

THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

(The House of Representatives was called to order at 11:15 o'clock a.m., Speaker Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

CLERK:

Representatives will convene immediately. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives will convene immediately. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Will the House please come to order? The Minority Leader has requested a few more minutes in our caucus, so while we're now in session, we'll come back at 11:30 promptly and we'll begin with the prayer and the pledge. Thank you.

(Gavel) Will the House come back to order? Will the members, staff, and guests please rise? Direct your attention to the Dias where Rabbi

Lefkowitz will lead us in prayer.

HOUSE CHAPLAIN RABBI ALAN LEFKOWITZ:

Good morning.

Dear God, please keep us mindful, open, and aware of the work we do and of all the people we serve, keep us mindful that we have our different paths to connect with You, our Holy Creator.

Keep us mindful that we experience life as the three blind men who met an elephant. Each blind man had heard about and never seen an elephant and when confronted with the animal, each began to contemplate how he would feel the animal, experience, and then figure out what kind of image he would form.

One touched first the left foreleg and then the right. The second blind man was led to the rear of the elephant to touch the tail, which wagged a few times. And, the third blind man touched the elephant's ears, which moved back and forth.

The first blind man proclaimed that the elephant was like two big trees without any branches. The second said the elephant was like a

snake, and the third argued that the elephant was like a straw fan swinging back and forth to give us a breeze.

Each argued their point of view and how they argued. Each one insisted that he alone was correct. Of course, there was no conclusion for not one had thoroughly examined the whole elephant. How can anyone describe the whole until one has learned the total of the parts? This applies to us who serve You, oh God, and serve others. May we all examine the whole until we have learned the total of all the parts. We say, Amen.

(All) Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much. Will Representative Rebimbas of the 70th District please come to the Dias to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

(All) I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. There's a list of bills.

No. 20, dated March 9, 2018, as corrected.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Are there any announcements or introductions? Oh, I'm sorry.

Representative Ritter of the 1st District.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we waive the read of the list of bills as corrected and the bills be referred to the committees indicated.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

So, ordered. Thank you for catching me, Mr. Majority Leader. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Simmons of the 144th. Madam, you have the floor. Oh, a new location for you.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

[Laughing] Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purposes of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and on behalf of Representative Lesser, we would like to proudly welcome a group of Wesleyan students here to the Capitol today. I'd like to ask them to stand up. They are studying state and local government at Wesleyan. I have the honor of teaching them this semester and they are very interested in public service, and we're hoping one day they will be in these seats maybe, so I'd like to give them a round of applause and let my colleague, Representative Lesser, if he has any remarks.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Before the round of applause, Representative Lesser, did you have something you'd like to add, sir?

REP. LESSER (100TH):

Yes. Good afternoon and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to associate myself with the remarks of the good chairwoman of the Congress

Committee. We're grateful to have the Wesleyan students here today and also grateful that Representative Simmons is able to teach them because other members of the Wesleyan community would not be -- of the Middletown delegation would not be as good instructors on state and local government --

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

[Laughing].

REP. LESSER (100TH):

So, thank you for coming up today and would like to ask the members of the House to give the students our usual warm welcome.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much. If we can give them a warm welcome? [Applause] I myself am a frequent reader of the Argus, which is the Wesleyan paper, so I am very familiar with the Wesleyan University, so thank you very much for coming to the House today. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Godfrey of the 110th. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have the floor, sir.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For an announcement,
Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Every year for time out of mind the General Assembly has hosted the YMCA Youth and Government Program where high school aged people come in and replicate government -- state government all over the -- from all over the state, and it's this weekend. They're starting tonight over in Farmington, but they'll be here taking over this building and the legislative office building Saturday and Sunday. As the legislative host, I'm looking forward to this as I have been every year but to my colleagues, be aware. They will be using this Chamber and they'll be checking out the stuff in your desks, so fair warning. [Laughter] Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Any other announcements or introductions? Representative

Linehan of the 103rd. You have the floor, Madam.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Hang on one second, Madam. (Gavel) Members, I know we're all getting settled into the Chamber but one of the members does have the floor.

