

1 BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 IMPEACHMENT COMMITTEE

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12 Hearing held on the 8th day of January, 2009, at
13 the hour of 11:00 a.m., in Room 114, State Capitol
14 Building, Springfield, Illinois.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VOLUME VII

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1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

2 HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER BARBARA FLYNN CURRIE, CHAIRWOMAN

3 REPRESENTATIVE JIM DURKIN, MINORITY SPOKESPERSON

4 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD J. ACEVEDO

5 REPRESENTATIVE SUZANNE BASSI

6 REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA R. BELLOCK

7 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM B. BLACK

8 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BOST

9 REPRESENTATIVE MONIQUE D. DAVIS

10 REPRESENTATIVE ROGER L. EDDY

11 REPRESENTATIVE MARY E. FLOWERS

12 REPRESENTATIVE JACK D. FRANKS

13 REPRESENTATIVE JOHN A. FRITCHEY

14 REPRESENTATIVE JULIE HAMOS

15 REPRESENTATIVE GARY HANNIG

16 REPRESENTATIVE CONSTANCE A. HOWARD

17 REPRESENTATIVE LOU LANG

18 REPRESENTATIVE FRANK J. MAUTINO

19 REPRESENTATIVE CHAPIN ROSE

20 REPRESENTATIVE JIM SACIA

21 REPRESENTATIVE JIL TRACY

22 REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR J. TURNER

23

24

1 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: The House Special
2 Investigative Committee will come to order and the
3 clerk will call the roll.

4 THE CLERK: Currie.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Durkin.

7 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Acevedo.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ACEVEDO: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Bassi.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BASSI: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Bellock.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BELLOCK: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Black.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Bost.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BOST: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Davis.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Eddy.

21 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Flowers.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Franks.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FRANKS: Here.

2 THE CLERK: Fritchey.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Hamos.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HAMOS: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Hannig.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HANNIG: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Howard.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Lang.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Mautino.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Rose.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Yes. Thank you.

16 THE CLERK: Sacia.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Tracy.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Turner.

21 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Here.

22 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: We have a quorum. A few
23 housekeeping details. Exhibit 67 will include the
24 information that Representative Lang presented

1 yesterday. That was the information provided the
2 committee December 29th by the Department of Health
3 Care and Family Services on the question of the
4 expansion of FamilyCare.

5 Exhibit 68 is information in response to our
6 subpoena to Friends of Blagojevich, and that
7 information is in a graph that will be presented to
8 each member of the committee. What the committee
9 tells us is that after November 23rd all their records
10 are in the hands of the United States Attorney.

11 They have given us material from July 10th
12 through November 23rd. There presumably will be gaps
13 in the items that they have given us, but the members
14 are free to look at that information, and as I say,
15 that will be part of Exhibit Number 68.

16 Exhibit 69, the copies of the Friends of
17 Blagojevich semiannual reports, D-2s which were
18 requested by Representative Lang sometime late in
19 December.

20 And a quick update on the status of the status
21 call in federal court today. In respect to the U.S.
22 Attorney's hope that he might share with us four of
23 the audio tapes in the wiretap that were approved by
24 the federal court, apparently several of the lawyers

1 objected to the sharing of those documents with
2 members of this committee. The judge has set another
3 date, January 23rd, another status briefing as I
4 understand it, and has asked for material from those
5 who objected to our listening to the tapes. At that
6 time we assume that after that date there presumably
7 would be an opportunity for the U.S. Attorney to
8 respond.

9 So we cannot at this time tell the members of the
10 committee or the members of the public how long it
11 might be before this committee will have access to
12 that information or whether if, not only when, but
13 whether.

14 My sense from talking to members of the committee
15 yesterday and today is that the members of the
16 committee feel that we may have enough material to go
17 forward absent the audio tapes.

18 And it is further the recommendation of this
19 committee in conversations yesterday that we would ask
20 the next House of Representatives, the House of
21 Representatives of the 96th General Assembly, to
22 reconstitute the Special Investigative Committee so
23 that should new material, including possibly these
24 tapes, other material, become available to us, the

1 committee could go back to work and then bring other
2 material to the members of the Senate.

3 Mr. Genson -- we have with us, just for the
4 record, we have with us ed Genson and Sam Adam, Jr.
5 representing Governor Blagojevich. Did you wish to
6 say something?

7 MR. GENSON: Yes, I believe the next status
8 in federal court, our filing date is the 23rd, the
9 government's filing date the 29th, but I believe the
10 next status is actually January 29th.

11 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you very much for
12 that helpful information.

13 And we now have with us Roland Burris. And I
14 believe that you are responding to a subpoena that we
15 sent you at the behest of the Minority Spokesman of
16 the committee, and I am told that the members of the
17 United States Senate are following closely your
18 testimony before this committee this afternoon.

19 So if you'd like to make an opening statement
20 we'd be happy to hear from you. But first I'd ask you
21 to take the oath. I'd ask you to raise your right
22 hand.

23 (Roland Burris was duly sworn.)

24 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you. Proceed.

1 MR. BURRIS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I do
2 not have an opening statement. I would like to thank
3 the members of this state's distinguished committee of
4 the House of Representatives, and I am prepared to
5 respond to their questions pursuant to their subpoena
6 that I appear this afternoon.

7 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: We appreciate that.

8 MR. BURRIS: And by the way, I thank you all
9 for extending that, because it was impossible for me
10 to be here on Wednesday, so I really appreciate that.

11 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: And we were very happy to
12 accommodate you.

13 MR. BURRIS: Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Are there questions in
15 general? Representative Durkin.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Good afternoon, Mr.
17 Burris.

18 MR. BURRIS: How are you doing,
19 Representative Durkin?

20 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I'm doing fine. How
21 are you?

22 MR. BURRIS: Terrific, thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I know you had a lot
24 of travel over the last few days, but I appreciate you

1 spending some time with us this afternoon. I think
2 it's important, your testimony is important. It's
3 been a month since the Governor was placed under
4 arrest for a multitude of federal crimes.

5 And one of the major aspects which we are
6 investigating in this committee is the sale of the
7 United States Senate seat from President-elect Barack
8 Obama. We contribute approximately six to seven pages
9 in our recommendation to the allegations of the sale
10 of the United States Senate seat.

11 So I believe your testimony is relevant, it's
12 important to us, and I think your appearance as well.
13 I ultimately believe that your testimony is important
14 to the people of the state of Illinois. I think they
15 owe an explanation about the circumstances upon which
16 you were appointed to the seat, and also to explain
17 the relationship with the Governor.

18 These are things that I'd like to inquire into
19 today. But obviously as you know, Senate Majority
20 Leader Reid has stated that he was looking forward to
21 this testimony, and I'm sure a few other people are
22 watching it as well.

23 But the committee has received a copy of your
24 affidavit. We reviewed it, and I'd like to -- if

1 you're ready I'd like to go into some questions.

2 MR. BURRIS: Proceed.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Now Mr. Burris, upon
4 the Governor's arrest on December 9th, what were your
5 thoughts upon the arrest?

6 MR. BURRIS: Surprise.

7 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Surprise?

8 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: Excuse me, if I
9 may. While we obviously have a lot of leeway on this
10 committee though as well we still need to be
11 constrained by what our objective here what this
12 committee was convened for. As to what Mr. Burris's
13 thoughts may or may not have been upon hearing that
14 news, I don't know what impact that would have upon
15 our investigation as to the actions of the Governor.

16 Mr. Durkin, I obviously -- Representative Durkin,
17 I obviously appreciate you wanting relevant inquiries
18 with respect to the actions regarding the appointment
19 of the Senate seat. I would be remiss if I didn't
20 remind you and the rest of the committee that our role
21 here is to investigate Rod Blagojevich and not Roland
22 Burris.

23 And to that extent I don't see what Mr. Burris's
24 opinions would have any bearing on this matter.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Well, Mr. Burris was
2 appointed not too long ago by Governor Blagojevich,
3 and one of the major inquiries of this committee is
4 investigating the circumstances of that appointment.
5 So I think it's relevant. But if his thoughts -- I'll
6 leave it to the chair.

7 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Well, I think I suggest
8 that we leave it to Mr. Burris. If you'd like to
9 answer that question, we'd be happy to hear your
10 answer.

11 MR. BURRIS: I would stick to my original
12 answer.

13 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Pardon me?

14 MR. BURRIS: I will stick with my original
15 answer. I was surprised.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Have you had a chance
17 to read the federal complaint and the affidavit that
18 was filed in federal court against the Governor?

19 MR. BURRIS: No, I haven't read it at all.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: No? Not the least
21 bit concerned about it or trying to see exactly what
22 has been alleged against the man who is appointing you
23 to this seat?

24 MR. BURRIS: Naturally I read what was in the

1 newspaper, but I did not read the complaint.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: All right. When did
3 you first become interested in the vacant United
4 States Senate seat?

5 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Could you speak a little
6 more closely to the microphone? We're having trouble
7 hearing you.

8 MR. BURRIS: It must have been around the
9 time that President-elect Obama was -- had won the
10 Democratic primary for President, and naturally my
11 thought was that he would more than likely be elected
12 President and we would have a vacant seat for the
13 United States Senate.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you make a public
15 announcement of your interest at any time around when
16 Senator Obama won the election?

17 MR. WRIGHT: Excuse me.

18 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Mr. Wright.

19 MR. WRIGHT: By made a public announcement,
20 could you kindly define it for him? What do you mean
21 by public? Did he tell anybody?

22 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you make any
23 public statement regarding your interest in the United
24 States Senate seat after the election of

1 President-elect Obama?

2 MR. BURRIS: No.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Now, prior to the
4 Governor's arrest, did you have any conversations,
5 prior to his arrest did you have any conversations
6 with the Governor about your desire to be appointed to
7 the seat?

8 MR. BURRIS: No.

9 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you talk to any
10 members of the Governor's staff or anyone closely
11 related to the Governor, including family members or
12 any lobbyists connected with him, including let me
13 throw out some names, John Harris, Rob Blagojevich,
14 Doug Scofield, Bob Greenleaf, Lon Monk, John Wyma, did
15 you talk to anybody who was associated with the
16 Governor about your desire to seek the appointment
17 prior to the Governor's arrest?

18 MR. WRIGHT: Give us a moment.

19 MR. BURRIS: I talked to some friends about
20 my desire to be appointed, yes.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I guess the point is
22 I was trying to ask, did you speak to anybody who was
23 on the Governor's staff prior to the Governor's arrest
24 or anybody, any of those individuals or anybody who is

1 closely related to the Governor?

2 MR. BURRIS: I recall having a meeting with
3 Lon Monk about my partner and I trying to get
4 continued business, and I did bring it up, it must
5 have been in September or maybe it was in July of '08
6 that, you know, you're close to the Governor, let him
7 know that I am certainly interested in the seat.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. Did you speak
9 to any individuals who -- any individuals who were
10 also seeking the appointment of the United States
11 Senate seat, otherwise people we've referred to as
12 Senate candidates one through five?

13 MR. BURRIS: No, I did not.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. At any time
15 were you directly or indirectly aware of a quid pro
16 quo with the Governor for the appointment of this
17 vacant Senate seat?

18 MR. BURRIS: No, sir.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. If you were
20 aware of a quit pro quo, what would you have done?

21 MR. WRIGHT: Madam Chairman, I think that
22 calls for a -- that's a hypothetical question that I
23 don't think that what he would have done, it could
24 have depended. I don't think that's an appropriate

1 question.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I disagree. I think
3 that it is highly relevant. You're speaking to the
4 committee, but you're also speaking to the state of
5 Illinois. I think it's important to know what his
6 response would have been if he was aware of a quid pro
7 quo with the Governor and also for the appointment.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Fritchey.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: Madam Chairman, if
10 I may, Mr. Burris had already stated that he was not
11 aware of any quid pro quo, which answers that question
12 and puts it to rest. What his response would have
13 been had there been something, which he stated did not
14 occur, is clearly irrelevant to this, and according to
15 Mr. Burris, to speculate on something that would have
16 happened if another situation had happened which he
17 clearly says has not.

18 Representative Durkin, I'm not trying to stifle
19 you whatsoever, and I understand the generalities
20 where you're trying to go. But again, I think that
21 we're outside the realm here of what's germane to this
22 hearing.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I think it's germane,
24 and I think in the conduct of this committee over the

1 past month that we've been given significant leeway to
2 try to find responses to individuals who are sworn in
3 before this committee, and I think that it's a
4 reasonable request to ask what would have been Mr.
5 Burris's response if he was aware of a quid pro quo
6 for the United States Senate seat.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: But the leeway has
8 been with response to representatives on behalf of the
9 Governor and the Governor's administration, not with
10 respect to third parties who have clearly stated that
11 they've had no involvement with those actions.

12 MR. WRIGHT: Representative, Senator Burris
13 wants to be clear and open, so to the extent you're
14 asking him to speculate, he'll try to respond to that.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Thank you.

16 MR. BURRIS: Representative Durkin, knowing
17 my ethics, I would not participate in anybody's quid
18 pro quo. I've been in government for 20 years and
19 never participated in anybody's quid pro quo.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I guess the point is
21 would you have gone to the federal authorities if you
22 were aware of that?

23 MR. BURRIS: I have no response to that.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Now, I want to talk

1 about after the Governor's arrest. What contact did
2 you have, what contact did you have with anyone
3 regarding the appointment, regarding the appointment,
4 I'm talking after December 9th?

5 MR. BURRIS: None whatsoever.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you have any
7 contact with the Governor after the arrest then?

8 MR. BURRIS: No, sir.

9 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Now, there's --

10 MR. BURRIS: Let me say this. Naturally
11 there was a contact afterwards, you know.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Which is what I want
13 to get into. Would you explain the contact that you
14 had with -- who did you have a contact with regarding
15 the vacancy and the appointment following the
16 Governor's arrest?

17 MR. BURRIS: Yeah, it was on that Friday
18 after Christmas, December 26th, oh, it must have been
19 about 4:00 in the afternoon, I received a call from an
20 attorney whose name I knew, because I knew the young
21 man, and he said I would like to come and speak to you
22 about something and it's very important. And I
23 said --

24 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Could you identify

1 that person you spoke with on the phone?

2 MR. BURRIS: Yes, I can. It was attorney
3 Sam Adams, Jr.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Do you see him here
5 today?

6 MR. BURRIS: He's sitting at the table.

7 MR. ADAM: Hello, Mr. Burris.

8 MR. BURRIS: There he is, I only saw Mr.
9 Genson, I didn't see him. Yes, and so he came to my
10 home and we exchanged pleasantries. And then he said
11 the Governor would be interested or would like to
12 appoint you to the vacant Senate seat. And I was just
13 a little surprised, and said well, you know, let me
14 think about that. And I'll get back to you Sunday
15 afternoon or Sunday, late Sunday evening.

16 And I wanted to make sure that he was serious,
17 you know, I didn't know -- because I knew I had to go
18 out and touch base with a whole lot of people because
19 I just did not want to make a snap decision.

