NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 23, 2011

3:14 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR THOMAS F. O'MARA, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone to join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Please remain standing.

And we have the Reverend Peter G. Young, from the Mother Teresa Community Church here in Albany, to lead us in a prayer.

REVEREND YOUNG: Thank you, Senator. Let us pray.

As we prepare for, today, 5 inches of snow, we ask You, O God, to brighten our days with sunshine and those relaxing days of enjoying our great resources of New York State.

God, by Your love, You've made a world where we have become neighbors to each other and we are enabled to love one another. Grant that we too may live and use this Senate to strive toward a way of life in keeping with Your plan. We ask You this now and forever.

Amen.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, March 22, 2011, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, March 21, 2011, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: 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.

Communication and communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Breslin.

SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Hassell-Thompson, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective

committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Bill 3277.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: So ordered.

SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Parker, I move that the following bill be discharged from its respective committee and be recommitted with instructions to strike the enacting clause: Bill 3617.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: So ordered.

SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. President, on behalf of myself, on my legislation, on page number 8 I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 57, Senate Print Number 990, and ask that said bill retain its place on Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The amendments are received and adopted, and the

bill will maintain its place on Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Maziarz, on page 12 I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 128, Senate Print 164B, and ask that the bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The amendments are received and adopted, and the bill will maintain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR LIBOUS: And, Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Grisanti, on page 17 I offer the following amendments to Calendar Number 196, Senate Print 3133, and ask that the bill retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The amendments are received and adopted, and the bill will retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, I

believe that at the desk is a resolution, Number 999, by Senator Ritchie. I ask that we read its title and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Ritchie, Legislative Resolution 999, honoring the New York State Maple Producers for their success in making New York the second-largest maple-producing state in the nation.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: On the resolution, all in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, there's a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator Klein. May we please have the title read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator Klein, legislative resolution commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Villa Maria Academy of the Bronx, New York, March 26, 2011.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The question is on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Serrano has a privileged resolution at the desk. He would like to have the title read, and I believe he would like to speak on it.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senator

Serrano, legislative resolution memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2011, as Earth Hour in the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Serrano.

SENATOR SERRANO: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today I'm introducing a very important resolution for the third year in a row. This resolution declares this Saturday, March 26th, at 83:00 p.m. as Earth Hour.

Earth hour is a globally observed hour conceived in a statement of action against global climate change. It calls upon people from all over the world to turn off their nonessential lights for one hour.

Last year nearly 2,400 cities, towns and municipalities in over 83 countries observed Earth Hour. This year cities ranging from Tel Aviv, Israel, to Copenhagen, Denmark, have already pledged to observe Earth Hour.

By flipping the switch for one hour and turning off their nonessential lights, citizens around the world signify that they

understand the urgency of climate change and are prepared to tackle the challenges head on.

New York State is a global icon and home to some of the most beloved landmarks in the world, from Niagara Falls in Buffalo to Yankee Stadium in my own district. Actions taken by the Empire State have both a symbolic effect and a very tangible effect on the rest of the world.

For the last several years, at my request, the Empire State Building and a number of other sites went dark for one hour. It is my hope that participation will be even greater this year and that all of my colleagues here today will join me in helping to increase participation within their own districts and surrounding neighborhoods.

I hope all of you will join me in support as we designate 8:30 p.m. on March 26, 2011, as Earth Hour throughout the great State of New York. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Thank you, Senator Serrano.

The question is on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Those opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, there is a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator Stewart-Cousins. May we please have it read in its entirety and call on Senator Stewart-Cousins before its adoption, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: By Senators Stewart-Cousins, McDonald and Johnson, legislative resolution commending Firefighter Michael Giroux in recognition of his heroic action on March 4, 2011, in saving the lives of two citizens.

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals

in public service who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

"WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Firefighter Michael Giroux in recognition of his heroic action on March 4, 2011, in saving the lives of two citizens; and

"WHEREAS, The son of Richard and Ann Giroux, Michael Giroux is a native of Albany, New York. He attended Shenendehowa schools in Clifton Park before earning his Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Cortland and later a master's degree in Ex-Physiology from Adelphi University; and

"WHEREAS, Michael Giroux worked at Cornell Medical Center and for several private doctors before accepting a position with the City of Yonkers Fire Department in 2000, where he was assigned to serve Ladder 71, Rescue One. In this capacity, he serves as a

specialist in technical rescue who trains emergency personnel in saving lives from confined spaces, collapsed trenches and rope rescues from buildings and escarpments; and

"WHEREAS, On the afternoon of Friday, March 4, 2011, two workers were painting the facade of a high-rise building on Nepperhan Avenue in the City of Yonkers, New York, when their platform malfunctioned, causing them to dangle perilously 13 stories above the ground; and

