NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

July 6, 2009

3:06 p.m.

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS, Acting President

ANGELO J. APONTE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: The Senate will please come to order.

I ask everyone present to rise and recite with me the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: In the absence of clergy, may we all bow our heads for a moment of silence.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, Madam President. Is there a proclamation from the Governor at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Yes, Senator Smith, there is a proclamation here at the desk.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: "Pursuant to the

power vested in me by Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution, I hereby convene the Senate of the State of New York in Extraordinary Session, at the Capitol, in the City of Albany, on the sixth day of July, two thousand nine, at three o'clock p.m., for the purpose of considering legislation I will submit with respect to various subjects, and considering gubernatorial nominations.

"Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State in the City of Albany this first day of July in the year two thousand nine, by the Governor, David A. Paterson."

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: The proclamation having been read, the Senate is in extraordinary session.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, Madam President, would you please recognize my colleague Senator Dean Skelos.

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Thank you.

Good afternoon, Senator

Stewart-Cousins.

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Good afternoon.

SENATOR SKELOS: At the Governor's request, and in keeping with the decision of the court, we convene this extraordinary session.

As I've stated before, the designation of a presiding officer should be made by Senator Espada or myself pursuant to the votes which took place on June 8th. Accordingly, we do not recognize that you are the appropriately designated presiding officer.

Therefore, I'd request that the agenda be laid aside and move that the Senate adjourn this special session sine die.

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you, Senator Skelos.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, thank you, Madam President. So good to see you this afternoon.

Before we move on this day, I would

like to at least acknowledge the fact that today a lot of our Fellows, who have served the Senate very well on both sides of the aisle, are here today. Some of them have moved on, some will be moving on, some are still here at the Senate.

They have had obviously an extraordinary experience this year. It is one that provides them with the ability to learn not only what state government is about, but also to see how the inner workings of one of the most distinguished bodies in this country performs.

I do want to acknowledge some of those who are here and who they've worked for. We had Matthew Gass, who worked in our press office. We had Sara Bangs, who worked in Majority Counsel. We had Linda Cohen, who worked for Senator Bill Perkins.

We had Katherine Milcarek-Burke, who I believe might be still in her office. Justin Giffuni, who worked for Senator Marcellino. We had Dilay Watson, who worked for Senator Sampson. Martin McGuinness, who I

don't think is here right now.

We also had Burton Phillips, who worked for Senator Maziarz; Catherine Price, who I believe is still in the office; Elizabeth Navran; Jane Tsamardinos, who actually worked for Senator Hannon -- I think Senator Hannon is here also -- Gregory Myers and Ryan Spelman.

We just want to say congratulations to you for doing a great job. We're looking forward to your continued service in government. It is a great place to be; it's a noble profession.

(Applause.)

SENATOR SMITH: Now, Madam President, would you please recognize Senator Hassell-Thompson for an announcement.

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Senator Hassell-Thompson.

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Yes, thank you, Madam President.

Immediately following session, there will be a meeting of the Majority in the Majority Conference Room, 332.

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you. There will be an immediate meeting of the Majority in the Majority Conference Room, Room 332.

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, Madam President. That being the case, I ask that we would move to adjourn sine die this special extraordinary session.

ACTING PRESIDENT STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you.

On motion of Senator Smith, we adjourn sine die this extraordinary session.

(Whereupon, at 3:10 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)