NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

April 16, 2008

11:03 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JOSEPH A. GRIFFO, Acting President

STEVEN M. BOGGESS, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Senate will come to order.

I ask all present to please rise and join with me as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: In the absence of clergy, I ask that we bow our heads in a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, the assemblage respected a moment of silence.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, April 15, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, April 14, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Mr. President, if we could go to the noncontroversial reading of the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 457, by Senator Saland, Senate Print 7025, an act to amend the Education Law, in relation to excluding expenditures.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 37.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The

bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 771, by Senator Morahan, Senate Print 1473, an act to authorize the Village of Greenwood Lake in Orange County.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is a home-rule message at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 37.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 772, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 1852, an act to amend the General Municipal Law, in relation to allowing.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call

the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 37.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 780, by Senator Volker, Senate Print 6739, an act to amend the Local Finance Law, in relation to the sale of bonds and notes.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is a home-rule message at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 37.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 781, by Senator Volker, Senate Print 6740, an act to amend the Local Finance Law, in relation to the sale of municipal obligations by the County of Erie.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is a home-rule message at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 37.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 782, by Senator Marcellino, Senate Print 6872, an act to amend the Town Law, in relation to volunteer members.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 37.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 783, by Senator Seward, Senate Print 6884, an act in relation to ratifying certain actions and proceedings.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is a home-rule message at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 38.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 785, by Senator Young, Senate Print 6954, an act to validate, ratify and legalize certain actions of the Village of Canaseraga, in the County of Allegany.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is a home-rule message at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 38.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 794, by Senator Morahan, Senate Print 4145, an act to amend the Mental Hygiene Law and the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, in relation to discharge.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 39.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 795, by Senator Morahan, Senate Print 4351, an act to amend the Mental Hygiene Law, in relation to settlement.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 39.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The bill is passed.

Senator Skelos, that completes the noncontroversial reading of the calendar.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There will be an immediate meeting of the Senate Finance Committee in the Majority Conference Room.

The Senate stands at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 11:09 a.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 11:57 a.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: The Senate will come to order.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, can we at this time return to reports of standing committees and return to the report from the Finance Committee and have it read at this time.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Reports of standing committees.

The report of the Finance Committee. The Secretary will now read.

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

As Superintendent of State Police, Harry James Corbitt, of Albany.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR OWEN JOHNSON: I rise to move the nomination.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Johnson.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Thank you,

Mr. President and colleagues.

We are about to act on an appointment that has been forwarded down by our leader here, the Governor, David Paterson. And this is one of the Governor's earliest and maybe most important nomination and selection of a leader, in this case to lead the State Police.

We have all been disturbed by what has gone on over the last 14 months, whatever they've been, 15 months, and much of it relating to headlines in what has become known as Troopergate. Which is, just by the allegations, disgraceful to the people of this state, to the power that is vested in Executive authority, and a powerful force like the State Police.

So this Governor starts clean and fresh and new, and he brings a real professional, Harry Corbitt, to lead the State Police.

Now, all of us know the State Police, by the tens of thousands, with their families, are honorable people, dedicated, committed, get up whenever they have to report

to duty, put their lives on the line, are killed in the line of duty, young children left behind. They are really our first line of defense for a civilized society here in New York State and really a model for the whole world.

So for anyone to be speaking in a demeaning, disparaging way has to be corrected.

There are possibly a few people where the allegations are they acted inappropriately -- and maybe criminally, in one case with me personally, but in other cases, apparently. And the Attorney General will get to the bottom of that, I hope, in an expeditious way.

But we are honoring and recognizing a new leader. And he's here with his wife, Earline.

And when I say we have a professional, we have a man who started as a sergeant. I started as a sergeant in the infantry; he, in the State Police. Went on to become lieutenant, captain, major, colonel. Retired some years ago. Stayed active in the

community, dealing with young people, violence and the avoidance of violence in our schools, much to his credit.

So when the Governor looked around at who was a person who'd come up through the ranks, knows the system inside and out, Harry Corbitt came to the top. The Governor wasn't in office two days when he talked to me about doing something to return credibility of the State Police to the people of this state.

So I am proud that I am here and speaking in favor of approving this nomination. And I know there are many people on the floor.

And, Superintendent-to-be, if people don't get up, it's not because they don't want to say nice things. Because they're very conscious of all the State Police on the road writing tickets.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRUNO: So take it for granted that everybody here applauds you, your work, your life, and this nomination, whether they're on their feet or not.