20 So I went out that night to a big black tie event
21 with about 1500 individuals, and I must have talked to
22 all of them. But all of the responses were positive.
23 You are a qualified individual, you have represented
24 the state well, there's no one better to represent us

1 in the United States Senate than you. I accepted all
2 of those comments, not one negative.

3 I then on Saturday spent the time calling my
4 friends around the state saying that look, if the
5 Governor were to make me an offer for this seat should
6 I take it? All of those persons in Illinois and out
7 of Illinois whose judgment I valued said yes.

8 And so based on that when I did get a call and a
9 visit from Mr. Adams on Sunday afternoon.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: What day can was that
11 can you give me some --

12 MR. BURRIS: Sunday afternoon, that would be
13 December 29th, December 28th.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Let me just ask you
15 when Mr. Adams contacted you, did he indicate that he
16 was contacting you in his capacity as the lawyer for
17 the Governor?

18 MR. BURRIS: That's correct.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. When you went
20 to this -- you conferred with a number of people.
21 Were any of those individuals close associates of the
22 Governor?

23 MR. BURRIS: Oh, no, absolutely not.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: All right.

1 MR. BURRIS: These are all friends of mine.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. What happened
3 after that with respect to Mr. Adams?

4 MR. BURRIS: Well, on Sunday afternoon Mr.
5 Adams came by and we discussed this again, and I told
6 him that should the Governor make the offer then I
7 would accept the offer, if the Governor would make it.
8 Mr. Adams left my home.

9 Shortly after I got a call from the Governor, and
10 we exchanged pleasantries, and he says to me General
11 Burris, if I offer you the Senate seat vacated by
12 President-elect Barack Obama, will you accept my
13 offer? And I said to him Governor, yes, I will. That
14 was the extent of it.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you exchange any
16 type of writings or documents with the Governor or any
17 of his staff regarding the qualifications, which many
18 people are very aware of your past, but anything that
19 went between you and the Governor or his staff in the
20 form of documents?

21 MR. BURRIS: No, there was not.

22 MR. WRIGHT: I'm sorry, you asked were there
23 an exchange of documents, and I wasn't sure of your
24 timing. Are you speaking of at the time of that

1 conversation or at any other time?

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Well, any time during
3 the -- when you began an interest in the appointment.
4 Thank you for clarifying that. Any time at which you
5 expressed an interest and the time which you accepted
6 the Governor's offer, did you exchange any type of
7 documentation or any writings about your interest or
8 qualifications for the office?

9 MR. BURRIS: Yes, in the conversation with
10 the Governor, you know, he was praising my background
11 and experience in Illinois, but there was nothing
12 written in any transaction. He just explained to me
13 and I was surprised at some of the things that he knew
14 about my background and my accomplishments as he
15 prepared to ask me the question.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. So it was a
17 very brief conversation with the Governor, correct?

18 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: And what did he state
20 about the timing of the announcement? Did he tell you
21 when -- the timing of the public announcement, did he
22 indicate when that would happen?

23 MR. BURRIS: No, we did not discuss that.
24 The details would be worked out with my staff.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: So could you explain
2 to the committee when is the last time you had a
3 conversation with the Governor?

4 MR. BURRIS: That Sunday afternoon.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Have you talked with
6 him since?

7 MR. BURRIS: Yes, when we did our
8 announcement on Tuesday at the press conference.

9 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: How about since the
10 press conference, have you had a conversation with the
11 Governor?

12 MR. BURRIS: No, I have not.

13 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Any of his staff
14 members?

15 MR. BURRIS: No, I have not.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. Mr. Burris, I
17 also said I think one of the things that we would like
18 to understand is the relationship that you have with
19 the Governor. So I'm going to go down this line of
20 questioning.

21 Now, you are -- are you currently a registered
22 lobbyist with the state of Illinois?

23 MR. BURRIS: As of today I am not.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: How about with Cook

1 County?

2 MR. BURRIS: I am not.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Were you a lobbyist
4 with Cook County?

5 MR. BURRIS: I was, but I've resigned all my
6 lobbying responsibilities.

7 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Including the city of
8 Chicago?

9 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: U.S. House?

11 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: United States Senate,
13 were you registered with the United States Senate to
14 lobby before that body?

15 MR. BURRIS: I was registered with the
16 federal government, but that's -- I resigned that.

17 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: This is inclusive of
18 both the House and the Senate, is that correct?

19 MR. BURRIS: Yes.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: All right.

21 MR. BURRIS: Yes.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: While you were a
23 lobbyist, and you're a lawyer as well, you had a
24 consulting firm, correct?

1 MR. BURRIS: Yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: What's the name of
3 that firm?

4 MR. BURRIS: Burriss and Lebed.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Could you explain to
6 the men and women on this committee the type of work
7 that you -- well, let me ask you to back up a little
8 bit.

9 Did your consulting firm do any work for the
10 state of Illinois?

11 MR. BURRIS: Small contracts, yes.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Could you explain
13 those contracts?

14 MR. BURRIS: We had a small contract with the
15 Illinois Department of Transportation, I think that
16 was in '04, and then a little bit -- another contract
17 the following year. So that was to help Department of
18 Transportation qualify minority vendors to be able to
19 do work for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: And you stated it was
21 a small contract. Do you recall what the fee
22 arrangement was for that contract?

23 MR. BURRIS: The first one I think was a
24 150,000 dollar contract, of which we must have

1 collected about 75,000, because it didn't start until
2 August or maybe July of the year when it was awarded,
3 and the other one we did receive a full two-year
4 contract the following year, but it was canceled after
5 we had done one service, one year of service on it.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you do any other
7 type of work for the state of Illinois where you
8 contracted, where your consulting firm contracted with
9 the state of Illinois for any other matters other than
10 the IDOT work?

11 MR. BURRIS: I don't believe so,
12 Representative Durkin.

13 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you do any work
14 for the State Board of Investment?

15 MR. BURRIS: State Board of Investment, no,
16 sir.

17 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Now, could you give
18 us an understanding of who your lobbying clients were
19 before this legislature over the last, I'll say the
20 last two years, would you identify your clients?

21 MR. BURRIS: One was the Mortgage Brokers
22 Association, I think I lobbied here on behalf of them.
23 One was the small tobacco, the small tobacco clients I
24 lobbied for. Let me see now. Give me a minute. I

1 have to think through these.

2 I don't know if I have these written down, but
3 certainly it's a matter of public record. You all can
4 go to the Secretary of State, because we have to
5 disclose all of that information, so I'm pretty sure
6 you might be able to tell me better than I can tell
7 you who my clients -- so if you can tick some off I
8 can tell you.

9 MR. WRIGHT: I'd be more than happy to supply
10 the committee with any information. But we're talking
11 about clients that began in 2002 up to the present
12 over a series of years, and if you're asking for all
13 of those, I'd be more than happy to supply that
14 information to the committee.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: We may have pulled
16 those, I just want to know if Mr. Burris knows
17 firsthand. But do you recall, there was a report in
18 the Chicago Sun Times within the last week and a half
19 which stated that your lobbying clients received
20 approximately 3 million dollars in state contracts.
21 Is that an accurate statement?

22 MR. BURRIS: I think that is inaccurate. I
23 have not received 3 million dollars in state
24 contracts.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Your clients.

2 MR. BURRIS: Oh, my clients. I don't know
3 what my -- what the dollar value my clients received.
4 They may have, I don't know.

5 MR. WRIGHT: And I'm sorry, is that supposed
6 to be over the span of the eight or nine years we're
7 talking about?

8 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I believe that we're
9 talking on -- I'm referring to an article that was
10 printed a few days ago by the Chicago Sun Times. I'm
11 not sure if they give reference to the timespan,
12 but --

13 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I mean because he answered
14 your question, it really depends upon what period of
15 time you're talking about. And if you're talking
16 about in the year 2002 it's one thing, but if you're
17 talking about from 2002 all the way up to 2008 or 2009
18 it could be a very different answer.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Would you be able to
20 get us that information?

21 MR. WRIGHT: We could supply the information
22 based on the records that we have.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Thank you.

24 Now, between 2002 and the current date, our just

1 brief research established that either yourself or
2 your lobbying firm has made approximately 22,000
3 contributions to the Governor, is that accurate?

4 MR. BURRIS: No, that is not accurate,
5 Representative Durkin.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: What would be an
7 accurate total?

8 MR. BURRIS: Give us one moment. Burris and
9 Lebed over an eight year period of time had just over
10 11,200 dollars.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: How about not just
12 the consulting firm, but how about you individually
13 and your law firms or --

14 MR. BURRIS: Individually I gave 4,500
15 dollars.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BURRIS: Do you recall how
17 much -- what law firms have you been associated with
18 since 2002?

19 MR. BURRIS: Burris, Wright, Slaughter and
20 Tom and Gonzalez, Saggio and Harlan. And Gonzalez has
21 given in 2008 1,000 dollars, and Burris, Wright,
22 Slaughter and Tom over that same period had given
23 5,000 dollars. And I am not in the management of
24 Burris, Wright, Slaughter and Tom, I'm of counsel to

1 that firm. I have no type of partnership interest or
2 business interest in that firm. The Burris by the way
3 is another Burris.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: What firm -- are you
5 with the Gonzalez firm currently?

6 MR. BURRIS: The Gonzalez firm merged with
7 the Burris, Wright, Slaughter firm.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Have you divested
9 yourself from the interest in that firm?

10 MR. BURRIS: I had no interest. I was
11 always of counsel.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Are you still of
13 counsel with the Gonzalez firm?

14 MR. BURRIS: Well, as of -- I resigned from
15 that also as of my appointment.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Okay. Our research
17 has just shown that since 2002 between yourself, the
18 consulting firm, and your law firm, members of your
19 law firm, have made contributions approximately 22,700
20 dollars to the Governor. We can show you that
21 afterwards.

22 MR. BURRIS: That's over the eight year
23 period, is that correct?

24 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Six.

1 MR. BURRIS: Six years.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I'd like to get into
3 a little bit -- since the last reporting period was up
4 until June of this year, could you tell the men and
5 women of this committee whether you've made any
6 contributions to the Governor since July, 2008?

7 MR. BURRIS: July of 2008. No, I have not.
8 The last one was July 27th going to our records, June
9 27th, I'm sorry.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: June 27th. Has your
11 law firm made any contributions to the Governor since
12 July of this year?

13 MR. BURRIS: I have no jurisdiction over the
14 law firm, I do not know, and I don't believe so, but I
15 have no authority over the law firm. I'm of counsel
16 to the law firm.

17 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you bundle any
18 money for the Governor's campaign fund at any time in
19 the last six months from July of 2008 until the
20 present?

21 MR. WRIGHT: I'm sorry, Mr. Representative,
22 when you say bundle, what do you mean by bundle?

23 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Collected money.

24 MR. WRIGHT: Like given a fundraiser, is that

1 what you speaking of?

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Sure, I'd like to
3 know that, and I'd also like to know if Mr. Burris
4 directed anybody to make contributions to the Governor
5 since July of this year.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

7 MR. BURRIS: The answer is no.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Have you been present
9 at any fundraisers for the Governor over the past
10 year, in the year 2008, were you at any of the
11 Governor's fundraisers?

12 MR. BURRIS: I was at the one that he gave I
13 think it was June with 1,000 dollars that I gave June
14 27th, or whatever that fundraiser was during that
15 period.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: In 2006 did you have
17 a fundraiser, did you personally have a fundraiser for
18 the Governor?

19 MR. BURRIS: Yes, 2000 --

20 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: 2006.

21 MR. BURRIS: No, it was for his re-election.
22 Was he running for re-election in 2006? Yes, that was
23 for re-election, that is correct.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Let me ask you this.

1 In 2002 you ran in the Governor's race against
2 Congressman Blagojevich and Paul Vallas, is that
3 correct?

4 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Had you entered the
6 race before or after Congressman Blagojevich announced
7 his candidacy?

8 MR. BURRIS: I have no idea. I don't know
9 when he announced. I'm trying to think about when I
10 announced.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you have any
12 discussions with Governor Blagojevich prior to --
13 prior to your entry into the race?

14 MR. BURRIS: Representative Durkin, I will
15 try to answer your question, but you are an elected
16 official. I think you know the answer to that,
17 Representative. The answer is no. We're competitive
18 trying to win a primary, and it got pretty rough and
19 tumble there for a while.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: So no one from the
21 Governor, Congressman Blagojevich's staff asked you to
22 get involved in that race, that's basically what
23 you're stating, correct?

24 MR. BURRIS: The answer is no,

1 Representative.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I'd like to talk a
3 little bit about that 2002 race for a few more
4 minutes. Do you know a man by the name of Joseph
5 Stroud?

6 MR. WRIGHT: Excuse me, Representative. I
7 think we've -- all I want to suggest is I don't know
8 how far this is going, but if this is relevant to the
9 issue of this appointment, we're more than happy to
10 continue down this road.

11 But it seems to me that we've taken a rabbit
12 trail and we've gone into something that's very, very
13 different. And I just would like to ask the chairman
14 where we're going with this, how far we'll go.

15 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: First of all let me just
16 remind people this is not a court of law, we're not
17 bound by the kinds of evidentiary or questioning
18 standards that might apply in a courtroom. But we are
19 certainly concerned that the questioning is focused on
20 our mission. And Representative Durkin, perhaps could
21 you explain what the purpose of that question might
22 be?

23 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Absolutely. Mr.
24 Stroud had made a 1.2 million dollar contribution to

1 Roland Burris's campaign in the 2000 election under a
2 company by the name of Telephone USA Investments.
3 That is the single largest contribution in state
4 history, and the only other individual to receive a
5 contribution from Telephone USA Investments was Rod
6 Blagojevich and that was in 2006 for a hundred
7 thousand dollars. So I think it's a relevant question
8 and I want to go down that questioning.

9 MR. WRIGHT: I'm -- Madam Chairman, I'm
10 sorry, but I didn't understand if are you suggesting
11 that Senator Burris made a hundred thousand dollar
12 campaign --

13 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: No, Telephone USA
14 Investments was the only -- they made a 1.2 million
15 dollar contribution to Mr. Burris in the 2002
16 campaign.

17 MR. WRIGHT: Are you suggesting --

18 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: The only other
19 individual who received a contribution from Telephone
20 USA Investments ever was Governor Blagojevich in 2006.

21 MR. WRIGHT: Well, my question is are you
22 suggesting that the Senator's a part of this telephone
23 company of which you speak?

24 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: No, I want to

1 understand who Robert Stroud is, because that is the
2 single largest contribution as I stated, and there are
3 only two people who received contributions from Mr.
4 Stroud, and that was Mr. Burris and also Governor
5 Blagojevich.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Well, I don't know that to be
7 true. We can accept that I guess since you're making
8 that representation.

9 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: It sounds to me that it's
10 a question that probably Mr. Burris could go ahead and
11 answer.

12 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very much, Madam.

13 MR. BURRIS: Well, certainly Mr. Stroud in
14 2002 made a loan to the Burris for Governor campaign,
15 and that loan is still outstanding, that's all I know
16 about that situation. I have no other relationship to
17 whatever Mr. Stroud does with his money. That is not
18 my business nor anybody else's business if he wants to
19 give his contributions and the contributions are legal
20 and disclosed, I would think under all of our laws in
21 this state that he could do that, Representative
22 Durkin.

