

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011

SESSION OF 2011

195TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 19

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 11 a.m., e.s.t.

**THE SPEAKER (SAMUEL H. SMITH)  
PRESIDING**

#### PRAYER

HON. THADDEUS KIRKLAND, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Good morning.

David proclaimed in the 133d Psalm, he said, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren" and sister "to dwell together in unity!"

As we look to the Lord this morning, let us do so with a unified spirit and a unified heart.

Let us pray:

Our Father and our God, it is once again, O Lord, that we have come into Your presence with thanksgiving, thanking You, O God, for life, for health, for strength; thanking You, O God, for a day that we have never witnessed nor seen before; thanking You, O God, for a day of brand-new mercies; thanking You, O God, for a new day, an opportunity to get it right.

God, as we humble ourselves before You, first and foremost we ask that Your presence, Your Holy Spirit, would be in this place to guide and direct, to give us understanding, clarity of mind and heart.

God, as we bow before You this morning, there are some tough decisions to be made, some might say impossible, some might say hard, but, God, we know that there is nothing too hard for You, and You make the impossible possible.

So, God, we look to You this morning for direction, for guidance and understanding, and pray, O God, that You would place all of that on the hearts of the men and women, these legislators, this Governor, this body, so that it would be pleasing, whatever we do might be pleasing in Your sight.

These and all the blessings we ask in the mighty and miraculous name of Your son. Our soul says, with thanksgiving, "Amen."

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members and visitors.)

### JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Monday, March 7, 2011, will be postponed until printed.

#### BILLS REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

**HB 78, PN 921**

By Rep. ADOLPH

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of homicide by watercraft while operating under influence.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

**HB 145, PN 85**

By Rep. ADOLPH

An Act designating State Route 18 in Big Beaver Borough, Beaver County, as the "Vietnam Veterans of America Memorial Highway."

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

**HB 156, PN 1041**

By Rep. ADOLPH

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the registered gross weight limit of certain registration plates.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

**HB 165, PN 111**

By Rep. ADOLPH

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of cruelty to animals.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

**HB 312, PN 267**

By Rep. ADOLPH

An Act designating U.S. Route 62 in Mercer County as the Mercer County Veterans Highway.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

**HB 442, PN 1040**

By Rep. ADOLPH

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting private transfer fee obligations; and providing for notice and disclosure of existing private transfer fee obligations.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker turns to leaves of absence. Are there requests for leaves of absence? On that, the Chair recognizes the majority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman, Mr. MILNE, from Chester County for the day. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

The minority whip indicates there are no additional requests for leaves of absence.

The members will please report to the floor. We are about to take the master roll call.

**MASTER ROLL CALL**

The SPEAKER. The Chair is about to take the master roll call. The members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

**PRESENT—199**

Adolph	Ellis	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Aument	Emrick	Kotik	Readshaw
Baker	Evankovich	Krieger	Reed
Barbin	Evans, D.	Kula	Reese
Barrar	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Reichley
Bear	Everett	Longietti	Roae
Benninghoff	Fabrizio	Maher	Rock
Bishop	Farry	Mahoney	Roebuck
Bloom	Fleck	Major	Ross
Boback	Frankel	Maloney	Sabatina
Boyd	Freeman	Mann	Saccone
Boyle, B.	Gabler	Markosek	Sainato
Boyle, K.	Galloway	Marshall	Samuelson
Bradford	Geist	Marsico	Santarsiero
Brennan	George	Masser	Santoni
Briggs	Gerber	Matzie	Saylor
Brooks	Gergely	McGeehan	Scavello
Brown, R.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Schroder
Brown, V.	Gillen	Metzgar	Shapiro
Brownlee	Gillespie	Miccarelli	Simmons
Burns	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, K.
Buxton	Godshall	Millard	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Goodman	Miller	Sonney
Carroll	Grell	Mirabito	Staback
Causser	Hackett	Moul	Stephens
Christiana	Hahn	Mullery	Stern
Clymer	Haluska	Mundy	Stevenson
Cohen	Hanna	Murphy	Sturla
Conklin	Harhai	Murt	Swanger
Costa, D.	Harhart	Mustio	Tallman
Costa, P.	Harkins	Myers	Taylor
Cox	Harper	Neuman	Thomas
Creighton	Harris	O'Brien, D.	Tobash
Culver	Heffley	O'Brien, M.	Toepel
Curry	Helm	O'Neill	Toohil
Cutler	Hennessey	Oberlander	Truitt
Daley	Hess	Parker	Turzai
Davidson	Hickernell	Pashinski	Verab
Davis	Hornaman	Payne	Vitali
Day	Hutchinson	Payton	Vulakovich
Deasy	Johnson	Peifer	Wagner
DeLissio	Josephs	Perry	Waters
Delozier	Kampf	Petrarca	Watson
DeLuca	Kauffman	Petri	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kavulich	Pickett	White
DePasquale	Keller, F.	Preston	Williams
Dermoddy	Keller, M.K.	Pyle	Youngblood

DeWeese  
DiGirolamo  
Donatucci  
Dunbar

Keller, W.  
Kirkland  
Knowles

Quigley  
Quinn  
Rapp

Smith, S.,  
Speaker

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—4

Cruz

Grove

Killion

Milne

LEAVES ADDED—1

Readshaw

The SPEAKER. One hundred ninety-nine members having voted on the master roll call, a quorum is present.

Could I have the members' attention? Will they please take their seats.

**LT. MICHAEL O'NEILL AND FAMILY  
INTRODUCED**

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to call the members' attention to a guest and a family of a guest, I guess, actually, that we have located to the left of the Speaker. The Speaker welcomes Lt. Michael O'Neill, who will begin his third overseas tour of duty in the past 5 years.

With Lieutenant O'Neill are his wife, Celine, and his daughters, Caitlin, Nuala, and Keely. Lieutenant O'Neill's wife and daughters began a program that resulted in hundreds of thousands of books being delivered to Afghani children. They are the guests of Representative Mike Gerber.

The Speaker would recognize the gentleman, Mr. Gerber, for quick remarks under unanimous consent.

Mr. GERBER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This, obviously, is a very important day for all of us here in Pennsylvania, but I think this family will help remind all of us that there are many other issues not just here in our great nation but around the world that, dare I say, are probably more important than even those matters we will fight over the next several months.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be joined here today by Lt. Michael O'Neill and his family – his wife, Celine, and his daughters, Caitlin, Nuala, and Keely.

Lieutenant O'Neill is an Army reservist and, as you mentioned, Mr. Speaker, about to start his third stint on duty in the last 5 years. He has been away from home for 22 of the last 36 months, and as I am sure all of you in the chamber can relate, his daughters have missed him and his wife, Celine, has missed having him, but they have displayed a special spirit of service and sacrifice that few of us get to see on a daily basis, the grit that has defined the United States, and instead of sulking back home, Mr. Speaker, these amazing women – and you can see them down in the Speaker's gallery – they asked what more they could do. Lieutenant O'Neill, serving in Panjshir, Afghanistan, gave them their answer. He shared with them how few resources Afghani children have and how literacy is a major challenge in Afghanistan.

So with the help of their mom, Celine, the girls started raising money at school so they could start their own literacy program for the children in Afghanistan. It resulted initially in the production and shipment of more than 280,000 children's books based on traditional Afghani folktales and translated into native Afghani languages Dari and Pashto. Since then, the effort has been supported by the State Department, and now more than 2.4 million children's books have been shipped to the children in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant O'Neill, we thank you for your service. Celine, Caitlin, Nuala, and Keely, we thank you for your extraordinary contributions. Your can-do attitude is a wonderful inspiration for all of us here in this chamber. We all thank you. The people of Pennsylvania thank you.

And, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to call on the entire chamber to join me in applauding this remarkable family – Lieutenant O'Neill, his wife and his daughters. Thank you all very much.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker also would like to extend his thanks to you all for your service to our country and for the spirited way in which you face the adversity. Thank you very much, all of you.

## COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR

### REQUEST FOR JOINT SESSION

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication in writing from the office of His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Office of the Governor  
Harrisburg

February 22, 2011

The Honorable Samuel H. Smith  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Office of the Speaker  
P.O. Box 202066  
139 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2066

Dear Speaker Smith:

If it meets with the approval of the General Assembly, I am respectfully requesting a Joint Session of the General Assembly on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of addressing the Members for the annual budget address.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,  
Tom Corbett  
Governor

## RESOLUTION

### COMMITTEE TO ESCORT GOVERNOR

Mr. TURZAI offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives  
March 8, 2011

RESOLVED, That the Speaker appoint a committee of three to escort the Governor to the Hall of the House for the purpose of attending a Joint Session of the General Assembly.

### COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker appoints as a committee to wait upon the Governor, the gentleman from Monroe, Mr. Scavello; the gentleman from Allegheny, Mr. Saccone; the gentleman from Allegheny, Mr. Dom Costa.

The committee will proceed with the performance of its duties.

### ARRIVAL OF SENATE

The SPEAKER. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House. Members and guests will please rise.

The House will come to order.

The Speaker recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate is now present in the hall of the House.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

The Speaker requests the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Jim Cawley, to preside over the proceedings of the joint session of the General Assembly.

The President pro tem of the Senate, the Honorable Joe Scarnati, is invited to be seated at the rostrum.

The members of the House and Senate will please be seated.

### JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (JIM CAWLEY) PRESIDING

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The House will come to order. The members will take their seats.

This being the day and hour agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives to hear an address by His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Tom Corbett, this joint session will please come to order.

The General Assembly will be at ease while we await the Governor.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ESCORTING GOVERNOR

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. It was a short wait.  
The General Assembly will come to order.

The Governor is entering the hall of the House. Members and guests, please rise.

The Chair recognizes the chair of the committee to escort the Governor, the gentleman from Lycoming County, Senator Yaw.

Mr. YAW. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the General Assembly, as chairman of the committee to escort the Governor, I would like to report that the Governor, His Excellency, is present and is prepared to address this joint session.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks Chairman Yaw and the committee.

Members of the General Assembly, I now have the honor and privilege of presenting His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, who will now address us in joint session. Governor Corbett.

## FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET ADDRESS OF GOV. TOM CORBETT

The GOVERNOR. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Please, please be seated.

Speaker Smith, President Pro Tem Scarnati, Lieutenant Governor Cawley, members of the Cabinet, Cabinet designees, leaders of both the Democratic and Republican Caucuses, members of the General Assembly, and distinguished guests:

This chamber has seen many distinguished leaders in the past years. One of them, a friend of my father, a friend of my family, a friend of Pennsylvania, died last week. His name was Jack Seltzer. He was raised in the soil of the Keystone State and returned home from the service with a new bride, a determination to restart his family's business, and a desire to make this State better. As a college student, I knew Jack when my father worked for the State government. I admired him, I learned from him, and I hardly think I am alone in saying that we in Pennsylvania will miss him.

I would like to ask each of you to take a moment to remember the former Speaker of the House, Jack Seltzer.

(A moment of silence was observed.)

The GOVERNOR. Thank you.

There are 12 million Pennsylvanians. They come in all ages, all races, all backgrounds. They serve abroad and they serve at home. One of them is here today. Lt. Michael O'Neill is a member of the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion of the Army Reserve. Lieutenant O'Neill, I think you are in the back of the room. Is that correct? Lieutenant O'Neill.

Mr. Speaker, if I heard your comment correctly earlier, he has served two tours and is about to head to his third tour of duty in Afghanistan. What I guess that also means is that his wife, Celine, and his daughters, Caitlin, Nuala, and Keely, have done a few tours as well, but they did something more. They worked with their schools, Merion Elementary and the Overbrook Presbyterian Church, to have two books, "The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water" and "The Boy Without a

Name," translated, and then they had nearly 300,000 copies of those books sent to Afghanistan, a place where literacy, like freedom, remains an important goal. Lieutenant O'Neill and his family, they, you, represent a window into the soul of our people. It is big and generous and built on courage and generosity of our land.

