NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

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REGULAR SESSION

LT. GOVERNOR DAVID A. PATERSON, President

STEVEN M. BOGGESS, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will come to order.

I would ask that all rise and please join with all of us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

THE PRESIDENT: For our invocation today, we're joined by a newcomer to the Senate, the Reverend Peter G. Young, of Albany, who works on Saturdays.

(Laughter.)

REVEREND YOUNG: As we have just stood and sworn our allegiance to the American Flag, we're very proud as New Yorkers to know that the christening of the American Flag was first flown in battle at the defense of Fort Stanwick in Rome.

Therefore, it's with great pride that we are able to serve in this chamber to see that these Senators are following in this rich patriotic tradition as the elected leaders to fulfill Your call, O God, for leadership for all of our citizens and to You

in New York State.

Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Father Young, serving in his 48th year.

The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Friday, March 30, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Thursday, March 29, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

THE PRESIDENT: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

We will now move to the order of business.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: If we can go to

reports of standing committees, Mr. President, there is a report of the Finance Committee at the desk.

THE PRESIDENT: We'll move to reports of standing committees.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator O. Johnson, from the Committee on Finance, reports the following nomination.

As Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Alexander B. Pete Grannis, of New York City.

THE PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes, on the nomination, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR OWEN JOHNSON: I move the nomination.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, the chair recognizes Senator Krueger.

SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to support the nomination of Pete Grannis as the next commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. And

I speak both for myself and the Democrats in the New York State Senate.

I am Assemblymember Grannis's State Senator; he is my Assemblymember. And so as a result, we have been able to develop a very close relationship of working together both here in Albany and in our district at home.

And what I'd like to share on a personal note is that Assemblymember Grannis has an unbelievable commitment to the people of New York State that he has shown for his 32 years in the Assembly and has shown through his personal commitment to taking on the challenge -- and it has been a challenge -- to become the next commissioner of DEC in New York State.

We've had several hearings, and people have had an opportunity to learn about Assemblymember Grannis's biography and all the work he's done on behalf of the people of New York State and the fact that he has a long history as an advocate for the environment, as someone who has an extraordinary respect for and appreciation for the importance of Environmental Conservation, but also the

technical knowledge to be the commissioner of such an important agency.

He has worked on legislation with so many of us throughout the years that is relevant to the environment. He has technical expertise in what the responsibilities of the DEC are. But perhaps even greater than that is Assemblymember Grannis's combined personal commitment and skill in learning about the issues that he might not know about, and his openness and willingness to work with everyone to hammer out hard fights to come to the decisions that are in the best interests of the people of the State of New York.

He does have a commitment to protecting our open spaces and providing wider access to the outdoors. He does have a respect for the outdoor tradition. He understands the different but equally critical importance of urban environmental issues, rural environmental issues and suburban issues.

He understands that often there's a balance between the needs of communities and the needs of the overall environment that, as

the DEC commissioner, he must be the steward of. Because let's be honest; if we aren't protecting our environment, we're not writing off our future, we're writing off our children's future, our grandchildren's future.

And so to say that Pete Grannis will be the DEC commissioner under the Spitzer administration who will move us forward in the 21st century to ensure that we take on the unbelievable difficult challenges of the risking of global warming, of air pollution, water pollution, brownfields, the problems of invasive species to our agricultural industry and to our parks, to balance out the needs of our businesses with the protection of our environment when dealing with questions of pesticides and toxins, to deal with the very difficult issues of how we do remediation of pollution that has been left unchecked for too many decades.

Sometimes I worried during the last few weeks that the term "environmentalist" was somehow a negative term when describing the next commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. But in fact,

that's what we all are. We are obligated to respect and protect our environment -- not just ourselves and for our constituents, but for the generations to come. And we are years too late in taking on many of these issues.

And in closing, I can think of no candidate that Governor Spitzer would have proposed to us to be the commissioner of DEC who is better suited, better skilled, better qualified to take this enormous challenge.

So in my renomination and confirmation of our nomination of Pete Grannis for commissioner of DEC, I want to thank him for his willingness to take on this enormous challenge. Some people would argue that after 32 years in the Assembly, he could rest on the laurels that he had so proudly and rightly earned himself in all the years of good legislation and great stewardship of his district. And yet he is excited and motivated to take on this very difficult job.

So I want to thank Pete so much for taking on this new challenge, and wish my best to his wife, Ainslie, who is here with us today also, both of whom are dear friends.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Krueger.

On the nomination, Senator C. Johnson.

SENATOR CRAIG JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise this evening to support the nomination of Pete Grannis.

First, I want to commend Senator Marcellino, the chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee. As the ranking member of the EnCon Committee, I was very impressed with Senator Marcellino's handling of the hearing, its fairness, and the way the questions were handled, his openness to other members of the Senate not on EnCon to question the nominee.

So I thank Senator Marcellino from this side of the aisle for chairing that committee in such a gentlemanly fashion.

For Pete Grannis, I wish to congratulate you here tonight on your confirmation. But I issue you a challenge. It's a tough challenge. DEC, as we talked about in the confirmation hearing, is one of

the most important agencies we have in New York State. It does so much. And for years it's faced budget cuts, it's faced workforce shortages.