Representative, please proceed, Madam.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce my daughter, Zoey, who is here today. She is 9 years old and she's a 4th grade student, and today she testified in front of the Environment Committee regarding an Act for bear hunting in Litchfield County. She put together the data from her class. Out of 36 students, 33 opposed bear hunting, and Zoey stood up today and gave plenty of reasons why you should not bear hunt and also gave plenty of ways that DEEP can move bears from place to place in order for them not to attack people. I'm very, very proud and I hope that everybody who has children in

the Chamber or is watching invites their children to become part of the process.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Representative. Zoey, looking at you just for future elections, it would be really easy just to change the first name and leave the last name on the plaque, so thank you very much for taking part in our government.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

We all agree, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Can we give her a round of applause for coming up and testifying today, please? [Applause] Other announcements or introductions? Representative Conley of the 40th District. You have the floor, Madam.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to invite everyone to the concourse today. I know we will have a short time in this room and will be all headed back to the LOB for meetings. Project Oceanography, which is located in Groton,

Connecticut on the Avery Point campus does a lot of great work introducing students and adults to Long Island Sound. They have camps and they have events and they have seal tours for the adults.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Ladies and gentlemen, I'm having a hard time hearing the Representative.

REP. CONLEY (40TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Project Oceanography does a lot of camps for children to introduce children to the great things of the Long Island Sound. They also do tours including seal tours and boat tours for adults and children alike, so please stop and talk to Project Oceanography on your way back to the concourse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Representative, and thank them for their hard work. Representative Gresko of the 121st, for what purposes do you rise, sir?

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For purposes of a formal introduction.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

That would be very nice. I'm glad you're doing it. It is on my list but because it is your town, we'll let you do it. Representative Gresko, please proceed.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, I'd like to introduce you to our newest member, State Representative Phil Young, from the 120th District in Stratford. [Applause] Mr. Speaker, hopefully, he knew what he was getting into. [Laughing] Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir, and Representative Young, welcome to our Chamber. We all look forward to serving with you. You will note there's more of a bipartisan note in this Chamber but when we do go into caucus, sir, you will be expected to give a speech, so please prepare that. Are there anymore introductions? Anymore announcements?

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No.
32?

CLERK:

House of Representatives February regular session, March 9, 2018. Calendar No. 32, Senate Joint Resolution No. 24, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH Q. KOLETSKY OF WATERFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Stafstrom from the great city of Bridgeport, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Stafstrom, you have the floor.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Judge

Koletsy has a long and distinguished career on our Superior Court bench, having originally been appointed in 1985. For the last 17 or 18 years, he has been serving as a judge trial referee, which of course is an as-needed per diem basis. He currently is assigned to the New London judicial district where he is trying civil cases. I urge support.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Rebimbas of the 70th District, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. I think when he appeared before the committee he certainly shared with us his ability to continue to serve on the judicial branch, so I'd just like to stand in his support and also take this opportunity to thank him for his service to our country but also, I believe that he's going to be celebrating a birthday here soon, so happy birthday to him as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Members take your seats. The machine will be open. [Ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your votes have been properly cast. Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote's been properly cast. The members have checked the board to ensure their vote's been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 24 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Adoption	72
Those Voting Yea	139
Those Voting Nay	4
Absent not Voting	8

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Resolution is adopted in concurrence. (Gavel)
Representative Ritter of the 1st District. You have
the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Speaker. Just for purpose of an
announcement to the democratic side of the aisle.
There is not a caucus today at 1 o'clock. That was
a computer error, so there's nothing after we do the
final judge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Are there any other
announcements or introductions? Representative
Urban of the 43rd District. You have the floor,
Madam.

REP. URBAN (43RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have

here with me today selectwoman from the town of Stonington. Her name is Kate Rotella. We have worked together on all the issues that we have here in the Capitol. She has been an amazing partner for me and of course, you can recognize that she's an amazing woman partner and you know I think this is the year of the woman, so I would like the Chamber to give her a welcome that we normally give to our municipal officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. If we can give the Chamber's usual warm response to our guest.

[Applause] We will now return to the call. Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 31?