I hope that this Assembly, and I am sure you do, join with me in thanking Lieutenant O'Neill and his family for serving this State, this nation, and for showing the Afghan people what Americans truly are. Thank you, Lieutenant.

I am here today to talk with you about the future, about the future of Pennsylvania and how to reach it. The path to that future takes us through a present time that is fraught with troubles. No other General Assembly or Governor has faced the budget challenges that now lie before us. As we begin the 195th session of the General Assembly, and my first budget, we confront an undeniable reality:

A nation that once produced wealth beyond calculation has now produced debt beyond reckoning. The day of reckoning has come. We, together, have work to do.

Our country has gone through a hard recession. And recessions hit State government hardest. People lose jobs. They go on unemployment rolls. Or the welfare rolls. Sales tax revenues fall because nobody is buying. Because nobody is buying, sales clerks and manufacturing workers lose their jobs. And everything spirals. State government is the safety net. That is our job. And we have caught so many of the falling that our net is stretched to breaking.

We entered this year more than \$4 billion in debt. For the present, I bring you a budget that has two underlying messages:

One: We have to spend less. Because we have less to spend.

Two: We must tax no more. Because the people have no more to give.

As to the future, the message is this:

If we find a way to reinvent ourselves, in how we do business, in how we grow jobs, in how we treat our citizens, in how we spend other people's money, we will – to borrow a phrase from William Faulkner – not only endure but prevail. We will grow as an economy, as a commonwealth, as a people.

But to do this we have to change the culture of this place. It means we stop the one-time fixes and gimmicks that have barely held the machine of government together. It is time to peel off the duct tape and get to work on what is broken underneath.

The General Assembly has a crucial role to play in this task. We need to share ideas, to build on each other's strengths. This recession is not going to last forever. If we do the hard things necessary when we are in a windless spot on this ocean, the breeze that is sure to follow will move us all the faster. We need to deal with our problems at the same time we plan for success. And we need to do it now.

In many ways what we need to do is the same as reviving an abandoned apple tree. If the tree is not tended and the branches pruned, the tree will grow into a tangle of limbs and leaves. But it will bear no fruit. We need to take this tree, so long overgrown, and cut back what is not fruitful. And we need to do that essential pruning on all branches of government. We need to do the hard cutting so that the tree can once again bear fruit. And that fruit is jobs.

The substance of this budget is built on four core principles: fiscal discipline, limited government, free enterprise, and reform.

Fiscal discipline means no new spending. It is our road to limited government. It means a return to free enterprise, where business and industry and labor are no longer hobbled by needless restrictions and strangled by reflexive taxation. If we are to create jobs, we have to stop looking for reasons not to allow something. We need to find ways to make things work, to make jobs grow. It is easy to find a reason to spend. Now we have a reason to stop.

The substance of the budget is at once sweeping and detailed. This budget sorts the must-haves from the nice-to-haves. Some of the cuts were expenditures in the thousands. Some ran into the millions. Many programs have been combined for greater efficiency.

It preserves the core functions of government while moving to take government out of places it has no business or is not needed or simply fails to perform compared to the efficiencies of the market.

In past years we have seen one-time gimmicks and sleights of hand. Harrisburg raided the Rainy Day Fund. It is gone. And it is still raining. They have applied Federal stimulus money to the operating budget. The only thing it stimulated was the appetite to spend more. The growth in spending and borrowing surpassed inflation, surpassed economic growth, and long ago surpassed the citizens' ability to pay for it all.

Some have suggested a modest tax increase to fix this quandary. I see three problems with this idea. First, tax increases only seem modest to the people collecting them. The people paying them – the sales clerks and millwrights, the farmers, the moms and pops who run the corner stores – ask them if a tax hike ever seems modest. A one-time tax hike becomes a two-time increase, then three, then somehow it is permanent. Think of the Johnstown flood tax. It was passed to help that city recover from the flood of 1936. That was 75 years ago. That is what happens to temporary taxes: One-time fixes become permanent burdens.

The second problem is that tax increases choke growth. Every credible study on the subject has taught us this: The States that have grown the fastest, attracted the most jobs, have stayed out of the way. If you tax less, people will see the point in earning more. If you regulate more sensibly, businesses will be able to maneuver in the turns of tight economies.

The third reason not to increase taxes is pretty simple. The voters said no. We are 4 months out from the election that sent us here. It was run on a three-part theme: jobs, jobs, and jobs. And every time someone was asked about new taxes, they, particularly me, gave a three-part answer: no, no, and no. It is time to connect the dots. So to the people of Pennsylvania, the taxpayers who sent us here, I want to say something you have not heard often enough from this building: We get the picture. It is your money.

The option I have chosen is to reduce the size and cost of State government. I am proposing something we have not had in a long time: a reality-based budget. The electorate, its trust scraped to the bone by lies and half-truths, is not going to stand for another broken promise. I said we would cut. I am not asking you to read my lips. I am asking you to read my budget.

And you can read my budget online, from your home.

My administration created an online budget "dashboard." People can log on and view the entire budget in a reader-friendly form. You will be able to see for yourself how

we propose to spend your money. You can track the revenue source. You can check every department's spending, where it came from, where it is going, and why. There is a reason I call it the "dashboard." It is time the tax-paying citizen felt as if he or she were in the driver's seat.

This marks the year that Federal stimulus money ends. Harrisburg used much of that money to patch up the education budget. Now it is gone. Washington gave and Washington took away. Amid cuts and recession we have found a way to keep basic education funding at the same level it held before the Federal stimulus. Washington might be retreating. We are not. All the same, I am here to say that education cannot be the only industry exempt from recession. Our public schools do important work and part of that work must include setting an example. I am calling on the employees of our public schools – administrators, teachers, support workers, everyone – to hold the line. If it means a pay freeze, trust me, you will have plenty of company out there to keep you warm.

With unemployment running over 8 percent, working people across the State are going without pay raises. Or they are giving back to keep their companies afloat. They are investing their faith and patience in the future of their jobs. We need to ask something of our educators.

Our calculations show that if public school employees across the State agreed to a 1-year freeze on pay increases, we could save school districts \$400 million. That is \$400 million in arts and music programs saved. That is \$400 million in programs spared from cuts. That is \$400 million toward making next year's budget less about cutting back and more about moving forward, at little pain to those sharing the sacrifice.

I am also calling on employees in the State System of Higher Education to consider sacrifice. I am asking nothing more of our best educated people than to face up to a hard economic reality. The system in which you have flourished is in trouble. We cannot save it by individual efforts. The sacrifice must be collective, as will be the ultimate rewards.

Now, we all know there is an elephant in the room when it comes to education funding: the property tax. Too often we have seen school boards raise property taxes to avoid the hard and necessary choices. It is human nature. When you are spending someone else's money, it is easier to say yes than no. I believe any new property tax increases beyond inflation should be put on the ballot. If school boards cannot say no, maybe the taxpayers will. Let us listen to the taxpayers on this one.

At the same time we need to give school boards some breathing room. There are too many mandates that tie the hands of local school boards. This administration is committed to curbing these mandates, including one that violates every law of economics: the inability to furlough employees when there is not enough money to pay them. It puts the entire enterprise of public education at risk.

If government is here to share the taxpayer's wealth, then everyone needs to share in the sacrifice. Educators, Pennsylvanians await your decision.

This fiscal crisis is a time to rethink State spending on higher education. Despite State subsidies over the past decades, tuition has continued to increase. If the intent was to keep tuition rates down, it failed. We need to find a new model. When it comes to higher education, we should do the same thing that we do in basic education: The dollars should follow the student. It is their money.

Pennsylvania needs to rethink how best to educate our children. We simply cannot work within a broken system. We need to change the whole system. We need a new set of priorities: the child, the parent, the teacher – and in that order. What we have now in too many places are schools that do not work. Families are trapped in failing schools, or schools that are a bad fit. We need to develop a system of portable education funding; something a student can take with him or her to the school that best fits their needs. One size does not fit all. But as it stands now, not all get to choose. Let us give them school choice.

In Welfare, my budget retains the core services to care for our needy. At the same time it puts the brakes on a runaway train of spending. My administration is committed to caring for the eligible poor, and this budget reflects that commitment.

This budget is also framed in the reality that a great measure of our cost is in our unionized State workforce of 62,000 people. They are employees of the public. They deserve a fair wage for a fair day's work. They, too, know that we are in financial straits. My administration is ready to negotiate. Each side, each side must understand the need of the other. We are looking to reach a solution.

We enter collective bargaining fully aware of the hard realities of this economy. We are counting on our unions to recognize those realities as well. Many States, governed by Democrats and Republicans alike, face the same fiscal problems.

Even in California, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed to cut take-home pay for State employees by 8 to 10 percent. His own words were: "We have no choice" and that California must "return to fiscal responsibility and get our State on the road to economic recovery and job growth."

It is no different here. The recession does not have a political party. It has hit Democrats and Republicans alike. And just as the recession knows no political creed, the solution must be all-embracing.

In Pennsylvania we cannot keep asking taxpayers to cover increased salaries and health-care benefits for public-sector employees when those taxpayers are losing the same.

Here are some very serious numbers. Since June of 2004, State government salaries have risen from a median average of \$39,037 to \$45,105. By comparison, the median average earnings for a Pennsylvanian working in a for-profit business as a wage or salary employee stood at \$32,239. And since the recession began, the State's union employees have seen annual increases. The private sector – the taxpayers – has seen its average income stagnate. Commonwealth employees contribute, on average, 3 percent of their salary towards health-care benefits. The taxpayer covers the balance. In the private sector, employees with health care contribute twice as much toward the cost of health-care coverage.

With that in mind, we will be looking for salary rollbacks and freezes from State employees as well as asking them to increase their contributions for health-care benefits. We also need to start the conversation about the necessary repairs to the public retirement system.

I want to be clear about this to our union leaders. Collective bargaining does not mean some ill-defined middle ground. It means finding the spot where things work. In this case it is going to have to work for the good of the taxpayer or it is not going to work at all. Let us find that place. Let us meet there. Let us keep things working. Neither side need lose for the

taxpayers to win. We need to act on our financial challenges now, before they act on us.

Some of you are probably scouring the budget just now in search of some pet project, commonly called WAMs – "walking-around moneys."

It is not there, plain and simple.

In recent years the Department of Community and Economic Development, we all know as DCED, has been a hunting ground for assorted nice-to-haves that were especially nice to have when looking for a few votes back home. We cannot afford that. We never really could. That kind of spending is part of what brought us to this moment.

What we have done at DCED is to streamline an agency that, frankly, looked like the back of an old radio. It had parts running every which way, a labyrinth of programs. Too many good ideas entered at one end and never found their way through the wires. Where once there were 127 programs, there are now 56. I think it is a manageable number and a better way of keeping track. Additionally, we have straight-out eliminated line items that produced little more than spending. We have set a goal. We are looking for results. We are looking for new jobs, not votes.

My budget combines the Commonwealth Financing Authority with all other DCED loan funds. We call it the Liberty Loan Fund, and liberating it is. Where once a business owner needed a Sherpa guide to find his way through the mountains of financing rules, trying to figure out where his job-creating business is and where it fit, this budget puts it under one roof. It is a one-stop shop. We have combined stray items that were hard to measure into the Regional Economic Partnership, and it works this way: Instead of individual favors, we are trying a market approach. Economic development agencies and providers will compete for taxpayer dollars. If you have a winning idea, you will win our backing.

But government is not meant to be the answer for jobs. The private sector is. The Marcellus Shale discovery, a natural resource deposit that rivals the ages of coal and oil, is a great example.

Limited government means not mistaking someone else's property for your own. There has been much pressure to tax the gas being drawn from the Marcellus Shale. The Marcellus is a resource, a source of potential wealth, the foundation of a new economy – not just something new to tax.