Tonight, when we vote on the budget, hopefully we'll start the process of restoring, restoring employees to the DEC, making it easier for now Commissioner Grannis to do his job for the men and women of this state. But it's going to be a difficult job, and we're going to have to stand with Commissioner Grannis as he goes forward.

But what I took from the hearings was his open-mindedness and his fairness. The state, as large as it is and as diverse as it is -- upstate, middle-state, downstate -- has so many different interests when it comes to the environment. And what I was impressed with Assemblyman Grannis was his ability to talk about the issues and express an open-mindedness, to listen to everybody when it comes to a particular issue, whether it's hunting or fishing or trapping or whether it's about greenhouse gases and the need to reduce carbon monoxide within our state.

So I congratulate soon-to-be-Commissioner Grannis, I look forward to working with you in the DEC, and I wish you the very best. Congratulations, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Volker.

SENATOR VOLKER: Mr. President, regrettably, as a representative of four counties in upstate New York -- and I have had many conversations with Pete Grannis, who I've known for I guess 30, 32 years -- I'm going to have to, as I did in the Senate Finance Committee -- and I gave him the reasons that make me speak against him.

Not as a person or as an individual -- and I understand the difference between we who live in upstate New York -- and as I said to him, I think there many times is kind of a chasm between the cultures of upstate New York and New York City; in particular, Manhattan.

The problem is that the people of my district have made it extremely clear that they are opposed to the nomination. And it is true that some of the reasons is a

misunderstanding of the role of the Department of Environmental Conservation. However, I would also point out that the Department of Environmental Conservation at times I think has misjudged its role itself.

And although I congratulate you on being the new commissioner, I have to say that I only speak here to make it clear that on behalf of the people of my district, I would have to not support you, and as I did, frankly, in the Senate Finance Committee, regrettably. But I feel it's my duty to represent the people of the four counties that I represent in upstate New York.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Serrano.

SENATOR SERRANO: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Assemblyman Pete Grannis to this position.

As many may know, Pete Grannis was sworn in to the Assembly the same year, 1975, as my father, Congressman Serrano. And I grew up hearing very fond talk, very strong talk about the great work that Mr. Grannis was

doing.

And it was such pleasure two years ago to be elected to a Senate district that overlapped with Assemblymember Grannis and to see firsthand how he got things done, how well he worked with others. And it's rare to see someone with that level of experience and that wealth of knowledge that he brings to his work, and I'm sure that he will do a wonderful job in dealing with all the issues that we have in our state.

In the 28th Senate District we have major problems with brownfields and issues with asthma in the South Bronx and in East Harlem. And I feel very good about soon-to-be-Commissioner Grannis and the work that he will do on behalf of the residents, not only of the 28th Senate District but throughout the entire state.

So thank you, Mr. President, and I support this nomination.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Marcellino.

SENATOR MARCELLINO: Thank you, Mr. President.

As chairman of EnCon, I rise to extend my hand to the incoming commissioner in hopes that we can work together and will work together in the years to come on the many important issues that affect this state.

The Department of Environmental Conservation, as has been said before, is one of the key agencies in the state, probably the largest enforcement agency the state has on most important issues.

Brownfields legislation, that I worked very hard on for many years to get passed in this state, has a problem, and the problem is in the development of the regs and implementation of the regulations. I'd like to work with you together on that, Pete, because I think they need to be done and done correctly.

The DEC's image, I think as you heard in Finance and perhaps got a hint of in the EnCon hearings, needs to change. There are regions of this state that look upon the department that you will be heading as the enemy. That's not good.

It's the old joke, "I'm from the

government, I'm here to help you," and everybody laughs. But it really isn't funny when people look on the government as their enemy. When the government official comes in to try to help clean up water or clean up a spill or clean up a problem or deal with something, an issue that arises that's locally important, and all of a sudden those people are the enemy, that's not a good thing.

I think we need to work together to change that. The department should be welcome in all communities. In all communities. Because as was said before during the hearings and will be said many times again, nobody wants dirty water, nobody wants foul land, everybody wants open space and preservation. We all want the good things for our families and for our children and for our grandchildren.

Yours is a tremendous responsibility, it truly is. And you've got a lot of work ahead of you to be done. I urge you to be visible all over the state. Visit all the regions more than once. Be a regular face in those regions so they know who you are

and so you understand them and they understand you. I think that will go a long way.

You were a legislator for 30-plus years. You understand the process. You understand consensus building. Before you can get something done in a positive way, you know people have to agree with you from diverse origins and from diverse directions. I urge you to remember that and never forget it, because it will serve you well as commissioner.

I wish you luck. You have my cooperation. And God bless you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Marcellino.

On the nomination, Senator Bonacic.

SENATOR BONACIC: Thank you, Mr. President.

First of all, a narrow interpretation of the Constitution would have us approve any nominee of the Executive as long as he or she was not incompetent. Competence or incompetence of a nominee, in my view does not relate to political views, it relates to the capacity to do the job.

