

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Kevin Rooney of Northfield.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Joint Resolution Referred

J.R.S. 7.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senators Galbraith, Pollina and Baruth,

J.R.S. 7. Joint resolution amending the Joint Rules relating to a Joint Assembly electing a person to any office.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That Rule 10. (a) of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives is amended to read:

10. (a) Whenever a Joint Assembly is required to elect one or more persons to any office, the voting shall be by open ballot for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Treasurer, and by the call of roll for all other offices, except that if there is only one candidate for any office, and if there is no objection, the Chair may put the question to the Joint Assembly by voice vote.

Thereupon, the President, in his discretion, treated the joint resolution as a bill and referred it to the Committee on Government Operations.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senators Carris and Mullin,

J.R.S. 8. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 14, 2011, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

Senate Concurrent Resolution Adopted

Senate concurrent resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted in concurrence:

By All Members of the Senate,

By All Members of the House

S.C.R. 1. Senate concurrent resolution in memory of Secretary of the Senate David A. Gibson.

Whereas, respect for the parliamentary integrity of the Vermont Senate, concurrent with an intimate acquaintance with the intricacies of Mason's Manual of Parliamentary Procedure and the Permanent Rules of the Vermont Senate, are fundamental prerequisites for service as Secretary of that august legislative chamber, and

Whereas, for the past decade, Brattleboro native David Gibson served with great distinction as the Secretary of the Vermont Senate, immediately succeeding his brother, Robert, who served from 1967–1999, and following in the footsteps of his father, Ernest Jr., who held this position from 1933–1940, and

Whereas, David Gibson was scholastically well suited to perform this parliamentary role, having graduated from Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School, and

Whereas, as a Vermont State Senator representing the Windham District for three terms starting in 1977, David Gibson developed a great love for the institution that transcended partisanship and the immediate issues of the day, and

Whereas, when presented the opportunity to continue his family's notable tradition of state service as Vermont Senate Secretary, David Gibson accepted the challenge, bringing a special affection for his job to the State House each day, and

Whereas, his parliamentary equanimity and nonpartisanship won praise from all senators who quickly came to respect his fair judgment and expertise, and

Whereas, David Gibson's prior duties as editor-in-chief of the University of Virginia Law Review enabled him to scrutinize each comma and semicolon

that passed across his desk and render a wise judgment on their survival in Senate documents and publications, and

Whereas, a strong advocate for advancing the Vermont Legislature, and especially the Senate, into the 21st century, while adhering to historic institutional customs and traditions, David Gibson persuaded the General Assembly to approve the installation of a new computerized document management system that has greatly expedited the editing and publishing of legislative calendars and journals and simultaneously enabled the Senate Secretary to record roll call votes digitally, and

Whereas, he greatly facilitated the General Assembly's adoption of new joint rules that streamlined the adoption of commemorative resolutions and authorized their bicameral sponsorship, and

Whereas, nationally, David Gibson was an active and enthusiastic participant in the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries and was a primary organizer of the society's 2007 national convention which took place in Vermont, and

Whereas, aside from his legislative duties, David Gibson's legal and public service career had included serving as Windham County State's Attorney and First Assistant United States Attorney for Vermont, on the State Board of Education and the Judicial Conduct Board, and as one of Vermont's Uniform Law Commissioners, a role he especially enjoyed, and

Whereas, David Gibson worked intently on the Vermont Senate's behalf until shortly before his untimely death on August 16, 2010, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its profound condolences to the family of David A. Gibson, including his dear and special friend, Nancy Beasley; his children, Mark, and his wife, Nickie; Michael, and his wife, Jean; Dorothy; and Katharine; his grandchildren, David, Halle, Zennon, Jennifer, Emily, Kelsey, and Kimberly; his brother, retired Vermont Supreme Court Justice Ernest Gibson III, and his wife, Charlotte; and his sister, Grace G. Newcomer, on the passing of the Vermont Senate's cherished Secretary, extraordinary parliamentarian, true friend, and champion, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of the family of David Gibson.