Pennsylvania can become a center not just of resources but a center of the industry that backs up those resources. For every pipe running a mile underground, we should have jobs at distribution centers, at refineries, at shipping ports, and at the offices and companies that run them.

These resources, by the way, belong to the people who own the mineral rights. Those people are getting their fair share by working out their own leases with the companies doing the drilling. That is how it should be. That is the American way. What Pennsylvanians will gain is jobs, the spinoffs, and if we do not scare off these industries with new taxes, the follow-up that comes along. Because you see, underneath the Marcellus Shale is another bonanza. It is called the Utica Shale. And where Marcellus promises 50 years of energy, the Utica promises riches going into the next century. Let us make Pennsylvania the hub of this boom. Just as the oil companies decided to headquarter in one of a dozen States with oil, let us make Pennsylvania the Texas of the natural gas boom. I am determined that Pennsylvania not lose this moment. We have

the chance to get it right the first time, the chance to grow our way out of the hard days.

And with that in mind, I have asked my very capable Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley to lead a Marcellus Shale Commission to oversee how we can build around this new industry, how we can make certain we do this while protecting our lands, our drinking water, our air, and our communities, all the while growing our workforce. I have directed Jim and the commission to get back to me with findings in 120 days.

Another means of keeping out of the way is tort reform. It is tough enough to start a business and fight the marketplace. You should not have to fight every lawyer with enough money to put up a billboard. Legal liability costs scare jobs away. The way the law stands now, a person or a business can be 2 percent responsible for someone's injury and another party 98 percent responsible. But if that real culprit can evade payment, the minor party is stuck paying the full bill. That is irrational. It is unjust. And it has got to end. We need to change that aspect of tort law. The General Assembly has passed this reform before. I am asking you, pass it again. You now have a Governor who will sign it.

Just as we need to balance the scales of justice, we need to straighten out another imbalance. Pennsylvania is now ranked as the 10th worst State in terms of State and local tax burdens. In the past 8 years the number of unemployed here has increased by 47 percent. In the last 7 years alone the State lost 25 percent of its jobs in manufacturing. There is no escaping the obvious. We tax too much and for our troubles we get fewer and fewer jobs.

We must eliminate the capital stock and franchise tax – a tax on the supplies and goods job creators need in order to make the wares they sell. In today's economy it is like taxing recession. What you sell, we tax. What you cannot sell, we will tax that, too. It does not work. It does not enrich the State. Instead of killing debt, it kills jobs. This budget continues the phaseout of this harmful tax.

My budget retains an array of tax credits, not as a favor to business, but as a promise to their workers. New and growing industries, like the film industry that is growing up around Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, need a government that knows enough not to shout "cut" in the middle of production, finally.

The film tax credit, which we are retaining – and never thought to do otherwise – will attract jobs and pump money from outside the State into our economy.

The research and development tax credit does the same. So my budget increases it. The computer industries springing up along the banks of the Monongahela, the pharmaceutical firms ringing Philadelphia, the chemical firms, the agricultural firms – all these deserve a break, so they can develop the next generation of medicines, the newest innovation in Apple computers or Microsoft programs. With these innovations they will create the next generation of jobs. And jobs are what it is all about.

Government cannot create jobs. And when it tries, it usually makes a mess of it. Industries are built on a singular vision, not by committee. My administration is committed to a study that looks at how best to get us out of a business we should never have entered. I am talking about the liquor business. This is not about the money. It is about the principle. Government should no more run the liquor stores than it should run the pharmacies and the gas stations. Businesses and its opportunities belong to the people.

With that in mind, I am announcing a new Governor's task force on privatization. This panel will explore what jobs now performed by government might better be done by the private sector. The task force is not there to eliminate government; it is there to eliminate unnecessary government. It is there to make sure that when government can get out of the way, it does so.

However, however, if there is one place you sometimes want government, it is on a lonely road, late at night, when your car breaks down. Or you have had an accident. Or, God forbid, you have been preyed upon by a criminal. We need police. We need firemen. We need corrections officers and probation officers. We need that protection, plain and simple.

This budget accounts for that.

To maintain our full complement of State Police, I have budgeted for two State Police cadet classes this year and another next year.

You know my background. I know, too, that crime often costs us long after justice is done. In 1993 Pennsylvania had 24,000 men and women in its prisons. Today that number is over 50,000. This number speaks to a failure. Sometimes it is a failure in our schools, or in our society, but ultimately in the personal character of the criminal. We need to fund additional parole officers to help freed inmates make the transition from the prison yard to Main Street.

We need to think smarter about how and when and how long to jail people. We need to be tough on crime, but we also need to consider the fiscal implications of our prison system. Last month my administration canceled a prison project in Fayette County. We do not need it and we cannot afford it. We also cannot afford to ask our counties in our State to subsist on a prison-based economy. We need industries that generate wealth, not sorrow.

Two hundred years ago a group of English poets talked of building a utopian community along the banks of the Susquehanna River. It was their dream to come to Penn's Woods and flourish. They never made it here. Maybe they heard about our property taxes.

One of their friends was the poet William Wordsworth. He identified the dangers of a culture of spending. He wrote, "Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers...."

"Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers...." Note the subtlety there. It is not that we use up our powers. We lay them waste. We lose them outright. Getting and spending, we lose track of our real purpose.

Our job is not to spend. It is to conserve.

Our job is not to buy off our problems. It is to solve our problems.

Government will never be cost-free. But it must be freed from the culture of churning through cash that farmers and clerks and millhands and nurses earned dollar by dollar.

They know the value of their money better than we do. We need to be better stewards of their wealth. We must spend no more than we have. We must not lay waste our powers by breaking the bank. We must not lay waste our powers by breaking our word. We said we would fix this mess. And we will.

Every day, in the office you have entrusted to me, I look up from my desk at a long row of paintings – portraits of the first leaders of Pennsylvania. William Penn, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, look down on that room. I can only think of how they dealt with the struggles of their era: Dickinson on whether to break with Great Britain; Franklin on how to unlock

the mysteries of the world around him; Penn who called his settlement, this settlement, a Holy Experiment.

Like those men, we – and every generation – have a responsibility to today and a responsibility to the future. But our generation has an added responsibility: a responsibility to the past, to the sacred trust and to the Holy Experiment that these people passed on to us. It was passed to the hands of the men and women of Pennsylvania who stood and died with Abraham Lincoln's vision of an undivided Republic 150 years ago. It was passed to the people who built the railroads, forged the steel, tilled the soil and fought the wars – the people who made this State wealthy and kept it free.

We have an obligation to get things right, to set straight that which is crooked, to balance scales too long tipped out of balance by the quick fix and the easy answer.

So it is time to give an account of our stewardship.

Let us sit down and deal with the present so we can build the future in a way that respects our past.

Let us build a new Pennsylvania.

Thank you very much.

### JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair asks the members of the House and visitors to please remain seated for just a moment while the members of the Senate leave the hall of the House.

The business for which this joint session has been assembled having been transacted, the session is now adjourned.

### THE SPEAKER (SAMUEL H. SMITH) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER. The House will be in order.

### MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives held this 8th day of March 2011 be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER. This House stands in recess till 1:30, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

### AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

## HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

### No. 946 By Representative GOODMAN

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in general budget implementation, further providing for the State Gaming Fund.

Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, March 8, 2011.

### No. 969 By Representatives GOODMAN, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, FABRIZIO, GEORGE, GIBBONS, HARKINS, KULA, MURT, REICHLEY, SCAVELLO, SWANGER and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for Public School Employees' Retirement Board.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 8, 2011.

### No. 970 By Representatives LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DEASY, FLECK, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, HALUSKA, HENNESSEY, KOTIK, MARSHALL, MIRABITO, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, REICHLEY, K. SMITH and WHITE

An Act providing for the validity of electronic documents; authorizing county recorders of deeds to receive electronic documents as a means for recording real property; granting powers and duties to the county recorders of deeds; establishing the Electronic Recording Commission; and prescribing standards of uniformity.

Referred to Committee on COMMERCE, March 8, 2011.

### No. 972 By Representatives GOODMAN, DENLINGER, FABRIZIO, GODSHALL, KORTZ, KULA, MURT, QUINN, READSHAW, REICHLEY and TOBASH

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Game Commission, further providing for organization of commission and for meetings of commission.

Referred to Committee on GAME AND FISHERIES, March 8, 2011.

### No. 974 By Representatives PERRY, AUMENT, BARRAR, BOYD, COX, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, EVERETT, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GILLEN, GROVE, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, METCALFE, MULLERY, PICKETT, ROCK, SCHRODER, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TRUITT, VULAKOVICH and DENLINGER

An Act establishing spending limitations on the Commonwealth; providing for the disposition of surplus funds; establishing the Taxpayer Protection Fund; and repealing provisions of The Fiscal Code relating to the funding of a stabilization reserve.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 8, 2011.



**No. 975** By Representatives BISHOP, ROEBUCK, HARKINS, THOMAS, WAGNER, YOUNGBLOOD, CRUZ and JOHNSON

An Act providing for a comprehensive interagency plan for child day-care services and early childhood development services and for the powers and duties of the Department of Public Welfare.

Referred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 8, 2011.

**No. 976** By Representatives BISHOP, BOYD, DAVIS, DALEY, CARROLL, CALTAGIRONE, JOSEPHS, M. K. KELLER, LONGIETTI, MURPHY, MURT, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, STABACK, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WAGNER and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act providing for tax incentives for employers who provide child day-care services for employees.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 8, 2011.

**No. 977** By Representatives BISHOP, HESS, THOMAS and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, further providing for unlawful discriminatory practices.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 8, 2011.

**No. 978** By Representatives BISHOP and M. O'BRIEN

An Act authorizing employment of certain persons as drug and alcohol counselors based solely on their previous work or life experience; abrogating a regulation; and making inconsistent repeals.

Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES, March 8, 2011.

**No. 979** By Representatives BISHOP, LONGIETTI, MANN, CALTAGIRONE, HORNAMAN, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS and MURT

An Act requiring landlords to grant medical access; providing for termination of residential leases for terminal or mental illness; and making an inconsistent repeal.

Referred to Committee on CONSUMER AFFAIRS, March 8, 2011.

**No. 980** By Representatives BISHOP, YOUNGBLOOD, THOMAS, McGEEHAN, MICOZZIE, MURT, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN and CALTAGIRONE

An Act providing for formal recognition by the Governor of Native American bands or clans, nations and tribes indigenous to Pennsylvania; providing for certification of Native American organizations; establishing the Commission on Native American Affairs; conferring powers and duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development; and imposing a penalty.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 8, 2011.

**No. 981** By Representatives BISHOP, DAVIS, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE, W. KELLER, JOSEPHS, MICOZZIE, MURPHY, MURT, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, STABACK, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WAGNER and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, providing for violence programs.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 8, 2011.

**No. 1050** By Representatives HARHAI, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, HORNAMAN, KAVULICH, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MURT, STURLA and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for temporary special aid to school districts suffering loss of tax revenue due to bankruptcy of businesses in the school district; and providing for temporary special aid to school districts suffering loss of payment in lieu of taxes from local sources.

Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, March 8, 2011.

## SENATE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following bills for concurrence:

### SB 159, PN 440

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 8, 2011.

### SB 369, PN 392

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 8, 2011.

## SENATE MESSAGE

### RECESS RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,  
March 7, 2011

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, April 4, 2011, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,  
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?  
Resolution was concurred in.  
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

### **RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

**HR 42, PN 216** By Rep. DiGIROLAMO

A Resolution urging the Department of Health to revise its disease monitoring practices in this Commonwealth.

HUMAN SERVICES.

### **BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

**HB 140, PN 1057 (Amended)** By Rep. DiGIROLAMO

An Act establishing the Methadone Death and Incident Review Team and providing for its powers and duties; and imposing a penalty.

HUMAN SERVICES.

### **BILL REPORTED AND REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**HB 152, PN 90** By Rep. DiGIROLAMO

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, further providing for application for registration certificate, for issuance of registration certificate and for records; providing for disclosure; and further providing for emergency closure.