I am of the opinion generally that the Executive ought to have the nominee that he wants so long as that nominee is an honest broker in terms of controversy, that nominee is not incompetent, and that nominee is not related in any way to the Executive.

Just a little history; bear with me a minute. Alexander Hamilton, in The Federalist Papers, talks about having an advice and consent clause which would "prevent the appointment of unfit characters from State prejudice, from family connections, from personal attachments or from a view to popularity."

What I take from this man's words is that our constitutional responsibility is to make sure that nepotism does not occur or hacks are not appointed to this important office. However, I believe we abdicate our responsibility if we don't look at the history of this nominee.

This nominee knows I have concerns. The nominee knows that the DEC is probably the most important position in our Senate district. However, we deal, Senator Seward

and I, with watershed issues, we deal with flooding issues, we deal with recreational uses on city lands, state lands. And we have sponsored legislation, with your help, to force New York City DEP to open up their lands so we could have more recreation, tourism, economic vitality.

I deal with the DEC on economic development in the watershed, on state support for Belleayre, on whether the dams in our district are safe, or upgrading the campgrounds. I could go on and on and on.

In terms of voting for Peter Grannis, I had to make sure that he understood the issues; again, he would be an honest broker. The nominee has assured me that he will not try to ban or restrict hunting, fishing, trapping. He has assured me that he will work on all of these issues honestly.

I am aware that in my district some sportsmen have concerns. They want me to reject Peter Grannis. And I've given it a great deal of thought. I am proud to support the sportsmen and the Second Amendment rights every year since I've been here. I am proud

to have voted against the efforts to limit the Second Amendment in any way.

When we look at this DEC job, it covers, as Senator Marcellino pointed out, a variety of areas -- environmental permits, air and waste management, air resources, environmental remediation, solid and hazardous waste, natural resources, water quality, climate control, mineral resources. And we can go on and on and on. This nominee has an awesome area of responsibility and so much subject matter to cover.

A manifest lack of qualification does not mean that he would simply vote differently than I on a single issue. If that were the case, this chamber would be empty. As a member of the Senate Environmental Committee, I've asked Peter Grannis tough questions, many questions, in many of the areas that I've told you that his department would cover. He was honest, he was professional, he was competent.

The conclusion that I come to, after he has testified, is that he will work for all of us, he will be an honest broker

when there's controversy, and he's promised that he would.

And this nominee knows that his policies will be based on the Governor's policies, and we all understand that, and that the Governor will be responsible for the major policy decisions on the environment. I believe this nominee knows it. His testimony demonstrates his competence, his honesty. And for all of those reasons, I will be voting in the affirmative.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

It's my privilege to rise today in support of the nomination of Alexander Pete Grannis as our new commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

We all sometimes think to ourselves on what type of an elected official we want to be. And I think Pete Grannis is that elected official. He's intelligent, he's passionate about issues. He's truly, I think, someone we

consider a public man.

I had the privilege of serving in the Assembly for ten years with Pete Grannis. Sometimes we agreed; sometimes we didn't agree. But always I respected him as someone who understood an issue, was well-versed in a whole -- really, a myriad of different types of issues, be it housing, insurance. He's someone who truly understands what it means to be a legislator.

All of us now, I guess, in the newspapers, we read an awful lot about reform. Well, I think through his 30-plus-year career, Pete Grannis lived reform. He was always on the right side of issues, someone who is beyond reproach, someone who really understands what it means to be an advocate. And I think the future of our environment will be in great hands with our new commissioner, Alexander Pete Grannis.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Morahan.

SENATOR MORAHAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I also rise in support of this nomination. I attended EnCon hearings through the confirmation process and also earlier today the Finance Committee that forwarded that nomination to the floor.

I first met Pete Grannis in 1981. And at that time in the Assembly I was impressed with his passion, his knowledge, his hard work, and his attention to detail.

But I was more impressed in the last several weeks as he went through the confirmation process with his answers, his approach to the new commissionership that he's now going to assume, and gave me the answers I needed so that I could vote for him with full confidence.

Yes, he's able. Yes, he's qualified. But some of the myths that have clouded this nomination -- such as he's not for hunters, when he grew up as a hunter with his dad, that he continues to be an avid fisherman today. That he's anti-gun. I don't know whether he is or he isn't, but I know as the DEC commissioner he will have nothing to do with gun regulation or gun licensing.

I believe Pete Grannis is a capable, honest, hardworking individual who will take the DEC into new realms of concerns, such as the dams that we have in our districts, such as the oil spills that we have in our districts, and contaminants, those issues that affect our air, our water, our environment, the great lands of the State of New York, our great parklands.

And I know his management will probably be a new dawning in that commissionership, because so many of us in the past have been somewhat disappointed with the arbitrary, coldhearted way they would respond as law enforcement people to constituent concerns.

So, Commissioner Grannis, you have my personal support and my congratulations, and we'll be watching to see how you do this great job that you're now going to assume.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Morahan.

On the nomination, Senator Schneiderman.

SENATOR SCHNEIDERMAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

It's really with tremendous pride that I rise in support of this nominee. We get to cast a lot of votes in this house. I cannot think of a better person to vote for than Alexander Pete Grannis.