23 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: So you're saying that was
24 not a campaign contribution?

1 MR. BURRIS: It was a loan to my campaign.

2 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Are you still trying to
3 pay it back?

4 MR. BURRIS: It's still on the -- the
5 committee's been closed down, Madam Chairman, but the
6 loan is still on the books, that is correct.

7 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Could you explain
9 when you first -- how long have you known Robert
10 Stroud, prior to 2002 how long have you known Mr.
11 Stroud?

12 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Just a second, Mr.
13 Burris. Representative Lang.

14 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Well, thank you. I
15 think Mr. Durkin's entitled to his leeway, Madam
16 Chairman. But I don't really understand the purpose
17 of this question as it relates to the reason Mr.
18 Burris was brought before this committee.

19 Is the gentleman suggesting that way back before
20 the 2002 election there was some conspiracy to help
21 Rod Blagojevich in 2008? What is the purpose of the
22 question? I don't understand the relevance.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I think that as I
24 stated earlier, I believe that there's a few things

1 and that Mr. Burris can explain the circumstances
2 regarding the payment, and also the relationship that
3 he has with the Governor. And I believe that the
4 single largest contribution that was made to a
5 campaign in Illinois history by a company, I'd like to
6 know a little bit why it wasn't forgiven or what were
7 the terms of it and why it still is an outstanding
8 loan.

9 And I find it ironic that the only other
10 individual who's received a loan from Telephone USA
11 Investments was the Governor.

12 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: So it's ironic. You
13 have a loop you want to close up, close it up.
14 Otherwise why don't we move on. The fact that Mr.
15 Burris still owes this man 1.2 million dollars from
16 his campaign fund is not relevant to the appointment
17 of Mr. Burris to be the next United States senator
18 from Illinois.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you talk to Mr.
20 Stroud about making a contribution to Governor
21 Blagojevich in 2006?

22 MR. BURRIS: Representative Durkin, you just
23 heard me say that I have no control or contact with
24 Mr. Stroud or anyone else to whom they give money to.

1 And so please.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I guess maybe it
3 would help if you would explain to the members of this
4 committee how one can forgive a 1.2 million dollar
5 loan to a political action committee, I'd like to find
6 out. But I'm just having a hard time thinking that
7 there's a lack of communication with Mr. Stroud over
8 that amount of money and that loan has been forgiven.

9 Was there any terms to the repayment of the loan
10 or anything in writing which established the
11 conditions of the repayment of the loan?

12 MR. WRIGHT: May I object? Madam Chairman,
13 this isn't a court of law. You know, we're open,
14 we're willing to talk about a lot of things related to
15 this. It just seems that this line of questioning
16 continues to go further and further, and so if you
17 suggest that we continue we will.

18 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: I would suggest that
19 Representative Durkin finish up this line of
20 questioning quite quickly. I don't think there's
21 anything intrinsically wrong with asking if there was
22 some paperwork that describes what you first called a
23 contribution, Representative Durkin, but which has
24 been characterized by the recipient as a loan. So

1 maybe you could let us know quite quickly --

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: One last question if
3 I might. I stand corrected. This loan, has Mr.
4 Stroud forgiven this loan?

5 MR. BURRIS: I have not had -- the campaign
6 committee no longer exists. I have no way of repaying
7 the money, and I've not heard one word from Mr. Stroud
8 about anything that is due and owing as a result of
9 that loan.

10 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Mr. Durkin, do you want
11 to try another line? Are you finished?

12 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: No, I've just got
13 just a few more questions.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Are they about this
15 year? I hope they're about this year.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Absolutely.
17 Absolutely. Now you had recently a meeting with
18 Senator Reid and Senator Durbin in Washington just in
19 the last 24 hours I believe.

20 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: All right. Do you
22 expect from that conversation, do you expect to be
23 seated in the United States Senate any time in the
24 near future?

1 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Can you tell me if
3 they stated that they will seat you and what would be
4 the conditions of you being allowed entry?

5 MR. BURRIS: We had a great meeting,
6 Representative Durkin. I was really impressed with
7 the Majority Leader Reid and of course our
8 distinguished Senior Senator from the great state of
9 Illinois, Dick Durbin. And what they described to me
10 is in the press. There was no other comments outside.

11 They indicated that they would like for me to
12 make an appearance here before this distinguished
13 House committee. And secondly, that we have to get
14 the Secretary of State's signature on the appointment.
15 We had a very pleasant and how should I say
16 distinguished meeting.

17 And then upon those clearing up they indicated
18 that my documentation would go to the Rules Committee
19 and the Rules Committee would consider it, and then it
20 would be passed out of the Rules Committee. That was
21 the extent of our conversation.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Did you state whether
23 you would run for election in 2010 if you were
24 appointed to that seat?

1 MR. BURRIS: That question did not come up.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I would agree with
3 that, I believe that Secretary White I believe does
4 not have the authority to exercise discretion so I'll
5 throw that one to you since essentially it will be
6 required.

7 I've just got one last line of questioning. And
8 this is I'm going to ask you about a radio interview
9 that you did on December 13th, just a few days after
10 the Governor's arrest, and that's with WBBM radio.
11 You had commented upon the Attorney General Madigan's
12 lawsuit to remove the Governor.

13 You stated "I certainly applaud our actions.
14 Illinois is too important to its 18 million citizens
15 to have a chief executive who is now incapacitated.
16 The Governor's behavior is reprehensible."

17 If you believe that he's incapacitated and his
18 actions were reprehensible, how can you accept this
19 appointment and claim legitimacy to it?

20 MR. BURRIS: Number one, I said 13 million
21 people. Illinois doesn't have 18 million.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: That's what the paper
23 stated.

24 MR. BURRIS: So that means that they're wrong

1 sometimes, right?

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I'm with you.

3 MR. BURRIS: And if I were Attorney General
4 at the same time that Attorney General Lisa Madigan
5 was Attorney General, I would have taken the same
6 action that Attorney General Madigan took. Because
7 there's an obligation upon you as the chief law
8 enforcement officer of this state when you have
9 certain obligation at your disposal to pursue, and
10 that would be her or my responsibility to pursue the
11 action to make a determination as to whether or not
12 the statute would apply to the Governor. I would have
13 taken that same action, absolutely.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Would you have
15 accepted the appointment on December 13th for the
16 United States Senator from the Governor?

17 MR. BURRIS: That's hypothetical.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: It's reasonable to
19 ask. Since he's incapacitated, is he no longer
20 incapacitated?

21 MR. BURRIS: Well, the Supreme Court
22 dismissed that action, so your question, sir, is not
23 relevant.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: That wasn't your

1 lawsuit, it was Attorney General's Madigan's lawsuit
2 as I recall.

3 MR. BURRIS: Representative Durkin, the
4 Supreme Court did not pursue her actions.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: So you don't have a
6 response whether you would have accepted the
7 appointment on December 13th of this last year,
8 correct?

9 MR. BURRIS: When the Supreme Court did not
10 hear her actions, when there was no special election,
11 my thought was at that time that should I get the
12 appointment, that Illinois should not be short a
13 senator, that I have the experience and knowledge of
14 this great state, and that I could be present to hit
15 the ground running to represent the state of Illinois
16 in the United States Senate, should I get the
17 appointment.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I understand that
19 incapacitation is a legal defense to virtually
20 everything. So again, let me ask, I'll ask you one
21 more time.

22 Would you have accepted that appointment on
23 December 13th when you stated that the Governor was
24 incapacitated to run this state?

1 MR. WRIGHT: Madam Chairman, I think we've
2 answered that a number of times.

3 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: It doesn't hurt to answer
4 it twice. We often do that in this committee.

5 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

6 MR. BURRIS: I did not say that the Governor
7 was incapacitated. What I said was we must pursue
8 that legal remedy to make the determination, and the
9 Supreme Court acted on that, Representative Durkin,
10 and that's the end of that.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I'll go back and look
12 at the transcript from that date, but I feel fairly
13 confident about that.

14 Let me ask you just a few more questions and I'll
15 rap it up. Should the Governor resign?

16 MR. BURRIS: That is up to the Governor. I
17 have no authority over the Governor.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I'm asking you, do
19 you believe it's in the best interests of the state of
20 Illinois that the Governor resign his post as
21 Governor?

22 MR. BURRIS: I will repeat, Representative
23 Durkin, what I said. I have no authority over the
24 Governor. That is his decision and he said he would

1 not.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Do you support the
3 impeachment efforts going on in this committee?

4 MR. BURRIS: I don't know what you all are --
5 what the evidence are, but I support my legislature
6 and you've got to take whatever action you feel that
7 your duties to the Illinois Constitution that you have
8 to do, and I support that effort that you're carrying
9 out your duties and your responsibilities.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Whatever answer we
11 take today or tomorrow you would support, correct?

12 MR. BURRIS: The answer is I wouldn't have
13 anything to do about what you all do. Do you think
14 I've got power over what you all do?

15 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: You know what we're
16 doing, the whole world knows what we're doing. This
17 is no secret, Mr. Burris.

18 I've just got two more questions. Mr. Burris,
19 would you support a special election for the seat,
20 take a temporary placement in the United States Senate
21 and let the people make a decision upon a balance of
22 the Senator-elect Obama's seat?

23 MR. BURRIS: That's up to you, Representative
24 Durkin. That's up to this august body, that's not up

1 to me.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I can see where this
3 is going, but I appreciate your patience, and good
4 luck, sir.

5 MR. BURRIS: Thank you very much,
6 Representative Durkin.

7 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you.
8 Representative Flowers.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: Thank you, Madam
10 Chairman. Senator Burris, congratulations on being
11 appointed for the U.S. Senate seat. And I want to
12 also congratulate you on having the tenacity to
13 weather the storm in which you had to endure the other
14 day in the rain and in the cold and humiliation.

15 But I guess you knew that there was a rainbow
16 someplace out there, so you was willing to endure so
17 -- and it was a history lesson that was given to our
18 young people. And I had the opportunity to talk to my
19 daughter to let her know that when you believe in what
20 you're doing, irregardless of the sacrifice, that it
21 may not always be easy, but if you believe in what
22 you're doing, you just stay the course and it will be
23 a brighter side.

24 So once again I congratulate you, and it was

1 really -- you have an impeccable career, and I want to
2 congratulate you again on having that type of career.

3 And as a result of what's going on in this state,
4 the news headlines has been that the seat is tainted.
5 I want to say to you, sir, that as a result of your
6 answers here today, I don't see your seat being
7 tainted by you, but it's tainted by the allegations in
8 which this Governor has been accused of and he is
9 innocent until proven guilty, and these are
10 allegations in the complaint that we had.

11 And the Governor, there's a -- in the complaint
12 there's a headline that says "refused to appoint an
13 individual to the Senate seat without consideration of
14 something in return."

15 The Governor was overheard on the tapes as saying
16 that before he would give up this seat for nothing, he
17 would take it himself. And it was too important and
18 he was determined to get something legal, something
19 political, or either something personal.

20 Can you say before this committee, sir,
21 emphatically that none of those things were promised
22 from you to the governor or there was no exchange in
23 regards to anything legal, personal or political?

24 MR. BURRIS: Representative Flowers, I can

1 before this committee state that there was nothing
2 legal or --

3 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: The three points
4 were legal.

5 MR. BURRIS: Legal.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: Personal.

7 MR. BURRIS: Personal.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: Political.

9 MR. BURRIS: Or political, exchanged for my
10 appointment to this seat.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: There was no
12 conversation, none to that effect, and I know you
13 answered this on numerous of occasions, no quid pro
14 quo, none of that?

15 MR. BURRIS: Absolutely, positively not.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: Well, thank you very
17 much, sir. And once again, congratulations, and I
18 look forward to you serving not only the state of
19 Illinois but the people across the country well.

20 MR. BURRIS: Thank you, Representative
21 Flowers.

22 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Black.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Thank you very much,
24 Madam Chairperson.

1 Attorney General Burris, it's always good to see
2 you.

3 MR. BURRIS: Good to see you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: It's been more than
5 forty years. I recall when you were living in
6 Centralia.

7 MR. BURRIS: Yeah, that's right,
8 Representative Black.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: In the Illinois Jaycee
10 days.

11 MR. BURRIS: Absolutely.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Where did that time
13 go, sir?

14 MR. BURRIS: We've all gotten older, sir.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Yes, indeed we have.
16 Let me just ask you a couple of questions and follow
17 up on one if I might.

18 Have you established a federal political action
19 committee that would take contributions for any
20 activities that you may be engaged in in your two
21 years in the Senate?

22 MR. BURRIS: Yes, I think we did that a
23 couple days ago, January 5th, that's correct.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: And I would expect you

1 to do that.

2 MR. BURRIS: Yes.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: That's what you have
4 to do when you're assuming public office at the
5 federal level.

6 MR. BURRIS: That's correct.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I want to ask you one
8 question. You say it was two days ago, correct?

9 MR. BURRIS: January 5th.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I'm not familiar with
11 the federal rules, it's hard enough to keep up with
12 all the state rules as, you know, you've been through
13 as we all do every six months.

14 Do you have to show on your federal political
15 action committee that you have an outstanding loan of
16 one million dollars from your state political action
17 committee?

18 MR. BURRIS: I think the laws are different
19 and that certainly is on the record here in Illinois.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Right.

21 MR. BURRIS: And that was a loan not to
22 Roland Burris.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: To the committee.

24 MR. BURRIS: To the Burris for Governor

1 Committee, and that's been on the books since we lost
2 the primary in '02.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I understand that. My
4 campaign committee has never had to deal with the
5 amounts of money in that range.

6 MR. BURRIS: It still wasn't enough,
7 Representative Black. I needed about another two or
8 three million.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I understand. My
10 brother donated I think ten dollars to me and now he
11 calls it a loan.

12 But let me ask you, when did you resign your
13 lobbying activities with the state of Illinois? Has
14 that been recent?

15 MR. BURRIS: Very recent, that is correct,
16 upon receiving the appointment, sir.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Okay. I think earlier
18 if I heard you correct you said that you had met with
19 Mr. Lon Monk who was an employee of Governor
20 Blagojevich in 2008 regarding state business. Did you
21 misspeak? I'm asking, I don't know if Lon Monk -- I
22 don't think he was an employee of the Governor or the
23 state of Illinois in 2008.

24 MR. BURRIS: No, he had resigned as

1 Governor's chief of staff, but he was in the lobbying
2 business, and as lobbyists do, we touch base with each
3 other to see how we can assist each other and Lon --

4 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Your conversation then
5 was as lobbyist/lobbyist?

6 MR. BURRIS: That's right.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Fine, I just wanted to
8 clarify that, thank you very much.

9 One other question, and obviously you've been in
10 this business a long time, Mr. Senator, and bear with
11 me. When we are appointed or elected or being vetted
12 or whatever the process may be, we're often asked many
13 things. When you met in Washington and/or with people
14 in Illinois, have you made any promise to a member of
15 the Illinois Democrat party or the Democrat National
16 Committee in Washington that you will be a candidate
17 in 2010 or that you will not be a candidate in 2010?