"WHEREAS, Despite high winds, Firefighter Michael Giroux and his dedicated colleagues set a plan in action to safely remove the painters. He was chosen for his expertise to rappel down the 27-story apartment building from the building's roof to rescue the two men who were trapped; and

"WHEREAS, Using the skills and techniques he has taught others, Michael Giroux went to work rescuing the first worker, who he deemed to be in the most immediate danger. After successfully harnessing and lowering the first man to the ground, he immediately repeated the heroic actions,

rescuing the second worker; and

"WHEREAS, Michael Giroux's quick command and the heroic efforts of both he and his entire team resulted in the inspiring rescue that saved the lives of these two men; and

"WHEREAS, Firefighter Michael Giroux's heroic actions were not possible without the help of Assistant Chief Roger Vitola and Firefighter Jose Caraballo of Battalion 1, Lieutenant Nicholas Sarro, Firefighter Brendan Healy, Firefighter Joseph Golusinski and Firefighter Douglas Higgins of Rescue 1; Captain Rudolph Sarro, Firefighter Timothy Sullivan, Firefighter John Rodriguez and Firefighter Kendrick Geiger of Ladder 71; Lieutenant Brian McCaffrey, Firefighter Brian Curran, Firefighter Kevin Mozdziak and Firefighter William Castillo of Engine 303; Lieutenant Christopher Williams, Firefighter Neill Tyndal, Jr., Firefighter Hugh McGahran, Firefighter Antonio C. Rodriques of Engine 304; Captain Joseph Darcy, Firefighter Hung Chun, Firefighter John Spano and Firefighter Christopher Leal of Engine 306; Lieutenant

Daniel Flynn, Firefighter Christopher Mitchell, Firefighter Sean Flanagan and Firefighter Brian Pugsley of Engine 309; Captain John Aitcheson, Firefighter Michael Bernardi, Firefighter Peter Coogan and Firefighter Rocco DeVito of Ladder 72; Assistant Chief Brian Travers and Firefighter Dan Kime of Battalion 2; Captain Thomas Travers, Firefighter Sean Faughnan, Firefighter Sean Connolly and Firefighter James Duff of Squad 11; Lieutenant Kevin Cox, Firefighter Joseph Yedowitz, Firefighter Lawrence Valentino and Firefighter William Nowak of Engine 312; Lieutenant Michael Hanney, Firefighter Joseph Pinto, Firefighter Charles Maron and Firefighter Daniel Stangarone of Ladder 75; and Assistant Chief William Fitzpatrick, Lieutenant Allen Felman, Lieutenant Ronald DeMarco, Firefighter Eugene Kelly and Assistant Chief John Flynn of Special Operations; and

"WHEREAS, Also assisting in the rescue efforts were members of the Yonkers Police Department's Emergency Services Unit, including Captain Thomas Barnett, Sergeant

Robert Akey, Police Officer Dennis Borelli, Police Officer Jorge Cordero, Police Officer Jamie Molino, and Police Officer Anthony Alaimo; and

"WHEREAS, Upon getting to the scene, the Yonkers Police Department's Emergency Services Unit was able to gain access to the victims through an apartment window on the 14th floor, enabling them to pass the initial safety line to the men taking them out of imminent danger; and

"WHEREAS, The members of the Yonkers Police Department's Emergency Services Unit were able to speak and translate to the painters, who spoke only Spanish, while also conducting a medical assessment, keeping the situation under control; and

"WHEREAS, Due to the help from all of these emergency response crews, who were instrumental with the rescue of the two workers after their scaffold collapsed, Firefighter Michael Giroux's efforts were triumphant; and

"WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Deana Giroux, and their two

daughters, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

"WHEREAS, Michael Giroux has truly distinguished himself as one of New York's finest. When an act of such magnanimous heroism is brought to our official attention, the same should be memorialized for the edification and emulation of all; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Firefighter Michael Giroux in recognition of his heroic action on March 4, 2011, in saving the life of two citizens; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michael Giroux."

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Stewart-Cousins on the resolution.

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I do want to commend the Secretary, because I know this was the very first time that we've had an opportunity for

you to read.

And I think it's an auspicious time for this to have happened, because there are many days that we stand in this chamber and we talk about heroic acts and we thank people who have done extraordinary things. Many times, however, we do it posthumously. I know the last time I commended a Yonkers firefighter, it was Firefighter Patrick Joyce, whose heroism was just unimaginable, but only his family and his colleagues and friends were here; he was not.

So today is a day, I think, which is exceptional because not only are we celebrating heroism, but we have the heroes here to celebrate collectively.

