

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

The Senate was called to order at 4:10 o'clock p.m.,
Senator Looney of the 11th District in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

(No audio or video available)

ACTING CHAPLAIN PAUL MUMNS:

We pray for continued blessings and watchfulness
over the concerns of this State. Continue to uphold
its official as well as its citizens in the weeks,
months, and years ahead. Amen.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Mumns. It's a difficult choice to
pick among all of the outstanding members we have
here but I think I will ask our Senate Majority
Leader Senator Duff and our Minority Leader Senator
Fasano to up and lead us in the Pledge.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH) and SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

(ALL) I pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United
States of America and to the Republic for which it
stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible with
Liberty and Justice for all.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you gentlemen. It is, the last time we were in this Chamber, was on March 11, the day that we passed the Bonding Bill and after that we have had a suspension of all activities here since. It has been a unique and extraordinary and terribly painful time that continues. But we believe that it was appropriate for use to end the Session formally by having pre-ceremony on the day in which we traditionally go Sine Die and end the regular Session.

This is an extraordinary time in so many other way one of which is because our distinguished Republic Leader, Senator Fasano has announced that he is not gonna seek another term, something about which we are all deeply disappointed and wanted to pay tribute to him here first as his service here over the last 18 years has been superb. He has been a model of a State's Legislator, someone who has been thoughtful, a good colleague, a strong advocate for his positions and his parties positions, but someone who always respected the traditions of this Chamber and the General Assembly and we hope that we will be back in this Chamber again before the end of his term. We will have further opportunities to do some things and actually pass some legislation. But just in terms of the last day of Regular Session, I wanted to briefly comment on just the superb career that he has had here that we all celebrate regardless of the Party. So at this point I will recognize any members for comments before calling upon our distinguished Majority Leader to read the

countdown, I mean the call for Sine Die [Laughing].
Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Mr. President, Senator Looney, thank you for your very, very kind words and it has been an honor and privilege to serve with you throughout the years in the Chamber and particularly as Senate President and being able to work with you on a bunch of bipartisan bills that we worked out together not only vis-a-vis the Chamber but also in the area of healthcare and some of the legislation we worked on has made it ways throughout the country. And I want to thank you very, very much for that. So once again, thank you for your kind words.

I know we do have a large Consent Calendar for today. But I got to tell ya it's been very eerie to be in this Building on the last day of Session and it's empty. You know, this is historic in a number of way. I don't know if there has been a Legislative Session in which no Bills were passed. I don't think there has been as far as my research tells. And I am honored to serve in an area where we had 18-18 tie and we were agreeable to pass Bills and in this day with the COVID virus we weren't able to pass any legislation. So it is a very, very unique year. So, Mr. President with that, I wish everyone the best, stay well, stay safe and I am sure we will back at some time, summer or fall to finish some of the items that we were not able to do. And thank you again for your kind words.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano. The Chair will now recognize the Majority Leader Senator Bob Duff of Norwalk.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President and it is an interesting day for sure to be here. It is about four o'clock, four-fifteen right now so we would probably be starting to compile the Consent Calendar for the evening while House Members were racing up here telling us which pieces of legislation they wanted to get through and asking us why we're not further along as they would like us to be and while we're in the back putting together what we would hope to be a rather long Consent Calendar that we would race through it at 11:55 p.m. tonight which I have to admit as Majority Leader is always one of my favorite parts of the evening when we get to run through that entire list and get it done by midnight. So, it's sad that we are not able to do that tonight under the present circumstances but I am glad that we're able to be here today to recognize Senator Fasano for his good work over 18 years here in this Building.

When he first came in I was still in the House and then after that came up to the Senate and as soon as Senator Fasano came to be a Member of the Circle, even as a Member of the House, he was well known to be someone who you could work with, someone who really would listen and who would compromise and try to move forward legislation not somebody who was never viewed as an obstructionist, never viewed as somebody who had a philosophical bent too far where we would not be able to be pragmatic and work

through the issues as we knew them. Then becoming a leader and continuing to work with Senator Fasano in different ways, we have become friends and I've been again working through so many of the important issues for the State whether it is budgetary issues or other pieces of legislation and working with you, sir has been a pleasure and I appreciate your friendship, and your guidance and your mentorship in many ways. And the Building will be a little less without you and for your institutional knowledge, your respect of this Chamber, your respect of the Institution and our policymaking role that we have and how we as a Circle, we look out for each other as a body not just merely as democrats and republicans but we look at each other from the standpoint of the Senate and what we should do as a Senate.