18 MR. BURRIS: Representative Black, that has
19 not come up in any conversation.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: And the reason I bring
21 it up is there was a report alleged to have come from
22 a Washington journalist that did come up, and that Mr.
23 Reid allegedly was adamant that you not be a
24 candidate.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Fritchey.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: With all deference
3 to Representative Black, we're clearly outside the
4 scope of anything that's germane to the investigation.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I'm beginning to think
6 that anything we ask Mr. Burris is outside the scope
7 of this examination, do you know it? With all due
8 respect, Mr. Fritchey, I didn't -- I had no input in
9 you releasing the report of this committee at 9 a.m.
10 this morning. I don't know why you did that. We
11 haven't taken any vote on the committee. We are here
12 determining if there's any link between Governor
13 Blagojevich and anyone who accepted an appointment
14 from Governor Blagojevich to an office of the United
15 States Senate.

16 And I would expect to answer any of the questions
17 that's been asked if I were sitting where Mr. Burris
18 is, and I wouldn't think any of it would be
19 irrelevant.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: I understand,
21 Representative. You and I go far back on too many
22 issues. But let me tell you when we're discussing
23 whether or not there's been --

24 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I've asked two

1 questions and I've gone too far back?

2 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: No, I say you and I
3 have.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Oh.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: But it's been a
6 bigger portion of my lifetime than yours. But let me
7 just say obviously we all want to get to the facts.
8 But asking whether or not there's been a commitment as
9 to whether or not the gentleman is going to run in
10 2010 and whether any discussion was taking place
11 between himself and the Senate majority leader, if you
12 can explain how that would be a bearing on any
13 discussions between him and Mr. Blagojevich pertaining
14 to the Senate seat, then obviously you're entitled to
15 do that.

16 Obviously you're entitled to do whatever you
17 like, Mr. Black. But I'm simply saying I do not see
18 the relevance between any conversations he may have
19 had about a 2010 bid with Senator Reid has on how he
20 got appointed to the Senate seat by Governor
21 Blagojevich.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I accept your
23 critique. I would just remind you that most of us
24 downstate often see more clearly the relevance of

1 matters because we don't have the air pollution that
2 exists in Chicago.

3 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Mr. Black, we're ready
4 for your next question.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Thank you very much,
6 Madam Chairman.

7 It has been widely reported, Senator Burriss, that
8 Mrs. Blagojevich has a position with a nice salary, I
9 don't know what nice salary is, with the Christian
10 Industrial League, and certainly members of the press
11 have inferred that your business partner, Mr. -- is it
12 Levin?

13 MR. BURRIS: Lebed.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Lebed, may have had
15 discussions with either Mrs. Blagojevich or Governor
16 Blagojevich regarding her employment by -- is it the
17 Christian Industrial League? I'm not -- I can't
18 remember what that name of the agency is.

19 MR. BURRIS: Yeah, I think it's the Chicago
20 Christian Industrial League.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Chicago Christian
22 Industrial League?

23 MR. BURRIS: I think that's it.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Do you know whether or

1 not your business partner had any discussions with the
2 Governor or Mrs. Blagojevich regarding this position?

3 MR. BURRIS: That is not in my purview, I do
4 not.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: So he wouldn't have
6 checked with you?

7 MR. BURRIS: Checked with me? No.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Or said hey, I've got
9 this really neat job, do you think we should recommend
10 somebody?

11 MR. BURRIS: No, he did not check with me at
12 all on that.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Okay.

14 MR. BURRIS: I knew nothing about that.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: All right. Mr.
16 Burris, I thank you very much. As always, it's always
17 good seeing you. You and I used to talk about more
18 than four decades ago young men can change the world,
19 remember that?

20 MR. BURRIS: Absolutely.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: And now that we're
22 much older, sir, I don't know if we've changed it, but
23 I think a few of us have tried.

24 MR. BURRIS: I certainly tried in my days as

1 a public official of Illinois to make an impact on my
2 citizens of this state. Thank you, Representative
3 Black.

4 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you.
5 Representative Eddy.

6 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7 Mr. Burris, I read your affidavit, and as I read
8 it a couple of things jumped out at me and I want to
9 clear those up with you if I could.

10 It states in the affidavit that on Friday,
11 December 28th, you said it was probably about 4:00,
12 that you received a call from Mr. Adams, Sam Adams,
13 Jr. When I read that it struck me as a little curious
14 as to why the Governor's criminal defense attorney was
15 doing business --

16 MR. GENSON: I don't mean to interrupt, but
17 it's been stated he's not his criminal defense
18 attorney. That's all I want to say. Mr. Adams, Jr.,
19 does not, has not, and will not represent Governor
20 Blagojevich in the criminal case. And it's been said
21 publicly and I just wanted to make it clear that just
22 because --

23 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: We'll clarify the record
24 of this committee. Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Thank you, sir.

2 Let me ask you this, Mr. Burris. When Mr. Adams
3 called you, what capacity did you believe Mr. Adams
4 was acting within? Did you believe he was the
5 Governor's criminal defense attorney?

6 MR. BURRIS: I know Mr. Adams, he's a good
7 friend of my son.

8 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Okay.

9 MR. BURRIS: I helped raise Mr. Adams to some
10 extent. Mr. Adams contacted me and indicated -- and I
11 had to verify that he was coming from the Governor,
12 that he was delivering a message from the Governor,
13 and I treated it as being a counsel to the Governor,
14 that's how I treated it. I didn't know whether or not
15 he was criminal defense or what defense, as a counsel
16 to the Governor.

17 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Okay. So it didn't
18 seem in any way odd to you that it wasn't someone who
19 was -- had some authority that was acting through the
20 Governor's office to contact you about a power that's
21 designated to the office of the Governor?

22 MR. BURRIS: Well, after he came and visited
23 with me, I verified the fact that he had the authority
24 to discuss this with me. That's all I needed to do.

1 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: You verified it with --

2 MR. BURRIS: With him.

3 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: He called you up and he
4 said he had the authority to act that way and your
5 knowledge of him and his background led you to believe
6 that he was acting on behalf of the Governor?

7 MR. BURRIS: Let me try to clear it up for
8 you. He contacted me and asked if he could come meet
9 with me, he had something important to discuss. And
10 he came and we began to discuss this. And he then
11 related to me that he had the authority to determine
12 from me whether or not I would be interested in the
13 appointment should the Governor appoint me and that
14 would -- you know, I said okay, are you sure about
15 this, you know, saying okay, the Governor's sending
16 you? And he said well, yes, I have the authority, and
17 that's the extent of it. That's how we got the
18 verification.

19 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: So you basically -- his
20 explanation to you was enough that hey, he must be?

21 MR. BURRIS: I don't think he would come on a
22 lark.

23 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Okay. Now, my serving
24 on this committee, I've seen Mr. Adams sit at the

1 table of the defense counsel of the Governor. So my
2 concern, I'm going to ask the question and I'm going
3 to ask it because I think it needs to be asked.

4 Did Mr. Adams discuss with you any of the
5 elements of the Governor's criminal case during the
6 time you met with him regarding the Senate
7 appointment?

8 MR. BURRIS: The answer is no.

9 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Okay, so there is
10 nothing related to the criminal case that is related
11 to the Senate appointment at all based on those
12 conversations?

13 MR. BURRIS: Absolutely not, Representative
14 Eddy.

15 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Okay, thank you.

16 MR. BURRIS: You're welcome.

17 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Davis.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you, Madam
19 Chairman.

20 First of all, Senator Burris, I don't know if
21 anyone welcomed you back to Springfield, but I think
22 you left here after being the Comptroller very
23 successfully, and then you left being the Attorney
24 General without an ounce or smear of any taint, and we

1 appreciate that kind of service to the state of
2 Illinois.

3 MR. BURRIS: Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Since you have been
5 asked to serve by this sitting Governor, the
6 Department of Homeland Security has removed his
7 ability to get any access to Homeland Security
8 information. I'm sure you will be seated as a Senator
9 from Illinois.

10 Will you in any way attempt to remove this, what
11 shall we say, this ruling by the Homeland Security
12 department not to provide this Governor with the
13 ability to partake in our security in the state of
14 Illinois?

15 MR. BURRIS: Representative Davis, I have
16 heard this on the news, and when I'm a Senator I don't
17 know what authority I would have, but if it becomes an
18 interest of the citizens of Illinois and the
19 protection of them, I think that we should be
20 protected.

21 I don't know all the ramifications of that, but
22 that is certainly something that if it would come to
23 my attention at that level I would probably confer
24 with our senior Senator Dick Durbin to really, you

1 know, check to see just what authority I would have.
2 But I would act on that immediately because not be
3 able to answer that with intelligence.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: I think the fear that
5 some people might have is that you are being appointed
6 by a Governor who perhaps won't be around in his
7 capacity much longer. Would you in any way attempt to
8 let's say delay his loss of power or help him in any
9 way to be viable in relationships to citizens in our
10 state or in our government in your activity? I mean
11 would you in any way find yourself involved in any
12 behavior of his because he has appointed you as
13 Senator?

14 MR. BURRIS: The answer is no. And if it
15 involves a protection of the 13 million people of this
16 state, that would be my concern. The Governor will
17 have to deal with his problems that he has, and that's
18 certainly something that you all are going to deal
19 with this committee.

20 But I would in no way be trying to interfere with
21 any of the legitimate information that has been
22 brought about against the Governor. That is not my --
23 that is not my purview.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Well, based upon my

1 knowledge of your past behavior, and usually that's
2 all we can go on is one's past behavior as a
3 prediction of the future, I think you served Illinois
4 in a very honorable fashion.

5 MR. BURRIS: Thank you, Representative Davis.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: We thank you for
7 coming before us, sir.

8 MR. BURRIS: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you.
10 Representative Rose.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you. General
12 Burris, Senator-designee Burris.

13 MR. BURRIS: Good afternoon.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I want to ask you a
15 couple quick questions. One, I understand what Mr.
16 Genson just said. I'm not saying I agree with it, I
17 understand that he said that.

18 You're a smart guy, you're the former Attorney
19 General of the state of Illinois. I'm sure you watch
20 the papers. Sam Adam, Jr. who in the papers at least
21 has been reported to be part of the legal defense team
22 of the Governor comes to your home on a Friday
23 evening, early afternoon, whatever it was, December
24 26th. Don't you say in the back of your mind why is

1 the defense attorney coming to my home, don't you ask
2 that question?

3 MR. BURRIS: The answer to that question is
4 it was then considered why, because he wouldn't talk
5 to me over the telephone. He said that he had to talk
6 to me about something and I need to talk two you in
7 person. And so I eventually said okay, what's it
8 about.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: That's a crafty answer
10 but it's not an answer.

11 MR. BURRIS: Well, I -- I'm sorry if you
12 don't think I'm answering your question. I'm speaking
13 truthfully.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I understand what Mr.
15 Genson said, but many of us saw a press conference
16 where Mr. Adam, Jr. stood with Mr. Genson and Shelly
17 Serosky and claimed how proud he was to be part of the
18 team.

19 MR. GENSON: I was never at any press
20 conference.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Well Mr. Serosky, I saw
22 Mr. Adam have that press conference. So the bottom
23 line is wouldn't you somewhere in the back of your
24 mind, Mr. Burris, wonder why it is that he's coming to

1 talk to you?

2 MR. BURRIS: In the back of my mind the
3 answer would be I was certainly curious as to what he
4 had to talk to me about. Because when he called he
5 would not talk to me over the phone. And so he came
6 to me and, you know, I said yes, please come on over,
7 I'm getting ready to go out to a black tie event, but
8 come on over. And he came and we had a conversation.
9 That's --

10 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: But you knew who Mr.
11 Adam, Jr. was before --

12 MR. WRIGHT: Excuse me.

13 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Excuse me, Representative
14 Rose. Representative Lang.

15 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Madam Chairman, I just
16 feel it necessary to point out to Representative Rose
17 that Mr. Burris indicated that he's known Mr. Adam for
18 many years. Mr. Adam could be coming to visit him on
19 any number of issues.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: You interrupted me
21 before I got to say it, but he certainly knew that Mr.
22 Adam was part of the governor's legal team in that in
23 stance.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: But he knows Mr. Adam

1 for years, he said he helped raise him I think were
2 the words he used, so he could be coming to talk about
3 a family matter or any other matters.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Mr. Lang, I find it
5 interesting that we can ask about Homeland Security
6 questions of the U.S. Senate designee, but we can't
7 ask questions about the actual appointment itself.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Rose, I
9 think he pretty much answered your question, so if you
10 want to follow up.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Okay, I have another
12 question I want to pose here to our former Attorney
13 General. You have said, you previously said if I
14 understood you correct, and maybe I missed this, but
15 you previously said you thought the Governor lacked
16 the legal capacity to make the argument or to make the
17 appointment.

18 MR. BURRIS: No, that's --

19 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: And you agreed with the
20 Attorney General's litigation?

21 MR. BURRIS: No, that's not what I said. I
22 said I would have brought the same action that would
23 cause us to allege that that would be the problem and
24 that would -- as Attorney General is an obligation

1 upon us to carry out what we think of the use of the
2 laws. And I really support Representative Madigan for
3 what she did in that capacity.

4 But the Supreme Court will determine whether or
5 not there is capacity to do that and they did not hear
6 her petition. So therefore, that issue in that
7 capacity is off the table.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: And do you still
9 believe the Governor doesn't have the legal capacity
10 to make that decision?

11 MR. BURRIS: If I were the Attorney General
12 -- I will repeat myself. If I were the Attorney
13 General --

14 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I'm asking about you,
15 if you still believe it.

16 MR. BURRIS: Representative Rose.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Mr. Burris.

18 MR. BURRIS: If I were the Attorney General,
19 I would have brought that action, because I would have
20 felt constitutionally and for the people of the state
21 of Illinois we must pursue that particular legal
22 responsibility that would be placed on us to take that
23 action. And that would be up to the courts to make
24 the determination.

1 We cannot determine guilt or innocence when we
2 bring an action. We bring an action into our courts
3 so that then the proper authority can then make the
4 determination. It wouldn't do any good for me to have
5 any type of personal feelings about a legal situation.
6 We don't do that as lawyers and prosecutors. We must
7 follow the law.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I think the question
9 was pretty specific, but I understand I'm not going to
10 get an answer. Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Tracy.

12 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you, Madam
13 Chairman and General Burris.

14 A few items that I wanted to clear up in my mind
15 in regards to the earlier questioning. You said that
16 you had visited friends perhaps in September of '08 or
17 July of '08 concerning a desire to perhaps be
18 appointed as a senator if our President-elect was
19 elected. And could you give me the names of those
20 friends?

21 MR. BURRIS: I don't think I said in July, I
22 said they were friends that I contacted after the
23 election, but I was talking to people, I mean I don't
24 know who you want as my friends that I consider as

1 persons. For example, when I handled a press
2 conference to express my interest in the seat, was the
3 press conference -- I did hold a press conference and
4 some of my friends were there, for instance.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: I'm sorry, I didn't
6 get that. You held a press conference to talk about
7 your desire --

8 MR. BURRIS: To express an interest in the
9 seat of being appointed.

10 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: And when was that?