I believe your stepson is here.

And that's John, that is here. Welcome.

And Mae Francis, your mother-in-law?

COLONEL CORBITT: She's not here.

SENATOR BRUNO: Not here.

COLONEL CORBITT: She's in Buffalo.

SENATOR BRUNO: But she's very supportive.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRUNO: And for a mother-in-law to be supportive, Earline, that's good work. That's good work. Because of all of us would aspire to our mother-in-laws being partners and supportive. So that says something for you and for your family.

So, Mr. President and colleagues, again, it's my honor and my privilege to move one of the Governor's first and most important nominations to be the Superintendent of State Police.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Bruno.

Senator Smith.

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

To my colleagues and my friends, to Superintendent Corbitt's wife Earline, John, and Mae Francis Castelbury, who is in absentia but still supports Colonel Harry Corbitt, let me say this is a historical day on two fronts for this chamber.

One, for our good friend, our former colleague, the Governor, Senator Paterson, this is his first nominee who has gone through the process.

And it's also a first for an African-American to be the Superintendent and also to be confirmed by this body.

I would be remiss and I would be chastised by my colleagues if I did not take -- especially Ruth -- if I did not take this moment to offer a sense of pride for those of us in the African-American community that understand more so what it takes to move through the ranks of law enforcement, to move through the ranks of the military, to be able to go beyond and retire and then be called

back to a position where not only are you respected, but you now have a double challenge.

Obviously Senator Bruno talked about some of the challenges that are before us in terms of our troopers. And so not only have you been called back to duty for the purpose of providing one of the best police forces in this state with some direction, but you also now have to rebuild a lot of that integrity and respect which many people had some questions about.

And as we still are on the heels of some reports and anticipation of some investigations being completed, we also know that without our state troopers there are a number of people throughout this state, including those in the State of New York, who are the beneficiaries of Operation IMPACT and what the troopers do throughout this state, and we are ever grateful for that.

Joe talked about how the Superintendent has such a distinguished career. And I just want to acknowledge some of those, because I think many of you have

gone through the hearings and you asked a lot of hearings and made a lot of statements -- as Joe said, and I agree, you still going to get your parking ticket or your speeding ticket no matter how fast you travel.

And, Superintendent, if anyone calls and says "Can you help me out," my license plate is S3.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR SMITH: But 1978, Military Intelligence Division of the Army. Was assigned to the barracks at Waterloo. Lieutenant, captain, major, and also a commanding officer for Troop T. As Deputy Superintendent of Employee Relations, he also served as the Division's Labor Management Officer. Directed the Division's Personnel Section and State Police Academy Training Programs. Sergeant, lieutenant, Chief Inspector of Internal Affairs. A member of NOBLE, Senator Adams. And it just goes on and on and on.

I'm not sure where you -- how did you get all this time to do this. And I guess your wife didn't see much of you. She says

no, she didn't, huh?

Well, we thank you, Earline, in particular. Because many of us who are married also understand the sacrifice that you give in terms of allowing him to be out there in the public -- long hours, long days. Have to come back home, have to nurture him, given what he's been through that day.

And so we appreciate that. And we just ask that you continue to nurture him so when he comes home, he'll feel okay when he has to come back that next day and do his job.

But I will tell you the most enjoyable thing that I can say about the colonel -- and I had this experience, and I look to have many more -- is that from time to time I'm up here on Sunday. And it's just nice to see that he goes to the same church that I go to, Macedonia.

So we pray together, for the members that are here. And if any of you want to have an opportunity to talk to the Superintendent outside of his normal moment, come to Macedonia on Sunday about 11 o'clock, and you -- Joe? No? Come to Macedonia, and

you'll have an opportunity.

But I want to extend, on behalf of our conference, the Senate Democratic conference -- I know my colleagues spoke to you and spoke on your behalf, and some of them were speaking today -- that we are very excited and very proud of this moment for you and your family, and we stand ready to be supportive of you and all the state troopers as you go forth and do your job.

God bless.

COLONEL CORBITT: Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Smith.

Senator Nozzolio.

SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you, Mr. President and my colleagues.

The true heroes in America are those that each and every day lay their lives on the line for the protection of others. The heroes aren't the celebrities, they're not the people on the cover of People magazine. They're the brave men and women who each and every day serve their communities, their states, their nations by giving of themselves.

And that's why I rise with great pride today to endorse a wonderful nomination by Governor Paterson who he himself, each and every day, Harry Corbitt, for the last 42 years, has given of himself in service to his nation, to his state, and to his community.