So you've heard the story of Firefighter Michael Giroux, and you know that he did things that no one of us would have thought possible. Although we know actions like this happen, but very few of us ever have a bird's-eye view as you see a rescue such as the one that Firefighter Giroux was able to accomplish.

He went up one of the tallest

buildings in Yonkers. When we talked about it, it was actually 27 stories, but he had to go up even another story in order to position the ropes properly and come down to rescue two workers who were hanging by their harnesses after their scaffold had broken. We watched breathlessly, wondering how this was going to happen, who was he going to rescue, was it going to be successful, was he going to get out all right?

And after about an hour and a half of this partnership that happened between the police and the emergency services, the firefighters, Empress EMS, everybody -- with all of us looking at this wonderful rescue with a magnificent outcome, we were all not only proud of the City of Yonkers but indebted, as always, to the heroism of Firefighter Giroux.

So I thought it was important to bring these heroes here -- you've heard their names and their ranks -- and thank them collectively.

This happened in my district in Yonkers, but I know that Firefighter Giroux

actually lives in Senator Johnson's district and that his parents live in Senator McDonald's district. So not only is it a great event, but it's a celebration that we can all enjoy across the state, remembering how you risk your lives every day to protect all of us, how important it is that we allow you to smell your flowers and get your accolades while you are here to enjoy it, how grateful we are to your family for enduring and supporting you as you make these sacrifices, and how important it is that you continue your work knowing that you have the full community support. And as you've read in this resolution, you certainly have.

So I wanted to thank you and recognize that, again, Firefighter Giroux is here with his loving parents, Richard and Ann; his grandmother, Theresa Brassard, who's accompanied by Jim Kelly; uncle Tim Walsh and aunt Jeanie; and you also heard read in the resolution his daughters Gianna and Samantha. There are four generations here to come to celebrate Firefighter Giroux.

Congratulations, Firefighter.

(Standing ovation).

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: And just because all of the EMS people were not in the resolution -- and they will be because all of the names are there -- the Empress EMS professionals who were key in the success of the rescue: Chris Pinnock, Michelle Marsalisi, Rich Rivera, Karen Novelli, Thomas Daliy, Brian Hickey, and Marcel Cekuta.

And also here, and I think they just went quickly out, was Barry McGoey, who's the president of Yonkers Firefighters Local Number 628, as well as Greg DeSousa, trustee, Yonkers Firefighters Local 628, Captain Kevin Ford, Augie Nigro, the assistant chief, Michael McManus, president of the Professional Firefighters Association of New York State, as well as Sam Fresina, who is secretary/treasurer of the New York State Professional Firefighters Association.

We are all very, very proud of you. And again, thank you so much for being heroic and who you are. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Thank

you, Senator Stewart-Cousins.

Senator Owen Johnson on the resolution.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I would like to add my congratulations, my pride in the accomplishments of Michael Giroux and his team of firemen.

The training he took and the initiative he took showed not only intelligence but bravery and courage. And I wouldn't want to get on a 27-story building and come down on a rope and try to save somebody, but he did it, and he brought his firemen with him. And it's a wonderful inspiring story of heroism and rescue.

So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator McDonald on the resolution.

SENATOR McDONALD: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Stewart-Cousins.

And a special gratitude to a home-grown hero and what you've done and all your family. What an inspiration. It

certainly shows you that this state is a lot smaller than people think it is.

Whether it's a New York State trooper who's from the metropolitan area or New York City or Long Island doing something courageous in upstate New York, or somebody originally from Saratoga County and the Albany area going down and doing the same thing, it makes you feel part of a family. An inspiration to us all that we should never forget that we're all here and we're all here to help each other. And if there's somebody in need, it doesn't matter who you are or where you are, we've got people like Firefighter Giroux and his colleagues in the emergency services to be there for us.

So this is a double inspiration for me. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Klein on the resolution.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to thank Senator Stewart-Cousins for bringing this resolution before us today.

I have the privilege of representing a small portion of the City of Yonkers. But I do want to really congratulate Michael on his heroic acts. You know, unfortunately in many cases when we honor police officers or firefighters they're not here to accept our congratulations. Thank God Michael's heroic acts, you know, left him still with us.

You know, again, unfortunately when we read our newspapers or watch our TVs lately, our public sector-workers aren't always getting the best rap. But I think it's not only today but every day we have to say a special thank you to our Yonkers bravest. And I think Michael represents them best.

He risked his life. Many New Yorkers were glued to their TV sets watching what Michael was able to accomplish. And I think we owe him a debt of gratitude.

And sometimes things -- there's a lot of fate in life, people there at the right time. And I think Michael's training, Michael's heroic acts, Michael was the perfect person to be there on that very day to save

those two workers.

