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163rd Session of the New Hampshire General Court
Legislative Proceedings

SENATE JOURNAL

ADJOURNMENT – JUNE 26, 2013 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 SESSION

SENATE JOURNAL 16 *(continued)*

June 26, 2013

Out of Recess. Call Senate to Order.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM LATE SESSION

Sen. Bradley moved that the Senate adjourn from the Late Session.

Adopted. Adjournment from the Late Session.

SENATE JOURNAL 17

September 3, 2013

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m., a quorum being present.

The Reverend Kate Atkinson, guest chaplain to the Senate, offered the following meditative thoughts and prayer.

Good morning. Well, every one of us here has had the experience of being chosen. In fact, we've had hundreds of those experiences since our earliest memories: things like being called on in class, or chosen for a sports team, or to be in the school play, or finding our life companion, or getting the job that we hoped for, or winning an award, or being elected to serve the people of New Hampshire as Senator. And those experiences have taught us that the best choices come after a great deal of thought and, in many cases, prayer. And today, you're going to make another choice, and one of you is going to be chosen again as President of this remarkable group of people. And today you're going to choose someone whose job it will be to keep you in order—God help them—and to listen to the voices, and hear the opinions, and weigh the decisions, make sure that good decisions are taken. And I don't need to tell you how important your job is today; you already know that. But, it is my responsibility and my honor to remind you that if you invite God into the election process, you can be assured that the best possible result will take place. Let us pray.

Lord God, all wise, all merciful, hear us as we pray for today's election and for all your people who bear the responsibility of leadership in this Senate. Give them, in all their deliberations, wisdom to know your will, regard for your laws, and respect for your creation. Give them vision, and a renewed sense of optimism, that they may choose a President who shares their belief that all things are possible with You. Amen.

Sen. D'Allesandro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senate President Peter Bragdon resigned from the position of President of the New Hampshire Senate.

Senator Bragdon passed the gavel to President Pro Tem, Senator Bob Odell.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Senator Odell, President Pro Tem, stated that nominations for the President of the New Hampshire Senate are in order.

Sen. Bradley nominated the Honorable Chuck Morse for the President of the New Hampshire Senate.

Sen. Larsen seconded the nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, Senator Odell declared nominations to be closed.

Adopted. The Honorable Chuck Morse was elected President of the New Hampshire Senate.

Senator Odell, President Pro Tem, requested Senators Rausch and D'Allesandro to escort The Honorable Chuck Morse, President of the New Hampshire Senate, to the rostrum.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE SENATE

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, SENATOR CHUCK MORSE: Thank you. You know, I never thought that I would be up here uttering these words, but: Welcome home, Em.

My friends and colleagues: Today you've given me an enormous honor by entrusting me with the Office of the Senate President. I am humbled, and will forever be grateful for the faith you have placed in me to lead this distinguished body. As you know, New Hampshire's unique volunteer Legislature requires sacrifice, not only from elected officials, but also from those closest to them. I am privileged to be surrounded by family and friends who have given me support to stand here before you today. My wife, Susan, and my daughter, Emma, home from her freshman year in college, are with us here today. I want to thank you for your love and your encouragement. And also, I'd like to thank my friends: Mike Carney, Danny Norris, and Dave and Cathy Frahm, who are with us today in the gallery. Thank you for being here, and thank you for your ongoing friendship.

I also want to offer my personal and sincere thanks to Senator Bragdon for his service. Over the last three years, Peter has been a steady leader in a job that requires someone with his utmost respect for the institution: its rules, its traditions, and its people, and the highest regard for all of us who were sent here to do the people's work. Senator Bragdon led us through significant changes in our political landscape, contentious debates, and difficult budget negotiations in a way that has been fair and respectful. Now as usual, you jumped the gun. But Senator Bragdon ran this institution honestly and with integrity. As this gavel changes hands today, I now would ask you to stand and recognize our friend, our colleague, and the gentleman from Milford, for his service to this state and this institution.

During my time as Finance Chair, I have had the pleasure of working with you on one of the most important pieces of legislation we pass each session. Throughout that process, I sought to be honest and transparent and to offer each of you an open door to discuss the issues most important to your constituents. I believe that openness contributed to my ability to unite our party differences and to do what many believed was impossible: unanimously passing a state budget that will serve as a reliable blueprint for our state over the next two years. This budget must be managed efficiently to ensure it remains balanced, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you to do that.

As we move forward, I pledge to you that this Senate will continue operating in an honest and collegial manner. And though you may need to climb a few more stairs, I promise to you my door will always be open to your thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

Serious issues and passionate debate lie ahead; I think that was made clear in the seconding motion. We will, from time to time, disagree on what a particular vote will mean to one constituency or another. As we debate in this chamber—and we will—let us do so with convincing arguments motivated by sincere desire to make sound public policy. We all come from varying backgrounds and different corners of New Hampshire. Whatever path or areas of interest brought us here individually, as a Senate, we are all charged with working to improve this state to make it the best place in the country to call home. Senate Rules require that when we vote, we do so from these seats, side by side. Let us also continue to do so with the best interests of this state, our constituents, and future generations at heart.

The people of New Hampshire look to their elected leaders to do what is right and to make tough decisions so that they and their families can live happy, healthy, and productive lives. As President, it is my intention to see that we live up to those expectations.

In closing, my fellow Senators, friends, staff: I am so very proud to be your Senate President, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for this honor.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM EARLY SESSION

Sen. Bradley moved that the Senate adjourn from the Early Session, that the business of the Late Session be in order at the present time.

Adopted. Adjournment from the Early Session.

LATE SESSION

LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Without objection all Rule 2-16's shall be entered into the permanent *Journal of the Senate*. Adopted.

RECESS TO CALL OF THE CHAIR

Sen. Bradley moved that the business of the day being completed, that the Senate recess to the Call of the Chair for the purposes of sending and receiving messages, and when we recess, we recess to the call of the Chair. Adopted. The Senate is in recess to the Call of the Chair.