A real hero who got a Bronze Star serving our nation in Vietnam. A real hero who each and every day, in his career as a State Police officer -- a career that I'm very proud began in the 54th Senatorial District, in the Waterloo trooper barracks in Seneca County -- who rose through the ranks, as Senator Bruno described, from road patrol to sergeant to one administrative and leadership capacity job after another.

Who now, as Governor Paterson's nominee, will be leading the great men and women of the New York State Police, who are all heroes in our eyes, who each and every day lay their lives on the line for us. Real heroes, real men and women who are heroes who have, I know, been disparaged in their own mind because of what has transpired over the last few months.

This is a very critical juncture in the history of the New York State Police. It requires an individual to be the leader who understands from top to bottom, bottom to top, the needs of the troopers who serve in this capacity. One who will be candid and forthright and stand tall and be independent and show leadership, because leadership is necessary.

After meeting with Harry Corbitt, with Colonel Corbitt for an extended period of time and meeting with him in an open committee hearing yesterday for over an hour and a half -- where he was given many questions on many subjects from members of both sides of the aisle in, I believe, a very thorough way -- he, Harry Corbitt, answered each question with candor, honesty, and when he did not have a command of the individual facts, said so.

For that, we respect a great deal. And for that, he received the unanimous endorsement of his nomination by the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections Committee.

This critical time, in one of the most, I believe, profound answers to the many questions that were given to Colonel Corbitt, was that why would he, after such a long and distinguished career, why would he decide to take on this challenge. Did he have any second thoughts, after many years of his very successful career serving his nation and his state and, most recently, his community as heading school safety -- which all the members of our side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle, I know every member of this Senate is very concerned about, school safety. That's where Colonel Corbitt most recently spent his service, locally.

But he answered the question why are you taking on this challenge, I thought, with an extremely profound answer. He said that a person he was mentoring and mentored through time asked him to come back because he owed it to those he was mentoring and for those he was serving.

I think that is a tremendous answer to a very profound question and says a lot about the character of a man who cares about

those people that he helped bring along. And that a true leader doesn't leave when it's time to lead. And that that, I think, is a measure of the individual that we all can be very proud in supporting.

That's why, Mr. President, I'm proud to recommend, as the committee advised the Senate, as the Committee of Crime and Corrections, in doing a very thorough review of this nominee, is proud unanimously to support this next superintendent of our New York State Police -- the heroes, the men and women who are heroes, a hero himself, Harry Corbitt.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Nozzolio.

Senator Adams.

SENATOR ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I think that this is one of the times that our colleagues from both sides of the aisle, we come together with a common denominator of how important it is that we deal with the issues of public safety. And I

commend the Governor for making this his first appointment, and for us to have it move through with Chairman Nozzolio and myself as the ranking Democrat, that public safety is important to us all.

And although I take special pride that Colonel Corbitt is an African-American taking this position, I fully understand that when you start the process of donning a uniform -- if it's a green fatigue in military service, or if it's a gray or blue uniform in law enforcement -- the ethnicity comes off and integrity comes out to light. And clearly Colonel Corbitt is a reflection of that.

And the question was raised for several months who's at the wheel, who's driving the vehicle of public safety throughout this state.

Clearly, we know that we have the right person that is at the wheel in driving this vehicle. And why is this important? Because often when mistakes are made within a particular profession, the entire profession is tarnished. It's hurt.

The PBA and other agencies that are

put in place to protect the men and women who wear law enforcement uniforms, they often are demonized by the behavior of the numerical majority that does not give a clear reflection of the countless number of men and women who would don a vest, a uniform, and say "I'm going to serve and protect."

And when you think about Senator Leibell and Senator Robach and Senator Volker and Senator Larkin and myself, who at one time or another took upon that admirable position of being in public service to the public, we realize how important it is, and our families and what that impact is to our families.

This is the perfect person for the right time, the right person at the wheel to drive and improve how we feel about our State Police. We can look at his military involvement and his volunteer and his service in Vietnam. We can look at what he has done as a state trooper. Not only does he understand the academic aspect of it, as being an individual who taught State Police officers, but he also served. He also served and understands the difficulties of driving up

and down our highways and making sure our highways and our byways and our communities are safe.

But he also did something that's important that's fitting for now. He served in the Internal Affairs Bureau, the police of the police. The highest level of integrity of the men and women who we give the responsibility to ensure the awesome amount of power that we give law enforcement personnel, that they will not abuse that power. That was his responsibility as the chief, to ensure that corruption didn't exist.

