

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

2:36 P.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

In the absence of clergy, let us pause for a moment of silence. Let us also keep in mind the lives lost at the University of Michigan.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Monday, February 13th.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense

with the further reading of the Journal of Monday, February 13th and ask that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Well, greetings everyone. Happy Valentine's Day. I love all the shades of red and pink around the Chamber. We're going to begin our day with a quote: *Always doing things just right to set an example for other people who were coming behind me, especially women. I strived hard to be tough and hang in the best I could.* And that is a quote by Dr. Gladys West who had an illustrious career at the U.S. Naval Weapons Laboratory. The next time that you use any navigational device or software like Google Maps, you can thank Dr. Gladys West who helped lay the foundation for the modern technology of GPS. Isn't that a cool fact?

Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. So members have on the desk a main Calendar. After any introductions and housekeeping, we would begin calling the following Committees to meet in the Speaker's Conference Room. Those Committees are Codes and Rules. These meetings will produce an A-Calendar. Mr. Speaker, we will begin our work on the floor by first taking up resolutions on page 3. We will then take up the following bills on debate: Rules Report No. 59 by Ms. Rosenthal; Rules Report No. 65 by Ms. Simon, and once the debates have concluded, the Rules Committee has met, we will then take up an A-Calendar on consent. We will also take up

a Rules Report No. 98 by Ms. Cruz from the A-Calender on debate. Got all that? I will announce any further floor activity as we proceed. The Majority members should be aware that we will have the need for a conference once we conclude our work on the floor. And as always, I will consent with the Minority on their conference needs.

And with that as a general guideline, if there is any introductions or housekeeping, now would be the appropriate time.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No housekeeping, Ms. Solages, however we do have a number of fine introductions.

And we will start with Ms. Rozic for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. ROZIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Madam Majority Leader. Today I have the pleasure of introducing some undergraduate students from St. John's University, accompanied by Brian Browne, the Associate VP of University Communications and Public Affairs. They're sitting in the back. These students are here as part of the Annual Student Aid Alliance Advocacy Day. They have traveled to the Capitol to meet with legislators to raise awareness on the importance of issues that they really care about like TAP and opportunity programs. Since 1870, St. John's University has been a part of the life and legacy of New York. Its enduring mission has been to be an institution of higher education for immigrants and their children. As of last year, the university has more than over 1,400 full-time and part-time faculty, over 15,000 undergraduate students, and over 4,000 graduate students who come from 48 states and 118

countries. St. John's offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs, including 16 doctoral programs. It's my honor today to ask that we welcome these students from St. John's on behalf of myself and the entire Queens delegation. I ask that you extend the cordialities of the floor. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Rozic, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Hope that your trip to Albany will be beneficial, and appreciate the fact that you are looking out for the schools in our State and the education that we are so proud of to provide so many of our students. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Jones for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I rise today to welcome some of our friends and neighbors to the North. It is Canadian-American Heritage Day here in New York State today, so we will be doing a resolution later on acknowledging the strong bond that we have with our neighbors to the North. And just to read a little bit from the resolution, New York and Canada share many additional deep economic, historical, cultural and familial ties. Canada is New York's primary export market, with \$24.9 billion in exports, and \$42 billion in trade just in 2021. The economies of Canada and New York are tightly linked through integrated cross-border supply chains that keep us both collectively competitive. Whereas, Canada and New

York also share a commitment to equity, inclusion and diversity, highlighting it as a source of strength, and as a force that can vanquish intolerance, hate, radicalism both at home and across the globe. This shared virtue can only strengthen the already robust ties that exist between Canada and New Yorkers.

Mr. Speaker, could you give the cordialities of the floor to André Frenette, Acting Consul General of Canada in New York; Martine Hébert, Delegate General of Quebec Government Office in New York; and Julia Bareman, Managing Director, Alberta, Washington Office. Could you show them that this truly is the People's House and welcome our friends and neighbors from the North here. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Assemblymember Jones, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor, and celebrate this long -- long and productive relationship that New York has with Canada, the borders that we share. Thank you so very much for joining us today, as you do every year. Good to see you.

(Applause)

For the purposes of an introduction, Mr. Brook-Krasny.

MR. BROOK-KRASNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to interrupt the proceedings for this introduction. Today I welcome a special friend and mentor to Albany who comes

all the way from New York City South Shore and Coney Island. Rabbi Chaim Brinkman has been a dedicated religious leader, educator, mentor and community advocate for the Seagate and Coney Island communities for over 30 years. He is an emissary of the late, great Grand Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Schneerson, who has influenced and guided countless young people and adults through his mentorship and teachings of Judaism. In addition to serving as a rabbi, he volunteers as an EMT and first responder, and uses his broad medical knowledge and expertise in the teachings of the Torah and Jewish law to counsel many of his neighbors, myself included.

