



The Insider

www.senate.michigan.gov/switalski

Inside State Politics with State Senator Mickey Switalski Senate District 10

January 15, 2009

Welcome to the electronic version of *The Insider*. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and giving me an opportunity to represent you in the Michigan Senate. It is my sincere hope that this bi-weekly e-newsletter will keep you informed of the happenings in Lansing while staying true to the traditional style of *The Insider*. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to e-mail me at senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov or call me at my Roseville or Lansing office. You can also meet me in person during my constituent hours, coming to a location near you. Call my office and make an appointment or just walk in. See the schedule below for details.

Mickey's Blog: A Christmas Carol

Due to the holidays and the decision to move my district office, I have been unable recently to send you my *Insider E-newsletter*, where I traditionally share with you my annual Christmas greetings from the Senate floor on the last official day of session. So while it is late, please find it enclosed below, in its entirety.

Two notes of housekeeping are also in order. My new district office is not quite up and running yet, but hopefully will be soon. I will miss the Roseville Theatre, but I felt like it was time to move to a different location to better serve my constituents of the 10th District. The new address is 31515 Gratiot, Suite B, Roseville, Michigan 48066. It is located between Sajo's Restaurant and the Sunoco Shadowwoods Auto Service Station on the southbound side of Gratiot, between Masonic and 13 Mile Road. We do not have the office phones up at this time, but I will pass along the new district office number as soon as it is available. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact my Lansing office toll-free at 1-866-303-0110 if you have any questions or are in need of assistance. Secondly, I am in the process of finalizing my coffee hours for 2009 and I will release them in the next edition of the *Insider E-newsletter*. I thank you for your patience on this matter.

So without further delay, and with much tardiness, I present you "A Christmas Carol":

Senator Switalski's statement is as follows (as quoted in the Senate Journal, December 19, 2008):

"Because I am both an environmentally-conscious tree saver, plus my office budget has been cut, I am wishing you Happy Holidays today with a poem, in lieu of sending you all Christmas cards. I want to apologize to my staff, who begged to hear my message yesterday, but as with Santa and the poem, there is more fun in the anticipation than in the thing itself. Besides, my Christmas message is best delivered late at night to fatigued, bored, and nearly comatose legislators who are thoroughly starved for entertainment.

Only in this environment do my poetic talents flourish. So if you promise not to throw any shoes at me, without further ado, I give you now "A Christmas Carol":

Once, upon a midnight dreary,
Pondering bills and email queries,
And many a quaint and curious 'mendment to forgotten law.
Sat in session, nearly napping
Drool came out, like pine tree sapping.
Suddenly there came a tapping, gently rapping, upon the Senate Chamber Door.

'Twas Justice Taylor (*editor's note: former State Supreme Court Justice Cliff Taylor*) woke me
Whispered, "*Wake! But please don't quote me.*"
Once Supreme, his dusty robes were tattered now and tore.
His warning got me thinking
Chamber cameras are *unblinking*
Seeking shots of snoring Solons on the Senate Chamber floor.

"*Come with me,*" rose Taylor, beckoning.
"***Sessions Past*** are due a reckoning.
I will show you things you never knew, and never saw before."
We flew up above the ceiling
To the catwalk, sent mice squealing
And looked down upon the Grandeur of the Upper Chamber Floor.

Through mists I saw a ***Session Past***,
A long debate and tax vote cast,
That ended Chronic Deficits, while caring for the Poor.
Pat, Tom, Gere, and Jelinek
Valde 'n Wayne stuck out their neck. (*editor's note: Republican State Senators Patricia Birkholz, Tom George, Gerald Van Woerkom, Ron Jelinek, Valde Garcia, Wayne Kuipers,*)
Went on the Board for Revenues and made *The Chamber Sore*.

The Dems had to offend their own,
Who normally they'd throw a Bone,
And make Reforms to Bennies that shook teachers to the core.
Buzz and Mark (*editor's note: State Senators Buzz Thomas and Mark Schauer*) and just one other
Now loved only by their mother
"*Enough!*" barked Taylor. "*Lose that grin. I've heard this all before.*"

"*Your Legacy today's in doubt.*
The Big 3 now are in a rout."
And the Ghost of ***Session Present*** breathed a ***Freeze*** upon the floor.
EO cut one-forty million
2010 could hit a billion
And Recession may the Deficits of ***Sessions Past*** Restore.

"*Not that!*" I cried.
"*Those figures lied!*
Could Jan's Estimating Conference please send Wolfie from the Door?"
Now the ghost of ***Sessions Future***
Cut our budgets like a Butcher.

We're so desperate now, even *Sacred Cows*, we're willing to Explore.

The Shade's vision of the Future

Like a hemorrhage, needs a suture.

Or a tourniquet to staunch the flow of jobs gone out the door.

Unemployment's double digit

Causes budget hawks to fidget

Should we raise Debt, creating Work, and make employment Soar?

We've 2 years of Future Sessions

Wrack our brains to end Recessions

And Faith and Hope and Confidence and Zest for Life Restore.

Let's do it all together

Now enjoy the Christmas weather.

'Cause when Janus comes we cannot Sleep no More.

So Merry Christmas, everyone."

Mickey's Ends and Notes

STATE OFFERS WEBSITE WITH JOB RESOURCES

The State of Michigan recently expanded their existing job site <http://www.michigan.gov/jobs>, which provides listings of job openings, retraining programs for laid-off workers and a number of other resources on finances and networking targeted to job seekers. The site, now called "Keep Michigan Working," is a collaborative effort with local and community officials and organizations and is designed to provide assistance to both workers and businesses. New features on the site include Michigan Careers in Transition and a talent action team to identify and implement programs involving retraining of workers to match the needs of employers.

BUY MICHIGAN NOW

Whenever making any purchasing decision, I encourage you to think of Michigan first! Buy Michigan Now is a website dedicated to building a strong, vibrant, and diverse Michigan economy. An enormous amount of products are grown, manufactured, or distributed by Michigan-based businesses, and individuals and organizations are invited to use this platform to take an active role in the state's revitalization. Visit <http://www.buymichigannow.com> to learn more and find local businesses that carry what you're looking for.

U.S. Census Bureau Now Hiring for 2010 Census

The United States Census Bureau is opening a new office in the Metro Detroit area and is looking for individuals to assist in setting up operations and conducting the 2010 Census.

For more information on what positions are available and how to apply, call toll-free at 1-866-861-2010 or log on to www.census.gov/detroit.

Coffee Hours

*Coffee Hours for the upcoming year are being finalized and will be listed in the January 23, 2009 issue of the *Insider E-newsletter*. I thank you for your patience.

Mickey's TV Insider Show

Check out my TV Insider Show coming to a television station near you. Watch me interview local guests about politics, life, issues and concerns to our district.

Sterling Heights

Every Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Utica

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Clinton Township

Last week of every month: Saturday through
Thursday
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Roseville

Various times-check local listings
(Comcast Channel 18/WOW Channel 10)

Contact My Office

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Lansing Office

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Monday through Friday
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PHONE-To Be Announced
Fax-To Be Announced