

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joe Andalina

Pension plan voted down for now...

That could change by the time I write this and post it on our website, or shortly thereafter. But the end of the legislation session came and went without pension reform. And it died despite the ramblings of the so-called pension expert, (according to some in the press) our not-so-favorite legislator from Northbrook and the media as a whole.

Madigan's bill, which was the blueprint of some Democrats and Republicans, was voted down in the Senate 16-42 (yes/no). But other top Senate Democrats gave speeches in order to defeat the bill, saying the pension cutting bill is unfair and illegal (to workers). They said that the State of Illinois promised teachers and state employees a secure retirement under our Illinois Constitution.

How right they are. Senator Linda Holmes-D (Aurora) stated "That is not the way we are supposed to treat people who have been good to us." Amen, amen, I say to you, Senator Holmes.

The Northbrook legislator and that guy who is in the governor's seat believe the people of Illinois have been let down by not voting for Madigan's bill. Well, teachers, state workers, cops, etc. are people too, last time I looked. Why is it okay to let us down? Because we are the grunts that do the heavy lifting and always get the hatchet job—or so it seems.

It doesn't appear from various reports that Madigan will show any interest in calling a vote in the House on Senator John Cullerton's legislation, which while not good, is certainly better than the abomination pushed by House leadership. So it's a stalemate for now. But as I said, that could change at any time. Trying to figure out what really drives these politicians is a homework assignment for someone far more intelligent than me.

One large area newspaper asks "Will we really accept failure?" Chagrined by the pension defeat, they stated that the Senate "rejected the only effective pension reform plan under consideration by such a large margin it is hard to imagine a meaningful reversal is possible."

My gosh! Let's hope it's not reversed. The press is wrong that the "rejected plan can turn the budget around and stabilize the pension system."

These politicians in favor of destroying pensions for the new, the old, and the retired will not give you, the taxpayer, any of that monetary savings back—they will likely waste it on some other pork barrel project.

But they do have to get that money from somewhere, and it appears that somewhere is our pensions. They will keep trying, so don't let up, folks. Call, e-mail, or fax your legislators; you know what to do.

But for right now, most of the Democrats in the Senate acted like Democrats and appear to believe in our Illinois constitution, which is hopefully safe for now.

We'll see how this all pans out.

Vita é Bella