So I thank you, Michael, and I know you'll continue to protect us each and every day in the great City of Yonkers. Thank you, and thank you to your family.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Savino on the resolution.

SENATOR SAVINO: Thank you, Mr. President. I also want to thank Senator Stewart-Cousins for bringing this resolution.

And, you know, one of the most riveting things I've seen on television in the last month or so was not a movie, was not a television show, certainly wasn't a reality show -- it was the opportunity to watch Michael Giroux and his colleagues, the emergency service workers, rescue those two workers who were hanging off the side of the building.

For about an hour, Channel 7 Eyewitness News covered the entire event. And I would like to tell you I was doing something important, but I was actually at the nail salon getting my nails done. And all the women in the nail salon were transfixed by

this image on television of this situation that was unfolding where these two workers were hanging down the side of a building, and they had emergency service cops trying to figure out could they get them in through the window.

And it was absolutely amazing to see the level of professionalism that was displayed by the Yonkers Police Department and the Yonkers Fire Department. But the most thrilling thing was to see, suddenly, from the roof down, a firefighter rappel down the side of the building and then stop and try to figure out which one of those hanging workers he was going to rescue first.

It was absolutely amazing. And it just serves to remind us just how difficult the job is that our first responders do every day.

And as Senator Klein said, it's very easy to forget because we open the newspaper every day and we hear from county executives and town supervisors and governors and mayors about how we can't afford these guys anymore, they cost us too much money,

their benefits are too high, their disability risks are too high. It's very easy to think that we can, you know, just value them in terms of dollars and cents.

What we saw on March 4th on the news, what we saw these guys do is priceless. So whatever it is we're paying them, it's not enough money.

Congratulations to Michael, to all of his colleagues and the emergency service workers. Thank God we're here today to say thank you to you. And for those two workers that you saved, thank God you were there for them that day.

Thank you, Senator Stewart-Cousins for bringing this.

And congratulations again.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Hassell-Thompson on the resolution.

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Just very quickly before they have to leave the chambers.

The City of Mount Vernon abuts Yonkers. And one of the things, when I was on the city council, that made me very

appreciative of having Yonkers as a neighbor was the fact that whenever we had serious emergencies and we could not handle them, Yonkers was always there for us. And Yonkers continues to be there for us.

And so I want to add my congratulations and thanks to you, Michael, and to your entire brigade for the work that you continue to do and the support that you continue to give to my city, the City of Mount Vernon. And thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Anyone further wish to be heard on the resolution?

The question is on the resolution. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, can we now go to the

reading of the noncontroversial calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Yes, Senator Libous. The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 103, by Senator Little, Senate Print 2912, an act to authorize the Village of Saranac Lake.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: A home-rule message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 151, by Senator Gallivan, Senate Print 3037, an act in relation to the dissolution of the Wadsworth Library.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 197, by Senator Young, Senate Print 793, an act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 57. Nays, 2. Senator Hassell-Thompson and Senator Espaillat in the negative.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 200, by Senator Ritchie, Senate Print 3542, an act requiring the State Fire Prevention and Building Code.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Ritchie to explain her vote.

SENATOR RITCHIE: In 2010 the New York maple producers produced 312,000 gallons of syrup, which ranked New York State second in the nation, following only after Vermont.

Essentially this bill will enable maple producers to avoid unnecessary and costly upgrades to seasonal structures by deeming them agricultural buildings. In addition, this bill codifies the long-standing relationship where producers welcome tourists to promote their businesses.

I will be voting yes on this bill.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Ritchie will be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Little, to explain her

vote.

SENATOR LITTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Senator Ritchie, for this bill.

Last Friday I had the pleasure of tapping a maple tree at the opening of the Maple Syrup Weekend. And I would just like to recommend to anyone and everyone here, this weekend is also a Maple Syrup Weekend. If you have a place where they are doing the maple syrup, it's a wonderful family event to go for the pancake breakfast and really support our maple producers.

We're number two in the country and growing, and these are hardworking people. But this bill will help them because their sugar shack is actually only used a few weeks a year.

So thank you for the bill, and I will be voting in the affirmative.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Senator Little to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The bill is passed.

This is Senator Ritchie's first bill? No, second. Senator Ritchie's second bill.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 236, by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 2778, an act in relation to making certain findings.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: A home-rule message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 60.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: The bill is passed.

Senator Libous, that completes the noncontroversial reading of the calendar for today.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, thank you.

Senator Sampson, in consultation with Senator Skelos, would like to hand up the following committee assignments. I ask that they be filed.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: They will be filed in the Journal, Senator.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: There is none.

SENATOR LIBOUS: There being no further business, Mr. President, the Senate will adjourn until Thursday, March 24th, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT O'MARA: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, March 24th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:41 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)