Rabbi Brinkman has a positive and infectious personality, which brings his optimism and hope into the lives of so many who are troubled or working to overcome life's challenges. I, along with the entire Coney Island and Seagate communities are so very thankful to Rabbi Brinkman for his indispensable leadership, guidance, friendship and commitment to the Jewish faith. Mr. Speaker, would you please welcome Rabbi Brinkman to Albany and award him the cordialities of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Brook-Krasny, the Speaker and all the members, Rabbi, we welcome you here again to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor, and Shalom, happy to have you.

(Applause)

Mr. Fall for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. FALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I

have two very important constituents with us today, they are my neighbors, they are near and dear to my heart, my parents; both my mother and my father are here. And they are also the story of the American Dream. You know, when my mother first came to the country in the late '80s, she worked at Burger King, then was a teller for the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union. Thirty years later, she's the CEO of that same credit union.

(Applause)

My father started out driving a cab and, you know, now as a small business owner and does international consulting, but he also saw the impact of his business during the pandemic, which is why I sympathize with so many businesses across the State. And as a kid growing up, of course with these wonderful people behind me, I learned the importance of hard work, you know, not giving up, and if you do fail, how do you bounce back to do better? So Mr. Speaker, if you could kindly extend the cordialities of the House and welcome my wonderful, beautiful, loving parents to the People's House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of your son, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. You are family, you are always welcome here. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our congratulations on the son that you have produced and sent to us, our appreciation that you've allowed us to share with you in his ability to serve the public. You must be very proud, we are very proud of him and very, very proud of you. Welcome, you are always welcome here, thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Buttenschon for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. BUTTENSCHON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honor to represent SUNY Polytechnic School in Marcy, New York, that has a reputation as America's premier public institution known for the many programs it offers not only in engineering, information science and health care, business and government, and it includes cutting edge research and highly-skilled technical workforces. Today in the Chamber with me is seven students that are very vibrant, that represent many of those areas; in fact, one student is a bunk in with the Maynard Fire Department from the State of Massachusetts that has chosen SUNY Poly in Marcy, New York, for his academic endeavors. These students are here today advocating, as others have stated, to help support within the SUNY system, but I appreciate that they're here today as I represent them with all honor. Could you please provide them the cordialities of the Chamber today. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Buttenschon, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome these extraordinary students here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor, hope that your time in Albany has been beneficial, hope that you find interest in the legislative process and come and join us one day. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Benedetto.

Oh, I'm sorry, hold on.

After I messed that up, you have extra minutes.

MR. BENDETT: It's okay. I rise -- thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce my friend and colleague, a world famous cigar roller who I happen to have the privilege and honor of working with for the last 16 years. Not only does Francisco work here in Albany, he also has been -- rolled cigars for David Ortiz, Bernie Williams, Tino Martinez. He's in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, he's rolled cigars for various movies and taught various actors how to roll cigars so that they could be in movies.

But it's really my distinct privilege to introduce him all to you because he made the leap of faith and took a chance and drove two-and-a-half hours up the Northway from Brooklyn and met me. When he met me, he couldn't speak any English. We sent him to school in Albany, learned English as a second language. Today, he stands before you all as a citizen of the United States. He's a homeowner, his kids went to college, and he has a tremendous life up here in Albany, and I'm really proud to work with him and I'm proud to introduce him to all of you here.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Bendett, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here, sir, to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor, congratulate you on the great life that you have made and the opportunities you have taken advantage of. Please

continue that work and make our State even greater. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Norris for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. NORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to make this introduction. It's -- if you recall last Wednesday, I talked about the 200th birthday of the Town of Somerset. Well, Cameron Kiner is from the Town of Somerset. He has come here today to tour the State Capitol with me. And I will tell you, he was a great student at the Barker School, graduate of 2022. He's now at the University of SUNY Buffalo, University of Buffalo studying public health. We're so proud that he's here today and it just reminds me of a time when I was at Niagara University as a college student with the former Member, Assemblymember David Seaman, sitting next to him. So you never know, Cameron, where your road may lead you. So again, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity, and please extend to Cameron Kiner the courtesies of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Norris, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Mr. Norris has already connected us, Somerset's birthday and mine are the same, just a few years apart, but we really do appreciate that you've come. We wish you success in your future endeavors, keep up the good work. You never know where life will lead you, my friend. Congratulations.

(Applause)

Mr. Stern for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. STERN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce Mufti Mohammad Farhan, Trustee and Chairperson of Children of Adam, along with members of this outstanding charitable organization dedicated to serving our Muslim neighbors and are community focused on empowerment, to build better lives and to enlighten minds, engage hearts, and through knowledge and research, holistic wellness and humanitarian service. Children of Adam has established a Center of Excellence in our Huntington community, and is working to establish a Halal soup kitchen. It serves free breakfast through a mobile food truck, and sponsors educational programs for all ages.