Reported from Committee on HUMAN SERVICES with request that it be rereferred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the bill will be so rereferred.

The members will please report to the floor. We are about to take up today's calendar.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker returns to leaves of absence and recognizes the minority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman, Mr. READSHAW, from Allegheny County for the day. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

The House will come to order.

### **STATEMENT BY MR. ADOLPH**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority Appropriations chairman, Mr. Adolph, for comments in response to the Governor's budget address.

The members will please take their seats.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. ADOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let me begin by reflecting on some of the best advice I have ever received when I first arrived here in Harrisburg from a good friend and mentor, the late Speaker Matthew J. Ryan. He told me that the most significant procedure as a legislator is the adoption of the Pennsylvania State budget and the most important vote we make is the vote for Pennsylvania's annual spending plan. I have come to learn the significance of that advice, and I accept that responsibility. Pennsylvanians deserve an open and transparent budget process and they deserve an on-time budget, and that is what they will get.

Our time to confront reality has arrived. Today our reality is comprised of many challenges requiring difficult decisions, a fragile economy that will call for all of us to work together to move Pennsylvania forward on a sustainable track.

Governor Corbett has inherited a difficult set of circumstances, perhaps an unprecedented host of issues ranging from significant drops in revenue and high rates of unemployment. These challenges require innovative solutions, the ability to exercise restraint, and the difficult task of setting Commonwealth priorities. Presenting a budget that is financially sustainable, realistic, and a budget that does not raise taxes will be the best way to return Pennsylvania to prosperity.

We have to adapt to a new economic environment, one with limited resources and an environment that demands all of us to find a new way of doing business. As we look towards the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Commonwealth is on track to endure the largest percentage loss of dollars that support our General Fund in over 20 years. Moreover, we have to confront these challenges during a delicate time. Unemployment slowly is recovering and businesses are actively picking up, and we must not hinder either of these fragile gains.

As we speak, Pennsylvania businesses – you know them – the small mom-and-pop businesses, and families are fighting tooth and nail to regain the financial ground lost during the Great Recession. Pennsylvania taxpayers know that unsustainable government spending has led us to the crossroads that we are today, and they are demanding that we live within our means as they do every day when they sit around their kitchen table and try to figure out which bill to pay first. Taxpayers are calling for us to do more with less, eliminate wasteful spending, and ensure every tax dollar is spent efficiently. In addition to the reality of losing nearly \$3 billion of Federal stimulus funds, we are also forced to confront the reality of the boom years earlier in this decade. State spending grew entirely too fast to a level that is unacceptable to our taxpayers.

A look at our State spending figures paints a remarkable picture. In the 2002-2003 fiscal year, Pennsylvania was spending a little more than \$20 billion. Just imagine, in Governor Rendell's last budget address, he proposed \$1 billion in new taxes to be kept in a lock box along with a \$29 billion spending plan. After much debate the Governor signed a \$28 billion spending plan. This increase in spending over the past 8 years nets out to a 37-percent increase. During that same period, Mr. Speaker, the average Pennsylvania worker only saw their wages increase by 21 percent, the same as the Consumer Price Index, a similar 21 percent.

This is not ideology. This is basic math. Our economy has grown by 21 percent over the last 8 years. However, State government spending has grown by a staggering 37 percent. There is no other way to describe this other than unsustainable,

unfair, and unmanageable for Pennsylvania residents. Governor Corbett's presentation makes it clear that there is no easy way to balance this budget, but we have no option.

We must understand that with the expiration of Federal stimulus dollars, there are no other life preservers that we can latch on to to help us sustain this current level of spending. We must realign the Pennsylvania State budget to a point where spending matches the revenues.

We are not alone. These are very difficult times across the nation. The Wall Street Journal recently compiled a comprehensive report on State budget deficits across the nation and documented how the States are dealing with these fiscal challenges. The figures are compelling, and the report outlines the toll the Great Recession has taken on our State economies and the challenges created with the expiration of the stimulus funds.

Forty-seven States have reported deficits in the year 2011, and of those reporting data for 2012, 43 States are expected to have a budget deficit for next year. What is the way the States are deciding to address these fiscal challenges? All have a common theme: cut spending. That is the common theme. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that most of these States have chosen reductions rather than higher taxes and higher fees. Why? Because the taxpayers made it clear that they will not tolerate tax increases.

The message from the taxpayers has been consistent in nearly every State. I met with a group of legislators in Philadelphia about a month ago, similar positions on the Appropriations Committee, and I learned the problems that the State of Illinois had; the State of North Carolina had; the State of New York had; California, which is a country by itself. I left that meeting feeling pretty good when I looked at our budget, but we are very fortunate here in Pennsylvania. We have industries that are coming into our State that are bringing jobs to areas of our State that have wrestled with staggering unemployment for years. These industries represent a tremendous opportunity that will be transformational for Pennsylvania. We must work with these industries to develop jobs. That is what we are hearing when we are talking to our neighbors and our family members. We need jobs; we need good, sustainable jobs.

We also can be encouraged by the fact that Governor Corbett has clearly recognized the need for Pennsylvania to finally take steps to give our school districts the flexibility they need to bring innovation to their districts. The Governor's plan to peel back unfunded mandates should be recognized as a significant priority, and we must all work together to deliver those results without haste. If we want to keep school property taxes under control, we need to eliminate the unfunded mandates that have come out of this House and the Senate over the last 25 years.

The Governor's proposal is a blueprint that will serve as a starting point to begin the conversation needed to align the priorities most important to the citizens of Pennsylvania with a realistic spending plan. The budget hearings that will follow in the days ahead will help us better understand the Governor's priorities while considering the needs of Pennsylvania citizens. Today the Governor's budget proposal sets the parameters that will guide this conversation along a new path. Governor Corbett made it clear that we will determine the available revenues and craft a spending plan around these figures just like each family does in Pennsylvania, just like each small business and large corporations do in Pennsylvania. This approach, Mr. Speaker,

will be good for the taxpayers; this approach will be good for businesses, small and large; and this approach will be good for Pennsylvania's future.

Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

### STATEMENT BY MR. MARKOSEK

The SPEAKER. The Speaker now recognizes the minority Appropriations chairman, Mr. Markosek.

Mr. MARKOSEK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First here today I would like to congratulate Governor Corbett and Lieutenant Governor Cawley on their very impressive political victory last November. It is great to serve with a new administration to make life better for all Pennsylvanians.

Also, I offer my best wishes to our new Budget Secretary, Mr. Charles Zogby. He is an excellent choice as evidenced by his previous experience in the Cabinet of a former Governor. And of course, I recognize the success of all of the House leadership of both parties and the members of the General Assembly. It is my heartfelt honor to serve with you all.

I would be remiss if I did not provide a special recognition to my longtime friend and colleague, the gentleman from Delaware County and our majority chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. We go back many years in working together to bring good government to Pennsylvania. He and I will work together efficiently on committee business.

I have been in the legislature a long time. This is my 29th budget, and as I look around the roster of the leadership in both parties, in both Houses, I see that I am the most senior of any leader in the legislature today. And that does not necessarily make me the most all-knowing. I have been through it all. I have seen it all. I would say that one phrase comes to mind, and I was reading the Governor's script today as he was reading it, and he mentioned William Wordsworth, the poet, and a quote from him. And I do not know who said this, but I remember growing up my parents used to say, "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

The Governor's budget is not easy to accept, as it cuts billions of dollars from valuable programs. Yet due to the recent economic and employment downturn, our State is in a serious deficit situation. Therefore, it is important that we make these cuts fairly.

The budget should be more sensitive to the overwhelming pain that it will impose on many of the most vulnerable of our society – children, handicapped, elderly, low-income folks, minorities, and ultimately, the taxpayers themselves.

This is not a no-tax budget. You will not see any State taxes in this, but I guarantee you, there will be plenty of taxes to pay by local governments and local school districts, local municipalities, and local taxpayers when the effects of this budget come to fruition.

It is less than forthright to claim that this budget cuts these taxes when we will be raising property taxes in order to pay for the massive cuts in basic education, paying for more tuition, and family members assuming a greater role and the increased expense of becoming primary caregivers for elderly or handicapped loved ones.

Let us further examine a few areas of this budget. How about education? The basic education subsidy should be more than a

spreadsheet. It is not a spreadsheet; it is a roadmap, a roadmap to greater future success for our youth and ultimately our Commonwealth and our country. The basic education subsidy is an investment in our future.

The same can be said for higher education funding. The budget puts that goal out of reach for many Pennsylvanians in a very big way at a time when so many of us are trying to find tuition money. So many of our constituents have huge school debts waiting to pay, and we are going to be asking future people to pay a lot more.

We also have the responsibility at the State level to make adequate appropriations so our constituents do not suffer from unlimited increases in their property taxes. Simply telling school districts to use their budget reserves is not a reasonable solution. Many school districts do not have sufficient reserves, and for those school districts that do, it will be a one-time reserve fix. Are we not in our current predicament because of many past one-time reserve fixes?

What about our constituents' health and well-being? We have recently, unconscionably, lopped 42,000 of our neighbors off the adultBasic roster. When this happens, we all pay, primarily through higher insurance rates, and our hospitals are forced to carry a greater burden in their emergency rooms and with their personnel. Of all things, should we not keep our hospitals healthy?

When we change the Medical Assistance Program, we are negatively affecting the elderly, the chronically ill, pregnant women, needy children, and the disabled, and all of us in this room will either be or were or know of someone in one of these categories. It affects us all.

Let us talk about the environment. The Marcellus Shale boom is transforming much of our Commonwealth, and we have seen the headlines: Radiation in fracking fluid is a new concern. Boom towns are creating new costs for local governments. Will rural roads and infrastructures ever be the same?

We have an obligation to the environment, but we also have an obligation to rural and semirural Pennsylvanians. Yes, the industry has brought us thousands of new jobs and a measure of prosperity, but at what cost? A balance must be struck. Responsible drillers should not be gouged, but we must realize that this industry does not come without costs. This may be the signature issue of this legislative session. How we help each other will determine how the public judges all of us this session, including the Governor.

As many of you know, I had the privilege of serving this House as the majority chairman of the Transportation Committee. It was frustrating then to watch our geriatric infrastructure and transit systems be neglected. We became creative and passed Act 44, a new transportation mechanism for Pennsylvania which utilized tolling as a revenue source because, you guessed it, no one wanted to raise fees and taxes. The Federal government subsequently turned down our application to toll Interstate 80, and now we are scrambling once again for even greater sources of fresh transportation revenue.

The Governor has called for a special commission to once again study this issue. Governor Rendell called for a similar study 5 years ago. In fact, the current majority chair, the gentleman from Blair, of the Transportation Committee, very honorably served in that effort. While there is nothing wrong with another blue-ribbon study commission, I will hereby

provide Pennsylvania with a sneak preview of the new commission's findings. They will say that we need more dollars for our aging and insufficient transportation infrastructure. How long must we continue to kick this issue down the road? And the Governor said not one word in his budget address regarding transportation.

We have over 6,000 deficient bridges in our State, and they will not fix themselves. How can we reduce our spending to fix geriatric bridges? If we do, one of only two things can happen. The bridges will either be shut down or they will fall down. This budget is remarkably silent on that issue.

We have the State Police in Pennsylvania, which the Governor in today's budget address mentioned that he is going to look at some fine money to put more State Police onboard, and there is nothing wrong with that. I think most of us understand that we need greater security, and having more State Police around is not necessarily a bad thing. What he did not tell you is he is taking another big chunk out of the Motor License Fund to pay for it. That is wrong. We have been trying for years to get that money out of the Motor License Fund and put it where it belongs, in the General Fund.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I can count. I have a calculator on my desk. In fact, I have a supercomputer in my legislative district. If neither of those are available, I sometimes even use my fingers and toes. I know the results of the last election. The people of Pennsylvania spoke when they elected Governor Corbett and 112 Republicans to serve in this House. However, they elected 91 Democrats as well. The minority member's constituents are just as deserving of high-quality service as the majority's constituents.