And I hope that in the future those traditions continue, that your successor and all of our successors at some point will always remember to protect the Body and protect the Institution. And I think that if outside of your policy goals and your wins on policy that people will always remember the fact of protecting this Body and how much you loved and respected the State Senate in Connecticut. So, with that, Mr. President again, I just want to thank you Senator Fasano for your work, thank your family for their sacrifices and it is a pleasure and an honor to serve with you, sir. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

[AUDIO AND VIDEO OUT]

House Majority Leader Representative Ritter and Speaker of the House Representative Joe [turns mic on] Aresimowicz and we know that this is also the Speaker's choice to be his last term, his last day of his last Regular Session but as we said earlier, Mr. Speaker we hope that we will all be back in this Chamber before too long to take action on legislation and to do things that will be important policy victories for the people of Connecticut despite the pandemic that we are dealing with now.

But, Mr. Speaker I wanted to also thank you for the extraordinary career that you have had in this Legislature as a friend, as a colleague, as an advocate, as someone who is always presented himself in a way that demonstrated respect for the office he help all the way at every step of your distinguished career here. So, again for you, for Senator Fasano, for Representative Klarides who decided not to continue, it is a triple loss for us so that the 2021 Session will be hampered at the very start by that loss, so again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for coming up here today, that the House is going to have a similar ceremony to this in a little while to have a formal conclusion to the Session. But again there was a lot of worthy legislation pending and we are hoping we can find a way to get back to that and act on some substantial things to benefit the people of the State before the year is out. Mr. Speaker, again congratulations and thank you. [Applause]

Also, Mr. Speaker we were contemplating sending you a Consent Calendar to see what might happen, Senator Duff was going to rattle off some numbers just in the great tradition we've already had and then get

it down to you before you actually adjourned as she what happens with that. We imagined it would drive 'em obviously into a complete frenzy to think that we were actually doing some of that, but we're not. But again thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Senator Fasano again my dear friend and colleague whom I've known even before we were in the rolls we have now as distinguished attorneys and fellow member of the bar in New Haven and somebody who has been honorable in every aspect of his life. So Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Also I just thought it would be important for us as the body to, [squealing mic] thank you, I thought it would be important for us as a body even though we have a limited amount of Senators here but I knew it would be on a bipartisan basis if we do take a moment of silence for the victims of COVID-19. We have lost I believe about 2,900 of our residents here in Connecticut and since we have not had the opportunity to come together, I think it would be appropriate for us to remember those who obviously have suffered, those who are on the frontlines working whether they are in grocery stores or rest stop areas, or nursing homes, or medical communities and hospital and every other industry that is working right now but remember them and especially remember the victims who have died under this terrible disease COVID-19, so if we could have a moment of silence, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Also we would, we might have a brief moment of silence for someone many of us knew well, Jack Kramer, a longtime reporter who had covered the Capital at various times during his career, his distinguished career between the New Haven Register, the Hartford Current and others where he worked. He recently passed away, it's a loss not just in terms of the public reporting of the business of the State but also someone who was a professional journalist of the highest order. So if we might have a moment of silence for Josh as well.

[Gavel] Thank you. Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

I will yield to Senator Fasano.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Duff I thank you very much for your kind words as well. I do appreciate it and it's been an honor and privilege to work with you not only as the State Senator but as Majority Leader of the State Senate and we've had a lot of Bills we had to deal with and be honest and upfront and frank with each other has lead us to a good trail and I want to thank you so much for that working relationship.

Mr. President, it is my Honor to present a Motion of Sine Die to you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Fasano. It has been moved that the Senate adjourn Sine Die. Is there comment on the Motion? Is there objection to the motion? Seeing no objection or no comment, declare the Senate adjourned Sine Die. [Gavel]

On the motion of Senator Fasano of the 34th, the Senate at 4:25 p.m. adjourned Sine Die.