Around the world, Mr. Speaker, Children of Adam has responded to assist victims of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and has provided aid to victims to the recent catastrophic flooding in Pakistan. Mufti Farhan serves as the Executive Director of the Islamic Center of Long Island, and his leadership makes our entire community proud. So Mr. Speaker, please welcome Mufti Farhan and the members of Children of Adam to the People's House, and please extend them all the privileges of our floor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Stern, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the

floor. Our thanks and gratitude for the service that you provide both for those in your community and those who you live with. We hope that you will always know you have friends here. *Salam alaykum.*

(Applause)

Ms. Tapia for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. TAPIA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to introduce Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell, in recognition of his prompt and heroically -- heroic actions in protecting the members of Congress and their staff while the United States Capitol was under attack on January 6th, 2021. After immigrating from the Dominican Republic to the United States in 1992, Aquilino Gonell fulfilled the American Dream by becoming a United States citizen and a college graduate. Aquilino Gonell proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom, followed by the Army Reserve. During his deployment, this brave and selfless soldier volunteered to conduct supply missions for the United States, Allied Forces and local Iraqi schools through the threat of bomb filled roads. Upon the completion of his military duties, Aquilino Gonell joined the Capitol Police Department in Washington, D.C., and once again took the oath to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States.

Following the defeat -- on January 6th, 2021, following the defeat of then-United States President Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential Election, a mob of his supporters attacked the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to prevent a Joint

Session of Congress from counting the Electoral College votes to formalize the victory of President-Elect Joe Biden. (Inaudible) the Capitol to defend the United States Capitol -- members of the Congress, Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell quickly found himself immersed in the violence and mayhem enacted upon our government. Even though he knew what a dangerous situation he and so many of his fellow officers were in, Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell charged forward and was caught in a tunnel on the west front where he engaged in one -- in some of the most brutal fighting of the day. Sergeant Aquilino Gonell was hit with so much chemical sprays that the liquid soaked through his skin and he sustained multiple injuries, several of which he is still recovering from.

Mr. Speaker, please welcome Sergeant Aquilino Gonell to the People's House of he deserve.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. De Los Santos on the same subject.

Oh, I'm sorry. Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Tapia and Mr. De Los Santos, the Speaker and all the members, sir, we are honored that you have joined us here today. We salute your bravery, we extend to you the privileges of the floor. And no words can express our gratitude for the service that you provided, both in the present and in the past. Thank you so very much for sharing with us and all that you have brought here to us with us today. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Mamdani.

MR. MAMDANI: Thank you, sir. Before I begin, I must first say *salam alaykum* to Charles Fall's parents. It is such an honor to have you here.

You know, I am here today to introduce on this fateful day of Valentine's Day, a number of constituents of mine who I would ask to stand up on both the lower and the upper Chamber, who are here to fall back in love with public transit. And they are here in Albany to participate in the legislative process, to address issues surrounding the MTA ridership and the importance of these public goods. And so I thank them for taking so much of their time to come here to Albany, and I say *In sha'Allah* they never have to come back and we resolve this in this year. And so Mr. Speaker, I ask if you could please welcome these constituents from across the five boroughs, thank them for their civic-mindedness, and grant them the cordialities of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Mamdani, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here, both up and down, to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Thank you for your interest in preserving and protecting our way of life and the ability of us to move freely through our cities and towns. Continue that great work. We know that you will be successful. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Ms. Pheffer Amato for the purposes of an

introduction.

MS. PHEFFER AMATO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Agudath Isreal is here in Albany today and they're being led by Ari Ginian and Adrienne Mittan. They're here in Albany to advocate for the interest of many of my constituents in the great 23rd Assembly District of Far Rockaway and Bayswater and many of my colleagues with their work in the Orthodox Jewish Communities of Queens and Long Island. Many here today are parent advocates standing up for their schools and advocating what's best for their children. It is my pleasure to have them here in the Chamber, the People's House and ask that you Mr. Speaker, extend the privileges of the floor and the cordialities of the House to these two wonderful mensches and the people that they brought with them. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Pheffer Amato, the Speaker and all the members and the Queens delegation, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Thank you for the work that you do taking care of the members of your community and also of others. Remember that you are here in a place and in this House that is more diverse than it's ever been in life and in that welcoming you we recognize the greatness of diversity. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Ms. Solages for the purpose of an in --
announcement.

MS. SOLAGES: Can our colleagues join Mr. Dinowitz in the Speaker's Conference Room for a Codes meeting?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Codes Committee, Speaker's Conference Room immediately, please. We will go to page 3, resolutions, Assembly No. 107, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 107, Mrs. Gunther. Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 14th, 2023, as A Day for Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 108, Mr. Jones. Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 1st, 2023, as Canada Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Benedetto on the resolution.

MR. BENEDETTO: Thank you, sir. I am normally reluctant to get up on speaking on this floor, but when we honor a resolution for our good neighbors to the North, the people who have been with us through war and peace as steadfast allies, the people who so much of our trade relations that have been going on for years across the border and the Peace Bridge. I must stand to say and urge all to vote for this particular resolution and that our strong bonds with our

neighbors to the North continue for many years to come. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 109, Ms. McMahon.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 21st, 2023, as Mother Language Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of International Mother Language Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 110, Mr. Lemondes.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2023, as Lamb Lovers Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Lemondes on the resolution.