11 MR. BURRIS: I don't recall the day. One of
12 those persons was the former justice of the Illinois
13 Appellate Court Justice Cousins. And then some other
14 friends that supported me to seek to be appointed to
15 the seat.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: But I still don't
17 understand. I'm asking when that press conference was
18 held.

19 MR. BURRIS: That was the time I made the
20 statement about Representative Madigan having taken
21 the correct action. It was during the time when the
22 action had been filed by -- I'm sorry, filed by
23 Attorney General Madigan, so it was at that same
24 conference.

1 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: So this is in December
2 of '08 when you held a press conference to express
3 your desire?

4 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: To be appointed to the
6 Senate?

7 MR. BURRIS: That is correct. That is a
8 result of my friends saying, you know, you qualify,
9 and so they actually set the press conference up and
10 had me to appear, because they were going to just
11 state that Roland Burris should be appointed to this
12 seat.

13 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: But I think I earlier
14 heard you today testify that in September, '08, or
15 perhaps as early as July, '08, you had visited with
16 some friends about your desire to perhaps seek the
17 seat.

18 MR. BURRIS: No, I think I testified that
19 that's when I began to express an interest in it. As
20 I saw that --

21 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: And I just was
22 wondering who those friends were.

23 MR. BURRIS: One of them was my law partner.

24 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Is that when you talked

1 about your interest with Lon Monk? I think that --

2 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Was it Lon Monk, was
3 that the extent of it was Lon Monk?

4 MR. BURRIS: That came up in our conversation
5 when we were talking about, you know, if he had some
6 excess clients in the lobbying business, you know, as
7 we try to see whether or not he had conflicts
8 somewhere with some type of a client because of his
9 previous relationship with government. That's what we
10 were talking about then.

11 And it just came up, and in fact I said, "Now
12 Lon, I don't know what's going to happen, but I think
13 that I'm qualified to be appointed to the Senate
14 seat." And Lon said, "Well, Roland, I think you are,
15 too." And that was the extent of it.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: So you don't recall
17 that there was anybody else besides Lon Monk that you
18 expressed that interest to at that point?

19 MR. BURRIS: No, I can't recall. Because
20 people were coming to me saying Roland, you should
21 pursue that appointment, you're qualified, and this
22 was --

23 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Is there anybody that
24 comes to mind in that light that you can --

1 MR. BURRIS: Yes, Rich Barber from Somerset,
2 New Jersey, the gentleman I introduced at my press
3 conference in Washington the other day, he contacted
4 me from Somerset, New Jersey, and said "Roland,
5 there's no one better qualified for you to be United
6 States Senator from the great state of Illinois. And
7 therefore, I'm going to start contacting --" you know,
8 I was just wait a minute, you know, Obama hasn't --
9 well, that happened after, maybe after November 4th.

10 See you're asking me a question that has so many
11 moving parts to it that I might not be -- and my
12 counsel reminded me that the class of 1955 from
13 Centralia, Illinois, also were contacting me. And of
14 course a lot of them, that got started after
15 President-elect Obama had been -- had won the
16 election.

17 And so I'm -- and I can start giving you names if
18 you need names of people who you can follow up after
19 that, after November 4th I can certainly give you a
20 few names, but I can't give you the thousands of
21 people who were involved in this.

22 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Going to a different
23 area of your testimony, the 1.2 million dollar
24 campaign donation or campaign loan, I was just curious

1 and wanted to finish in my mind what type of business
2 Mr. Stroud was in.

3 MR. BURRIS: Owns TV stations.

4 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Do you know where?

5 MR. BURRIS: Channel WYCS, channel 62 and 34
6 I think.

7 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Does he have any
8 contracts with the state of Illinois?

9 MR. BURRIS: I have no idea what contracts he
10 has.

11 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Do you have regular
12 contact with him at all or --

13 MR. BURRIS: I see him socially.

14 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: So you have -- do you
15 remember when the last time you might have discussed
16 this campaign donation or understood it's just not
17 going to be repaid?

18 MR. BURRIS: It has never come up since I
19 lost my primary in '02.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Now, going to your
21 present appointment, do you recognize that given the
22 circumstances of last month, that your appointment is
23 not under ideal circumstances?

24 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: I think that's an

1 editorial comment. I don't know that you need to
2 respond.

3 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Well, certainly what
4 I'm trying to establish is, you know, on a personal
5 level, I believe that certainly you have the exemplary
6 qualifications. However, what we have to consider is
7 the people of the state of Illinois. And what I'm
8 asking is do you recognize that continuing as a U.S.
9 Senator under an appointment under less than ideal
10 circumstances, which I think you would agree your
11 appointment was not under ideal circumstances or the
12 way you would have liked to have been appointed.

13 MR. WRIGHT: Excuse me, state rep, are you
14 asking whether -- you say ideal, do you mean whether
15 or not the appointment was legal?

16 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: What I'm getting at is
17 that we recognize that this appointment was made kind
18 of at the 11th hour, it was not -- what I'm -- my
19 point I suppose and what I'm asking is do you
20 recognize that there's going to be a cloud as long as
21 whatever investigations follow from hence forth
22 regarding Governor Blagojevich, that that cloud cannot
23 escape some of our junior senators?

24 MR. WRIGHT: I'm sorry, Madam Chairman, that

1 sounds like a speech or an opinion. I don't know if
2 it's a question that we can respond to.

3 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Well, my question was
4 do you recognize that your appointment was less than
5 ideal circumstances?

6 MR. BURRIS: No.

7 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Do you think it was a
8 perfect case scenario?

9 MR. BURRIS: No, the appointment was legal,
10 there's no cloud, there's nothing -- the appointment
11 was according to law.

12 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Bellock.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BELLOCK: Thank you very much,
15 Madam Chairman. And thank you very much, Mr. Burris,
16 for coming to Springfield.

17 I just wanted to ask somewhat similar to that, is
18 that did you believe the statement that was made on
19 behalf of the Governor and by Mr. Genson about two
20 weeks earlier in mid December that when they assured
21 the people of Illinois and the General Assembly that
22 they would not go forward with making an appointment?

23 MR. GENSON: I don't assure the people of the
24 state of Illinois, I don't want that representation to

1 be made. I made the statement to a reporter. I did
2 not have anything to do with this appointment. And
3 obviously I was disagreed with.

4 But I don't want to tell anyone that I
5 represented anything to the state of Illinois or in
6 front of this committee because a reporter took a
7 quote.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Bellock.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BELLOCK: Thank you very much.
10 Just the question stands. The majority of people in
11 Illinois felt that that statement assured people that
12 he was not going forward with an appointment. I
13 wondered if you had felt that way also.

14 MR. BURRIS: I had no knowledge of the
15 statement, Representative Bellock.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BELLOCK: Okay. Because in
17 this testimony today to hear that Mr. Adams then after
18 the other statement had been made two weeks earlier,
19 that for Mr. Adams to come back to request that you
20 have that appointment seems highly irregular. No
21 matter who Mr. Adams was working for, the Governor or
22 Mr. Genson, that the statement was made assuring the
23 people of Illinois that the appointment was not going
24 to be made, and that no matter who that statement was

1 made to, it was on behalf of Mr. Genson making the
2 statement, correct?

3 MR. BURRIS: Again, I can't respond to that.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: I'm just saying in
5 the testimony today as we hear it, it seems highly
6 irregular to find out the statement was made by Mr.
7 Genson and two weeks later Mr. Adams comes forward and
8 asks you for that, if you're interested in the
9 appointment.

10 MR. BURRIS: I have no knowledge of that.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BELLOCK: Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Bassi.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BASSI: It's been asked.

14 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Hamos.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HAMOS: Thank you. Good
16 afternoon, Mr. Burris.

17 MR. BURRIS: Good afternoon.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HAMOS: Just to refresh your
19 memory, I came to meet you and to introduce myself and
20 to get your insights about the Attorney General's
21 office.

22 MR. BURRIS: That is correct.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HAMOS: And that was October
24 8th, three months ago, and you told me that one of

1 your dreams was to become the United States Senator.
2 So congratulations, I think you're really close to
3 becoming the United States Senator.

4 MR. BURRIS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Turner.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Thank you, Madam
7 Chairman and members of the committee.

8 To Senate-elect, Senate-appointee, Mr. Burris, I
9 want to welcome you here today. I just wanted to send
10 a message to the people I guess out in radio land and
11 in TV land in terms of trying to clarify just a little
12 bit what's happening here today.

13 In particular for some of my friends on Roosevelt
14 Road and 16th Street who have no idea as to where
15 we're headed or just what we're doing here and so
16 often -- I'm not an attorney, so in terms of some of
17 the information that's being expressed here, and I've
18 enjoyed listening to Mr. Genson, listening to our
19 committee members, those who are attorneys, and this
20 is a rather confusing process, one that we all admit
21 we're not honored to be sitting here trying to
22 address. And I know your appearance here today is a
23 little outside our original goal, which is to deal
24 with the impeachment process.

1 And oftentimes in the day sometimes when I'm at
2 home I get a chance to visit with my sister, and she
3 still looks at a lot of old Perry Mason reruns. And
4 if you don't mind I'd like to ask you a couple
5 questions, because I think that Perry had a way of
6 doing things where when you left you sort of
7 understood what the final verdict was.

8 And I also should share that as we make laws,
9 that oftentimes when you go to court, and I know that
10 there's a lot of court TV on these days, and I know
11 that some of those same people on Roosevelt Road watch
12 those programs, that at the end of the program there's
13 always someone that comes out and says they were
14 either dealt a bad hand or things didn't work the way
15 they worked.

16 And so I said that to say that sometimes the way
17 the laws are implemented, people are not always happy.
18 There's someone who is going to be opposed to any
19 decision that is made.

20 And so in your role as the former Attorney
21 General, and could you just briefly tell me as the
22 Attorney General, what is that -- what was your role,
23 what does the Attorney General do? And the point I'm
24 getting at is I believe you're the lawyer, and in that

1 role you were the lawyer for the state.

2 And in that role I would like to ask you
3 regarding filling Senate seats, what does the Illinois
4 Constitution say are the steps to fulfilling a vacancy
5 in the U.S. Senate?

6 MR. BURRIS: Thank you, Representative
7 Turner. The Attorney General is the chief legal
8 officer for the state of Illinois, and he has to
9 represent all the people of our state in any legal
10 matters. He is the only lawyer that can go into a
11 courtroom and argue on behalf of the people of the
12 state of Illinois. He has trial authority,
13 prosecutorial authority, and appellate authority to
14 carry out the laws that this body passes to protect
15 the citizens of the state of Illinois.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Now I know it's been
17 a while since you served in that role as the Attorney
18 General, and I'm not going to ask you to recite the
19 exact statute, but can you tell me briefly, if you can
20 recall, how do we fill a U.S. Senate vacancy --
21 actually I'll start, let me back up.

22 How do we fill congressional vacancies in the
23 state of Illinois? What is the process as you recall?

24 MR. BURRIS: The process is this.

1 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: For congressional.

2 MR. BURRIS: For the congressional seat there
3 must be a special election that will be called by the
4 Governor, and he has a time line as outlined in the
5 Illinois statute as to when he can -- upon the
6 resignation of a congressperson, then he must within a
7 certain period of time call for a special election.
8 That is for the congresspersons, and that must be
9 under our laws a primary election and a general
10 election.

11 Now as far the other appointments for the United
12 States Senate seat, under the Constitution of the
13 United States, Article 17, it says that the Governor
14 shall fill a vacancy upon the resignation of the
15 United States Senator, and that the -- I think it says
16 executive, that the executive, and that the executive,
17 the state legislature can then also make other
18 implementing or changing statutes to implement the
19 filling of that particular vacancy.

20 And under our laws currently following the 17th
21 Amendment the Governor has the sole authority with no
22 equivocation, with no taint, with no cloud, to make an
23 appointment.

24 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: And may I ask as we

1 speak or this appointment that was given to you or
2 that was given to you, what's the date of that
3 appointment again, how long ago was that?

4 MR. BURRIS: I was appointed by the Governor
5 on December 30th, 2008.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: And you say by the
7 Governor. And who was the Governor December 30th,
8 2008?

9 MR. BURRIS: All powers and authority rest in
10 the chief executive of our state, by the name of --
11 actually it was the 31st, I'm sorry.

12 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: 31st of December.

13 MR. BURRIS: The 31st of December, and that
14 is in the name of Rod Blagojevich.

15 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: I rest my case.

16 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative Rose with
17 a follow-up question.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: It's not a question as
19 much as a statement. Mr. Genson was correct, he was
20 not at the press conference. But there's a -- as of
21 December 20th, a New York Times article where Mr.
22 Adams, Jr. appeared with Serosky after the Governor's
23 press conference to address many of the legal concerns
24 related to the criminal complaints.

1 And while this -- I asked my question of Mr.
2 Burris, but I hope at some point in time we're going
3 to be able to ask some questions as to what the status
4 of Mr. Adam is.

5 MR. GENSON: Well, I'll give you the status,
6 but don't count on Mr. Adam answering it.

7 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: All right, thank you very
8 much. The committee is going to take a five minute
9 break, and we appreciate the appearance of Mr. Burris,
10 and we appreciate all of your questions. We're going
11 to take a five minute break. We're going to come
12 back, there is one additional item to enter into the
13 record, and that is a letter from Brenda Gold who was
14 fired inappropriately from the Illinois Department of
15 Transportation.

16 MR. WRIGHT: Madam Chairman, does that mean
17 we're excused?

18 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: I'm sorry, you're gone,
19 you're out of here.

20 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Back to Washington.

22 MR. BURRIS: Thank you, Madam Chairman,
23 Members of the House. God please you all. Happy new
24 year.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: The committee will go
2 into consideration of the report.

3 (A recess was taken.)

4 CHAIRMAN CURRIE: The Special Investigative
5 Committee will come back to order.

6 We have one piece of housekeeping before we move
7 to the report itself, and that is a statement of
8 Brenda Gold on her firing from the Illinois Department
9 of Transportation. And this document will be
10 distributed to the members.

11 And I believe Representative Davis wanted to say
12 a word about it, this topic. Representative Davis.
13 Representative, if you would just briefly just say a
14 word or two about the importance of this document, and
15 we're going to put that into the record as Exhibit 70.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you, very much,
17 Madam Chairman. And I want to say that I really thank
18 Brenda Gold, I don't know if she's still here, but she
19 drove down from Chicago and she has been in touch with
20 me for a long period of time attempting to provide me
21 with information about the improprieties that are
22 taking place at the Illinois Department of
23 Transportation.

24 I have listened to her, I have listened to other

1 people who have worked for the Department of
2 Transportation, and I decided that this is the best
3 time of all to provide other members of this Illinois
4 legislature with the kind of activity that Miss Gold
5 was telling us about the Department of Transportation.

6 Madam Chairman, I don't know if you wanted me to
7 read it or part of it or it appears -- there's -- it
8 appears that one of the things going on in that
9 department was in personnel where they would give
10 answers to people taking tests in order that they
11 could be hired. And usually the people were hired
12 over African Americans.

