent to be  
13 recorded in the negative on Calendar Number  
14 490. That's -- I think that was Print  
15 6097-B.

16 SENATOR SKELOS: No objection.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without  
18 objection, hearing no objection, Senator  
19 Leichter will be recorded in the negative on  
20 Calendar Number 490, which is Senate Print  
21 Number 6097-B.

22 Senator Seabrook why do you  
23 rise?

24 SENATOR SEABROOK: Yes, Mr.  
25 President. Without objection, I'd like to be

1 recorded in the negative on 6097-B.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without  
3 objection, hearing no objection, Senator  
4 Seabrook will be recorded in the negative on  
5 Calendar Number 490, Print Number 6097-B.

6 Senator Skelos.

7 SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President,  
8 can we return to the order of reports of  
9 standing committees. I believe there are two  
10 reports to be read.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Yes,  
12 Senator Skelos. We'll return to the order of  
13 reports of standing committees. Ask the  
14 Secretary to read.

15 THE SECRETARY: Senator  
16 Nozzolio, from the Committee on crime Victims,  
17 Crime and Correction, reports:

18 Senate Print 176, by Senator  
19 Maltese, an act to amend the Correction Law;  
20 215-A, by Senator Alesi, an act  
21 to amend the Correction Law;

22 1749, by Senator Skelos, an act  
23 to amend the Correction Law;

24 1965, by Senator Nozzolio, an  
25 act to amend the Executive Law;

1                   3410-A, by Senator Skelos, an  
2 act to amend the Correction Law and the County  
3 Law;

4                   5259, by Senator Skelos, an act  
5 to amend the Correction Law;

6                   5426, by Senator Maziarz, an  
7 act to amend the Correction Law and the Penal  
8 Law;

9                   5941, by Senator Alesi, an act  
10 to amend the Correction Law;

11                   6301, by Senator Alesi, an act  
12 to amend the Correction Law;

13                   6465, by Senator Nozzolio, an  
14 act to amend the Executive Law;

15                   6505, by Senator Nozzolio, an  
16 act to amend Chapter 887 of the Laws of 1983.

17                   Senator Farley, from the  
18 Committee on Banks, reports the following  
19 bills:

20                   Senate Print 3755-A, by Senator  
21 Farley, an act to amend the Banking Law; and

22                   Senate Print 4246, by Senator  
23 Farley, an act to amend the Banking Law.

24                   All bills ordered direct for  
25 third reading.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: All  
2 bills ordered directly to third reading.

3                   Senator Skelos.

4                   SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President,  
5 is there any housekeeping at the desk?

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: There  
7 is none.

8                   SENATOR SKELOS: There being no  
9 -- oh, Senator Paterson has an announce  
10 ment.

11                  SENATOR PATERSON: I have an  
12 announcement: As Bert Wilson, who preceded  
13 Harry Carey as announcer for the Chicago Cubs  
14 said: "We'll get them tomorrow."

15                  SENATOR SKELOS: There being no  
16 further business, I move we adjourn until  
17 Thursday, March 26th, at 11:00 a.m.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT KUHL: Without  
19 objection, the Senate stands adjourned until  
20 Thursday, March 26th, at 11:00 a.m.

21                                 (Whereupon at 1:07 p.m., the  
22 Senate adjourned.)

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