Recess

At ten o'clock in the morning, on motion of Senator Campbell, the Senate recessed for the purpose of honoring David A. Gibson. Thereupon, remarks were presented as follows:

Remarks by the Honorable Peter E. Shumlin, Governor

“Thank you Mister President, Mister President *Pro Tem*, our honorable members of the Senate, special guests and family. First I want to thank the President Pro Tem for suspending the rules. I’m still a Governor in training and Congressman Welch just pointed out that I just voted on the resolution. He turned to me in shock and said “You just voted,” and I said, “Well they just threw me out a few days ago, give me a break. You’ve been gone longer than I have.” But welcome Congressman Welch. I want to give a special welcome to David’s family, and as we all know, David’s family meant everything to him. So first to go to his beautiful sister Gaye, brother Ernie, sister-in-law Charlotte whom he adored and whom he lived with during sessions when he was here. A special welcome to you. To his four beautiful children – Kay, Dee, Michael, and Mark – for being here. His grandchildren. And I cannot neglect his love of his life, Nancy Beasely, who is here with her sister Rebecca and extended family. Nancy it is so wonderful to have you back in Vermont. We consider you a Vermonter only because of David, I want to make that clear, and it’s an absolute delight to have you here.

“It seems like it was just a few days ago that we adjourned the Senate from the last biennium and David was not only our Secretary but our healthy friend. My last conversation with David - and I think there’s no such thing as a coincidence – was about his love for his job. I knew I was leaving after some years here. I didn’t know if I’d be back, frankly. In fact I thought there was a one-in-six chance that I wouldn’t, and it concerned me. It concerned me because when I first came to the Senate and became President of the Senate I had the extraordinary guidance of brother Bob Gibson, who I could not have done my job without and none of us could have. When Bob died it was at Bob’s funeral that I turned to David and said, “You know, the Senate has a long tradition of functioning because of Gibson’s. Back to your father, your brother, and we don’t know quite what we’re going to do without that presence. Is there any chance that you’re interested?” I want to qualify that conversation, sharing it with you – because I’ve never shared it publicly before – for the simple reason that there were some extraordinarily qualified people to be Secretary of the Senate. It was not a lack of qualified applicants. It was my understanding of their love for this institution, their dedication to Vermont, their service as Vermonters and the simple fact that this Senate, in effect, has trouble functioning without Gibson blood. And David said, “Yes, I’m interested.” So that started a process and I’ve got to tell you that the history will reflect that we had just taken over the Senate as Democrats and there wasn’t unanimity among the caucus that that was the best thing to do. There was a particularly outspoken member of the caucus who reflected the thoughts of some others, who you may remember - I won’t mention her name but she

hailed from Windsor County – who said to me at that time, “I don’t think that’s the best judgment because he will be partisan.” And I said, “Senator, you’re almost always right, but not this time. Gibson’s are not partisan. Gibson’s care about Vermont. It’s a family disease that they want to serve Vermont. When they serve Vermont they do it with objectivity, they do it with distinction, they do it with fairness, they do it with honesty, and they do it with love. If there is any exception to that in his service, you let me know.” Those of you that knew that Senator well should record this: twelve months later, in my office, that particular Senator said to me, “Peter I have to tell you when I was wrong, and I was wrong.” And I’ll never forget that moment, nor will many of you.

“I tell you that story because as I was leaving here I was concerned about David’s service to the Senate. I wanted to know how long it would be and what he was thinking about his life, since I was making some decisions about mine, and since we’d come in together in many ways. So I said, “David, what’s your plan?” And his friend and colleague and partner, Vanessa, was there, and we had this conversation. I said, “Are you going to be here if I am lucky enough to be in public service after this election?” He said, “You bet I am!” He said, “I love my job.” He said, “I’ve never been happier in my lifetime.” He said, “Between the fact that I’ve finally found the love of my life in Nancy, and the love of my life in my job, I’m going to be here until you don’t want me anymore. Until they don’t want me anymore, and I intend to be here for at least another decade.”