MR. LEMONDES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we celebrate Lamb Lovers Month this February in accordance with the American Lamb Board's Ewe, E-W-E, Complete Me campaign, let me say a few things about the superb tasting, highly nutritious meat source of which New York ranks among the top 20 sheep producing

states in the nation having 2,133 sheep farms. First the story of the sheep itself is simple. No other animal has provided more comfort to humanity than the sheep both for its source of meat and food and dairy as well as its fiber for wool, clothing and a host of other applications. As the most efficient ruminant animal, sheep turn the least amount of inputs into the greatest amount of dense, rich protein available. Sheep are truly at the intersection of where nutritious meets delicious. Lamb meat also contains the highest amount of conjugated linoleic acid or CLA which is a highly beneficial fatty acid that aids in the promotion of fat loss, is an anti-carcinogen and provides a host of other significantly beneficial and nutritional benefits. Lamb is also the least understood protein source available to us in the US so buy lamb, eat lamb, and love lamb. It's sustainable, tastes great, is good for you and is locally produced all over New York State and throughout the United -- and throughout the United States. Enjoy and celebrate American lamb. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: All those in favor signify by saying baa --

(Laughter)

-- nay, the resolution is passed.

(Applause)

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 111, Mr. McDonald.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2023, as American Heart Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. McDonald on the resolution.

MR. MCDONALD: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little sheepish about what I'm going to say right now.

(Laughter)

But first of all Happy Valentine's Day and to all my colleagues I can't think of a better place to spend Valentine's Day than with my colleagues doing the people's work. And joining us today, as you know February is American Heart Month, a time when people can all focus on their cardiovascular health. Each year the American Heart Association who is throughout the Capitol complex today along with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and other health-related organizations celebrate American Heart Month to raise awareness of the seriousness of heart disease and more importantly to promote healthy lifestyles. According to the CDC, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. One of every four deaths is attributed to it. It's imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue and more must be done to increase activity at the local state and national levels, promote screenings and support patients and their families, and I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. McDonald. And as a heart attack survivor I vote yes. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

Page 4, Rules Report No. 59, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01002, Rules Report No. 59, Rosenthal. An act to amend the Public Health Law and the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to food allergy awareness in food service establishments and online food ordering services.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Rosenthal, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

An explanation is requested, Ms. Rosenthal.

MS. ROSENTHAL: This bill is a chapter amendment to a bill we passed last year requiring greater food allergy awareness in food services establishments and on online food ordering services.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rosenthal, will you yield?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rosenthal yields.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Ms. Rosenthal. The bill last year required restaurants to provide us notices in up to one of six languages and this doubles the language requirement to 12?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

MR. GOODELL: And I note that the amendment specifically provides that the notice has - regarding food allergies - has

to included that procedures be followed if a customer informs the staff that a customer has a food allergy. Is it envisioned then that the same procedure would apply to every restaurant throughout New York State? Or do we envision that the Department of Labor or the restaurant will be responsible for translating their individual procedures into one of 12 languages?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, this -- this amendment says the Department of Health would provide the notice.

MR. GOODELL: Okay. So you don't envision that the restaurant would have to translate it?

MS. ROSENTHAL: No. I don't think so. I think, you know -- I don't think so.

MR. GOODELL: Now, I note that the amendment also requires this notice on the procedures to be followed to prevent cross-contact.

MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

MR. GOODELL: But we've received communications from the industry involved that there are currently no procedures in the statute or regulations relating to that process. So my question is, how do you envision the Department of Labor to provide a standardized notice when we don't have any regulations dealing with that process?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Okay. It's the Department of Health, not Labor and there are procedures that -- that -- that are in place about how to avoid cross-contact. So I imagine that DOH

would provide that if people don't know how to do that.

MR. GOODELL: Well, I'm looking at the bill on page 3. Am I correct that that bill deals with Ags and Markets?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah. Actually, we added the Ag and Market section because grocery stores are actually regulated by Ag and Markets, not the Department of Health so that's why that appears in this chapter amendment.

MR. GOODELL: So then my question is does Ag and Market have any rules, regulations or procedures in place regarding how to avoid cross-contact?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Now, I don't know if Ag and Markets does but there -- there's a wealth of information about how to avoid cross-contamination. So I imagine that that would be transmitted to the different restaurants.

MR. GOODELL: So, again --

MS. ROSENTHAL: And grocery stores.

MR. GOODELL: My question is both for the Commissioner of Health, under this chapter amendment, and the Commissioner of Ag and Markets, they're required to produce a document on the procedures that follow and that document has to be in 12 languages, and one of the things required by the statutory amendment would be procedures on how to avoid cross-contamination.

MS. ROSENTHAL: Mm-hmm.

MR. GOODELL: Also procedures to be followed if a

customer informs a staff of an allergy. But at this present time you're saying neither the Department of Health nor Ag and Markets actually have any procedures.

MS. ROSENTHAL: You know what? I'm going to amend my previous answer.

MR. GOODELL: Okay.

MS. ROSENTHAL: And I -- I know that they know what -- what the procedures are, and so they would probably have to provide that on the notice in the 12 different languages.

MR. GOODELL: Okay. So they know it even though they haven't published it.

MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

MR. GOODELL: I see. Now, am I correct that this also requires that food allergies be posted on a web page either an opportunity for the customer to have an interactive web page to identify food allergies or in the alternative, a requirement that all the food allergies be listed on the web page?

MS. ROSENTHAL: I mean that is not what it's referring to. It's referring to a restaurant either through their own website or a third-party act would have to have space for a customer to say what their food allergy is or they could say, you know, sesame noodles have peanuts in them. So either or.

MR. GOODELL: Either or. So a restaurant is not obligated under this to have an interactive web page.

MS. ROSENTHAL: No, no, no.

MR. GOODELL: But if they don't have an interactive web page, would it be required to list all the allergy information for each item on the menu; is that correct?

MS. ROSENTHAL: No, no. There is a choice.

MR. GOODELL: Well, I'm looking at page 2, lines 36, and it says the restaurant must as an alternative provide a food allergy message about the allergy information for each prepared food item. That's on line 37. That's for the Department of Health. And the same language is also applies under the Department of Ag and Markets.

MS. ROSENTHAL: No. It says provide a method by which a customer may indicate a food allergy. So that is -- that is either or.

MR. GOODELL: Right. It says either provide a method by which a customer indicated --

MS. ROSENTHAL: Right. And that's just what I said earlier.

MR. GOODELL: -- that be an interactive web page or --

MS. ROSENTHAL: It's not interactive web page. Have you ever ordered an app?

MR. GOODELL: I'm sorry?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Have you ever ordered from one of the many apps?

MR. GOODELL: Well, yes.

MS. ROSENTHAL: Okay. So, I mean you can call it an interactive but really it's like a menu when you check off what you want and then you press send and then you hopefully get it delivered soon.

MR. GOODELL: I see. And --

MS. ROSENTHAL: So that's what you're calling an interactive website is simply the menu and they need to have space for people to list, you know, I'm allergic to...choose.

MR. GOODELL: And as you can appreciate a lot of restaurants put their menu on line --

MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

MR. GOODELL: -- but do not allow for online ordering. And in that case am I correct?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, then there's no duty here.

MR. GOODELL: I see. I appreciate that. And likewise as you know many restaurants will allow you to order online but they will not custom-make your food. You can try it if you want when you pull up to a McDonald's and say, you know, what you want and so what is the purpose then of allowing customers online when they're ordering to indicate a food allergy if the restaurant is not able or willing to custom cook food?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, I think most restaurants that are not fast food or chains do allow a customer to ask for special provisions or add some extra pickles for example, or I'd like a side of spinach. So I think --

MR. GOODELL: And if the restaurant doesn't, how do they comply with this?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, then -- then they won't.

MR. GOODELL: I see. As you know a lot of restaurants not only cook their own food but often order food prepared by other entities. For example, a lot of restaurants have desserts that they don't make themselves, they order third-hand. Does a restaurant have an obligation to disclose ingredients of desserts that they purchase from third-parties?

MS. ROSENTHAL: I would think they should know, yes.

MR. GOODELL: I see. Thank you very much. I appreciate your comments on this.

MS. ROSENTHAL: Sure.

MR. GOODELL: Sir, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir.

MR. GOODELL: I appreciate my colleague's concern about food allergies and for those who have food allergies it's a very serious issue. My concern is that once again New York State is imposing more and more liability and more and more obligations on the industry without getting input from the restaurant and the food service industry. And that is why, for example, you have the food industry alliance opposing this legislation because they point out that the statutory requirements called for in this chapter amendment for procedures to be followed don't exist. There are no statutory or

regulatory procedures. And I appreciate my colleague's confidence that even though they haven't told us what those procedures are they might know what they are. Again, you know, we're asking the Department of Health and Ag and Markets to produce all these procedures, the process, the response, one-size-fits-all, the only thing that's not one-size-fits-all is the translations where we have 12, a dozen different translations all without input from the industry. And I never worried that our industry in New York State was under-regulated and this will ensure that it's even more regulated than ever before which is probably why we had 31 no votes last year. And sadly the chapter amendments double the language requirements without addressing any of the concerns by the industry or those who actually have to make the system work. For that reason I will not be supporting it, but again I thank my colleague for her answers and I appreciate the opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Pirozzolo.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir.

MR. PIROZZOLO: So again, you know I'm a staunch advocate on regulations when it comes to businesses. But I also think that if we're going to regulate businesses, we should also be careful what we do in our own house. When I came onto the floor today I saw this box of chocolates on most of the desks of the females and the ladies here in the conference. This ingredient lists nuts, lists

things that people are allergic to. Yet I do not know if anyone here was asked or going around to say is it okay if I put this on your desk? So just think about that, that's what we're doing to our businesses, is we're saying that you are responsible for this. Yet in this very Chamber we're spreading things that people may have allergies to. So I will also be voting no.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Novakhov.

MR. NOVAKHOV: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rosenthal, will you yield?

MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rosenthal yields, sir.

MR. NOVAKHOV: Thank you. Just one question.

Would this raise the price of the food?

MS. ROSENTHAL: No.

MR. NOVAKHOV: How does this affect the prices of the food?