I appreciate the comments of Senator Morahan and Senator Bonacic referring to other fine American leaders. Senator Bonacic spoke about Alexander "Pete" Hamilton, another great New Yorker, who in fact was born in Santo Domingo and then came to Upper Manhattan, and so was one of my -- I consider him the first of my constituents.

But I will say this. When I first got to Albany and was really, frankly, dismayed by what I perceived to be a certain lack of integrity in the process and a lack of intelligent and fair consideration of issues, one of the people who I could look up to and respect in every aspect of the legislative process was Pete Grannis.

This is a guy who way before reform came into fashion would pay for his own

dinner, would take care of his own matters, would act against the direction of his own leader in his house if it was what he believed to be correct.

This is a guy who exemplifies the concept of playing on a team but not losing your integrity. I think he will make a great commissioner.

And to all of my colleagues who have questions about whether or not you disagree with him on an issue or you're concerned about the direction the DEC will take, you cannot have a more honest broker than Pete Grannis. I disagree with a lot of people in this chamber on a lot of issues, but there are people here who I have honest disagreements with I respect and I know that we can work things out.

You will disagree with some of things that DEC does in the Spitzer administration. But it is a big state. We have a lot of pressing issues in my district. We have people dying because of the poison in our air and water. We have asthma rates that are out of control. This is something that

requires attention.

The balance between the interests of the people in the watershed and the people who drink the water from the watershed is very, very tough to maintain. But can you honestly say that there's a member of this Legislature who over the years has demonstrated more intelligence and more integrity than Pete Grannis? I think not.

And I think we should all be very proud to rise in support of his nomination, and I do so today.

Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Schneiderman.

Point of information, Senator Schneiderman. Alexander Hamilton was born on the island of St. Croix, in 1751.

(Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator LaValle.

SENATOR LaVALLE: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the nomination.

For the First Senate District,

environmental issues are critically important, whether it be preservation of open space, protection of our waterways, quality of our air -- very, very important.

During the Finance Committee, I asked the man who will be our commissioner questions about a project in the middle of Long Island Sound that would begin the industrialization of Long Island Sound. And of course he gave a very temperate answer, because his agency will be involved in making decisions and he did not want to prejudice that by his comments today.

Senator Schneiderman made a very, very interesting point that even strengthens my resolve on this nominee. Because I do know that throughout his career he has held views very strongly, sometimes in the face of diversity, but he has held his ground.

Senator Bonacic said that policies are set by the Governor. And so the Governor will be very involved in how not only the DEC but the Department of State will respond on this very, very critical issue to not only the First Senate District but Suffolk County.

And I know that Pete Grannis as the DEC commissioner will make the strongest possible case to oppose this project. Every environmental group opposes it. Every elected official in the first Senate district opposes this project. It is a dangerous project. It is a bad project environmentally. So I want someone in that position who has the intelligence, the ethical and moral standards to stand up and do the right thing.

He mentioned in the Finance Committee that this will be the first time that a legislator will occupy this position as commissioner of the DEC. And so there was a myriad of questions from upstate, the Hudson Valley, downstate. And so I believe that he will use the 32 years that he has served in the Legislature to understand when one of the members in this house or the other house comes to the DEC, and he will balance his decision in a way that will give the best possible shot for us to represent our constituents.

So, Pete, I wish you very good luck. I know that you and I will have lots of dialogue on environmental issues. And I know

that you will make that agency run correctly.

Just in closing, many years ago the DEC in my district was not always a favored agency. People, homeowners, small-business people were just irritated by decisions coming out of the regional office.

And so myself and at that time my two Assemblymembers, during a political campaign, came up with what was one of the most popular radio ads. Someone comes on the commercial and says: "There are initials that strike fear in the hearts of men -- the IRS, the FBI, the DEC."

I will say that a lot of very positive things have happened in the last 15 years when that commercial was made. And I hope that you will both enjoy and be strident in representing our environment and the people that use the environment, such as our sportsmen.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator LaValle.

And the chair stands corrected. Senator Stavisky has advised the chair that

Alexander Hamilton was born on the island of Nevis, and it is affirmed by Google.

(Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Stachowski.

SENATOR STACHOWSKI: I'm just glad for the history lesson, among other things that I've learned today.

I rise too to support the nomination of Pete Grannis, not somebody that's supported strongly by all the sportsmen's groups. This was an interesting situation I found myself in.

But in talking to Pete, reading up on his background, getting reports back on the Environmental Committee and the questioning, and then sitting through the Finance Committee, I have no doubt that he has answered all the questions on whether he is against hunting and fishing.

The interesting thing, as was said in the committee, hunting is not about guns, it's about a way of life. If you had taken the time to read the speech that Pete Grannis made to the conservation group a few weeks

back, you would have seen that he hunted different game with his father and brothers, and that one of the great thrills and memories of his life is the look on his father's face when he got his first buck -- with a bow, as opposed to a gun.

Which, for those people that aren't familiar with hunting, is much more difficult. And maybe that's why some of the hunters don't like Pete, because he did get it with a bow and not with a gun.