“So I share that with you only because obviously it was an extraordinary shock to all of us that David left us when he did. And I just want to close by saying this: David was a friend to all of us. The Senate functioned with dignity because of him. He brought to Vermont his extraordinary love of this state, his fairness, his extraordinary attention to detail which is unrivaled and more than anything else his love of this institution. We will miss him deeply. We are delighted that his family is here. And I can tell you that while David is not here in presence, he is here with us in spirit every single day. I’ll carry with me part of his good judgment and dignity as I serve as Governor and I know that all the people in this Senate, the new Secretary – Secretary Bloomer – and the rest of us will carry his dignity and his honesty with us every single day of our work.

“Thank you.”

Remarks by the Honorable Peter F. Welch, United States Representative

“Governor Shumlin, Mr. President, Members of the Senate and the Gibson Family. This a really joyous occasion and a proud moment for Vermont. David Gibson, my colleague I sat next to David over there in seat 17, Senator Gannett was in seat 16 and I was in seat 15 when I first came to the Senate in 1981. I got to know David as a legislator and at that time Bob Gibson, his

brother, was the Senate Secretary and I got to know him for the fine job that he did as Secretary. His brother, Ernest, every once in a while would rule my way, but sometimes not. I got to know him as a judge. His sister Gay I only met today. What an extraordinary family, the Gibson family. There is not a family in the State of Vermont that has had a longer term commitment to public service than the Gibson family. As all of you know, their Dad's portrait is in the Cedar Creek Room. He was a war hero, he was Governor, he was Senate Secretary, he was a federal court judge. His children all followed in his footsteps of service and tradition. I knew David was smart. At times I introduced a bill and was about to get passed he would read it and find problems. I was saying to my wife Margaret on the way up "Whenever David mentioned something you knew he was right because he had read it and thought about it, he was very considered in what his criticism was so if he made one it was something you realized you have got to deal with it." I didn't know he was the Editor of the Law Review, but I'm not surprised to hear that he was and as I think all of you know, the University of Virginia is one of the best law schools in the country, of course he was also a graduate of Yale College. This man was brilliant. In the resolution that was mentioned that he looked at every comma, he looked at every punctuation mark and it may lead the listener to think that that is what he loved to do and he did. He loved to edit, he loved to be careful, he knew the importance of words. But my view after serving with him and working with him was that that love of words was not for themselves, it was something he understood and that is that civility matters. That what we do is important but how we do it is also fundamentally important and in a legislative body where the full range of contention that is part of our society where we wrestle with very difficult issues about taxing and spending, about health care, about intimate issues of reproduction. Every issue that generates heartfelt and intense feelings ultimately finds its place in this Senate for dispute, discussion and hopefully resolution. We only know too well from the tragic events this week that civility is fundamentally important to the fabric and democracy in our capacity to make difficult decisions and make progress. David understood that. He understood it from his whole tradition as a Gibson, he understood it because it's the culture of Vermont. He gave his life in service to the importance of civility in public debate and the resolution of intensely important public issues. So David Gibson is somebody I think we can all look to as an example of how to lead a passionate public life where we have the humility to understand that as intense as we are in our point of view the person who disputes our point of view has the same high motivations we'd like to see assigned to our own. And, for that, all of us will remember forever the service that David Gibson gave to us, those of us who were so fortunate to serve with him in this body but also all Vermonters, who even though they did not know David Gibson, benefitted from his life of dedicated public service.

“Thank you.”

Remarks by Howard Coffin

“Four years ago, on behalf of the National Park Service, I asked David Gibson to represent the State at the Vermont monument dedication on Virginia's Wilderness Battlefield. He accepted and spoke eloquently, capturing masterfully the historic moment, both of that day, and of two fiery Civil War days nearly a century and a half before when Vermonters saved Ulysses Grant's army. And having the Vermont senate secretary speak was most appropriate. The monument had origins in the Institutions Committee. And, more than 100 Civil War veterans served here in the Senate.

“That day I shared a podium with two good friends, David, and Jim Jeffords, just retired from the Senate and, sadly, making one of his last public appearances. There they were, those two gentlemen, bearing two of the great political names in Vermont's history, products of something today all but lost and gone—the Aiken/Gibson wing of the Vermont Republican Party.