13 When African Americans were applying for these
14 positions and other people were applying, the others
15 were provided with the questions and answers so that
16 their scores could be higher. And what when she
17 investigated this she lost her position. She had been
18 with the -- in state government for 27 years, she was
19 getting ready for retirement, and they terminated her
20 position because she questioned these policies and
21 procedures that were in violation of the rights of
22 African Americans.

23 She took her case to the Department of EEOC, and
24 the law states that they're supposed to respond in 90

1 days. She took it to the Civil Rights Commission.
2 Anyway, they have yet to respond. They have not
3 responded to her even, so that means there's another
4 place we should look for improprieties.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Representative, the
6 written testimony is in the record.

7 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: I would ask that the
8 committee take a look at this and realize that this
9 document is significantly important. And there are a
10 lot of African American people who feel that this
11 Governor has been extremely good and kind to them, but
12 when they look at these kind of practices, and this is
13 just one example, they will know that this Governor
14 carried his vendetta against people for no reason to a
15 large extent, which was very harmful to the state.

16 In other words, you're not getting the best
17 people for the job, you're getting the best -- the
18 person who got the information from the personnel
19 department to get the job. You didn't get the best
20 person for the job. And that's what Mrs. Gold wanted
21 us to see and I urge you to read it. Yes, we do have
22 copies, thank you very much.

23 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you. And this will
24 be part of the record as Exhibit 70.

1 We are now going to move to consideration of the
2 report. As we earlier discussed, the timing of the
3 court activity with respect to the hearing of the
4 audio tape which the United States Attorney has asked
5 to share with us is such that I think the members of
6 the committee indicated that they feel we have enough
7 information, enough evidence in the record to make
8 some determinations to share with our colleague on the
9 floor of the House.

10 Representative Lang moved that we add as an
11 addendum to the report a document that is a draft
12 House resolution that would include an article of
13 impeachment, and I'm just briefly going to run through
14 what those are.

15 We would say that the totality of the evidence
16 contained in the House report, report of our
17 committee, amounts to impeachable offenses on the part
18 of the Governor.

19 And that would include the Governor's effort to
20 obtain a personal benefit in exchange for appointment
21 to the Senate seat.

22 We would count that as an abuse of power.

23 The condition of awarding state assistance to the
24 Tribune on firing members of the Chicago Tribune

1 editorial board as a trade.

2 Official acts in exchange for campaign
3 contributions. The signing of legislative -- that
4 would include the signing of legislation in helping
5 the horse racing industry.

6 The effort to trade official acts in exchange for
7 campaign contributions, which would include the
8 awarding of the state tollway contract and expansion,
9 again as identified in the final report.

10 And the effort to trade official acts in exchange
11 for campaign contributions, that would be the release
12 of pediatric -- reimbursements in exchange for a
13 significant contribution to the Governor's campaign
14 fund from the administrator at a children's hospital.

15 The effort to trade official acts in exchange for
16 campaign contributions with respect to appointment to
17 the Illinois Finance Authority.

18 Another effort to trade campaign contributions
19 for the awarding of certain state contracts.

20 And again, we have the Health Facilities Planning
21 Board.

22 The refusal of the Governor to recognize the
23 authority of the Joint Committee on Administrative
24 Rules in respect to his unilateral expansion of a

1 state health program.

2 The procurement of flu vaccines, never mind that
3 no one in Illinois was able to take advantage of the
4 flu vaccines and yet we were stuck with a 2.6 million
5 dollar bill.

6 The Governor's actions with respect to the
7 I SaveRX program, and also with respect to agency
8 efficiency initiatives.

9 The violation of the Governor -- by the Governor
10 of state and federal law regarding the hiring and
11 firing of state employees. And that of course was
12 detailed in the report from the Inspector General of
13 the Executive Ethics Commission.

14 So this resolution would say that under the
15 totality of the evidence, some or all of these acts of
16 the Governor constitute a pattern of abuse of power,
17 and in the opinion of this committee we believe that
18 this abuse of power warrants impeachment and trial,
19 removal from office as Governor, and disqualification
20 to hold any public office of this state in the future.

21 Mr. Lang has moved that we add this as an
22 addendum to the report. Is there leave? Leave is
23 granted.

24 Representative Black.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Thank you, Madam
2 Chair. An inquiry of the chair if I might before we
3 vote on that. It has nothing to do with the motion
4 before us.

5 I would ask the Chair, I don't know if Mr. Adam
6 will come back in the room, and there certainly isn't
7 time for a subpoena. But if he is willing, could we
8 swear him in and ask a few questions? I am very, very
9 confused as to just what Mr. Adam's role is in this
10 process.

11 You have been very fair, Madam Chair, he has
12 questioned witnesses, he has appeared with the
13 governor at various press conferences, he approached
14 Senator Burris, and I didn't get -- I never got an
15 answer. I don't understand what his role is in this
16 process.

17 Now he may not come back and my question may be
18 moot. But if he does come back would the chair be
19 willing to accept my inquiry as to whether he would be
20 sworn and answer those questions?

21 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: We'll take that question
22 under advice. Mr. Adam and Mr. Genson have both left
23 the hearing room, and it's my understanding that
24 they've left for the day, they are not planning to

1 come back. But remember that we have talked about --

2 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: I thank you for
3 letting me make the inquiry, because there are things
4 I simply don't understand.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: And if we reconstitute
6 this committee in the next General Assembly and if we
7 were to do that, I think one of the items we might
8 want to undertake is precisely the examination you are
9 suggesting.

10 Shall we hear now -- Representative Durkin moves
11 that the committee adopt the final report of the
12 committee with the amendment from Representative Lang,
13 and that includes the article of impeachment. And on
14 that motion, Representative Durkin.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Yes. Madam Chairman,
16 I just want to just take a few moments just to thank
17 the men and women on this committee, and particularly
18 our staff, the hard work they put in for the past
19 month.

20 None of us take any great joy in being here.
21 This is a very sad moment in this state's history.
22 But we all recognize at the same time that when we
23 took an oath, that we're going to follow the law. We
24 are the directors, we're part of the board that's

1 trying to oversee the operations of this state, and we
2 have an executive, chief executive officer who has run
3 amok.

4 It's unfortunate we're here, but we heard some of
5 very I think troubling evidence and testimony. And
6 starting with the first day when Mr. Ellis went
7 through the allegations, you know, allegation by
8 allegation what was in the criminal affidavit. To me
9 you look at each one of those, the auctioning off of
10 the United States Senate seat, extortion of the
11 Chicago Tribune, the extortion of Children's Memorial
12 Hospital, and the contributions that were required in
13 exchange for the signing of legislation regarding the
14 horse racing industry is shocking. It's not something
15 that anyone would tolerate in any circumstance in any
16 form, and we are not going to tolerate it here in the
17 state of Illinois.

18 We've heard plenty of evidence also regarding the
19 Governor's actions regarding abuse of power, going
20 around the legislative process and a number of issues.
21 And also issues regarding the hiring and firing
22 practices of the state. I look at this as a whole,
23 and we had an opportunity to look at it as a whole.
24 And I think basically the document which we produced,

1 which is the record, speaks for itself.

2 Now mind you, we've given the Governor and his
3 counsel ample opportunity to participate in these
4 proceedings. I've heard issues regarding lack of due
5 process. Mr. Genson has had the opportunity to
6 question witnesses. We have given him the opportunity
7 to bring in witnesses. We've allowed him if he
8 chooses to do so to subpoena witnesses. We've asked
9 him whether his client, the Governor, would
10 participate, and each time he stated no.

11 At the beginning of these proceedings I stated
12 that the function of the House of Representatives in
13 this process is similar to a grand jury. We gather
14 the evidence and we try to determine whether or not
15 there is cause to send charges which go to some type
16 of forum for a trial.

17 And I will say that Mr. Genson in all his times
18 as a criminal defense attorney, I find it -- no one of
19 that nature is allowed access to the grand jury. No
20 one is allowed the ability to cross-examine witnesses.
21 No one in that capacity is allowed to subpoena
22 witnesses or bring defense or mitigation witnesses.

23 So I am very satisfied that we have met all
24 notions of due process.

1 But I will just state that there has been
2 tremendous work that's been done by this committee,
3 but it's extremely important. A lot of us sacrificed
4 our holidays, but we were glad to do it and so were
5 our staff.

6 But I'm glad that we're here and we're doing what
7 is right for the people of the state of Illinois. And
8 I am prepared to vote in favor of the resolution that
9 we go to the full House stating that the Governor has
10 committed impeachable acts.

11 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Thank you, Representative
12 Durkin.

13 Representative Durkin moves adoption of the
14 committee report with the articles as an addendum.
15 One possibility is that as we vote, and we will vote
16 orally, and we'll be asked to sign the document, each
17 member may choose to in a couple of sentences express
18 whatever he or she might like to express. Otherwise
19 of course if people want to talk now they may.
20 Representative Black.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Thank you, Madam
22 Chairperson.

23 Just one procedural question. If you could
24 enlighten me, keep in mind I'm just a poor country boy

1 trying to keep up with this process and procedure as
2 best I can. Could someone enlighten me as to why the
3 preliminary report was released at 9 a.m. this morning
4 prior to any committee vote, prior to the committee
5 even actually sitting down and being able to read the
6 report? That is something I simply don't understand.
7 Why was that done? Is there a particular reason I'm
8 not able to focus on?

9 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: This was a proposed
10 draft, Representative, and it's important I think for
11 the people of the state to have an idea of what it is
12 we're working on. It was a draft seen twice by every
13 member of this committee.

14 I think the goal of transparency, the goal of
15 accountability, the ability of the members of the full
16 House to have at least 24 hours to digest the likely
17 contents of a report approved by this committee
18 warranted their opportunity to see the proposed draft
19 in advance.

20 And I haven't heard from anybody that they were
21 sorry to have a look at it, and I think that the goal
22 of transparency in government is one that we should
23 all applaud.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Well, don't

1 misunderstand my remarks, I'm not the least bit
2 upset --

3 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Good.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: -- that we got to read
5 it. I'm just simply trying to understand why the
6 committee did not convene at 8 a.m. as we were
7 originally told we would, review the report, and then
8 vote to accept the preliminary report. That would
9 have been equally as transparent, would it not?

10 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Actually the idea of the
11 8:00 meeting today was to look at the draft articles,
12 rather than to look again at the report. And I would
13 remind you that we had hoped to hear better news from
14 the federal court this afternoon. If we had heard
15 this afternoon that we could have access to those four
16 audio tapes today or tomorrow, we would not have
17 wanted to vote on the report until such time as we had
18 heard them. So the timing just didn't work.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Well, I appreciate the
20 opportunity to ask the question. I appreciate your
21 answer. I have no quarrel with making this public at
22 least 24 hours in advance, I do thank you for that. I
23 just thought we would have perhaps been better served
24 to have an opportunity to comment as individual

1 members within the committee on the report. When we
2 were called here Sunday, unless I misunderstood the
3 direction was we weren't even supposed to talk among
4 ourselves. I was in the cone of silence. With a
5 numbered --

6 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: You could never be in the
7 cone of silence.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: It worked, it worked
9 Sunday. I had a numbered copy. I had to show my
10 birth certificate to get in the room and pledge on my
11 grandchildren that I would not abscond with the
12 report. But all is well I guess that ends well. I
13 was just curious. I was not used to that procedure.

14 But I do certainly agree with you that I'm glad
15 it's out there, I'm glad the press and the public and
16 the fellow members of the House have had a chance to
17 see it. And I'm not afraid to admit I learn something
18 down here every day, Madam Chairperson, especially
19 from you. You have been my idol for many years.

20 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Clerk, call the roll.

21 THE CLERK: Currie.

22 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: I vote aye. And I, too,
23 would commend the staff. They've done an amazing job,
24 pulled away from their family and friends over the

1 holidays, and I have to commend the members of this
2 committee as well.

3 I think we have worked in a fully bipartisan
4 cooperative fashion, and I appreciate the
5 contributions of each and every one of you. This is a
6 very sad day in the state of Illinois. To undo the
7 results of a fair, open and free democratic election
8 is a grave responsibility.

9 I think there's no question that the totality of
10 the evidence before us, whether the Governor committed
11 a criminal act or not, its very language suggests that
12 he was willing, that he was willing to talk about the
13 benefits of the public should be used for his own
14 personal benefit rather than for the public good, and
15 there's no question that his excessive use of
16 authority in respect to the Joint Committee, in
17 respect to flu vaccines and the other items, the
18 totality of the evidence clearly suggests that this is
19 an individual who is not fit to be Governor of the
20 state of Illinois. And I vote yes.

21 THE CLERK: Durkin.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: And I would again,
23 the comments that I previously made, I'm not going to
24 repeat them, but I want the public to know that this

1 was a bipartisan effort. We did have our moments,
2 Representative Currie and I did have some moments, but
3 that's part of the process.

4 And part of the process is that we find a common
5 ground on certain procedural and factual issues. But
6 I have the utmost respect for Chairperson Currie, but
7 also David Ellis and Matt O'Shea, our lawyers who
8 spent many time away from their families.

9 But again this was a tough, tough assignment, but
10 we made commitments to our constituents a few years
11 back to represent their interests, and this has been
12 the highest calling that we've had, that I have had,
13 and I hope that we won't go down this road again any
14 time in the future. My vote is yes.

15 THE CLERK: Acevedo.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ACEVEDO: Thank you, Madam
17 Chair, members of the committee.

18 I, too, want to thank the staff on both sides of
19 the aisle for the tremendous job they've done for us,
20 and I want to thank my colleagues, all 21 of you to
21 allow me to spend the holidays with you.

22 The Governor has lost both trust in the general
23 public and his colleagues in government and is simply
24 unable to govern. It is our responsibility as elected

1 representatives to the people of Illinois to put this
2 awful chapter behind us and move forward with the
3 agenda to do the work of the people. The people of
4 Illinois deserve much better from their elected
5 leaders.

6 Based on the evidence, it is clear to me that the
7 Governor has acted in a manner inconsistent with the
8 Illinois Constitution and beyond his lawful scope as
9 Governor. Moreover, his conduct in this matter
10 continues to be a deterrent to the work of the people,
11 important work the people of the state of Illinois
12 need to do on behalf of the citizens of Illinois.

13 For this reason I will vote yes on the articles
14 of impeachment against Governor Blagojevich.

15 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: Bassi.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BASSI: Thank you.

17 Impeachment is a remedial proceeding to protect the
18 public from an officer who has abused his position of
19 trust. We have seen a pattern of abuse in power that
20 has gone on since January of '03. We've seen neglect
21 of duty.

22 The Governor has been in his office more in the
23 last three weeks than he's been there in the last six
24 years. There's been an encroachment on the

1 legislators' prerogatives as evidenced by what's
2 happened with JCAR, with FamilyCare, the approval that
3 came without legislative -- without legislative
4 approval and without funding source. Evidence of
5 corruption, thanks to his 25,000 dollar club. There's
6 been a betrayal of trust.