MS. ROSENTHAL: It doesn't affect it at all.

MR. NOVAKHOV: All right. Thank you.

MS. ROSENTHAL: Sure.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Rosenthal. On the bill, ma'am.

MS. ROSENTHAL: On the bill. First of all, I really

appreciate these Valentine's Day candies, they are also wrapped, sealed so there are no allergens that can escape it. So as people who are allergic to different things would look here and say oops, I can't eat it, I'll give it to my seat mate. So I don't think there's any danger and I think it's lovely that we get these every Valentine's Day.

Secondly, the purpose of this bill is really to prevent any kind of reactions to allergens that are not known to the customer. And one example - and this is one person that I worked on this bill with - she is now a medical doctor. But, she was a young woman and she ordered something from a restaurant, they had put nuts in the dish but hadn't told her and she didn't have the opportunity to tell them at that time that she was allergic to nuts. So she had a horrible anaphylactic reaction. So we want to avoid those. This won't cost anything more to the restaurants and I think people will appreciate the consideration and will continue to order at restaurants that care about their specific needs. And so this chapter amendment will make sure that happens. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Gallahan.

MR. GALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir

MR. GALLAHAN: Last year we -- we debated this bill and being a small business owner in the restaurant business myself with my wife I can contested a couple things. Number one on a

different bill it was -- it was more stickers on my windows to -- to clarify allergies and allergens. I have a food truck. I have so many stickers on my window I have to take orders out the back door now. The regulations are -- are absurd. This just adds to another regulation coming down from the State that I'm going to have to comply with that's going to take extra time from my schedule. Is it going to cost more for my product? Absolutely. I'm going to get paid for my time. I can't be making sausage when I'm filling out forms, it doesn't work that way. I can't afford to hire anybody. That's -- that's out of the question to do this. So I just -- I'm so frustrated with -- with regulations and red tape that hits me in the face every single time I turn around trying to run a small business in this State. It's appalling and I will be voting in the negative. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Byrnes.

MS. BYRNES: Thank you very much. I think no matter how you're going to vote on this bill, if you're voting for it or voting against it as long as it was brought up we should probably all thank Wayne because we love him dearly and we appreciate his courtesy and how he treats us ladies. So that's all. I just wanted to thank Wayne and I know the rest of us or at least the rest of us gals feel the same way and mine's almost gone. Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms. Byrnes.

(Applause)

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: A Party vote has been requested.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: The Republican Party is generally opposed to this additional level of regulation, but those who support it are certainly encouraged to vote in favor on the floor. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: And the Majority Conference will be in the affirmative on this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

MR. FALL: Mr. Speaker, I now call for a meeting of the Rules Committee in the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir. Rules Committee immediately in the Speaker's Conference Room.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Senate No. 2230, Rules Report No.

65, Senator Cleare, (Simon -- A01706). An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to specifying procedures for the closure and/or decertification of assisted living residences.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: An explanation is requested, Ms. Simon.

MS. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill amends Chapter 625 of 2022 to require the operator of an assisted living residence to notify the long-term care ombudsman prior to the anticipated date of closure and to require the Department of Health to review the facility's plan of closure within 90 days of submission and provide clarifying amendments that an operator of an assisted living residence may amend the residency agreement to account for changes in SSI so long as they notify the resident 45 days in advance of any increase. This will make everything much more efficient.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: Sponsor, will you yield?

MS. SIMON: Yes. Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: The sponsor yields.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you very much, Ms. Simon. Last year when we passed the original bill there were concerns, practical concerns that were brought up on how a nursing home that

may be going bankrupt would be able to pay for staff and supplies and provide high-quality care with patients if they didn't have the cash in the bank to pay for the supplies or the staffing or the patients. Does this bill address that staffing or that financial crisis that would occur or could occur?

MS. SIMON: No, it does not. It basically just tightens up some language and adds a requirement to notify the ombudsperson and I know that you agree that that ombudsperson is a really important part of this.

MR. GOODELL: I do agree. And I see that the chapter amendment now requires the Commissioner -- Commissioner of Health to review the plan within 90 days of submission, and that is a great chapter amendment. I applaud you because it -- it doesn't leave it open-ended forever. So my follow up question is if the Commissioner for some reason doesn't approve the plan or reject the plan within 90 days, can the facility then proceed to close?

MS. SIMON: No. In fact - and if you read the language carefully - it says he has to review or she has to review the plan. It doesn't say they have to rule on the plan or have to make every determination whether to request an amendment, to approve or to reject the plan. So they must review it. It can't just sit on their desks for months at a time which is what sometimes people suggest might be happening. But they must review it and that is also will help streamline this process.

MR. GOODELL: So all this requires is that they

open the mail within 90 days and they don't actually have to do anything?

MS. SIMON: Well, it does infer that they actually read it as well.

MR. GOODELL: That would be helpful, I'm sure.

MS. SIMON: Yes.

MR. GOODELL: Now, the original bill not only prevented the facility from taking new residents to fill vacancies which would help their cash flow, but also prevented the facility from raising any fees. Now, this chapter amendment does allow the facility to raise fees on 90 -- or 45 days notice, right, if there's an increase in the SSI reimbursement rate; is that correct?