From its ranks came its namesakes, former governors George Aiken and Ernest Gibson, David's father, and many other grand servants of Vermont, including senators James Lowell Oakes, John Downs, Edward Janeway, Robert Gannett, all the Gibsons. You know that as George Aiken neared retirement from the Senate he asked the nation's most Democratic liberal, John Kenneth Galbraith, father of the new senator from Windham County, to run and succeed him. Those Aiken/Gibson Republicans were, really, Franklin Roosevelt Republicans and they began a reshaping of Vermont politics whose results could be seen in the outcomes of the 2010 elections.

“Dave Gibson and I shared a friendship that mainly existed here, in the State House. In these graceful halls and hallways we talked, a thousand times, of baseball, books, ski jumping, history, Vermont everything, and politics past, present, and future. It seemed that he knew something about most everything. His sense of humor was unfailing, his compassion ever present, his advice, given but when solicited, always sound. His remarkable common sense, a hallmark of the family, will ever be a presence in this room, where his brother Bob, and his father, also served as secretaries of the Senate.

“That day on the Wilderness Battlefield was one of those gleaming autumn days that Virginia puts forth, with a touch of foliage, that can make a Vermonter almost homesick. As the dedication ceremony proceeded, a blazing sun dappled the leaf-scattered ground in which, I know, some Vermonters still lie.

“Then, just before Taps sounded, something remarkable happened. Out of a blue and cloudless sky, rain began to fall, no cloudburst, but a gentle sprinkle, like tears coming down to touch the once bloodied land.

“And so, good-bye Dave, our time spent together will ever be one of my treasures. So the silver drops came down at Wilderness that day, from somewhere.

“Shakespeare said:

“Take him and cut him out in little stars,

“And he will make the face of heaven so fine

“That all the world will be in love with night

“And pay no worship to the garish sun.”

Remarks by Senator Richard W. Sears, Jr.

“It’s somewhat difficult to follow the three preceding speakers.

“I came into the Senate 18 year ago and one of the first people I met was Bob Gibson. Bob and I shared a bad habit together so we ended up spending a lot of time together in that room talking about life, talking about this that and the other thing. I became very good friends with Bob and was sorry to see his loss. Then David came and took over and did a masterful job. It’s not always easy replacing your brother, I can’t imagine what that would be like. I can’t imagine settling arguments between various Senators who believe strongly in what they’re saying and even sometimes even saying “We know you’re right, but we’ll go vote to make you wrong.” I can remember a few battles with the Senator from Essex-Orleans and things like that that would get a little touchy and David was always the one to calm things down. I think we’re heard from the three preceding speakers a lot about David but what I didn’t know until about two years ago was David’s passion as a former State’s Attorney for innocence protection. He had been on a special committee nationwide. I doubt few people will know about this. They develop model legislation for innocence protection which is tremendously important, and the Senate was working on a bill on innocence protection particularly, eyewitness identification, and the use of videos for interrogation. That’s come up a few times in the most recent history of the state. There was a lot of resistance from law enforcement. Obviously, David couldn’t get involved in the legislation, but he did lead us in the right direction for the right people for our committee to hear from. All very quietly in the background. When I think of David Gibson, I think of somebody who worked in the background, didn’t get a lot of credit sometimes for what he did but truly a great public servant and what an asset to this Senate. He will be missed. Thank you, Mr. President.”

Remarks by Senator William H. Carris

“Thank you, Mr. President.

“Day one here four years ago I was overwhelmed by David’s exceptional knowledge which he used to bail me out. Then I saw him bail out this body on a daily basis. It was unbelievable. David was always helpful to anyone, anytime about everything, always had time for me as I stumbled into this body. We all relied on David for everything moving smoothly, which is a neat trick. I came to love David for his dedication, his love of this body and his caring. His death was a great personal loss to me, to the Senate, to Vermont and to anyone who knew him.

“Thank you.”

Remarks by Senator Hinda Miller

“I am not standing up with intimate stories about David Gibson nor long years of shared service. For me David Gibson was the soul of the Senate. His presence is felt even now. When I think of David Gibson, I think of poetry. I found a poem by William Wordsworth, it talks about natural piety. It’s called “The Rainbow”.