Now, we can all pretend that nothing was wrong prior to his appointment. But the reality, something was wrong. When men and women are put in charge of policing the people and they abuse that power in any way -- if it's targeting legislators or if it's going after one or two individuals that should not be targeted for any particular reason -- you need someone there that's going to come with the responsibility that Colonel Corbitt has to bring back the trust that we have in law enforcement.

I'm happy that this is the choice that is desired. I'm happy that he's a member of an organization that I'm part of, National Black Law Enforcement Executives. I'm happy that he has decided to come back and participate in the entire process of policing our state. I'm happy what he has done to deal with the issues of racial profiling. I'm happy what he has done to deal with the issues of safeguarding our school and the public school system. I'm happy that he decided once again to come out of retirement.

And you always look down your bench of possibility when you need a great ball player to build a team around. We have a marquee player here. The state troopers have their own modern-day Air Jordan, and we're going to make sure that we bring home the ring.

Thank you, Colonel Corbitt.

COLONEL CORBITT: Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Adams.

Senator Stachowski.

SENATOR STACHOWSKI: Yes,

Mr. President, I too would like to rise to second the nomination of Harry Corbitt.

Obviously, if for no other reason, he's a Buffalo guy. All us Buffalo guys get up and support the Buffalo guys when they're as qualified as Mr. Corbitt is. A wonderful military career, just a classic State Police career. Terrific accomplishments which were mentioned before.

I also found it interesting in hearings, and when I heard about Senator Nozzolio's hearings, that he has the support of all of the bargaining units, which is somebody that bargained against them in one of his positions. To have their support I think is also very important.

I also think it's extremely important that a man of his quality accepted to be the superintendent at a time where we need somebody special. And he also becomes Senator Paterson's first appointed person that passes through the Senate.

And I think that in the long run he will show to be worthy of this honor. I think that we are lucky that Senator Paterson -- I

mean Governor Paterson; years of calling him Senator Paterson -- Governor Paterson sent his name up and that he agreed, when Governor Paterson called upon him to take this position, to take it.

For those all those reasons, I'm glad to have had this opportunity to second this nomination.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Marcellino.

SENATOR MARCELLINO: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to second the nomination also.

Colonel Corbitt, I wish to thank you. I did so in the Finance Committee, but I'll thank you on the record for your service to our nation and to our state. It's exemplary.

I listened to Senator Smith go through all the different jobs that you've held in your career. Some might suggest you had a problem holding a job, but not me. That's certainly not my concern.

You clearly, clearly are the right person at the right time. You are charged

with leading what I believe to be one of the preeminent if not the preeminent police forces in our nation. And I know, because I've had personal contact with your members as I travel up and down the Thruway. And I have always, always found them to be courteous and professional. Somewhat exasperated with me occasionally, but courteous and professional.

Sir, I wish you well. I congratulate you for your appointment. I congratulate Governor Paterson for making a fine choice. God bless you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for the opportunity to say just a few kind words.

As my colleague from Western New York, Senator Stachowski said, it's always great to have someone from your hometown who is rising to a serious position of leadership and responsibility.

One of the things that I was pleased to hear about today was about his commitment to the school resource officer

program which is in many of the schools. I have at least two school districts, one in the town of Grand Island which really looks forward to that program.

The other thing that I'm hopeful and optimistic about is his commitment to look at urban violence. Many people have heard me talk about this on the floor of the Senate, that if we're really going to turn around neighborhoods in inner cities across upstate New York, we must address the problem of urban violence.

And I believe that there is a role that the State Police has played, it can continue to play and expand upon so that we can reduce the number of drive-by shootings, random violence at nightclubs and bars and playgrounds and parks and all different places that I believe reduce property values, threaten the quality of life, and increase the exodus of people not only out of cities but out of the first-ring, second-ring suburbs and in New York State as a whole.

So I look forward to him doing a great job, but also helping to partner with

local governments and local law enforcement agencies so that the State Police can play an even bigger role in solving crimes, unsolved homicides, and improving the quality of life in many of our struggling upstate cities.

Thank you, and I stand in support of his nomination.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Leibell.

SENATOR LEIBELL: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise in support of this nomination. And we can all thank Governor Paterson for sending us over such a well-qualified nominee.

We've heard the comments from our colleagues today. And Senator Johnson in Finance, Senator Nozzolio in Crime and Correction, they conducted extensive review of the candidate's qualifications. And I would say to you that I think we'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who's going to come before us during this session who will have a better resume than this appointee.