The Democratic Caucus intends to be cooperative and helpful. We intend to be honorable and sincere. We intend to be honest and forthright. We are industrious and productive. Sometimes we will be firm, and oftentimes we will be a little feisty. We will demonstrate our mettle and our courage. Yet, we intend to be cordial and respectful – respectful of our Governor, respectful of our colleagues, and respectful of the people of Pennsylvania who elected us.

As the Governor said at his breakfast for leadership this morning, after his presentation he will turn the budget over to both Houses for what he termed a "scrum." We will be part of that scrum. We intend to roll up our sleeves and have at it to provide a final budget that includes dignity and respect for all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

### STATEMENT BY MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Turzai.

Mr. TURZAI. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It is an honor as majority leader to address this distinguished body, to follow our Governor and our two illustrious Appropriations chairs.

Colleagues and citizens of Pennsylvania, we are for all Pennsylvanians. Governor Corbett spoke for all Pennsylvanians. Party registration aside, it is our duty to do best by the citizens of Pennsylvania, including those individuals that are paying out of their hard-earned money to fund our government services.

First and foremost, we are fiscal stewards and we have a

fiduciary duty and responsibility to take into account that they work every single day and are sending part of that here to Harrisburg, and we need to do like those families and those small businesses and tighten our belts and do more with less. Again, the guiding phrase is "we are fiscal stewards, we are fiduciaries," and we do not take that obligation lightly.

Fiscal discipline, private-sector job creation, limited government – that is what the Governor spoke about today. That is what the citizens of Pennsylvania have demanded. That is what the Governor set forth in his blueprint for Pennsylvania, and that is what we will deliver: fiscal discipline; a realistic budget; an on-time budget; a no-tax-increase budget; a no-gimmick budget; a budget without reckless borrowing; a budget with prioritized, responsible spending; a budget that not only worries about today's citizens but that worries about our kids and grandkids and recognizes the legacy that we leave them.

As I noted, families and businesses across this State have tightened their belts, and so will we.

Private-sector job creation. Unemployment stands at close to 9 percent. Folks want private-sector job opportunities. We need to make sure, as the Governor stated in his address, that we are focused on jobs, jobs, jobs. In the end, each individual in this State wants the dignity and the ability to have a family-sustaining job to provide for themselves and their loved ones. We need to take firm steps to make sure that the environment is better to promote that approach.

And limited government. Like the Governor indicated, we need to certainly prioritize the core functions of government – law enforcement and education. But things like the sale of wine and spirits or other ideas need to maybe be in the hands of the private sector where they can do it better.

Now, let me talk to you a little bit about what this budget entails, because there are many responsibilities that are met with the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. Keep in mind that the total operating budget, if you take into account State and Federal dollars, funds beyond the General Fund, is \$63.6 billion. Colleagues, citizens of Pennsylvania, when we are talking about Governor Corbett's budget, we are talking about, how do we appropriately spend \$63.6 billion? That is a lot of money that is coming out of taxpayers' pockets, whether it is Federal or State. Twenty-seven-point-three of that billion is in the General Fund.

The Governor said that his focus going forward with respect to the investment or use of those tax dollars in the core functions of government should be these principles, and I doubt that anybody disagrees with them: adhering to fiscal discipline; promoting limited, transparent, and effective government; supporting free enterprise and job creation; funding students and promoting educational excellence; protecting public health and safety; and maintaining the human services safety net.

Keep in mind, over the last 8 years we have been subject to out-of-control spending, over 40 percent growth when the rate of inflation was less than 20 percent; reckless borrowing that has put our debt service over \$1 billion a year; and increased taxes. Governor Corbett said we need to live within our means, but he is still meeting in his blueprint important services for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Pre-K through 12 education, listen to this number, folks. We will still be, under his blueprint, spending more than \$8.6 billion in State funding for the direct support of public education. In fact, the basic education subsidy itself is \$5.2 billion in State funds, including \$100 million to implement a student-focused

funding approach to assist districts to advance student achievement. We are still spending on special-needs education over \$1 billion, and Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts still has \$83.6 million for pre-K. Early intervention, \$200 million in State funding.

In protecting public safety, how about the State Police? The budget funds a total of almost 4500 State troopers by the close of 2011-2012. And it provides 1,260 new beds within existing institutions and community corrections centers, and it provides \$186 million in additional State funding with respect to our correctional institutions.

And how about helping Pennsylvanians in need? Four hundred and forty million dollars in total funds to provide health insurance coverage for over 200,000 uninsured children, an increase of \$6.2 million while serving 7,300 more children. Doing more with less.

Long-term living services. Folks, we are going to spend \$4.5 billion on long-term living services. We care about the elderly. We care about the kids.

Intellectual disabilities – community programs: \$2 billion in total funds to provide home- and community-based services to more than 50,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities, including \$3.7 million in new State funds to provide home- and community-based services for 85 individuals currently residing in State institutions. And almost \$1 billion in total funds to provide mental health treatment services, including \$5 million in new State funds to provide home- and community-based services for 90 individuals currently residing in State hospitals.

And let us not forget our prescription drug program, which provides almost \$270 million in lottery funds to provide prescription drug coverage above the Federal government for over 360,000 older Pennsylvanians, an increase of almost 2,000 individuals.

You can be fiscally responsible and still care about the citizens of this State. Governor Corbett's budget is a balance. It says we need to get our spending in line. It needs to get rid of reckless borrowing. It says we need to not increase taxes. We need to focus on private-sector job growth. We need to focus on core government services. We need to let certain things be done better by the private sector, but we also need to care for Pennsylvanians, and it is a balance. I think it is an outstanding balance.

Now, we are going to have to look at the individual lines and we are going to make some changes as we move forward, but the Governor has set appropriate parameters for our discussion, and I applaud him for that. And I want to tell you, I want to tell you that I think he has done some bold changes in how we approach government. One hundred and three appropriation line items have been eliminated, 150 appropriation lines have been reduced, and 55 appropriation lines have been consolidated. That is true, but he is making government more streamlined and more efficient by eliminating, reducing, or consolidating. That is important. We are going to get rid of duplicative efforts, and we are going to be more laser-beamed in how we get the job done here in Harrisburg.

I must tell you, I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you to best serve the citizens of Pennsylvania, each and every one of you, and we will get this important work, an on-time budget, which we have not seen in 8 years, we will get that done. I am quite confident.

Thank you very, very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to address you and my colleagues.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

### STATEMENT BY MINORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the minority leader, Mr. Dermody.

Mr. DERMODY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we certainly appreciate the time and thought the Governor put into the budget document he spoke about today. As we told Governor Corbett this morning, House Democrats stand ready to work with him to solve Pennsylvania's problems. We want to work with him and we want to work with our Republican colleagues.

We still have many questions and much to learn about the budget proposed today by the Governor. We will take time to go through it line by line. The Appropriations Committee hearings that begin next week will be especially important this year in helping Pennsylvanians to understand what is at stake. However, I do want to offer some initial thoughts and point out that we are at the beginning of what is sure to be a painstaking process.

We know these are tough times. Nobody needs to tell us that. We see it every day in our districts. We talk nearly every day to people who are at the end of their rope and have nowhere else to turn. Their problems are basic. We deal with families whose children go to school hungry. We deal with seniors who must choose whether to pay for food, heat, or medicine, because they cannot afford to pay for all three. We see the local bridge that has pieces falling off it and is falling apart because it has been 25 years since it has had any maintenance. We talk to workers who lost their jobs well over a year ago and have exhausted their unemployment benefits. So we know these are tough budget times, and the scope of this budget problem is large and it is going to take everyone's help to meet the challenges we face.

The Governor talked about a wide range of cuts today in many parts of the budget and he called on us for shared sacrifice. But the cuts in the safety net programs mean that the working poor will pay more than they do now, and for many, the services they depend on now will be gone next year. Just over a week ago, 41,000 working Pennsylvanians lost the health insurance they were paying for when the State's adultBasic program came to an end. The administration arranged for them to have access to private health insurance that costs more and covers less. That is the same sense that I get from this budget, only on a much larger scale. Middle-class Pennsylvanians will have to pay more in taxes and they will get less help from their government.

Education is truly a core function of State government. The right to a quality education is spelled out clearly in our Constitution. Our public schools have made great progress in the last 8 years. No other State raised all its test scores in reading and math for 8 years in a row like Pennsylvania did. This budget will make it nearly impossible for our public schools to continue that progress without raising property taxes.

And do not look now, because if your son or daughter is going to a State university or college next year, they are looking at a huge tuition increase. And at a time when job readiness and economic development are directly linked to education, the Governor is cutting basic education by \$1 billion, by over \$1 billion, and higher education by 50 percent.

The Governor has also proposed some dramatic changes in the Department of Community and Economic Development. He has proposed collapsing line items and merging programs, and we must be careful not to eliminate economic development programs that worked just because they were developed in a previous administration. Pennsylvania's unemployment rate during the recession, even before that, has been consistently below the national average, and State policies and the Department of Community and Economic Development programs had a lot to do with that.

In recent years, through the department, the State undertook tremendous efforts to preserve large employers in this State. Harley-Davidson would not be in York today without those programs. Westinghouse would not be building nuclear power plants for the world in western Pennsylvania without those programs. They would be in North Carolina if we did not have those programs right now. And the largest maker of vaccines, I believe in the world, Aventis Pasteur in Monroe County, they would not be here today without those programs. These are tough times, we understand that, and Pennsylvania's budget must reflect that, but tax cuts for some that will raise property taxes for millions is not fair and it is not right.

Cutting \$1 billion in our basic education budget will not allow us to continue the progress of the last 8 years and will most certainly ensure that we will have an increase in property taxes. Avoidance of taxes at the State level only means that the tough reality of tax hikes is shifted to local governments and school districts. The massive 50-percent cut in higher education to our four State-related schools and to our State-owned universities will force those schools to impose record-setting tuition hikes. It may even force some schools to close, and at a time when we heard today jobs, jobs, jobs is what we are about, those communities who realize a school being closed will be devastated by the closing of those schools. And believe me, a proposed 50-percent cut in that line item in their budgets may well result in schools closing – massive job cuts.

The elimination of the Human Services Development Fund will hit counties especially hard. That fund helps our counties and gives them some flexibility to target moneys to programs that need it, to people who need it the most. And let us face it, this budget is about our people – seniors; the chronically ill; the people with disabilities; those people, thousands of families, who have children living with autism. It is the aging parents of adult children with disabilities who will no longer be able to send their child to a job during the day or be in never-ending lines waiting for a group home that they will not be able to place their child in.

So what does this tax shift mean to Pennsylvanians? It means the middle class will pay, and the vulnerable people living on the edge will suffer. It means higher local taxes; it means higher county taxes; it means higher property taxes. It means higher college tuition and fewer people able to continue their education after high school. It means fewer shoppers on Main Street and the general weakening of small businesses. It means decreased revenue from sales taxes, higher unemployment, and fewer job opportunities.

Some people in this House might be surprised to hear this, but the record is clear on this State's sustained support for the employers of Pennsylvania in the form of business tax cuts. Gov. Ed Rendell and the legislature cut business taxes 6 years in a row. This House voted for and passed those business tax cuts for 6 years in a row. That string of business tax reductions only

paused when our State felt the impact of this great recession. That recession has decimated our Department of Revenue, and Governor Rendell froze the phaseout of the capital stock and franchise tax.

So at a time when we are asking Pennsylvania families and workers to sacrifice, when we are cutting \$1 billion from our basic education funding, we are cutting 50 percent from our higher education funding, and we are laying off 1500 people, we want to give the wealthiest corporations in Pennsylvania a bonus. We want to continue the corporate stock and franchise tax, and we are not going to treat people fairly. We are not asking everybody to share sacrifices, because the working families and the working people of the Commonwealth will be punished. They will pay; the corporations will not.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that eventually everybody has to pay to help us get out of this recession and to help this State pass its budget. The business community needs to step up like everybody else and share some of that pain. There will be plenty of time later in this administration to cut business taxes, and we will be there as we have been before. We will help again when the time is right, but now is not that time. It seems to me that in light of the precarious financial position our State is in, it would be much more prudent to maintain corporate tax rates at their current levels for at least 1 more year.