‘The Rainbow

My heart leaps up when I behold

A rainbow in the sky:

So was it when my life began;

So is it now I am a man;

So be it when I shall grow old,

Or let me die!

The child is father of the Man;

And I could wish my days to be

Bound each to each by natural piety

Band each to each by natural piety.’

“David, we will miss your natural piety. God Bless you.”

Remarks by Senator Jeanette K. White

“As a new member to the Senate eight years ago, I found some of the rules and procedures a bit confusing and intimidating. David could tell that I was frustrated a couple times about particular issues. Even though we disagreed on the topic, and on what we thought should be the result, David sought me out

and told me what to do in order to make sure my voice was heard and my right to try to stop a particular action was honored.

“He helped me become a better member by letting me in on what was actually happening during the floor session, knowing when my leg was being pulled by other members and how to get back at them – most notably the leadership – and helping me understand the rules and the traditions.

“David did this without regard to my party or my stand on issues. And he did it with a sense of humor.

“He also made a valiant attempt to make sure the Senate had a bowling team that could actually bowl.

“My only complaint about David was that he could do the crossword puzzles faster than I could.

“I will miss him tremendously.”

Remarks by Senator Robert M. Hartwell

“Thank you, Mr. President.

“About two years ago I found myself confronted with a question raised by others that clearly had to do with ethical standards and how we handle our public lives and our private lives where occupations are concerned. I analyzed this problem and worked it through in my own thinking and I’m walking down the hall downstairs thinking I’d solved the problem and all of a sudden that little person gets up on your shoulder, some of you know about this, and the person speaks in my ears and says to me “Are you sure that you’ve done everything you can do to analyze this problem to have come to that conclusion even though you know you’re proceeding in good faith.” Forty-five seconds later I presented myself in the Senate Secretary’s Office and asked David if I could speak with him alone about these things. We spoke right here, just the two of us, and I laid out the problem, which in the end turned out not to be a problem, but when it’s bothering you it’s really wonderful to have a David Gibson to talk with. He talked about the problem and he heard the issues as I saw them and asked me some questions and said I want to think about this. He went away and said I’ll probably talk to you tomorrow. In the meantime as I learned later he had a conversation with his colleague and his counterpart in the House, the House Clerk, whom we know and respect, they had a conversation and he came back to me the next day and he lays out the issues all over again which worked out very favorably to the circumstances. He pulls out a piece of paper on which he has written down the issues and his thinking about the issues and leaves that piece of paper with me. The thing that is great about this and about having somebody like David is that you could have that conversation even though you knew in the beginning you thought you had it

right that's often not enough when you're dealing with these kinds of problems. He was a wonderful credit to this body and to this building and everyone who works here. He was an enormous help to me on issues and that was only time that issue came up but to have somebody who was as thoughtful and whose words were as thoughtful – Congressman Welch spoke about the words – and those words are on that piece of paper which still resides in my personal papers and I think it's probably in those papers because of who wrote the words.

“Thank you, Mr. President.”

Remarks by Senator Vincent Illuzzi

“Thank you.

“I really did not have prepared remarks but I'll speak extemporaneously.

“When I was in college at St. Michael's College I was appointed at the recommendation of the President of the college as a student member of the State Board of Education: prior to it becoming an official position of the board. I was, I think, 18 or 19 years old and Dave Gibson served as a member of the State Board of Education with some other notables, Barbara Snelling, Joan Hoff and a couple of others. It was a five member board at the time. As I served Dave Gibson said to me one day “You know you ought to think about going to law school.” It was at a time in college when people didn't really know what they were going to do. And I said, “Well, that's a nice thought.” He actually wrote a letter to the Dean at the time, a fellow by the name of Thomas Devebois, it said “There is a college student who I really think would make a good candidate.” And based on David's letter I received an application. Which is somewhat unusual, the application came to me. So I applied and was accepted and the rest is history. Maybe some of you may regret that moment. In any event, many years later, not that many years later, because I started when I was very young, I had just graduated from law school and I was elected to the Senate, I met Bob Gibson and worked with Bob for 20 years when he was the Secretary of the Senate. From time to time Bob would ask me to nominate him for reelection for Secretary of the Senate over the 20 year period. I was single for most of that time. I was very young. I worked at the State House alone at night and he would be here listening to the radio and smoking in his office, which was a common occurrence for those of you who knew him. It soon became known to me that the Gibson's really were Southern Vermont's first family. Now, of course, we have our own first family from Southern Vermont. At the time it was the Gibson family, Governor, U.S. Judge, War Hero. I mean, it was almost every position of honor that you could have in public service was held by a Gibson family. I really think that as I've often told people, I've really grown up in this building.