MS. SIMON: I'm sorry, Mr. Goodell. I didn't quite hear your question.

MR. GOODELL: I see. The chapter --

MS. SIMON: Thank you.

MR. GOODELL: The original bill prohibited a facility from raising the rates on residents even though they may have been in the negative cash flow. Am I correct that the chapter amendment does now allow the rate to be increased upon 45 days notice to the resident to reflect changes in SSI reimbursement rate?

MS. SIMON: Actually, I would say that the original bill required that as well. However, there's a couple of technical changes to the language and it doesn't actually substantively provide anything different but it does of course, as the original bill did, allow

for an increase that would conform to increases in public support such as SSI.

MR. GOODELL: I see. And this also increases the chapter amendment the notice requirements so it's not just the DOH but also through the long-term care ombudsman.

MS. SIMON: Correct.

MR. GOODELL: And does the long-term care ombudsman then have any role in the review or approval?

MS. SIMON: In the review of the proposal?

MR. GOODELL: Yes. Or the approval.

MS. SIMON: Not according to the statute that is in my experience is not generally what is the role of the long-term care ombudsman. But of course the whole point of this is to help people find another location that is suitable for their needs. That long-term care ombudsperson can help effectuate and streamline that. And I'm sure that you'll support the funding request to increase the amount of money that the long-term care ombudsperson would have at their disposal in this year's budget.

MR. GOODELL: Now, if you're an operator of a nursing home or a facility covered by this and the facility is going bankrupt and you don't have money to pay the staff. Obviously if you don't pay staff it's a personal liability on the operator. It could also be a criminal violation I believe of the Labor Law, protected services. What is the sanction if you close earlier without the approval because you don't have enough staff to provide the care? What is the sanction

for failure to comply with this?

MS. SIMON: That would be up to the Department of Health who is empowered to authorize sanctions against that entity. And of course this bill only addresses the needs of assisted living facilities, not nursing homes.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you very much, Ms. Simon. I appreciate your clarification.

MS. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: On the bill, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: On the bill, Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: You know in an ideal world if assisted living facility was going out of business they would give lots of notice to everybody and things would move along smoothly and everybody would be placed in alternative facilities. That's in an ideal world. Sadly, we're not in an ideal world in New York. And so sadly, most of the assisted living facilities, not all, but most of them close because they are going out of business. Because they're going bankrupt. Because they don't have enough money to pay for the staff. Because they don't have enough money to make sure that they have the right supplies for the residents. They don't have enough money to keep the utility bills current. So when we pass legislation that says an assisted living facility cannot close, cannot raise the rates with this one exception we discussed, cannot accept new residents to increase your revenue, we create an impossible situation. And if you are a manager

or an operator of an assisted living facility that's going bankrupt you face the Hobson's choice. Do you shut it down when your staffing drops below minimum staffing requirements? Remember those staffing requirements that we as a legislature keep pushing. Or do you violate the minimum staffing in order to keep the facility open in order to comply with this law? Do you violate the Labor Law by not paying your staff? Or do you violate this law by expeditiously relocating your residents as fast as you can to maximize their care? So for those of us who don't think it's appropriate to put employers in a box where no matter what they do they violate the law you'll understand why we oppose this bill. Because if you can't stay open until the health department eventually gets around, you will be violating several other laws unless you have deep pockets. So let's design legislation that reflects the real challenges facing our assisted living facilities as we in the legislature talk about increasing staffing, increasing minimum wage and not providing the money to cover it. I would welcome this type of legislation if it were accompanied by an appropriation by the State Legislature to cover the losses that are incurred when we force a nursing home to stay open and prohibit them from increasing their revenues, offsetting their losses or otherwise operating in a fiscally responsible manner. Since this only imposes obligations without any financial support, I cannot support it and I believe that's the reason why 44 of us voted against it last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Goodell.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: A Party vote has been requested.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Republican Conference is generally opposed, but those who want to support this legislation certainly encouraged to vote here on the floor in favor of it. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Goodell.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: The Majority will be in the affirmative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Fall.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mr. Goodell for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce a number of distinguished guests from Clarkson

