

## **2017 City Club “Grand Bargain” Speech**

**THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY.**

**LEADER RADOGNO SENDS HER REGARDS AND WISHES SHE COULD BE  
HERE. I WISH SHE COULD BE HERE, TOO.**

**LET’S GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.**

**ILLINOIS HASN’T HAD A BUDGET IN TWO YEARS.**

**I’M GOING TO READ YOU ONE SENTENCE ABOUT THAT IMPASSE:**

**DURING THAT TIME, SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS WERE FROZEN  
OUT OF COUNSELING, HOMELESS TEENS AND DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WERE KICKED TO THE CURB, BREAST  
CANCER SCREENINGS WERE ELIMINATED, AND LARGE AND  
FORMERLY STABLE CHARITIES LIKE LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES  
OF ILLINOIS AS WELL AS SMALL AND VULNERABLE SERVICE**

**PROVIDERS LAID OFF THOUSANDS OF STAFF MEMBERS AND  
DISCONTINUED PROGRAMS.**

**THAT'S FROM A RECENT RICH MILLER NEWSPAPER COLUMN.**

**THAT'S A LOT OF HORRIBLE FOR ONE SENTENCE.**

**IT SMACKS YOU IN THE FACE.**

**IT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE.**

**IT SHOULD.**

**BUT THAT'S WHERE WE ARE. THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BECOME AS A  
STATE.**

**SO, TODAY ...**

**I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE REALITIES WE FACE,**

**GO OVER THE SENATE'S PLAN TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT**

**AND EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENS IF WE'RE NOT SUCCESSFUL.**

**MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'M HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND  
YOUR HELP. IF YOU WANT THIS GRIDLOCK TO END, LAWMAKERS  
NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. CALL THEM, EMAIL THEM, TAG THEM ON  
FACEBOOK AND TWITTER.**

**HERE'S THE KEY POINT:**

**IF NOT THIS PLAN, THEN WHAT?**

**AND IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?**

**ILLINOIS HAS NEVER GONE THIS LONG WITHOUT A BUDGET.**

**GETTING OUT OF THIS MESS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY.**

**LAWMAKERS NEED TO TAKE TOUGH VOTES.**

**TRUST ME, LAWMAKERS DON'T LIKE TAKING TOUGH VOTES.**

**AND IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T HELP WHEN, FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS, EVERY INTERESTED LOBBYIST IN THE STATE HAS BEEN TELLING THEM THIS PART OR THAT PART OF THE PLAN IS A DEAL BREAKER.**

**FOR PERSPECTIVE, OUR "GRAND BARGAIN" LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 9. BETWEEN THAT DATE AND THE END OF THE MONTH, 867 LOBBYISTS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE.**

**THEY ARE THE ONES FILLING OUT WITNESS SLIPS AT HEARINGS TO OPPOSE OUR EFFORTS, WITNESS SLIPS THAT FILLED 188 PAGES.**

**NOW, I DON'T FAULT THEM ... ENTIRELY.**

**THAT'S THE JOB OF A LOBBYIST. TO PROTECT HIS OR HER CLIENT'S INTEREST. THAT'S WHAT THEY GET PAID TO DO.**

**BUT, LAWMAKERS NEED TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE, SEE BEYOND THE SPECIAL INTERESTS AND DO SOMETHING TO SAVE OUR STATE.**

**I LIKE THE WAY THE SUN-TIMES SUMMED IT UP:**

**THE PARTICULARS OF THE DEAL ARE IN FLUX, BUT THE CONCEPT IS POLITICALLY SOUND — EVERYBODY WINS AND EVERYBODY LOSES AND TO HELL WITH THE SINGLE-ISSUE LOBBYISTS.**

**EVERY DAY WE DON'T ACT IS ANOTHER \$11 MILLION WE GO IN DEBT. THE PROBLEM IS ONLY GETTING WORSE, MAKING THE SOLUTION ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT.**

**SO, LET'S GO BACK AND REVISIT PARTS OF THAT ONE, HORRIBLE SENTENCE I READ TO YOU AT THE BEGINNING.**

**SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS WERE FROZEN OUT OF COUNSELING ...**

**THAT MEANS THAT WHEN A WOMAN WHO'S BEEN RAPED CALLS A HOTLINE FOR HELP, THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP HER FIND A PLACE TO STAY OR GET IMMEDIATE COUNSELING.**

**... BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS WERE ELIMINATED ...**

**THAT MEANS WOMEN WITH CANCER SCARES ARE TOLD TO  
WAIT. THAT IS NOT HOW YOU ADDRESS CANCER. WHAT THE  
STATE IS DOING TO THESE WOMEN IS MORALLY AND  
MEDICALLY WRONG.**

**HERE'S THE REALLY SAD PART. THEY CAN GET SERVICES ONCE  
THEY HAVE ADVANCED CANCER SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A LUMP  
IN THE BREAST OR ABNORMAL BLEEDING.**

**THAT'S THE STATE'S MESSAGE AND POLICY ON WOMEN'S  
HEALTH THESE DAYS.**

**IT'S UNACCEPTABLE.**

**... LARGE CHARITIES LIKE LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS AS  
WELL AS SMALL AND VULNERABLE PROVIDERS LAID OFF THOUSANDS  
OF STAFF MEMBERS AND DISCONTINUED PROGRAMS.**

**LET'S REMEMBER, THESE CHARITIES, THESE ORGANIZATIONS  
ARE BUSINESSES. THEY EMPLOYE PEOPLE. WHEN THEY LAY OFF  
WORKERS, THOSE PEOPLE GO TO THE SAME UNEMPLOYMENT  
LINE AS ANYONE ELSE WHO'S LOST A JOB.**

**THE STATE IS CONTRACTING WITH THESE BUSINESSES FOR  
SERVICES AND THEN NOT PAYING THEM.**

**THAT'S FORCING LAYOFFS.**

**MASSIVE LAYOFFS.**

**LAST YEAR, LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES CUT 30 PROGRAMS  
AND LAID OFF 750 WORKERS BECAUSE THE STATE HADN'T PAID  
THE BUSINESS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR WORK THAT WAS  
DONE.**

**A UNITED WAY SURVEY LAST YEAR OF 429 SOCIAL SERVICE  
BUSINESSES ACROSS ILLINOIS FOUND THAT 91 PERCENT HAD  
CUT BACK CLIENT SERVICES, MEANING 1 MILLION PEOPLE WHO  
NEEDED MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION HELP WEREN'T GETTING IT ANYMORE.**

**I WISH IT STOPPED THERE.**

**IT DOESN'T.**

**OUR EMERGENCY BUDGET RAN OUT ON DECEMBER 31.**

**THAT LEFT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES WITH  
NO PUBLIC SUPPORT IN 2017 AFTER MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS  
IN CUTS IN RECENT YEARS.**

**THOSE CUTS HAVE DAMAGED OUR REPUTATION AND OUR  
ECONOMY.**

**HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS RECOMMEND GRADUATES LOOK  
ELSEWHERE FOR THEIR DEGREES. ENROLLMENT IS FALLING AT  
DANGEROUS RATES. EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SAW A 13  
PERCENT DROP LAST YEAR.**

**MEANWHILE, STUDENTS ATTENDING ILLINOIS SCHOOLS ON STATE-  
FUNDED MAP GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE LEFT IN LIMBO,  
WONDERING IF THEIR SCHOOLS WILL FLOAT THEM FOR ANOTHER  
SEMESTER IN HOPES THE STATE WILL GET ITS ACT TOGETHER.**



**AND THIS ALL TAKES A HUMAN TOLL.**

**MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN CARBONDALE REPORTS A GROWING  
NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING IN AND BEING PLACED ON SUICIDE  
WATCH AS THE BUDGET IMPASSE DRAGS ON. AT THE SAME TIME,  
STATE CUTS FORCE THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY, TO CONSIDER ELIMINATING COUNSELING AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS.**

**PEOPLE ACROSS THIS STATE ARE MAKING IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES  
BECAUSE THE PEOPLE AT THE CAPITOL HAVEN'T TAKEN TOUGH  
VOTES.**

**ON TOP OF IT ALL, WALL STREET DOESN'T LIKE US EITHER.**

**ILLINOIS HAS THE WORST CREDIT RATING IN THE NATION. WE JUST  
GOT DOWNGRADED AGAIN LAST WEEK AND MORE ARE ON THE WAY.  
OUR PROBLEMS ARE UNPRECEDENTED.**

**THERE IS NO EASY SOLUTION.**

**SO, IN THE SENATE, WE'RE PROPOSING AN UNPRECEDENTED DEAL,  
MORE THAN A DOZEN PROPOSALS ADDRESSING EVERYTHING FROM**

**...**

**THE MISSING 2017 BUDGET PLAN,  
TO REFORMS OF GOVERNMENT PENSIONS AND WORKERS  
COMPENSATION,  
TO GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION,  
AND AN OVERHAUL OF HOW WE FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