I've actually grown up in this Senate. Bob Gibson was a mentor. Then, of course, David came along and you know how history repeats itself. Here we are 25 years later and the person who got me into law and who had suggested public service to me was now the Secretary of the Senate. It was just a real pleasure dealing with the Gibson's. You didn't have to second guess where they were coming from. The advice was always the best advice they could share. So I have to really give both Bob and Dave a lot of credit for making me who I am today. To the Gibson Family it's been a real pleasure to work over the last 31 years with members of your family, it's something which has made me who I am. I will miss David. It's really the end of an era. If it was 1930 or 1940 when there weren't many democrats in Vermont, there was the Gibson, Aiken Wing of the Republican Party. I am confident I would have been a member of that division of the Republican Party. Probably, in large part, because thanks to the folks like Ernest, David and Bob. So, my condolences to the family and just know that they've really helped to set Vermont on the right course which brings us to where we are today, probably one of the best states in the America."

Remarks by Secretary of the Senate John H. Bloomer, Jr.

"Thank-you for the opportunity to say a few remarks about David Gibson. My family have known the Gibson family for over 3/4 of a century. My grandfather Asa knew and worked with David's father. My uncle Bob served with David in the Senate. I had the privilege, honor and pleasure to know David when I served in this Chamber and he was the Secretary.

"On our journey in life, certain individuals stand out. They touch us in such profound ways it is difficult to express the depth of their impact and legacy. We sometimes encounter families of such outstanding individuals. David Gibson was such an individual. The Gibson family is such a family. These families create large footprints in the Vermont snow. Indeed, some families created such large footsteps later generations find it difficult to follow – to fill the voids left by earlier generations and relatives.

"When David came to the position of Secretary of the Senate he stared at the footprints left by his father and his brother, Bob. I know not how David viewed these footprints of his relatives. Yet, it has been said that to those much is given, much is expected. So as a Gibson, David must not have seen the high expectations as a burden, but rather as a standard to which he was to live as he fulfilled the duties of the office. A standard from which he never deviated during his service as Secretary of the Senate.

"David was an extraordinary individual, possessing the most important characteristics, characteristics instilled in all Gibsons: honesty, integrity, dedication, judgment and a sense of justice. He truly loved the Senate as an

institution and worked hard to uphold its effectiveness and dignity and he cherished its history. His talent at guiding the Senate was rare.

“His stewardship of the office created a legacy. A practical, tangible legacy in his upgrading of the computerization of the office – instituting new software which simplifies processes and procedures. It is a tangible legacy which continues in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate. Equally important, his intangible legacy will be remembered – his Vermont values, his Gibson instilled legacy of honesty, integrity, dedication, judgment and sense of justice.

“These characteristics will be his footprints in the Vermont snow. I am humbled as I approach and stare at his footsteps. To follow, I fear I will need snow shoes on my feet merely to begin. But, by being ever mindful of the David’s intangible legacy, the footprints will be visible and we will follow.

“Thank-you for this opportunity to speak about David, someone I deeply respected and greatly admired for his tremendous contributions not just in the Senate, but to the State of Vermont. He will be sorely missed.”

Remarks by the Honorable Philip B. Scott, Lieutenant Governor

“David began serving as Senate Secretary the same year I started serving in the Senate.

“As I contemplated the next phase of my political career – running for Lt. Governor - I was counting on the fact that David would be here to guide me on the Senate floor. Unfortunately, that turned out not to be the case.