CLERK:

House Calendar 31, Senate Joint Resolution No. 23, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JONATHAN J. KAPLAN OF SOUTH WINDSOR TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Stafstrom, you have the floor.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Judge Kaplan also has a long and distinguished career on the bench, having originally come on the court in 1985 and taking senior status in 2010. He is currently assigned to the Tolland judicial district where he's working on civil matters. Judge Kaplan also has previously been a faculty member of the Connecticut Judge's Institute and helps to train some of our new judges based on his years of experience. I urge support.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, you have

the floor, Madam.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning and I rise in support of Judge Kaplan for all the good reasons that the Vice Chair had numerated just now, and he certainly not only is he an asset for the bench but he continues to give back in educating other judges, so he certainly would be a great asset for us to continue. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much. Representative Ziobron of the 34th, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand up for the third time that we've had judges before this Chamber to make a statement about what we're doing. What we're doing today are voting for judges while we don't have a state budget. What we're doing today on the deadline in the office of Fiscal Analysis for subcommittees to submit their budget; yet, we're in session to talk about judges. Mr. Speaker, I object to the process in which we are

facing our state budget crisis. We don't have the dollars to support the staff in our Judiciary Department. Judge Carroll just submitted to us a request for almost \$4 million dollars just to keep our courtroom safe. Today, is our deadline for recommendations to the office of Fiscal Analysis and we have budget meetings that we are missing right now so we can be in session to vote on two or three judges. I object to that and for that reason, I'm going to continue to vote no. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Delnicki of the 14th, you have the floor.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good morning.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

I rise with great pleasure to speak on behalf of Judge Kaplan. I've had the pleasure of knowing him for 25 years. He's a good decent, honest person and he serves the court well, and I truly look

forward to having the opportunity to vote in favor of him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open. [Ringing].

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote's been properly cast. If all the members have voted, please check the board. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked, the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 in concurrence

with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Adoption	72
Those Voting Yea	138
Those Voting Nay	5
Absent not Voting	8

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Resolution is adopted in concurrence. (Gavel)

Ladies and gentlemen of the Chamber, I want to draw your attention to the Dias. I want to introduce you to a gentleman some of your already know, but officially, this is John Moyst [phonetic] to my left. He is the sergeant at arms of the Chamber. This is the third session day I'm having to talk about the noise in here so at times, if John comes over and taps you on the shoulder and asks you to take your conversation out in the hall, please do so, but there are Representatives that are trying to get business done on the floor. I know Representative Ziobron was just speaking and Representative Bolinsky was in the back of the room and could not hear a word so please take your

conversations out in the hall when we're here on session days and John will come around and remind you to do so. So, thank you very much for that cooperation on that. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Tong of the 147th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. TONG (147TH):

Mr. Speaker, the Judiciary Committee is still taking votes on the resolutions that we voted on this morning outside of the hall of the House and will be doing so until we reconvene our public hearing in approximately 15 minutes at 12:15.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Any other announcements or introductions? Representative Juleson-Scopino of the 12th, Madam, you have the floor.

REP. JULESON-SCOPINO (12TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For purposes of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, Madam.

REP. JULESON-SCOPINO (12TH):

The following members missed votes today for business in district, Representative de la Cruz, Representative Reed, and Representative Ezequiel Santiago. And, missing votes today for family business was Representative Lemar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The Journal will so note. Representative Piscopo of the 76th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a Journal notation.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Journal please note that Representatives Green and Skulczyck

missed votes today. They were in their district on legislative business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, sir. Journal will so note.
Representative Hilda Santiago of the 84th District.
Madam, you have the floor.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be doing the attendance. In district business is Representative de la Cruz, Representative Lemar, Representative Reed, Representative Santiago E., and Representative Bruce Morris. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The Journal will so note those additional items. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Albis. You have the floor, sir.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good afternoon.

REP. ALBIS (99TH):

With there being no further business on the Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn subject to the call of the chair.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The motion is to adjourn subject to the call of the chair. Without objection, so ordered. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Albis of the 99th District, the House adjourned at 12:05 o'clock p.m., sine die.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 25 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Friday, March 9, 2018.

I further certify that the digital sound recording was transcribed by the word processing department employees of Alphatranscription, under my direction.

Alpha Transcription
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