Let me say to you that there is no

more important agency than this one, the New York State Police. This is our "Long Gray Line" in New York State. This is the preeminent law enforcement organization. This is the organization that is respected and held as the standard for state police throughout the United States of America. And it's considered to be one of the finest law enforcement organizations in the world.

We are today giving to you, Colonel Corbitt -- we're going to give you very shortly command of this organization. It has had a brilliant history. It will have an even more brilliant future. Every great organization has its challenges; this organization will be no exception. But it will be up to those challenges, I have no question about that.

And with Senator Adams, when he was ranking on the Homeland Security Committee, we worked closely with the New York State Police. They briefed us, they advised us, and they gave us the intelligence that we needed in order to do our job.

This is a great organization, and I

want to lend my support to this nomination. We have a great nominee here.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Robach.

SENATOR ROBACH: Yes, Mr. President, let me, too, enthusiastically show my support for this nomination.

There is no question that at the cornerstone of any society has to be public safety, so this is important in so many ways.

Mr. Corbitt's resume, I won't reiterate it, clearly shows that throughout his career he has risen to whatever the challenge is and moved up through the ranks. And I like that too, because I like promoting from within. I think it not only is qualified people, but also builds morale. And in this case, we are doing that.

Continuing on the comments of my colleague Senator Leibell, he is absolutely right that the State Police really is looked at as the best of the best when it comes to policing. You will now become the leader of what I believe is one of the best police

organizations, run almost in a paramilitary style, with a history of results, acting professionally and doing great things. And that is truly, truly important.

So we want to congratulate you, I want to congratulate you and say, as you take this very, very important mantle, your job will be important for the public, but I do feel it's very important that each of us and collectively have a good relationship with you, whether it's a legislation we need to collectively do to make the public safer, or put the resources in the right place to help you and your men and women do the job to keep all New Yorkers safe.

So I wish you well. I make my pledge here to work with you to that good goal of the best public safety we can have here in the State of New York with you, Mr. Corbitt, at the helm. Godspeed.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Young.

SENATOR YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to add my voice to the

chorus of support for Colonel Corbitt to become the next superintendent of the State Police.

He spoke very personally and eloquently during the Finance Committee meeting just a few moments ago. And one of the things that really struck me was that he spoke about his mother and he spoke about how she taught him his work ethic, how hard she worked when he was a youngster -- she was a single mom, and she worked at several jobs -- and the challenges that she faced.

And, Colonel Corbitt, I want to assure you that your mother raised you right. She did a fantastic job. And your entire family, I know, is extremely proud of your accomplishments.

One of the things that also struck me is that Colonel Corbitt is a great leader. He has the professionalism, he has the strength, but he also has the humility that is necessary to be a great leader. He spoke about his service in Vietnam very briefly, that he earned a Bronze Star. But that humility is necessary when you're leading the

fine men and women of the State Police here in New York State.

I come from an area that was traumatized during the manhunt ordeal of Ralph "Bucky" Phillips. And I saw firsthand the dedication that our state troopers exhibit every day. They got up in the morning, they did their jobs, they put themselves in harm's way, they grieved when we lost Trooper Longobardo and when Trooper Baker was severely wound during that manhunt. But it shows the dedication that they have to protect and serve the people of this state.

So I want to thank all of the state troopers for what they've done. And I will never forget the night when Bucky Phillips was apprehended. The people of Chautauqua County lined the rural roads, all the way from Pennsylvania north, to applaud and cheer our state troopers for their brave service.

So thank you for your willingness to lead this great force. We have had issues that I know you will resolve. And I too, like Senator Leibell, look forward to a very, very distinguished and bright future under your

leadership for the State Police.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Young.

Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Can we at this time move the nomination, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Thank you, Senator Bruno.

The question is on the nomination of Harry James Corbitt as Superintendent of State Police. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Congratulations, Harry James Corbitt. You are now confirmed as Superintendent of the New York State Police.

(Extended applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Again, we acknowledge and welcome his wife, Earline; his stepson, John.

We wish him well, and

congratulations.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, is there any further business at the desk to take up at this time?

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: There is not, Senator Bruno.

SENATOR BRUNO: Mr. President, there being no further business to come before the Senate, I would move that we stand adjourned until 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 29th, intervening days to be legislative days.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT GRIFFO: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, April 29th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

(Whereupon, at 12:32 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)