“After the initial shock of David’s passing last year, my next thoughts were of concern for the Senate. At least 5 Senators would not be returning, and now the Senate Secretary as well. How was the Senate going to function logistically?

“Now, of course, we all know we’re going to be okay...our new Senate Secretary, John Bloomer, has picked up right where David left off. The fact that this transition was so smooth, is a testament to how well David did his job.

“David and his brother were fixtures of the Senate for 42 years. Together, they meticulously put into place a process that makes sense and makes it less difficult for someone like me to understand.

“That process and those traditions continue to guide all of us. I’m certainly going to miss David’s presence here, but in many ways I feel he’s still here with us.

“Our ceremony today includes two dedications to David Gibson. First, we’re dedicating the 2010 Journal of the Senate to David. This is a fitting tribute to a man who diligently and meticulously worked on this Journal for us.

“Second, as you know, in the future we will be re-dedicating the cloak room to the Gibsons, who served as Secretary of the Senate. As part of that rededication, hanging in the cloak room will be a photograph of David, which we’re about to unveil. I would ask that the Gibson family come up at this time to unveil the photograph.

“Finally, I’d like to invite everyone here to join the Gibson family for a reception in the Cedar Creek Room after we adjourn.”

Remarks by Dee Gibson on behalf of the Gibson Children

“Good Morning, Governor, Lt. Governor, Senators and friends and family of David Gibson!

“I speak today on behalf of the children of David Gibson

“We want to thank the State of Vermont and the Senate for honoring our father in recognition of his work here as Secretary of the Senate. Although he served the state in many capacities, he truly loved his work as Secretary of the Senate. He worked with a wonderful team and we want to give special thanks to Vanessa Davison, (who usually knew his schedule), for all of her dedicated and supportive work. He valued you highly!

“Most of you know our father in his various professional roles, his capacity for doing a thorough and good job whatever the task. We would just like to briefly touch upon the qualities that he shared with us as a father which we saw him model into all aspects of his life.

“He was a hard worker at home, but gentle and wise, giving freely of his advice – pearls of wisdom, which sometimes we heeded immediately! He was unassuming and non-judgmental, and we saw he was special to so many people. He had an innate understanding of human nature which flowed over into a compassion for all beings. He gave his time willingly to us as well as many others.

“He loved Vermont! He loved the land, the people and especially his family. He had a wonderful sense of fairness and tended to look out for the underdog.

“As a father he was a great role model with his work ethic which he carried out with integrity and humor. Oh yes, he had an infectious laugh, which will continue to resound in all of us who knew him well.

“We all miss him terribly, and know that he is hugely missed by all of you here in this building. And so thank you once again for recognizing and valuing our father, his love of this state, and his work here in the Senate.”

Remarks by Senator John F. Campbell**Senator Campbell's Remarks**

“We would like to, first of all, welcome everybody here to the Senate today and thanks for coming on such a special, special occasion. I just want to say one thing quickly about Dave. One thing that a lot of you all don't know, was that Dave use to come up here on Monday nights and the two of us would meet over at Sarducci's where we would plan those little pranks that we played on Senator White. Senator White use to think it was just myself and Governor Shumlin that were the ones that did this. But, actually, Dave was the one who convinced us to tell you that there really was a special session on Sunday. So we had to sneak up here and watch her come in all by herself and just go, “Where is everybody?” But thank you so much. I'll tell you, the Gibson Family is amazing. All of us have learned so much from your brother, your father, your special person. He was somebody who did not care what party you were from. He was there to help mentor, to help teach, to help guide and he did it very well. You will see many people here and there are a lot of folks that have gone on to other offices that I think David had a direct responsibility in that. I hope that he now looks down on all of us and still continues to guide us. So, thank you very much for coming today and thank you for sharing your brother and your Dad with us for so many years.

“Thank you.”

Called to Order

At ten o'clock and forty minutes in the morning the Senate was called to order by the President.

Bill Introduced

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 9.

By Senators Miller and Ashe,

An act relating to sales of vinous beverages.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Campbell, the Senate adjourned until eight o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon on Friday, January 14, 2011.