**THEY'RE ALL LINKED IN A GRAND BARGAIN.**

**IT'S A COMPROMISE IN THE TRUEST FORM, SOMETHING WE DON'T  
SEE ENOUGH OF IN SPRINGFIELD.**

**IF WE CAN PULL THIS OFF,**

**WE'LL PAY BUSINESSES ON TIME,  
FULLY FUND MAP SCHOLARSHIPS,  
ENSURE STATE WORKERS GET PAID AND GOVERNMENT  
DOESN'T SHUTDOWN,**

**ASSEMBLE A COMPLETE BUDGET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS,**

**AND PUT ILLINOIS ON THE PATH TO A BALANCED BUDGET.**

**WE WILL ALSO ...**

**SAVE BILLIONS ON PENSION COSTS,**

**GIVE VOTERS THE POWER TO REDUCE ILLINOIS' "MOST IN THE NATION" NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,**

**AND GIVE SCHOOLS RELIEF FROM STATE MANDATES.**

**IT'S AN INTRICATE AND DELICATE GIVE-AND-TAKE DESIGNED TO CREATE A PLAN THAT CAN WIN BIPARTISAN SUPPORT AMONG LAWMAKERS AND HOPEFULLY GET THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.**

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS.**

**ON ONE HAND THERE'S AN INCREASE TO THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT, WHICH REDUCES POVERTY BY REWARDING WORK.**

**AND IN THE SAME PROPOSAL THERE'S A RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT TO CUT BUSINESS COSTS AND SPUR  
INNOVATION.**

**THAT'S THE PREMISE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DEAL.**

**IF YOU EXPECT ME TO VOTE FOR THAT, I'M GOING TO NEED THIS.**

**THAT'S WHAT NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE IS ALL ABOUT.**

**YES, THERE'S A REVENUE COMPONENT: AN INCREASE IN THE STATE  
INCOME TAX. BUT THERE'S ALSO A LOCAL PROPERTY TAX FREEZE.**

**CHICAGO GETS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ITS TEACHER PENSION  
COSTS, JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ILLINOIS, AND  
THERE'S ALSO PENSION REFORM STATEWIDE, INCLUDING CUTS TO  
END-OF-CAREER PENSION SPIKING AND ELIMINATING THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY PENSION SYSTEM.**

**THESE ARE ALL TIED TOGETHER.**

**IF PENSION REFORM FAILS, IT'S ALL OFF. THE SCHOOL FUNDING  
OVERHAUL, WORKERS COMPENSATION REFORMS AND THE BUDGET  
PLAN FAIL ALONG WITH IT.**

IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL, THE SENATE WILL HAVE SHOWN THAT IT CAN BE DONE. REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS WILL HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO ENACT REFORMS AND RAISE 6 AND ONE HALF BILLION DOLLARS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET.

NEXT WEEK, WHEN GOVERNOR RAUNER UNVEILS HIS BUDGET, I LOOK FORWARD TO HIM WALKING EVERYONE THROUGH HIS DETAILED PLAN TO RAISE 6 AND ONE HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUE AND NEEDED REFORMS TO FINALLY PRODUCE A BALANCED BUDGET.

AND THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS, PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK AT TWO WAYS TO GET TO A BALANCED BUDGET, TWO HONEST PLANS, AND DECIDE THE BEST PATH FORWARD.

WE MUST FIND SUCCESS ON A BALANCED BUDGET.

BECAUSE FAILURE ISN'T AN OPTION.

AND HERE'S WHY.

**WITHOUT A BALANCED BUDGET PLAN, GOVERNMENT GOES ON LIFE SUPPORT.**

**OUR PENSION PAYMENTS WOULD STILL BE MADE AND RETIREMENT CHECKS WOULD GO OUT. THOSE ARE ON AUTOPILOT.**

**AND MANY VITAL SERVICES WOULD BE FUNDED BECAUSE OF COURT ORDERS.**

**WE WOULD LIKELY TRY TO FUND EMPLOYEES AND PROGRAMS AS EMERGENCIES CROP UP.**

**MEANWHILE, OUR STACK OF UNPAID BILLS WILL GROW.**

**OUR PROPOSED MIX OF REVENUE, REFORMS AND CUTS CREATE A TRUE FRAMEWORK FOR A BALANCED BUDGET. THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO DO NOTHING. THERE ARE THOSE WOULD HAVE US WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE NEXT ELECTION**