University, that's the Support Students Advocacy Day. They're up here supporting those students from Clarkson University and across New York State and on behalf of Scott Gray, Assemblyman Scott Gray, would you welcome Zalen Aqueron, Anthony Caraballo, Auden Hope, Rose Cotto, Adriana Gonzáles, Kelly Chezum and Deb Shipp. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Gray, the Speaker all the members, we welcome these distinguished students here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our congratulations and thanks for the work that you're doing to improve the education for all students and particularly those from your school. Please continue that work and know that you are always welcome here and remember to consider this business as a possible life choice for yourselves. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, members have on the desk the A-Calendar. I move to advance the A-Calendar.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Solages the A-Calendar is advanced.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: And let's take up Rules Report No. 98 by Ms. Cruz on debate.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03340, Rules Report No. 98, Cruz, Burdick, Taylor, Zebrowski, Dinowitz, Vanel, Simon, Burgos, L. Rosenthal, González-Rojas, Jacobson, Otis, Pretlow, Stirpe, Clark, Glick, Bichotte Hermelyn, Lavine, Pheffer Amato. An act to amend the Penal Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Correction Law, the Social Services Law, the Vehicle and Traffic Law, the Family Court Act, the Civil Rights Law, the Civil Practice Law and Rules, the Agriculture and Markets Law, the Judiciary Law and the Domestic Relations Law, in relation to sex offenses; and to repeal certain provisions of the Penal Law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st, 2024.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This one-House bill has passed the Assembly since 2013 and we've debated it a number of times. So in the interest of time and efficiency here we're not going to go through all of those debate points again. It has never passed the Senate and that's why we're taking it up again this year. This bill would change ten different statutes including the Penal Law and Criminal Procedure Law. Concern with this bill is that by merging the two parts of the rape statute together it may preclude consecutive sentences for crimes involving multiple acts of rape and

criminal sexual acts because multiple acts would be interpreted by the courts as part of one continuous act of sexual assault and thereby require concurrent sentencing instead of consecutive sentences as is now permitted. If that were to happen, this bill would significantly reduce the penalty for offenders by one-half or more. This would certainly be an unintended consequence of a bill intended to clearly convey the seriousness and brutality of that crime. The DA's Association in 2020 has opposed this piece of legislation as has the Conservative Party. This bill creates a risk that the worst rapist will not be sentenced to all the time behind bars that they deserve. There is a fix that I discussed last year on debate which was not taken up. This bill has not changed at all since our debate last year, which is unfortunate, I think. I think that that fix would address the concerns I have, but with the bill in its current form I can't support the bill because I want to make sure that the worst offenders get every single day behind bars that they deserve. So I will be voting in the negative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walsh in the negative.

Ms. Cruz to explain her vote.

MS. CRUZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our State laws are enshrined in gender notions of what rape is requiring intercourse to be vaginal penetration in order to demonstrate that rape has occurred. Failed to understand the reality of sexual violence. This is insufficient and discriminatory narratives that leaves many

victims of rape out from actual justice. I want to take the time since we ended up not debating to thank the many victims who have come forward to talk about what it's like to not have the crime that occurred to them recognized especially Lydia Cuomo and of course our former colleague Aravella Simotas who championed this bill for over a decade. I do want to address a quick point brought up by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Actually the courts recent -- as recent as 2019 have held that convictions of rape, criminal sexual act and sexual abuse that have occurred from the same incident but three different acts if they're pled correctly by the DA, if they have sufficient specificity or actually not precluded from getting consecutive sentencing. So I don't agree with the notion that when this bill passes there could be a possibility that we're not getting people the justice that they deserve. I think actually the complete opposite. For years people who have been orally, anally, or otherwise raped have had to face the courts and be told that what happened to them is not rape, hence the name of the bill. And so when we pass it, and I believe that it's going to happen and I am encouraging my colleagues on the other side of this building to finally get it done. Not for us, not for the DAs, but for the many victims that deserve justice. No matter how it happens, rape is rape, and victims deserve that justice. And I hope that this is the absolute last time that I ever have to be up here trying to explain to people that victims of rape deserve that justice.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Cruz in the

affirmative.

Mr. Angelino.

MR. ANGELINO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker to explain my vote. The -- I appreciate from the debates on this bill in the past that the Article 35 Deadly Use of Force has been updated, but because of the sentencing issues on this and I appreciate the sponsor explaining that, I will still be in the no. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Angelino in the negative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I would like to call on Mr. Jacobson for an announcement.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Jacobson for the purposes of a announcement.

MR. JACOBSON: I know the Majority will be happy to hear this. Immediately following Session we will be having a conference in Hearing Room C.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Jacobson announces a conference for the Majority in Hearing Room B I believe.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, any resolutions or further housekeeping?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Resolutions we have. We will take them up with one vote. On the resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed nay. The resolutions are adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 112-116 were unanimously approved.)

MS. SOLAGES: I now move that the Assembly stand --

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell for an announcement.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No problem.

MR. GOODELL: We are so fortunate that just before we adjourn we have the opportunity to recognize and acknowledge Claire Atalla. Claire Atalla is with Catholic Charities and they do a phenomenal amount of good work all across New York State and if you would extend the greetings to her on behalf of Assemblyman Mike Reilly it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Assemblyman Reilly, the Speaker, Mr. Tannousis, Mr. Goodell, myself, all of the members and the Speaker, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Hope that you have enjoyed whatever you've been able to see of our proceedings and know that we understand the nature of your charity and it has worked for many of us in many of the districts

across the State. Thank you so very much for being here.

(Applause)

And now Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I now move that the Assembly stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 15th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Solages, that bears repeating. Did you say 9:30 a.m.?

MS. SOLAGES: 9:30 a.m.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Oh, I'm glad the members heard that. The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 4:04 p.m. the Assembly stood adjourned until Wednesday, February 15th at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday being a Session day.)