So here we are. We can assume that the State income tax will not increase. There will not be an increase in the State sales tax, because slashing State funding for schools, counties, and local governments will shift that burden to local property tax payers. We must help Pennsylvania's working families and retirees, and we must protect them from tax increases at all levels, while ensuring everybody pays their fair share. We must protect and defend our communities to ensure the public is safe and our land, water, and air are clean. Environmental protection is an element of public safety and is a core function of government.

Mr. Speaker, we are all in this together. We want to do what is right for Pennsylvania, and we look forward to working with all of you to make sure we do just that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

## UNCONTESTED CALENDAR

### RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. PETRARCA called up **HR 108, PN 960**, entitled:

A Resolution designating April 6, 2011, as "Pennsylvania Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Day."

\* \* \*

Ms. BROWNLEE called up **HR 109, PN 961**, entitled:

A Resolution designating March 2011 as "Professional Social Work Month" in Pennsylvania.

\* \* \*

Mr. STURLA called up **HR 112, PN 964**, entitled:

A Resolution designating April 4, 2011, as "Thaddeus Stevens Day" in Pennsylvania.

\* \* \*

Mr. READSHAW called up **HR 113, PN 989**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of March 2011 as "Medical Physicist Awareness and Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania.

\* \* \*

Mr. READSHAW called up **HR 118, PN 1023**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of March 2011 as "Certified Athletic Trainer Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the House adopt the resolutions?

The following roll call was recorded:

### YEAS—198

Adolph	Dunbar	Knowles	Rapp
Aument	Ellis	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Baker	Emrick	Kotik	Reed
Barbin	Evankovich	Krieger	Reese
Barrar	Evans, D.	Kula	Reichley
Bear	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Roae
Benninghoff	Everett	Longietti	Rock
Bishop	Fabrizio	Maher	Roebuck
Bloom	Farry	Mahoney	Ross
Boback	Fleck	Major	Sabatina
Boyd	Frankel	Maloney	Saccone
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Mann	Sainato
Boyle, K.	Gabler	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Galloway	Marshall	Santarsiero
Brennan	Geist	Marsico	Santoni
Briggs	George	Masser	Saylor
Brooks	Gerber	Matzie	Scavello
Brown, R.	Gergely	McGeehan	Schroder
Brown, V.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Shapiro
Brownlee	Gillen	Metzgar	Simmons
Burns	Gillespie	Miccarelli	Smith, K.
Buxton	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Godshall	Millard	Sonney
Carroll	Goodman	Miller	Staback
Causar	Grell	Mirabito	Stephens
Christiana	Hackett	Moul	Stern
Clymer	Hahn	Mullery	Stevenson
Cohen	Haluska	Mundy	Sturla
Conklin	Hanna	Murphy	Swanger
Costa, D.	Harhai	Murt	Tallman
Costa, P.	Harhart	Mustio	Taylor
Cox	Harkins	Myers	Thomas
Creighton	Harper	Neuman	Tobash
Culver	Harris	O'Brien, D.	Toepel
Curry	Heffley	O'Brien, M.	Toohil
Cutler	Helm	O'Neill	Truitt
Daley	Hennessey	Oberlander	Turzai
Davidson	Hess	Parker	Vereb
Davis	Hickernell	Pashinski	Vitali
Day	Hornaman	Payne	Vulakovich
Deasy	Hutchinson	Payton	Wagner
DeLissio	Johnson	Peifer	Waters
Delozier	Josephs	Perry	Watson
DeLuca	Kampf	Petrarca	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kauffman	Petri	White
DePasquale	Kavulich	Pickett	Williams
Dermody	Keller, F.	Preston	Youngblood
DeWeese	Keller, M.K.	Pyle	
DiGirolamo	Keller, W.	Quigley	Smith, S.,
Donatucci	Kirkland	Quinn	Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

## EXCUSED—5

Cruz Killion Milne Readshaw  
Grove

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolutions were adopted.

**STATEMENT BY MR. THOMAS**

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. Thomas, seek recognition?

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to rise to join the majority leader and the Democratic leader—

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman seek recognition under unanimous consent?

Mr. THOMAS. Yes.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is recognized under unanimous consent.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to indicate my willingness to work with the majority leader and my leader, the Democratic leader, in shaping a budget that speaks to the needs of people over politics, and as we go through this process, I just ask that we take into consideration a couple of things.

Number one, the Democratic leader made it very clear that during those years in which we engaged in job creation, we made sure that every job-created initiative carried a provision to validate that it in fact did in fact create jobs, because over the years we have had this tendency to support the private sector's commitment to create jobs, a climate that would result in job creation, but we have not necessarily validated our efforts to create jobs. And so to that end, I hope that as we move forward on this budget, all our job-creation efforts will carry a provision which allows for the validation and verification of job creation.

Secondly, we want to make sure that job creation reaches all parts of Pennsylvania. We have 10 distinct counties from rural to urban where unemployment is structurally problematic. So we need to make sure that as we go through job-creation initiatives, that we find a way to make sure that all segments of Pennsylvania benefit from our job-creation efforts.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, our Excellency talked about corrections. He talked about how a few years ago – that we have a population today that is close to 53,000 and costing us, costing the taxpayers \$32,000 a year to house and maintain inmates. And we have millions of dollars that we are spending to send Pennsylvania inmates to other States. If we look at the dollars that we have spent on sending Pennsylvania inmates to other States to be housed, then we have more than enough money to put the Fayette bill project back on the table.

The Governor mentioned that he withdrew a commitment to that project because of cost containment. If we just redirect our priorities and if we look at the amount of money that we are spending to send people to outside institutions, we have more than enough money to put the Fayette bill project back on the table.

Fourthly, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the number of programs that run to intervention, prevention, and education in the budget, we will find that a number of programs have been cut out, and when we cut them out, we need to keep in mind that when you do away with programs focused on education, prevention, and intervention, the only thing you can do is increase population of incarceration. You will always increase numbers of the number of people that are incarcerated based on how much you cut on the education, prevention, and intervention side.

And last but not least, Mr. Speaker, I was really concerned about the Governor's suggestion that we need to cut back on existing salaries of public employees in order to get within our spending targets. Mr. Speaker, I hope that there was a mistake in making that suggestion, because I want to share with the Governor, and I know both of our leaders recognize that Pennsylvania is not going to be a Wisconsin. We are not going to have some problems that many other States are experiencing, because we have stellar leadership in our Speaker, in our majority leader, in our Democratic leader, and in our Governor. And so we want to just say to that Governor, to our Excellency, that this is not Wisconsin, and we are not going to go in the path of New Jersey and some other States.

This is Pennsylvania. This is the lighthouse of the United States. Pennsylvania is a place where we have been able to demonstrate that we can overcome challenges and shape the kind of future that we all want to invest in.

So in closing, thank you, majority leader; thank you, Democratic leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Thank you.

**GUESTS INTRODUCED**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker would like to recognize some guests in the House, located to the left of the Speaker. We welcome Justin Amann, Ryan Clauser, Kevin Peterman, and Danielle Capuano. They are students at Liberty High School in Bethlehem, and they are the guests of Representative Steve Samuelson. Please welcome our guests.

**STATEMENT BY MR. MAHER**

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. Maher, rise?

Mr. MAHER. For a brief remark under unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is recognized under unanimous consent for a brief period of time.

Mr. MAHER. Very briefly, Mr. Speaker.

I am surprised to learn from our majority leader that he opposes the depreciation schedule enacted into law by President Obama and that he finds that this is contrary to the working people of Pennsylvania, and I would just like to make a note of that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.



## CALENDAR

## RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Ms. BISHOP called up **HR 111, PN 963**, entitled:

A Resolution celebrating the contributions of Michael Jackson to music, performance, culture and charity.

On the question,  
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. On that question, does the gentleman, Mr. Waters, seek recognition on this resolution?

Mr. WATERS. No, I do not, Mr. Speaker. I had tried to get your attention before you had proceeded forward, but I can wait until after this resolution to speak.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman. We will come back to you when we conclude these resolutions.

On the question recurring,  
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

## YEAS—108

Adolph	Dermody	Kortz	Reichley
Barbin	DeWeese	Kotik	Roebuck
Bishop	Donatucci	Kula	Ross
Boyle, B.	Evans, D.	Longietti	Sabatina
Boyle, K.	Evans, J.	Mahoney	Sainato
Bradford	Everett	Major	Samuelson
Brennan	Fabrizio	Mann	Santoni
Briggs	Fleck	Markosek	Saylor
Brown, R.	Frankel	Matzie	Scavello
Brown, V.	Freeman	McGeehan	Smith, K.
Brownlee	Galloway	Miccarelli	Staback
Burns	George	Micozzie	Sturla
Buxton	Gerber	Millard	Taylor
Caltagirone	Gergely	Miller	Thomas
Carroll	Gibbons	Mirabito	Toohil
Christiana	Haluska	Mundy	Turzai
Cohen	Hanna	Murphy	Vitali
Conklin	Harhai	Myers	Wagner
Costa, P.	Harhart	Neuman	Waters
Culver	Harkins	O'Brien, M.	Watson
Curry	Helm	Parker	Wheatley
Daley	Hennessey	Pashinski	White
Davis	Hornaman	Payton	Williams
Day	Johnson	Petrarca	Youngblood
Deasy	Josephs	Preston	
DeLissio	Kavulich	Quinn	Smith, S.,
DeLuca	Keller, W.	Ravenstahl	Speaker
DePasquale	Kirkland		

## NAYS—89

Aument	Gabler	Lawrence	Rapp
Baker	Geist	Maher	Reed
Barrar	Gillen	Maloney	Reese
Bear	Gillespie	Marshall	Roae
Benninghoff	Gingrich	Marsico	Rock
Bloom	Godshall	Masser	Saccone
Boback	Goodman	Metcalfe	Santarsiero
Boyd	Grell	Metzgar	Schroder
Brooks	Hackett	Moul	Shapiro
Causar	Hahn	Mullery	Simmons
Clymer	Harper	Murt	Smith, M.
Costa, D.	Harris	Mustio	Sonney
Cox	Heffley	O'Brien, D.	Stevens

Creighton	Hess	O'Neill	Stern
Cutler	Hickernell	Oberlander	Stevenson
Delozier	Hutchinson	Payne	Swanger
Denlinger	Kampf	Peifer	Tallman
DiGirolamo	Kauffman	Perry	Tobash
Dunbar	Keller, F.	Petri	Toepel
Ellis	Keller, M.K.	Pickett	Truitt
Emrick	Knowles	Pyle	Vereb
Evankovich	Krieger	Quigley	Vulakovich
Farry			

## NOT VOTING—1

Davidson

## EXCUSED—5

Cruz	Killion	Milne	Readshaw
Grove			

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

\* \* \*

Mr. METZGAR called up **HR 114, PN 990**, entitled:

A Resolution commending Center Rock, Inc., and its owner, Brandon Fisher, for the pivotal role they played in the rescue of the 33 Chilean miners on October 13, 2010, in Copiapo, Chile.