7 This Governor ran as a reformer, as a champion of
8 ethics, and then provided obvious hiring malfeasance
9 within his office. He has -- we've seen evidence of
10 his exceeding his constitutional bounds of office.

11 There is a totality of evidence that has resulted
12 in absolute cause for impeachment. Holding office is
13 a privilege and not a right. I vote yes.

14 THE CLERK: Bellock.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BELLOCK: Thank you very much.
16 I'd like to thank Madam Chairman and Representative
17 Durkin and all the members of the committee and the
18 staff, too, for all the wonderful work they did. I
19 think that it has been a true action of a bipartisan
20 committee, more than I've ever seen here in the last
21 ten years I've been here.

22 I think history will probably be the final judge
23 of the actions that have taken place by this committee
24 today and tomorrow. Impeachment has been rarely

1 invoked in Illinois and really throughout the rest of
2 the United States, and should only be reserved for
3 egregious acts of misconduct.

4 The testimony we have heard over the last couple
5 of weeks has been accurately reported in the report
6 before us, and it shows a totality of evidence that
7 demonstrates I think clearly as to a cause abuse of
8 power.

9 I hope the actions that we take here today and
10 hence forward will start the process to regain the
11 trust and the confidence of the people in Illinois
12 back in our government, because that's really what
13 this is all about. Thank you. I vote yes.

14 THE CLERK: Black.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BLACK: Thank you very much.
16 My fellow members of the committee, fellow members of
17 the House, let me thank staff. It goes without saying
18 that I don't know how this place would work without
19 our staff.

20 I'm going to take a different tact if I might.
21 It's a privilege to work with all of you, a privilege
22 I never, ever take for granted, not one single day
23 that I'm privileged to serve in this body. But I'm
24 going to take a different tact.

1 I don't think this is a sad day for Illinois. I
2 think it's a good, glad, happy day for Illinois,
3 because it points out that nobody is above the law and
4 anybody will be held accountable for their actions.
5 It may take too long, and there have been egregious
6 abuses if what we read, if half of what we read is
7 true.

8 And I hope the message is received by all those
9 in office and all those who will seek office in the
10 future. Enough is enough. No more.

11 And to the people of the state of Illinois, I
12 think your charge is simple. Hold each of us
13 accountable, become informed voters, and do not
14 tolerate what has been often winked at in this state.
15 We make a move forward I think today and I hope
16 everyone gets the message. And I vote yes.

17 THE CLERK: Bost.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BOST: Thank you. Members of
19 the committee, thank you for working together as we
20 have over these holidays. When we first came in I
21 said that none of us believed when we took our oath of
22 office that we would ever be taking a vote like this,
23 or at least we hoped we wouldn't have to.

24 Looking at the move forward with the resolution,

1 and many of -- I was criticized by many on the 7th of
2 July of 2007 when I asked for a committee to be formed
3 to check into these allegations, but all but about
4 three of these actually date back prior to that.

5 I agree with Representative Black in fact that it
6 is a good day in the fact that we're moving forward.
7 It is a sad day in the fact that we have to do this.

8 None of us take this job lightly. And if you'll
9 remember also during this hearing I read actually the
10 oath of office of the Governor of the state of
11 Illinois. If these allegations which we've shown
12 proof by several ways are factual, he has snubbed his
13 nose at that oath of office, and therefore snubbed his
14 nose at the people and the Constitution. And it hurts
15 tremendously to know that we have a chief executive
16 officer that can't realize the pain that his actions
17 have caused the state of Illinois.

18 That being said, my vote is definitely yes.

19 THE CLERK: Davis.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you, Madam
21 Chairman. I want to say that I have -- I am certainly
22 very grateful to David Ellis, the attorney, to our
23 chairman, because every piece of evidence that we
24 wanted, they made every attempt to make sure we got an

1 opportunity to review.

2 Many of us read articles in the newspaper or we
3 heard rumors, but sitting on this committee we were
4 able to view documents, to hear testimony, and to know
5 that a great deal of those rumors were actually true.

6 The state of Illinois operates under democracy,
7 it does not operate under a dictatorship. Having one
8 corrupt leader at the top makes all people think we
9 must be a part of it if we don't attempt to solve it.

10 I think talking to my colleagues and meeting with
11 each one of you from each side of the aisle, missing
12 our families on the holiday, I think we've come up
13 with a document that serves the state of Illinois very
14 well. We cannot allow the corruption, we cannot allow
15 the misappropriation of our funds, we cannot allow the
16 discrimination in employment to continue. I vote yes.

17 THE CLERK: Eddy.

18 REPRESENTATIVE EDDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
19 I also want to thank everyone, that it's been a true
20 pleasure and a privilege to work with the folks who
21 have paid attention, have studied and taken their
22 responsibility of constitutional duty seriously. I'll
23 never forget the experience and the opportunity to do
24 that.

1 We are a government of laws and not of men. And
2 this process which was written into the state
3 Constitution, probably by those who had hoped it would
4 never have to be used, has been followed. And that
5 process has resulted I believe in a very good, solid
6 document and report, one that I'm happy to have had
7 the opportunity to be involved with.

8 This Governor has clearly behaved on multiple
9 occasions and in multiple situations in a manner that
10 demonstrates clearly he is unfit to govern. The hard
11 working people of the state of Illinois deserve public
12 servants, not self-servants.

13 It's our responsibility when someone abuses their
14 power to this end to step in and do something that may
15 be unpleasant and difficult. But I'm proud to have
16 been part of the group that took on that
17 responsibility so well.

18 My vote is yes.

19 THE CLERK: Flowers.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS: Thank you. Madam
21 Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to
22 thank you and the other members of this committee, and
23 I also would like to thank Dave Ellis and the rest of
24 the staff for putting all this together and the time

1 and the tenacity that we have dwelled into this
2 situation.

3 This is a sad day here in the state of Illinois.
4 It's unfortunate that it had to get to this. It's
5 unfortunate that the Governor, and he has not been
6 found guilty of a crime, he is still innocent until
7 proven guilty, I would have appreciated if the
8 Governor could have just merely stepped aside so we
9 would not have been made the laughing stock of the
10 country. This today is about the restoration of the
11 power back to the people of the state of Illinois.

12 And with that being said, Madam Chairman, I would
13 like to add my aye vote.

14 THE CLERK: Franks.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FRANKS: When the Governor was
16 arrested I thought I'd have a different response, a
17 different feeling. I've been a vocal critic for quite
18 some time, but I didn't feel any joy at that time. I
19 felt I guess ashamed of what our government has become
20 and the culture of corruption that's seized the state.

21 But I'd say serving on this committee has been
22 one of my proudest moments as a legislator, and I
23 believe today's a great day. Today is the day that we
24 begin to give back to democracy and the government

1 back to the citizens of the state of Illinois. It's
2 been a long time coming, it's been much too long.

3 We know that Rod Blagojevich has been much more
4 comfortable being the problem rather than the
5 solution. He has been AWOL and derelict in his
6 duties. He has abused his powers and he's brought
7 shame to our great state. Former New York Governor
8 Spitzer was a hypocrite, and when exposed he did the
9 honorable thing for the benefit of New York and he
10 resigned.

11 And we know that Rod Blagojevich will spend much
12 of the next year fighting his pending indictment.
13 He's mortally wounded politically and cannot lead our
14 state. His political life is over.

15 We saw at these hearings that the only way that
16 Rod Blagojevich can communicate with the legislature
17 is through his criminal attorneys. He has shown
18 little interest in actually governing. Issuing press
19 releases with no follow-up is not governing, it's
20 pandering. Calling special session after special
21 session without getting any results is just
22 floundering.

23 I believe that Rod Blagojevich is a liar. I also
24 believe he's a thief. I think he's stolen the public

1 trust. He has knowingly violated state procurement
2 laws. He has knowingly violated state ethics laws.
3 He has willfully violated court orders. He has driven
4 our state to the edge of the abyss.

5 Perhaps Rod Blagojevich will soon be convicted of
6 various crimes, ranging from extortion to selling
7 public assets for personal gain.

8 But that's not our concern at this time. Our
9 concern is solely whether Rod Blagojevich can continue
10 to lead this state. And that answer is as obvious and
11 it's as notorious as his 10,000 dollar commute on the
12 state planes to Springfield.

13 It's as obvious as the millions lost on the flu
14 vaccine debacle where Rod Blagojevich knew, where he
15 knew that we did not need those vaccines, he knew that
16 they could not be brought into this state, yet he
17 still spent millions of our dollars to get that.

18 It's as obvious as the 60 million dollars in
19 efficiency initiatives where he gave large campaign
20 contributors no bid contracts.

21 It's as obvious as the one million dollars he
22 gave to the Loop Lab School which had no assets, no
23 faculty, no students, and that money was used to
24 purchase a condominium from a mole at the Tony Rezko

1 trial.

2 It's as obvious as the workers that can't get
3 jobs because we can't pass a capital bill because no
4 one trusts the Governor, so we can't enter into any
5 agreements.

6 It's as obvious as the guilty plea of Ali Ata who
7 said he paid 50,000 dollars and purchased his state
8 job.

9 It's as obvious as the guilty plea of Joe Cari
10 when he was being shook down for campaign cash.

11 It's as obvious as the conviction at the Tony
12 Rezko trial where he was complicit in selling state
13 jobs.

14 It's as obvious as his chief of staff, his Deputy
15 Governor and his lawyer's resignations.

16 The Governor ought to today before the whole
17 House votes tomorrow resign, and he should spare
18 himself the further indignity of being the only
19 Governor in Illinois history to be impeached.

20 I know he wouldn't do it for the public;
21 everything he's done has been for him. But if he
22 doesn't resign, this committee has done exemplary work
23 and I'm so proud of them. And I know that none of us
24 will rest until he's impeached. I vote aye.

1 THE CLERK: Fritchey.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FRITCHEY: Let me echo the
3 thanks of the prior speakers to the members of the
4 committee and to members of the staff. They've done a
5 tremendous job.

6 It is no surprise to anybody here that I've had
7 my differences with the Governor for years now. It
8 was a unique difference for me to have, in as much as
9 he's not only my constituent, but my predecessor in my
10 House seat.

11 But there are some absolutes regardless of any
12 circumstances that we find ourselves in. One of those
13 absolutes is the truism that no man is above the law.
14 What we've seen is what happens when a man believes he
15 is above the law. We're not bound to follow those
16 laws.

17 As has been adduced by this committee and the
18 testimony given to us, when a man believes that he is
19 above the law, it has ramifications from social
20 service providers in our neighborhoods to the halls of
21 the United States Senate. When a man believes that
22 he's above the law, others suffer because of his
23 belief.

24 This institution I revere and I continue to do so

1 more with every day that I've been here. The
2 institution has suffered under a Blagojevich
3 administration. Not because of political differences,
4 not because of policy differences, because of a
5 Governor who sought to govern not on behalf of the
6 people that trusted him and elected him, but to govern
7 on his own benefit.

8 We have been pitted against each other, we have
9 had chambers pitted against each other. We've had a
10 state suffer in the interim. Whether it's a capital
11 bill, whether it's economic recovery, at a time when
12 people are being forced out of their jobs and out of
13 their homes, we are spending time and energy dealing
14 with the transgressions of the Governor, rather than
15 getting those people back to work and getting our
16 economy back on track.

17 Representative Flowers stated that the Governor
18 is not guilty of a crime, and I would submit that
19 while I believe he is and will be found to be, that's
20 not our job. But he is guilty in my opinion of
21 something far worse. He is guilty of violating the
22 public trust of 13 million men and women who believed
23 in him and trusted upon him and relied upon him to
24 lead our state for their benefit, not for his.

1 When I cast my vote I'm not casting a vote so
2 much against Rod Blagojevich, it's for the people of
3 the state of Illinois. These are historic times, and
4 I assure you that each and every one of us on this
5 committee and at this General Assembly and indeed
6 across the country will likely never forget these
7 times, at least as long as we may live.

8 But as we put this chapter into history, I would
9 urge my colleagues that we must join not only in
10 putting this behind us, but in focusing on the future.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues, we have a
12 lot of work to do. Public confidence in state
13 government is not damaged, it's shattered. We have
14 not let them down, we are taking the first step toward
15 restoring that public confidence. But it's going to
16 be a long journey. We must work day and night, every
17 day, to get public confidence back into state
18 government.

19 I've said repeatedly that the overwhelming
20 majority of my colleagues are hard working and good
21 and decent men and women that want to do the right
22 things for the people that sent them here. Now more
23 than ever we have to step up and reaffirm that duty
24 and reaffirm that belief, both in Springfield and when

1 we all go back to our districts to tell the people of
2 Illinois, we have heard you, we are fighting for you,
3 and we will continue to do so every day.

4 To the people of Illinois, please don't judge us
5 for the bad acts of one man and one administration.
6 We have been there for you and we will continue to be
7 there for you.

8 Madam Chairman, it is with a sad heart but with
9 sincere optimism for the future of our state that I
10 vote yes.

11 THE CLERK: Hamos.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HAMOS: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair.

14 I join the chorus of others in thanking you and
15 Dave Ellis and Mr. Durkin in a bipartisan and
16 cooperative effort.

17 During these proceedings we have had a chance to
18 reflect on the Illinois Constitution. And I think at
19 times I have been concerned about the vagueness of the
20 Illinois Constitution in not setting forth a specific
21 standard for impeachment. And that's why it became a
22 major responsibility for 21 people here to define that
23 standard. And to me the standard became to be
24 thorough, thoughtful, and fair.

1 Perhaps because I along with my family escaped
2 from a totalitarian country, I am at times cautious
3 about expanding the power of government. But I think
4 -- and that's why I actually have spoken often about
5 the precedent that we are setting here today that
6 would have to survive the generations.

7 We have not had an impeachment in Illinois for
8 176 years, and I sincerely hope that we will not have
9 to have another impeachment for another 176 years.
10 And to me this is a sad and historic day. Sad, not
11 because we are taking an action that is the
12 responsibility of the Illinois legislature, but sad
13 because we have a Governor who has betrayed the public
14 trust.

15 And Madam Chair, with that I vote aye.

16 THE CLERK: Hannig.

17 MR. HANNIG: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman.

18 Let me also applaud the Chairman, the Spokesman
19 and the staff for the good work that they've done as
20 well. The framers of the Constitution gave us powers
21 and duties, and they gave the greatest powers and the
22 greatest duties to the Governor. And I think it's
23 unfortunate that we're here today to examine the
24 shortfalls and the failings of this Governor.

1 But we have duties as members of the legislature
2 to consider what is best for the state of Illinois.
3 And I think we've been here many days, we've heard
4 much evidence, we've asked a lot of questions, and in
5 my mind it's just simply a case where the evidence is
6 overwhelming. And it seems to me that it's anything
7 -- it seems to me that there's no choice but to vote
8 to impeach this Governor.

9 And so, Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,
10 it's a difficult task I think to overturn an election,
11 it's a difficult task to remove someone from office,
12 but indeed we have that obligation as members of the
13 legislature, and we need to live up to our
14 obligations. And so I vote aye.

15 THE CLERK: Howard.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD: Yes, thank you very
17 much, Madam Chairman.