I also found it interesting that he answered the questions on trapping. I think that's very important. He still is an avid fisherman, so the fisherman can't really be opposed to him.

I happen to agree with Senator LaValle that if you're going to have an issue that it's going to be important that the commissioner is going to be fighting on, as we've seen through the years here in Albany, nobody fights harder on something they believe in than Pete Grannis. And I think that includes all of us. He's the equivalent of anybody as far as determination when he

believes he's in the right.

I think that we all appreciate the fight he did on clean air, and I think he'll do the same on our air in general. I think that he'll be a great advocate for all those colleagues of mine that are from the city that worry about the particulars that cause the aggravation of asthma. I can't really say that those particulars cause asthma, because the last I've ever read, I don't think anybody knows what causes asthma yet. So that's kind of an interesting concept, but that's reality.

I think the fact is that all of us as legislators, the one thing we look for in a commissioner is when we have a problem in our district and we go to the commissioner, we want the commissioner to hear us, to understand what the problem is, and to get back to us with an answer.

I have every belief that Pete Grannis will get back to us with an answer. I don't know that it will be answer we want to hear, but at least we'll get an answer. And that's not always the case with a lot of commissioners.

So to my mind, he's answered all the questions that people wrote me about as far as their concerns. He's covered all the areas that I had an interest in besides the ones that were written from people that said you should vote against him because of this, this and this, and I think he answered all of those.

And I also think I will have a responsive commissioner, somebody I'll be able to work with over the years. And I look forward to having those opportunities.

I support Pete Grannis. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Stachowski.

The chair now recognizes the ubiquitous Senator Stavisky.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President. I've been called a lot of things; that's the first time "ubiquitous" was ever used.

I'm delighted to rise in support of Assemblyman Grannis's confirmation. He brings a sensitivity and understanding of the legislative process, as well as a deep and

profound knowledge of the issues -- not only the environment, but everything else upon which it impacts.

I represent a district in Queens which has a great deal of construction going on, expansion, with many environmental issues, particularly concerning water quality and brownfields in, particularly, the Flushing-Corona area. And I'm sure he will understand these issues. And yet he brings, in addition, an understanding of what's important not only to my district in Queens but to all parts of the state.

I thought his answers to the questions today in the Finance Committee were extremely impressive. He listened. He understood. And he will be fair. And I think that's really all we can ask of a candidate.

So I congratulate Pete Grannis. And I think I've known him the entire 32 years that he's been here. And I look forward to working with him in the days ahead.

And incidentally, Mr. President, Alexander Hamilton was also a Regent of the State of New York.

(Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Larkin.

SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, I've known Peter for 28 years, as I said in the Finance Committee. Have we agreed on everything? No. I like West Point, and he likes some other school.

But have I always found Peter to be willing to discuss with you? When he came to my office, he said: "I know you have problems." We do have problems. Everyone in this room has problems. But we're confirming someone who's going to enter into an office, he knows every one of us, he's worked with us in one form or another of a committee.

Some of my colleagues, Neil Breslin and I have had an opportunity to work with him on a national thing, on insurance. Always found him willing to take that extra step.

But let's remember, when you go to an agency and you want to talk to him about something -- I heard someone in the hallway the other day said: "You know,I voted against

DiNapoli, but I've had to call him twice. Guess what? He called me back." I expect that's the same thing we'll get from Peter.

He's not being nominated to be the pope, he's being nominated to take an agency and deal with it. I can tell you in my district, as I said in Finance, I have outstanding working relationships with the region. And I expect that, as some of my colleagues said today, that they expect to be able to work with Peter.

But remember, he knows us. He knows that we have problems that he's dealt with, maybe in another facet of it. Maybe it was an opposite to what we wanted. But he is going to deal with those as he sees best, because he's got a job to do.

He's got a challenge to do. He's going to get the bodies that he needs to do them with. And I'm very confident that he's going to represent the Governor, he's going to represent the interests, and he's going to work with us. Because if he don't, he'll hear from us.

Congratulations, Pete. You've

earned it.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Padavan.

SENATOR PADAVAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, while you were trying to decide where Alexander Hamilton had as his origin, where he came from, I was reminded of that fact that perhaps the greatest environmentalist and the greatest sportsman-hunter that this state ever produced came from Manhattan, raised and born there. His name was Teddy Roosevelt.

So the notion that Manhattan is a foreign place to those who have an interest in recreation that relates to fishing and hunting and trapping and that sort is just historically incorrect.

Also, when Senator LaValle was talking, it came to me that it's a delight that the Governor now feels an Assemblyman can do a great job in a statewide position. No reaction.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR PADAVAN: I've known Pete

Grannis, like many of you have, for a number of years. We worked together on some very, very significant legislation, and we got to know each other on a personal basis because of that.

And I can say without any doubt that all of you who have indicated that his motivation, his sincerity, his commitment is unquestionable. And that this job, this position is something that is, to him, perhaps one of the greatest things that's happened in his career. This is something he really wanted to do and wants to do.

So when you put those things together, a committed individual who's being appointed to a position that was a goal of his, a long-standing desire of his, there's no doubt that he will be successful. And I'm sure all of us will find that out in due time, even those who have some questions about one issue or the other that relates to that agency.

