



Journal of the Senate

Number 3—Special Session A

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

CONTENTS

Announcements 9
 Call to Order 9
 Moment of Silence 9
 Point of Order Disposition 9
 Remarks 9
 Reports of Committees 10
 [See end of Journal for Bill Action Summary]

PLEDGE

Senator Jones led the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

DISPOSITION ON POINTS OF ORDER

Senator Campbell withdrew the pending point of order he raised on Friday, December 8.

Senator Geller withdrew the pending point of order he raised on Friday, December 8.

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate was called to order by President McKay at 1:00 p.m. A quorum present—39:

Mr. President	Dawson	Laurent	Sanderson
Bronson	Diaz de la Portilla	Lawson	Saunders
Brown-Waite	Dyer	Lee	Sebesta
Burt	Garcia	Meek	Silver
Campbell	Geller	Miller	Smith
Carlton	Holzendorf	Mitchell	Sullivan
Clary	Horne	Peaden	Villalobos
Constantine	Jones	Posey	Wasserman Schultz
Cowin	King	Pruitt	Webster
Crist	Latvala	Rossin	

Excused: Senator Klein

MOMENT OF SILENCE

On behalf of the Senate, the President led the body in a moment of silent prayer for Senator Klein who was unable to be here today due to a death in his family.

The President also asked the body to take a moment to remember the family of Senate employee Margaret Lamb, whose son, Melvin Lamb, passed away Saturday.

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Rabbi Jackie Wexler, Congregation Shomrei Torah, Tallahassee:

In the Five Books of Moses, we have several instances of different groups of people working together for the sake of the common good. We have Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob, who comes to act as a management consultant to Pharaoh, helping save the Egyptian people from great famine; and then we have Jethro, the Midianite father-in-law of Moses, who also works as a management consultant to Moses, establishing a more efficient judiciary for the children of Israel. In each case, it is the partnership of differing people that bring about positive resolution for the sake of the people.

Heavenly Father, guide the leaders of this great state and nation, as they look to You for wisdom and support. Grant them the insight to lead us in understanding; may their hearts be filled with awe at the sacred task before them. May they walk in the light of your spirit; as Your light illumines our lives. Grant that their labors be a source of blessing for all people. And let us say, Amen.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT JOHN M. MCKAY

Senators, our next order of business would be, and was expected to be, the consideration of the Special Order Calendar that was approved Monday by the Special Order Subcommittee of the Rules Committee. However, in view of the opinion issued by the United States Supreme Court last night, I have a few comments that I would like to offer you.

I believe that you have been exemplary in the patience and the cooperation that you have shown over the past week, and for some of you, periods earlier than that. You conducted yourselves in a thoughtful and respectful manner and in a manner befitting the tradition of the Senate which is most important to me. I will tell you that I am completely in awe of our Founding Fathers because over two hundred years ago they crafted a document that has withstood the test of time and the test of the last few weeks. Our Constitution has endured and has guided us down the path toward resolution of this issue.

Reasonable people can disagree reasonably. We all know that. And, although some of us have disagreed with the actions of this legislature or the need for action on the part of this legislature, I think we can all agree that our measured approach was the right course to take.

Last night the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the legislature's responsibility to choose its electors. If necessary, we must be in a position to act. Our goal must remain to protect Florida's six million voters and to ensure that the twenty-five electoral votes are counted. With last night's ruling it appears that we may have reached the point of finality, but at this point I don't believe any of us can say with complete assurance that that is correct.

The Senate staff and outside counsel are continuing to review the ruling to determine if further action is warranted by this body. As I previously said, we must be deliberate and cautious in charting our course. Since I'm a sailor, I'll tell you that we've successfully negotiated uncharted waters in the past few weeks and it is my intention that we will not run aground as we continue.

Therefore, out of respect for the Vice President, we will wait to hear his comments this evening before taking further action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Lee announced that the Special Order Calendar established for this day would carry over until the Senate reconvenes.

Senator Lee announced a deadline of 5:00 p.m. this day for filing amendments to the Special Order Calendar to be considered Thursday, December 14.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Committee on Ethics and Elections recommends the following pass: HCR 1-A with one amendment

The bill was placed on the calendar.

RECESS

On motion by Senator Lee, the Senate recessed at 1:12 p.m. for the purpose of holding committee meetings and conducting other Senate business to reconvene at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 14 or upon call of the President.

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Journals of December 8 and 12 were corrected and approved.