**OK, RIGHT NOW, THE BACKLOG OF UNPAID BILLS IS AROUND \$11 BILLION.**

**LEFT UNCHECKED, IT WILL GROW TO \$13.5 BILLION BY JULY.**

**LOOK AT THAT CHART. SEE THE SOURCE DOWN IN THE CORNER?**

**THESE ARE GOVERNOR RAUNER'S NUMBERS.**

**FROM THERE, THE DEBT KEEPS GROWING.**

**ON ELECTION DAY 2018, IT WILL BE ROUGHLY \$24 BILLION.**

**THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS.**

**WE'RE ALMOST TWO YEARS BEHIND IN PAYING OUR BILLS NOW. THE**

**NEXT GOVERNOR WILL BE PAYING BUSINESSES FOUR YEARS LATE.**

**BY THEN, WE'LL HAVE BEEN DOWNGRADED TO JUNK BOND STATUS**

**AND NO ONE WILL LEND US MONEY. THE NEW GOVERNOR WILL HAVE**

**THAT HUNG AROUND HIS OR HER NECK.**

**I DON'T WANT TO EVEN SPECULATE WHAT THE TAX RATE WOULD**

**NEED TO BE TO TRY TO DIG OUT OF THAT HOLE.**

**AND THE PROBLEM KEEPS GETTING WORSE.**

**DO NOTHING AND IN FOUR YEARS THE BACKLOG OF OVERDUE**

**PAYMENTS TO BUSINESSES TOPS \$40 BILLION, MORE THAN THE**

**ACTUAL COST OF RUNNING THE STATE FOR A YEAR.**

**SEVERAL PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WILL BE GONE BY THEN, THOSE LEFT WILL BE HOLLOWED OUT, EXISTING ON THE FEW STUDENTS WHO CAN AFFORD THE TUITION.**

**FACED WITH SKYROCKETING TUITION HERE, OUR STUDENTS WILL FLEE IN INCREASINGLY GREATER NUMBERS, POSSIBLY NEVER TO RETURN.**

**PENSION COSTS WILL GOBBLE UP EVER LARGER PORTIONS OF OUR BUDGET, SQUEEZING OUT EDUCATION AND OTHER PRIORITIES.**

**THE DISPARITIES OF OUR “WORST IN THE NATION” SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM WILL ACTUALLY WORSEN.**

**CHICAGO AND OTHER SCHOOLS WILL CUT DAYS AND LAY OFF TEACHERS.**

**LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES WILL INCREASE AS HOMEOWNERS SHOULDER MORE OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN WITH NO RELIEF.**

**BUT IT’S NOT ALL BAD. LOBBYISTS WILL STILL GET PAID TO OPPOSE ANY AND ALL CHANGES DOWN AT THE CAPITOL.**



**SO, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH OUR PROPOSED  
SOLUTION NOW, I HAVE A QUESTION ...**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK THE SOLUTION IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE IN  
2018?**

**DO YOU THINK THE CHOICES GET EASIER?**

**AND WHAT DO WE DO UNTIL THEN?**

**LET ME TELL YOU AGAIN WHAT HAPPENS WHILE WE WAIT ...**

**DURING THAT TIME, SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS WILL BE FROZEN  
OUT OF COUNSELING, HOMELESS TEENS AND DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WILL BE KICKED TO THE CURB, BREAST  
CANCER SCREENINGS WILL BE ELIMINATED, AND LARGE AND  
FORMERLY STABLE CHARITIES LIKE LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES  
OF ILLINOIS AS WELL AS SMALL AND VULNERABLE SERVICE  
PROVIDERS WILL LAY OFF THOUSANDS OF STAFF MEMBERS AND  
DISCONTINUE PROGRAMS.**

**WE HAVE A CHANCE TO END THE DYSFUNCTION.**

**WE HAVE A CHANCE TO RESTORE STABILITY AND SANITY TO OUR  
FINANCES.**

**I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR HELP IN CONVINCING MY COLLEAGUES THAT  
THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME TO DO  
IT.**

**AND I SEE THAT WE HAVE A FEW OF THOSE COLLEAGUES HERE  
TODAY. I SHOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THEM SOONER, BUT NOW  
SEEMS LIKE A GOOD TIME.**

**(NAME THE SENATORS IN ATTENDANCE)**

**(INTRODUCE WIFE)**

**THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, I'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE SOME  
QUESTIONS.**

**<end>**