It will be my honor and privilege to vote in the affirmative.

THE PRESIDENT: On the

nomination, Senator Perkins.

SENATOR PERKINS: Thank you very much. I just want to briefly lend my voice to those who support Pete for this position.

You know, he has a vision for those of us who are very concerned about environmental justice. We know that we have a friend in Pete Grannis from that point of view, because we know that there are communities not only in our city but throughout this state that are suffering from conditions that are aggravating the health of children and the health of families. And that he will be there with a vision of environmental justice, with a vision of trying to remedy those problems.

And we also know that he will not just serve legislators. We know that he will continue to have that very special common touch that we've come to know about him as we've been working with him over the years in our communities, in his own community.

So I think that he will be the kind of commissioner that will be accessible, that will be visionary, that will be bold, the kind

of commissioner that we will all be proud to have been associated with before he became the commissioner and even more so now that he has become the commissioner.

So in the words of those who were so committed to his candidacy: "Free Pete."

(Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Hannon.

SENATOR HANNON: Thank you, Mr. President.

As I was looking over Assemblyman Grannis's resume and looking at the long list of legislative accomplishments, I was reflecting upon the intellectual intensity he and I have had over the past two decades, cochairs or respective chairs of the Housing Committee and things on the budget committee in regard to health.

But it also struck me -- and the point I just wanted to add was the experience of being a legislator, the experience of working legislation that affects every part of this state is truly a great background for becoming a commissioner of DEC, for moving on

to a managerial position. No one can really know the type of learning experience, the type of consultation experience that one has as a legislator.

And I'm glad the Governor has recognized that, that great can come out of this legislative experience. I commend him on his selection of Mr. Grannis to be commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Montgomery.

SENATOR MONTGOMERY: Yes, Mr. President, thank you.

I rise to congratulate Pete Grannis, Commissioner Grannis. I knew him as Pete long before I knew him as Alexander, and I thought we had the wrong name for a while.

I want to just acknowledge also that I have a relationship with Pete's son. He is a wonderful dad. And his son and my son played together at some point in time, cavorting in the museum. We would meet once a year. And he had the best handshake of any youngster that I had ever met. So I'm happy

that he is here to witness his dad.

And also I want to say to Pete the people in my district, the people who are concerned about many issues are very happy that we are here today to confirm you, because we have some very, very difficult environmental issues, and we look forward to working with you.

As you perhaps know, some of the worst "hot spots" in the nation are in my district. And they're caused by a tremendous overburden of traffic, which we have to live with every day.

We have a huge problem with contaminated -- with the combined sewage overflow. Some of the people in parts of my district and parts of Senator Connor's district have a tremendous problem every time it rains. And we're looking for a plan that has to involve both the state and the city as well as the federal government.

We have a number of contaminated waste sites. And we really are looking forward to being able to work with you on some of these difficult issues.

So I congratulate you, I congratulate your family. And we all of us, even people who have expressed whatever negative issues they've raised, I think that the sentiment overall is that this is a very, very large task and we certainly look forward to being partners with you as you try to fulfill your role. Congratulations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: On the nomination, Senator Duane, to close for the minority.

SENATOR DUANE: Thank you, Mr. President.

You know, when I first saw the Assemblymember's name come up on the agenda, I thought it was sort of an early cruel April Fool's joke. But in fact it was a piece of good news that was being announced with the agenda.

I have to say that when I first came to Albany and discovered that majority members don't always welcome minority sponsorship of their legislation, I thought it was frankly weird. And I looked to see who

didn't act that way legislatively, and I saw that Assemblymember Grannis was one of the distinct few who worked in a bipartisan manner in the Legislature. And I thought that that was great.

I have seen things in our state from the beauty of our beaches on Long Island to the majesty of the Adirondacks and, sadly, things like the devastation of the floods that have impacted the Southern Tier. And I have to say that if Assemblymember Grannis is anywhere near as good as he has been as an Assemblymember, we're going to have a pretty darn fine person looking over the environment for this administration. And I know that he is going to do a great job.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Senator Duane.

Our apologies; we did not recognize Senator Connor. The chair recognizes Senator Connor on the nomination at this time.

SENATOR CONNOR: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, you were probably

thinking of Alexander Hamilton's mother, who was from St. Croix, and left an abusive husband and went to Nevis, where she met Alexander Hamilton's father. Of course, he later went to Kingston, Jamaica, and worked on the docks, a 16-year-old, and so impressed the businessmen that they took up a collection to send him to New York for a fine education.

I was first elected 29 years and seven weeks ago and assigned to Room 415 in the LOB. And my next-door neighbor was Pete Grannis. And this was very, very fortunate for me, because I was under firm instructions from my then district leader, who was the director of the Environmental Action Coalition, which I believe Pete had founded, to, you know, "as soon as you get to Albany, talk to Pete Grannis."

So I did, and we had many, many conversations over the years about issues.

You know, newer colleagues have said to me: What are these things? What are these things in the desks? And, you know, for many years after I got here this chamber was smoke-filled. At one time certainly a

majority, an overwhelming majority of the members would sit here during session smoking cigars, pipes, and cigarettes. And members look at me in shock. That's the way it was.