On the question,  
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

## YEAS—198

Adolph	Dunbar	Knowles	Rapp
Aument	Ellis	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Baker	Emrick	Kotik	Reed
Barbin	Evankovich	Krieger	Reese
Barrar	Evans, D.	Kula	Reichley
Bear	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Roae
Benninghoff	Everett	Longietti	Rock
Bishop	Fabrizio	Maher	Roebuck
Bloom	Farry	Mahoney	Ross
Boback	Fleck	Major	Sabatina
Boyd	Frankel	Maloney	Saccone
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Mann	Sainato
Boyle, K.	Gabler	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Galloway	Marshall	Santarsiero
Brennan	Geist	Marsico	Santoni
Briggs	George	Masser	Saylor
Brooks	Gerber	Matzie	Scavello
Brown, R.	Gergely	McGeehan	Schroder
Brown, V.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Shapiro
Brownlee	Gillen	Metzgar	Simmons
Burns	Gillespie	Miccarelli	Smith, K.
Buxton	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Godshall	Millard	Sonney
Carroll	Goodman	Miller	Staback
Causar	Grell	Mirabito	Stevens
Christiana	Hackett	Moul	Stern
Clymer	Hahn	Mullery	Stevenson
Cohen	Haluska	Mundy	Sturla
Conklin	Hanna	Murphy	Swanger
Costa, D.	Harhai	Murt	Tallman
Costa, P.	Harhart	Mustio	Taylor
Cox	Harkins	Myers	Thomas

Creighton	Harper	Neuman	Tobash
Culver	Harris	O'Brien, D.	Toepel
Curry	Heffley	O'Brien, M.	Toohil
Cutler	Helm	O'Neill	Truitt
Daley	Hennessey	Oberlander	Turzai
Davidson	Hess	Parker	Vereb
Davis	Hickernell	Pashinski	Vitali
Day	Hornaman	Payne	Vulakovich
Deasy	Hutchinson	Payton	Wagner
DeLissio	Johnson	Peifer	Waters
Delozier	Josephs	Perry	Watson
DeLuca	Kampf	Petrarca	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kauffman	Petri	White
DePasquale	Kavulich	Pickett	Williams
Dermody	Keller, F.	Preston	Youngblood
DeWeese	Keller, M.K.	Pyle	
DiGirolamo	Keller, W.	Quigley	Smith, S.,
Donatucci	Kirkland	Quinn	Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—5

Cruz	Killion	Milne	Readshaw
Grove			

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

\* \* \*

Mr. SCHRODER called up **HR 116, PN 992**, entitled:

A Resolution congratulating Robert Schnure on his 700th victory as girls' high school basketball coach.

On the question,  
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—198

Adolph	Dunbar	Knowles	Rapp
Aument	Ellis	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Baker	Emrick	Kotik	Reed
Barbin	Evankovich	Krieger	Reese
Barrar	Evans, D.	Kula	Reichley
Bear	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Roae
Benninghoff	Everett	Longietti	Rock
Bishop	Fabrizio	Maher	Roebuck
Bloom	Farry	Mahoney	Ross
Boback	Fleck	Major	Sabatina
Boyd	Frankel	Maloney	Saccone
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Mann	Sainato
Boyle, K.	Gabler	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Galloway	Marshall	Santarsiero
Brennan	Geist	Marsico	Santoni
Briggs	George	Masser	Saylor
Brooks	Gerber	Matzie	Scavello
Brown, R.	Gergely	McGeehan	Schroder
Brown, V.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Shapiro
Brownlee	Gillen	Metzgar	Simmons
Burns	Gillespie	Miccarelli	Smith, K.
Buxton	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Godshall	Millard	Sonney
Carroll	Goodman	Miller	Staback
Causar	Grell	Mirabito	Stephens

Christiana	Hackett	Moul	Stern
Clymer	Hahn	Mullery	Stevenson
Cohen	Haluska	Mundy	Sturla
Conklin	Hanna	Murphy	Swanger
Costa, D.	Harhai	Murt	Tallman
Costa, P.	Harhart	Mustio	Taylor
Cox	Harkins	Myers	Thomas
Creighton	Harper	Neuman	Tobash
Culver	Harris	O'Brien, D.	Toepel
Curry	Heffley	O'Brien, M.	Toohil
Cutler	Helm	O'Neill	Truitt
Daley	Hennessey	Oberlander	Turzai
Davidson	Hess	Parker	Vereb
Davis	Hickernell	Pashinski	Vitali
Day	Hornaman	Payne	Vulakovich
Deasy	Hutchinson	Payton	Wagner
DeLissio	Johnson	Peifer	Waters
Delozier	Josephs	Perry	Watson
DeLuca	Kampf	Petrarca	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kauffman	Petri	White
DePasquale	Kavulich	Pickett	Williams
Dermody	Keller, F.	Preston	Youngblood
DeWeese	Keller, M.K.	Pyle	
DiGirolamo	Keller, W.	Quigley	Smith, S.,
Donatucci	Kirkland	Quinn	Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—5

Cruz	Killion	Milne	Readshaw
Grove			

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

### STATEMENT BY MR. MAHER

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman, Mr. Maher, seek another brief moment of unanimous consent? Even more brief than the last time? The gentleman is in order.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My abject apologies. I wanted to point out that the Democrat leader had thrown President Obama's depreciation job-creation efforts under the bus, and certainly, the Governor has embraced them, and it is very interesting to me that the minority leader is so opposed to President Obama's policy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### STATEMENT BY MR. WATERS

The SPEAKER. Is the gentleman, Mr. Waters, seeking recognition under unanimous consent?

Mr. WATERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I—

The SPEAKER. Would this also be a brief comment?

Mr. WATERS. It will be brief.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Mr. WATERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak about some comments that were made earlier, and I just want to say that I humbly beg to disagree with the comments made by the gentleman from Philadelphia in terms of the prisons.

I am not one— And I do not think that we as a General Assembly should be concerned about the construction of more prisons. I think that what we should be concerned about is public safety. And I would just ask that we as an assembly of lawmakers work hard to create laws that will help people, if they had made bad choices or bad decisions and deserve to be punished, that that punishment does not last forever. I believe that what we should be trying to do is find a way to restore the people if they do become incarcerated in our penal institutions so that the Department of Corrections actually has a title that it lives up to.

Building more prisons and the high rate of recidivism does not say that. I hope that we can do more to roll back the prison growth so that we not only do not need to take one prison off the construction table but we find a way to close down more prisons along the way, as other States have done, including Texas has done.

So I would go as far to say I hope that we find a way to be creative to be crime stoppers and not crime fighters. As lawmakers, let us work real hard on public safety and not just on punishment. I believe that we have to create a learning environment where we are not spending more on prisons and cutting money for higher education, where we are showing where we place our priorities. So I would just humbly say that this General Assembly, I hope that we can find a way to create an environment that reduces crime rather than react to crime.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### FORMER MEMBER WELCOMED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker would like to just recognize one other guest in the hall of the House. Back near the entrance to the members' lounge, we have Representative Kathy Manderino back visiting. Welcome back to the House, Kathy.

#### STATEMENT BY MS. MUNDY

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the lady, Ms. Mundy, rise?

Ms. MUNDY. Unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The lady is in order under unanimous consent.

Ms. MUNDY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I feel the need to respond to the comments by my colleague from Allegheny County.

While accelerated bonus depreciation may be an economic stimulus at the Federal level, it is not economic stimulus necessarily for Pennsylvania. We are giving up \$200 million in revenue to multi-State, multinational corporations with no requirement whatsoever that a single job is created in Pennsylvania or that a single dollar is spent in Pennsylvania. Now, what sense does that make at the same time that we are cutting higher education and passing along higher property taxes to taxpayers in my district and all over the Commonwealth? It makes no sense.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Turzai.

Mr. TURZAI. Mr. Speaker, if we may, we do have some bills, and just at this point, I know the history has been that the Appropriations chair and the leaders speak, and I think it would be good if we could just move to the bills that are on the calendar for today. So at this time, if we could just hold off on the unanimous consent and move to the bills, and then if other folks have something to say. But I really think we need to move it forward and get to the bills. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker appreciates the consideration by the majority leader and moves to House calendar supplemental A.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR A

#### BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 78, PN 921**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of homicide by watercraft while operating under influence.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?

Bill was agreed to.

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. Nothing is in order but the taking of the roll.

On the question recurring,

Shall the bill pass finally?

The following roll call was recorded:

#### YEAS—196

Adolph	Dunbar	Knowles	Rapp
Aument	Ellis	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Baker	Emrick	Kotik	Reed
Barbin	Evankovich	Krieger	Reese
Barrar	Evans, D.	Kula	Reichley
Bear	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Roae
Benninghoff	Everett	Longietti	Rock
Bishop	Fabrizio	Maher	Roebuck
Bloom	Farry	Mahoney	Ross
Boback	Fleck	Major	Sabatina
Boyd	Frankel	Maloney	Saccone
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Mann	Sainato
Boyle, K.	Gabler	Markosek	Samuelson

Bradford	Galloway	Marshall	Santarsiero
Brennan	Geist	Marsico	Santoni
Briggs	George	Masser	Saylor
Brooks	Gerber	Matzie	Scavello
Brown, R.	Gergely	McGeehan	Schroder
Brown, V.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Shapiro
Brownlee	Gillen	Metzgar	Simmons
Burns	Gillespie	Miccarelli	Smith, K.
Buxton	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Godshall	Millard	Sonney
Carroll	Goodman	Miller	Staback
Causser	Grell	Mirabito	Stephens
Christiana	Hackett	Moul	Stern
Clymer	Hahn	Mullery	Stevenson
Cohen	Haluska	Mundy	Sturla
Conklin	Hanna	Murphy	Swanger
Costa, D.	Harhai	Murt	Tallman
Costa, P.	Harhart	Mustio	Taylor
Cox	Harkins	Myers	Thomas
Creighton	Harper	Neuman	Tobash
Culver	Harris	O'Brien, D.	Toepel
Curry	Heffley	O'Brien, M.	Toohil
Cutler	Helm	O'Neill	Truitt
Daley	Hennessey	Oberlander	Turzai
Davidson	Hess	Parker	Vereb
Davis	Hickernell	Pashinski	Vulakovich
Day	Hornaman	Payne	Wagner
Deasy	Hutchinson	Peifer	Waters
DeLissio	Johnson	Perry	Watson
Delozier	Josephs	Petrarca	Wheatley
DeLuca	Kampf	Petri	White
Denlinger	Kauffman	Pickett	Williams
DePasquale	Kavulich	Preston	Youngblood
Dermody	Keller, F.	Pyle	
DeWeese	Keller, M.K.	Quigley	Smith, S.,
DiGirolamo	Keller, W.	Quinn	Speaker
Donatucci	Kirkland		

## NAYS—2

Payton Vitali

## NOT VOTING—0

## EXCUSED—5

Cruz Killion Milne Readshaw  
Grove

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, rise?

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I had, I thought, made a fairly vigorous effort to speak on that issue. I think your personnel was acknowledging me, but things just kept proceeding for about a minute or two. I am not quite sure why the vote proceeded. I simply wanted to ask a couple of questions prior to the vote.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker did not see the gentleman seeking recognition on the bill.

Mr. VITALI. I mean, your clerk clearly did because he kept motioning to me. It is frustrating—

The SPEAKER. The Speaker did not see the gentleman seeking recognition on the bill and called for the vote.

Mr. VITALI. You may want to discuss that with your clerk, Mr. Speaker, because—

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman seek recognition?

Mr. VITALI. I do not, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 165, PN 111**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of cruelty to animals.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?

Bill was agreed to.