18 I, too, am certainly very appreciate to my
19 colleagues and to our staff for having been willing to
20 assume this awesome responsibility.

21 When I made my opening remarks before this
22 committee I said that I hoped that the proceedings
23 would be fair and impartial. And after days and days
24 of testimony, and reams of documents, I believe that

1 this has been the case. It has been fair, and it has
2 been impartial.

3 The one quandary that I've had throughout this
4 proceeding has been that I am aware that there are
5 many in the districts that I represent and beyond who
6 believe that this Governor is a saint, and they
7 believe it because of the health care program
8 expansions and because of the free rides to seniors.
9 And they tell me that they think those are great
10 things and wonder why we are even doing this.

11 While I think those programs are worthy as well,
12 I think that the end does not justify the means. In
13 fact, many, many rules have been broken. Many laws
14 have been broken. And that's what we have to be
15 concerned with.

16 Therefore, as has been the case with everyone
17 speaking before me, I believe that we should in fact
18 pass this matter over to the Senate. I vote aye.
19 Thank you.

20 THE CLERK: Lang.

21 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you. Let me echo
22 what's been said by many of my colleagues, to
23 Representative Currie, you've done an outstanding job
24 shepherding this committee through these troubled

1 waters.

2 Representative Durkin, you're to be commended as
3 well. And to our staffs, particularly David Ellis and
4 all the other staff members on both sides of the
5 aisle. We could not have finished this process
6 without you.

7 This is a grave and sobering time for the members
8 of this committee. I want to thank all the members of
9 this committee for their diligence, but also those
10 members of the House who are with us today who are not
11 on the committee who are just as invested in this
12 process as we are, just as concerned about the present
13 and future of the state of Illinois as we are, and
14 just as concerned about the rule of law as we are.

15 The Governor took a constitutional oath, as every
16 elected official does and one of our questions,
17 probably the most important question we had to answer
18 was has the Governor violated his constitutional oath?
19 There's been a good amount of debate in this
20 committee, some of it coming from Mr. Genson, relative
21 to the issue of what standard we should hold that
22 question to.

23 The Constitution doesn't refer to clear and
24 convincing evidence, it doesn't refer to probable

1 cause, it doesn't refer to a preponderance of the
2 evidence. It refers to one word, and that word is
3 cause.

4 Whatever cause is to the members of this
5 committee and tomorrow to the members of the House,
6 that's what cause is.

7 But strangely enough, under any standard of
8 proof, this report should be adopted. Whether we use
9 Mr. Genson's strongest words as to what the standard
10 of proof ought to be, the proof adduced in this
11 committee over the last several weeks is well
12 sufficient to satisfy any standard of proof he would
13 put to it.

14 The Governor's violated his oath in all of the
15 ways enumerated in the resolution. The Governor has
16 been involved in an abuse of power well beyond that
17 contemplated by the many members of the House who have
18 been discussing this issue privately for months.
19 You've all heard members of the House talk about
20 impeachment.

21 But I don't think any of us contemplated that we
22 could put a document together that would enumerate
23 seven or eight or nine or ten different grounds, each
24 of which might be grounds for impeachment in and of

1 itself.

2 This has never been about the competence of the
3 Governor, because if it was about competence,
4 impeachment would be rampant. Not every public
5 official is competent. We can't hold people to that
6 standard once they're elected by the people of our
7 districts or of our state. It can't even be about
8 whether we like the guy.

9 It has to be about what the Constitution says,
10 has the Governor violated his constitutional oath, and
11 do we have sufficient proof.

12 The document that was -- is about to be approved
13 is a document that evidences that abuse of power over
14 and over and over again.

15 And it reminds me of a movie I just saw, I saw
16 the movie Frost/Nixon that talked about the interviews
17 of David Frost with Richard Nixon. And at the very
18 fourth and last interview Mr. Frost cornered Mr. Nixon
19 into saying he may have done something wrong. And
20 then he said, "So are you admitting you've done
21 something wrong?" And Mr. Nixon said, "When the
22 President does it, it's not wrong."

23 I think that's the feeling that the Governor of
24 the state of Illinois has about the Constitution, the

1 laws and the people of the state of Illinois. We must
2 return our government to our people and we must
3 restore the faith in our people that our government is
4 here to serve them honestly and openly.

5 And I'm proud to join my colleagues in voting
6 aye.

7 THE CLERK: Mautino.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you. I'd like
9 to also add my compliments to Representative Durkin
10 who represents the minority questions very well, and
11 Representative Currie for her fair handling of the
12 committee.

13 Over the past few weeks we have taken in
14 thousands of pages of documents of information. I
15 think the report has been fairly presented and
16 qualified by hours of testimony and documents that
17 we'll forward to the Senate.

18 This has been a particularly difficult process
19 for the reason that we have had not only the
20 impeachment process going on but simultaneously a
21 criminal case, which sometimes impeded the ability to
22 get information that we would have liked to have.
23 Because there are some members who would like to have
24 those tapes. Further down the road we may actually be

1 able to produce those.

2 But the report itself contains volumes which are
3 qualified and which give a strength and a confidence
4 to go forward with the move of impeaching the Governor
5 in the state of Illinois. And with that I vote aye.

6 THE CLERK: Rose.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you. I, too,
8 share a fondness and a warm thanks to all the staff
9 and everyone who has participated in this. And before
10 I begin I just want to say I find it wonderful that
11 we've had so many citizens come here and sit and
12 listen and watch online. We've seen families bring
13 their kids here. And I hope no matter what happens in
14 the next couple days, that that level of interest in
15 all of state government stays where it has been.

16 With that said, I had hoped that Mr. Adam would
17 have stuck around, because Representative Howard made
18 a note that is not lost on me. Mr. Adam raised the
19 issue of health care at one point in time in the
20 debate.

21 And while the report speaks for itself, it
22 mentions many, many, many acts of the Governor that I
23 find, and it sounds like most of my colleagues on this
24 committee find, rise to the level of impeachment

1 conduct.

2 Those acts have very real consequences on the
3 people of Illinois, and quite frankly have jeopardized
4 the health and safety of the citizens of our state.
5 And whether it's the conduct related to the Health
6 Facilities Planning Board, the decisions about where
7 medical care will be made available or not available,
8 the false promises of flu vaccine, pharmacy
9 inspections that were conducted by people who weren't
10 even licensed to conduct pharmacy inspections in
11 Illinois, it all goes to the heart of what we do as
12 elected officials, and that's to protect citizens.

13 I need not mention as well the repugnance of
14 holding funding for Children's Memorial Hospital
15 hostage in return for campaign contributions. It all
16 goes to that level, the fundamental level of what we
17 do, which is to protect citizens.

18 Before I conclude I want to touch briefly on
19 something Representative Lang mentioned, and that is
20 that we are free to adopt whatever standards and rules
21 we wish as individual members of this committee and
22 the House.

23 I want to specifically note that while Mr. Genson
24 advocated for a particular standard, he himself in

1 testimony throughout the testimony has indicated that
2 we're free to do whatever we want. "It's up to each
3 and every one of you", quoting him now, "to decide
4 whether it's enough and whether it's time, and decide
5 whether in fact it is a basis for impeachment and
6 whether in fact what the standard you have to look at
7 is not a visceral standard but a standard you have to
8 determine." He makes other comments like that
9 throughout the record.

10 He's also asked us in defense of the Governor to
11 look at unsworn documents. I reject that election.
12 We have sworn documents to look at. We have sworn
13 testimony to look at. I'm not sure why we would want
14 to look at things that aren't sworn.

15 To this point in time the Governor's office and
16 Mr. Genson and Mr. Adam, Jr. have failed to produce a
17 document that I've requested related to the
18 downgrading of the state's debt service and -- or
19 excuse me, the state's bond rating.

20 The bottom line is this. They've asked us to do
21 and listen to them. I have listened to them but I
22 don't find them frankly credible.

23 And I'll close with one last fact from the
24 testimony, and this is from the sworn affidavit which

1 goes right to the -- Mr. Genson who urged our
2 committee to reject the wiretap evidence as just
3 jabbering. I don't know if that's a direct quote, but
4 it's pretty close.

5 Page 66 of the affidavit, paragraph 104. On
6 November 11th, 2008, Rod Blagojevich talked with John
7 Harris about the Senate seat. Rod Blagojevich
8 suggested starting a 501(c)(4) organization and
9 getting his, and this is a parenthetical reference to
10 his belief to be the President-elect's friend Warren
11 Buffett or some of those guys to help on something
12 like that. Mr. Harris, the Governor's chief of staff,
13 said, "What, for you?" Governor Blagojevich replied,
14 "Yeah."

15 It frankly doesn't get much clearer than that,
16 hardly jabbering.

17 So with that I will simply conclude by stating
18 that the evidence is overwhelmingly damning. And with
19 that I vote aye.

20 THE CLERK: Sacia.

21 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Madam
22 Chairman.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, when your last name begins
24 with S and you vote alphabetically, anything and

1 everything I had to say has been said, in some cases
2 several times. And so it is with profound respect and
3 admiration for all of you, and certainly for staff,
4 that I vote aye. Thank you.

5 THE CLERK: Tracy.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: As always,
7 Representative Sacia's a tough act to follow, and I'm
8 even further down the line. I think we mentioned that
9 we had great respect for all of our colleagues when we
10 began this process, and I must say my level of respect
11 for each and every one of our representatives and our
12 staff that have helped so much in generating reams of
13 information and reams of volume, I think perhaps we
14 generated about a thousand pages worth of print per
15 day of our hearings. I mean it's just been volumes
16 and volumes.

17 And of course it was a unique timeframe because
18 with the holidays and all, while we wanted to move
19 thoroughly and expeditiously, and we had problems with
20 getting people to come testify and the like with the
21 way the holidays fell and all that.

22 So we've tried to move as well as we could, and
23 as I said, it's just been incredible the amount of
24 information. Most of us carry the reams of paper in a

1 portable running wheeled case these days. But we have
2 been thorough and we have been fair and it has been an
3 honor to serve with all of these colleagues.

4 And I must admit when Representative Franks
5 coined the phrase that we're on a financial abyss in
6 the state, while we were going to hearings and
7 listening to testimony and during breaks, we would
8 answer phone calls. And like many of my colleagues I
9 have gotten calls from the financial straits of
10 nursing homes and dentists who are waiting Medicaid
11 reimbursement.

12 And after listening to the volumes of testimony
13 about the abuse of money spent within this state, it
14 was just -- it's extremely disheartening. But
15 certainly we have seen vast and pervasive acts across
16 so many different agencies.

17 But I must say that this state government is so
18 much more than one person. It's the people of the
19 state of Illinois, the 13 million people that we all
20 of us, the constitutional officers and us legislators,
21 we legislators, took an oath to uphold the
22 Constitution of Illinois and to serve the citizens of
23 Illinois to the best of our ability.

24 And I don't believe this one person, our

1 Governor, has done this. The pervasive acts of
2 misconduct are so overwhelmingly and so pervasive that
3 we can't hardly reach any other conclusion. And we've
4 reached out, we've allowed the Governor to be present,
5 we've bent over backwards to make this a fair process,
6 and we've had no evidence to the contrary brought
7 before us.

8 And that's -- it's a very sad thing that there's
9 nothing to offer in defense of these acts.

10 And but I must say that when I visited with staff
11 of this state and in the different agencies, when
12 you're trying to work with them to figure out, whether
13 it be the Comptroller's office or Public Health and
14 the rank and file workers of this state are trying
15 very hard to make this state continue to operate.

16 And with that I know that there will be a
17 brighter day for the state of Illinois. I appreciate
18 the indulgence of the committee chair in allowing us
19 to bring in Mr. Roland Burris, General Burris, who
20 will most likely be our United States Senator.

21 Because we can't ignore the fact that the
22 appointment of this U.S. Senate seat was so
23 intertwined with the reason that we're here to try to
24 see if there's cause for impeachment, that I think the

1 people of Illinois want very much everything answered.
2 They want answers. They want to believe that we are
3 above reproach and that their U.S. Senator is above
4 reproach.

5 And so I appreciate that indulgence, because I
6 think it completes so much of our process, because it
7 was so intertwined.

8 And with that as I said, it's overwhelmingly in
9 my mind that we should vote aye for this report. And
10 I join in my colleagues in voting aye.

11 THE CLERK: Turner.

12 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Thank you, Madam
13 Chairman, and Co-chair Durkin. To the staff, I like
14 other speakers mentioned, I'm proud of you, the work
15 that you've done. You're to be complimented for the
16 long hours that have been involved here.

17 28 years ago when I was elected to the General
18 Assembly, at that time I had a record that I used to
19 walk around the state saying that I was the youngest
20 African American male elected to serve the state
21 government. It was a record that stood for a few
22 years, and then Cook County President Todd Stroger
23 broke that record.

24 And so records are meant to be broken. It

1 happens all the time in the NFL, it happens in the
2 NBA. To be 28 years later serving on this committee,
3 I'm hoping that this is a record that does not get
4 broken, that we do not have to have another
5 impeachment committee. And I can only pray that Art
6 Turner's name will be here with the other 20 people.
7 But 177 years from now there will be no need for an
8 impeachment committee.

9 I was concerned in this process as some of the
10 members have said earlier in terms of the vagueness of
11 the process, there is no clear definition. One of the
12 things that concerned me were the issues that we're
13 looking at in terms of the abuse of power. It starts
14 back I think looking at some of the documentation
15 we're talking about 2003. We're in 2009 now.

16 So my question to my colleagues is that hopefully
17 we will do something, and I think Representative
18 Fritchey was on the right track with House Bill 1 in
19 terms of trying to bring about some transparency, try
20 to make us a much more ethical body. Not to say that
21 we're not, but just to make certain that the public at
22 least felt that we were doing the right thing.

23 I would hope that the legislature, that we make
24 certain that this thing doesn't go five years. Five

1 years of abuse in this state has led to four billion
2 dollars worth of debt sitting on the Comptroller's
3 desk today, which means there are a number of people
4 in this state who can't pay their mortgage because we
5 have not been able to do our work.

6 There are people who are unemployed, there's
7 substance abuse providers who are not being able to do
8 their duties, mental health providers who are not able
9 to do it. And I can go on and on in terms of the
10 social service arena. Even businesses in this state
11 have suffered as a result of these abuses that have
12 been brought out over the last couple of weeks.

13 I would only hope that the legislature would not
14 wait five years to address these abuses. Because in
15 the long run, it's the people of this state who have
16 suffered, and I can only tell you because I represent
17 some of the poorest of them. They have truly been
18 victimized by this process.

19 But I want to assure them that the members of
20 this committee have done a great job, that the facts
21 are there, and we can only say that it will be a
22 better day, it has been a better day, hopefully it
23 will start today. And I vote aye.

24 CHAIRWOMAN CURRIE: On a vote of 21 voting

1 yes, none voting no, none voting present, the motion
2 is adopted and we will enter it into the record as
3 Committee Exhibit Number 71, the final report of the
4 committee with the resolution, including the articles,
5 and Representation Durkin now moves that the committee
6 stand adjourned. All in favor say aye, opposed no.
7 The ayes have it and the committee stands adjourned.

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