And my next-door neighbor, Pete Grannis, one day said to me: "Hey, I've got this new bill I'm going to put in, the Clean Indoor Air Act." I said, "What's that?" He said, "It's going to ban smoking indoors."

I said: "Pete, you know, I agree with most of the stuff you do; I'm another liberal reformer from New York City. But that one will never fly. It will never happen, never, ever. The public won't go for it."

So Pete was way ahead of the curve. And he was very effective and persistent, not just with that bill but with the other significant legislation that Pete has guided through this Legislature and negotiated through this Legislature over the years.

And I do want to correct something, though. I thought Peter Berle was an Assemblyman before he was the DEC commissioner, and I believe he was Pete's predecessor in the Assembly. So Pete is not

the first time, he's just the first time in a long, long, long time that we -- since we have had a legislator appointed to this position.

But, you know, being a legislator, you know, in the current atmosphere out there for the last year or two, there seems to be this tendency in the press or elsewhere to denigrate the service we do, to denigrate the way legislators perform their duties and functions. But I happen to think that among the best qualifications and experiences to have are to have all of those years of effectiveness as a legislator.

Because it requires not just intellect -- which Pete has -- and not just imagination and thoughtfulness and a forward-looking nature -- which Pete has -- but it also requires a skill which many of us have in this Legislature, in both houses, where we certainly hone and refine it over our years of service here. If you don't have it when you get here, if you're here long enough and you're going to be successful, you will have it.

And that's the ability to listen to

others, to reason with people, to be sensitive to the public's concerns and to address them, all the while keep your eye on the ball and discharging your obligations. And I can't think of skills or experiences that more qualify someone to be commissioner of DEC.

I think the storm that certain quarters brought against this nominee was grossly unfair. It was based on a view of people in New York City -- Senator Padavan's -- Senator Padavan's here. You know, not everybody in New York City is against hunting. I have a license in my pocket. I grew up, and I've said this many times before here, I grew up hunting. My grandfather first took me hunting, and I've been in the city for a long, long time. And I think that misapprehension of some of the positions we sometimes take on behalf of our constituents is unfortunate.

And I admit some of us from the city do the same thing, same thing with respect to some upstate concerns. Once upon a time we had a Governor -- I won't go into it -- who characterized hunters as having

something to do with six-packs of beer, whatever.

But the fact is, we are one state. Pete Grannis will be an excellent DEC commissioner. He brings a wealth of experience both in the political realm and the substantive realm of dealing with environmental issues. His career began early on as an environmental lawyer. He will make this state proud.

I congratulate the Governor on this appointment, and I am proud to support the confirmation of this nominee.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Connor.

Are there any other Senators that would like to speak on the nomination? If so, please indicate.

Hearing none, the question is on the nomination of Alexander Pete Grannis, of New York County, as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

All those in favor please indicate

so by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: All those opposed, nay.

(Response of "Nay.")

THE PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, could I have the record reflect that my vote is in the negative on this nominee.

THE PRESIDENT: The record will so reflect.

Any others wishing to vote no may raise their hands, and we will record their names.

The Secretary will read the names of those who have raised their hands.

THE SECRETARY: Recorded in the negative are Senators Farley, Griffo, Lanza, Leibell, Libous, Little, Maltese, Nozzolio, Rath, Robach, Seward, Valesky, Volker, Winner, Wright, Young. Also Senator DeFrancisco. Also Senator Maziarz.

THE PRESIDENT: The nominee is confirmed.

(Extended applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Alexander Pete Grannis, you are hereby confirmed as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Pete Grannis is joined in the gallery by his wife, Ainslie, by his Albany staff, and by his staff from the Upper East Side of Manhattan, who came here without compensation to bear witness to his appointment.

He has served for over 30 years with distinction, steadfast discipline and critical honesty in the Assembly, and we wish you well in your new role as Commissioner of DEC. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, can we go to motions and resolutions for the adoption of the Resolution Calendar, please.

THE PRESIDENT: Motions and resolutions.

All those in favor of adopting the

Resolution Calendar please indicate so by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Resolution Calendar is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, there will be an immediate meeting of the Senate Majority in Room 332.

And the Senate will stand at ease.

THE PRESIDENT: There will be an immediate meeting of the Senate Majority in Room 332.

The chair recognizes Senator Duane.

SENATOR DUANE: Mr. President, would you call on Senator Martin Malave Dilan, please.

THE PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, I'm having a little trouble hearing Senator Duane. Can we have order in the house.

Senator Duane.

SENATOR DUANE: Mr. President, would you recognize Senator Martin Malave

Dilan, please.

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Dilan.

SENATOR DILAN: Mr. President, there will be a meeting of the Minority at 8:00 p.m. in Room 315.

THE PRESIDENT: There will be a meeting of the Minority in Room 315 at 8:00 p.m.

The Senate stands at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 5:58 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 9:03 p.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT FARLEY: Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, there will be an immediate conference of the Majority in the Majority Conference Room.