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

## YEAS—194

Adolph	Dunbar	Knowles	Ravenstahl
Aument	Ellis	Kortz	Reed
Baker	Emrick	Kotik	Reese
Barbin	Evans, D.	Kula	Reichley
Barrar	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Roae
Bear	Everett	Longietti	Rock
Benninghoff	Fabrizio	Maher	Roebuck
Bishop	Farry	Mahoney	Ross
Bloom	Fleck	Major	Sabatina
Boback	Frankel	Maloney	Saccone
Boyd	Freeman	Mann	Sainato
Boyle, B.	Gabler	Markosek	Samuelson
Boyle, K.	Galloway	Marshall	Santarsiero
Bradford	Geist	Marsico	Santoni
Brennan	George	Masser	Saylor
Briggs	Gerber	Matzie	Scavello
Brooks	Gergely	McGeehan	Schroder
Brown, R.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Shapiro
Brown, V.	Gillen	Miccarelli	Simmons
Brownlee	Gillespie	Micozzie	Smith, K.
Burns	Gingrich	Millard	Smith, M.
Buxton	Godshall	Miller	Sonney
Caltagirone	Goodman	Mirabito	Staback
Carroll	Grell	Moul	Stephens
Causser	Hackett	Mullery	Stern
Christiana	Hahn	Mundy	Stevenson
Clymer	Haluska	Murphy	Sturla
Cohen	Hanna	Murt	Swanger
Conklin	Harhai	Mustio	Tallman
Costa, D.	Harhart	Myers	Taylor
Costa, P.	Harkins	Neuman	Thomas
Cox	Harper	O'Brien, D.	Tobash
Creighton	Harris	O'Brien, M.	Toepel
Culver	Heffley	O'Neill	Toohil
Curry	Helm	Oberlander	Truitt
Cutler	Hennessey	Parker	Turzai
Daley	Hess	Pashinski	Vereb
Davidson	Hickernell	Payne	Vitali
Davis	Hornaman	Payton	Vulakovich

Deasy	Hutchinson	Peifer	Wagner
DeLissio	Johnson	Perry	Waters
DeLozier	Josephs	Petrarca	Watson
DeLuca	Kampf	Petri	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kauffman	Pickett	White
DePasquale	Kavulich	Preston	Williams
Dermody	Keller, F.	Pyle	Youngblood
DeWeese	Keller, M.K.	Quigley	
DiGirolamo	Keller, W.	Quinn	Smith, S.,
Donatucci	Kirkland	Rapp	Speaker

## NAYS—4

Day	Evankovich	Krieger	Metzgar
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## NOT VOTING—0

## EXCUSED—5

Cruz	Killion	Milne	Readshaw
Grove			

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

\* \* \*

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 145, PN 85**, entitled:

An Act designating State Route 18 in Big Beaver Borough, Beaver County, as the "Vietnam Veterans of America Memorial Highway."

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?  
Bill was agreed to.

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

## YEAS—198

Adolph	Dunbar	Knowles	Rapp
Aument	Ellis	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Baker	Emrick	Kotik	Reed
Barbin	Evankovich	Krieger	Reese
Barrar	Evans, D.	Kula	Reichley
Bear	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Roae
Benninghoff	Everett	Longietti	Rock
Bishop	Fabrizio	Maher	Roebuck
Bloom	Farry	Mahoney	Ross
Boback	Fleck	Major	Sabatina
Boyd	Frankel	Maloney	Saccone
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Mann	Sainato
Boyle, K.	Gabler	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Galloway	Marshall	Santarsiero
Brennan	Geist	Marsico	Santoni
Briggs	George	Masser	Saylor

Brooks	Gerber	Matzie	Scavello
Brown, R.	Gergely	McGeehan	Schroder
Brown, V.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Shapiro
Brownlee	Gillen	Metzgar	Simmons
Burns	Gillespie	Miccarelli	Smith, K.
Buxton	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Godshall	Millard	Sonney
Carroll	Goodman	Miller	Staback
Causar	Grell	Mirabito	Stephens
Christiana	Hackett	Moul	Stern
Clymer	Hahn	Mullery	Stevenson
Cohen	Haluska	Mundy	Sturla
Conklin	Hanna	Murphy	Swanger
Costa, D.	Harhai	Murt	Tallman
Costa, P.	Harhart	Mustio	Taylor
Cox	Harkins	Myers	Thomas
Creighton	Harper	Neuman	Tobash
Culver	Harris	O'Brien, D.	Toepel
Curry	Heffley	O'Brien, M.	Toohil
Cutler	Helm	O'Neill	Truitt
Daley	Hennessey	Oberlander	Turzai
Davidson	Hess	Parker	Vereb
Davis	Hickernell	Pashinski	Vitali
Day	Hornaman	Payne	Vulakovich
Deasy	Hutchinson	Payton	Wagner
DeLissio	Johnson	Peifer	Waters
DeLozier	Josephs	Perry	Watson
DeLuca	Kampf	Petrarca	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kauffman	Petri	White
DePasquale	Kavulich	Pickett	Williams
Dermody	Keller, F.	Preston	Youngblood
DeWeese	Keller, M.K.	Pyle	
DiGirolamo	Keller, W.	Quigley	Smith, S.,
Donatucci	Kirkland	Quinn	Speaker

## NAYS—0

## NOT VOTING—0

## EXCUSED—5

Cruz	Killion	Milne	Readshaw
Grove			

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

\* \* \*

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 312, PN 267**, entitled:

An Act designating U.S. Route 62 in Mercer County as the Mercer County Veterans Highway.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?  
Bill was agreed to.

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

**YEAS—198**

Adolph	Dunbar	Knowles	Rapp
Aument	Ellis	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Baker	Emrick	Kotik	Reed
Barbin	Evankovich	Krieger	Reese
Barrar	Evans, D.	Kula	Reichley
Bear	Evans, J.	Lawrence	Roae
Benninghoff	Everett	Longietti	Rock
Bishop	Fabrizio	Maher	Roebuck
Bloom	Farry	Mahoney	Ross
Boback	Fleck	Major	Sabatina
Boyd	Frankel	Maloney	Saccone
Boyle, B.	Freeman	Mann	Sainato
Boyle, K.	Gabler	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Galloway	Marshall	Santarsiero
Brennan	Geist	Marsico	Santoni
Briggs	George	Masser	Saylor
Brooks	Gerber	Matzie	Scavello
Brown, R.	Gergely	McGeehan	Schroder
Brown, V.	Gibbons	Metcalfe	Shapiro
Brownlee	Gillen	Metzgar	Simmons
Burns	Gillespie	Miccarelli	Smith, K.
Buxton	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Godshall	Millard	Sonney
Carroll	Goodman	Miller	Staback
Causar	Grell	Mirabito	Stephens
Christiana	Hackett	Moul	Stern
Clymer	Hahn	Mullery	Stevenson
Cohen	Haluska	Mundy	Sturla
Conklin	Hanna	Murphy	Swanger
Costa, D.	Harhai	Murt	Tallman
Costa, P.	Harhart	Mustio	Taylor
Cox	Harkins	Myers	Thomas
Creighton	Harper	Neuman	Tobash
Culver	Harris	O'Brien, D.	Toepel
Curry	Heffley	O'Brien, M.	Toohil
Cutler	Helm	O'Neill	Truitt
Daley	Hennessey	Oberlander	Turzai
Davidson	Hess	Parker	Vereb
Davis	Hickernell	Pashinski	Vitali
Day	Hornaman	Payne	Vulakovich
Deasy	Hutchinson	Payton	Wagner
DeLissio	Johnson	Peifer	Waters
Delozier	Josephs	Perry	Watson
DeLuca	Kampf	Petrarca	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kauffman	Petri	White
DePasquale	Kavulich	Pickett	Williams
Dermody	Keller, F.	Preston	Youngblood
DeWeese	Keller, M.K.	Pyle	
DiGirolamo	Keller, W.	Quigley	Smith, S., Speaker
Donatucci	Kirkland	Quinn	

**NAYS—0**

**NOT VOTING—0**

**EXCUSED—5**

Cruz	Killion	Milne	Readshaw
Grove			

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

**REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Stevenson, under unanimous consent.

Mr. STEVENSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have remarks I would like to submit for the record.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman. His remarks will be spread upon the record.

Mr. STEVENSON submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased today to be able to offer HB 312 that will help to ensure that the bravery and service of Mercer County veterans are long remembered by future generations. Specifically, HB 312 would designate U.S. Route 62 in Mercer County as the Mercer County Veterans Highway.

Every day this nation loses veterans from both World War II and the Korean war, and with that, we lose a sense of our history. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a way to forever remember the courage and sacrifice of the men and women from Mercer County who have protected our democracy and liberty, whether during acts of war or peacetime. We owe them our lasting gratitude.

This highway designation is one way to properly thank them and ensure that our grandchildren and their grandchildren can honor the legacy of these Mercer County heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank Wayne Stratos, a Vietnam veteran from Mercer County, who approached me with this idea a couple of years ago and who has spent much of his life ensuring the sacrifices of local veterans are not forgotten.

Unfortunately, legislation that passed the House last session did not make it onto the Governor's desk, but I am optimistic that this year, this bill will be signed into law.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask for the unanimous vote of the members in favor of HB 312.

The SPEAKER. There will be no further votes.

**STATEMENT BY MR. DeWEESE**

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, seek recognition under unanimous consent? Would the gentleman care to put a time limit on his unanimous consent? Would the gentleman care to put a time limit on his unanimous consent? Three minutes. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for unanimous consent.

I have just two observations, and they are somewhat provincial, and I apologize for that, but we are all Representatives from specific locales.

The Governor was looking at the teleprompter, so he was not able to look me in the eye, but he talked today about the elimination of a \$200 million project in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, that Mr. Mahoney and I would share and Senator Kasunic's district would embrace. And I am not necessarily going to talk about all of the budgetary dynamics involved, but I would like for the chamber to know and the record to reflect that there were four \$200 million projects, Mr. Speaker, that were being contemplated, two at Graterford, \$200 million apiece, and one up around Penn State for another \$200 million. My question would be, why was it the one in Fayette County that was sent cascading into oblivion? I am confident it did not

have anything to do with me, but I am dubious about the fact that 700 people were ready and willing and able to work.

In those coal fields south of Pittsburgh, in those hardscrabble coal fields south of Pittsburgh, Mr. Speaker, many men and women join the Armed Forces, go overseas, come back, and the sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters of coal miners go into SCI (State Correctional Institution)-Greene, SCI-Fayette, and they were looking forward to an opportunity at SCI-German.

Now, I accept the fact that times are tough. What I do not accept is that after so many years in the process, a combined 70 years in the process with the Senator and the two Representatives, we were not even given the opportunity of a discussion, not even a polite discussion. For 4 years, in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, Cabinet Secretaries, Cabinet under-Secretaries, and a variety of other State bureaucrats journeyed to those hills south of Pittsburgh, and, Mr. Speaker, the bulldozers were going to arrive within days. The night before the project was scrapped, there were 13 links on the DGS, the Department of General Services, Web site that talked about the project and the progress, and then with the blink of an eye the next morning, it was scrapped.

So, Mr. Speaker, since it deals with \$200 million, since it seems somewhat arbitrary, since we are still sending 2200 prisoners a year to Michigan and to Virginia, since the Secretary of Corrections, a Secretary-designate, in a ham-handed way within hours of the announcement complained that the site was on an old salvage yard, when it was not on an old salvage yard, when he said we did not need it and we are sending 2200 prisoners out of State, and when the esteemed and a former colleague of ours, Republican colleague Stewart Greenleaf, now in the State Senate, said he believes those numbers will go back up again, I would only request that in the future this new administration, apropos of Leader Dermody's remarks and our illustrious Appropriations chairman, they believe and so do I in being polite and cordial and engaging. But for that unhappy moment several weeks ago, the Corbett administration was condescending, abrupt, and cavalier. They did not reach into a very ample armamentarium of politeness and good wishes. There was no exchange with Mahoney and DeWeese and Kasunic. And I would only ask that as we look for progress as this budget unfolds, that that type of behavior, that reprehensible behavior, is something of the past.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for unanimous consent.

### DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman, Mr. Frankel, seek recognition for the purpose of making an announcement?

Mr. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. FRANKEL. I would like to announce a Democratic caucus. We are going to have an opportunity to sit down with our Appropriations staff right away. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. Any other announcements?

### BILLS REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the following bills be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar:

HB 40;  
HB 208;  
HB 317;  
HB 344;  
HB 365; and  
HB 915.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. Any other business to come before the House?

### BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all remaining bills and resolutions on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.

### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Heffley, from Carbon County, who moves that this House do now adjourn until Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 11 a.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 2:58 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.