ACTING PRESIDENT FARLEY: There will be an immediate conference of the Majority in the Majority Conference Room.

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 9:04 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened

at 10:12 p.m.)

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, can we at this time call an immediate meeting of the Finance Committee in the Majority Conference Room.

THE PRESIDENT: We are certainly going to call an immediate meeting of the Finance Committee in the Majority Conference Room.

SENATOR BRUNO: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Leader.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 10:13 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 10:32 p.m.)

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, can we return to reports of standing committees.

I believe there's a report from the

Finance Committee at the desk. I would ask that it be read at this time.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator O. Johnson, from the Committee on Finance, reports the following bills:

Senate Print 2100D, Senate Budget Bill, an act making appropriations for the support of government;

2101B, Senate Budget Bill, an act making appropriations for the support of government;

2105D, Senate Budget Bill, an act making appropriations for the support of government;

2106C, Senate Budget Bill, an act to specify;

2108C, Senate Budget Bill, an act to amend the New York Healthcare Reform Act of 1996;

2109C, Senate Budget Bill, an act to authorize funding;

And Senate Print 4090, by the Senate Committee on Rules, an act to amend

Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2005.

All bills ordered direct to third reading.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Without objection, all bills direct to third reading.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, can we at this time take up the bills that are reported from Finance in regular order.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 297, Senate Budget Bill, Senate Print 2100D, an act making appropriations for the support of government, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, is there a message from the Governor at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes, there is, Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, move to accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The motion is to accept the message. All in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The message is accepted.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 298, Senate Budget Bill, Senate Print 2101B, an act making appropriations for the support of government, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIARY BUDGET.

SENATOR BRUNO: Is there a message of necessity at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes, there is, Senator.

SENATOR BRUNO: Move to accept.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The motion is to accept the message. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The message is accepted.

The Secretary will read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The

bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 301, Senate Budget Bill, Senate Print 2105D, an act making appropriations for the support of government, TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION BUDGET.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, is there a message of necessity at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes, there is, Senator.

SENATOR BRUNO: Move to accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The motion is to accept the message. All in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The message is accepted.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 302, Senate Budget Bill, Senate Print 2106C, an act to specify the manner of distribution.

SENATOR BRUNO: Is there a message of necessity at the desk, Mr. President?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes, there is, Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: I would move to accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: On the motion to accept the message, all in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN:

Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The message is accepted.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 304, Senate Budget Bill, Senate Print 2109C, an act to authorize funding for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, is there a message of necessity at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes,

there is, Senator.

SENATOR BRUNO: I would move that we accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: On the motion to accept the message, all in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The message is accepted.

Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 18. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 480, Senate Budget Bill, Senate Print 2108C,

an act to amend the New York Healthcare Reform Act of 1996.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, is there a message of necessity at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes, there is, Senator.

SENATOR BRUNO: I would move that we accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The motion is to accept the message of necessity from the Governor. All in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The message is accepted.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 481, by the Senate Committee on Rules, Senate Print Number 4090, an act to amend Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2005, amending the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60. Nays, 1. Senator LaValle recorded in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The bill is passed.

Senator Bruno, that completes the calendar.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, handling the people's work as expeditiously as

we just did, we now should stand at ease until 11:45, when we hopefully will have two more of the budget bills that are in the process of being printed.

And at that time we will call a Finance meeting, come back in, hopefully pass those bills.

And then the intent is, since the other two budget bills will not be printed until early tomorrow morning, that we will gavel out, gavel back in, and then reconvene tomorrow, early, to finish the budget process that we have started.

We have no other bills to come before us at this time, so I would move that we stand in recess until 11:45.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The Senate will stand at ease until 11:45.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 10:40 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 11:51 p.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Good evening,

Mr. President.

Mr. President, can we at this time have an immediate meeting of the Finance Committee in the Majority Conference Room.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes, you can.

There will be an immediate meeting of the Finance Committee in the Majority Conference Room.

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 11:52 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 11:58 p.m.)

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, can we at this time return to reports of standing committees.

Senator Robach, would you take your seat? Thank you.

Mr. President, we need order in the chamber. It is two minutes before midnight. We're about to lose March 31st.

I would ask that the report from the Finance Committee at this time be read and move for its adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator O. Johnson, from the Committee on Finance, reports the following bill direct to third reading:

Senate Print 2104D, Senate Budget Bill, an act making appropriations for the support of government.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: On motion to accept the report, all in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The report is accepted.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, can we at this time take up Calendar Number 333.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 333, Senate Budget Bill, Senate Print 2104D, an act making appropriations for the support of government, HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE BUDGET.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, is there a message of necessity at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Yes, there is, Senator.

SENATOR BRUNO: I move we accept the message.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: On the motion to accept the message, all in favor say aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The message is accepted.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: The bill is passed.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, is there any other business that we should be taking up on March 31st?

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: No, Senator, there is not.

SENATOR BRUNO: Well, Mr. President, there being no further business to come before the Senate on March 31st, I would move that we stand adjourned until April 1, at 12:02 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT MORAHAN: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until April 1st, at 12:02 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 12:01 a.m., the Senate adjourned.)