

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Squeezy the Sleazy

And that is what I think of Governor Quinn's comi-con type python and his effort to get his grassroots support to "strangle" your pensions.

He and his pension-killing cabal of a committee are committed to "suffocating" your retirement benefits—all because of the repetitious mantra and cries of "Illinois is broke!"

So we need a python on his website to illustrate the importance of this campaign by showing this creature "squeeze" and attempting to "swallow" the state Capitol building.

According to the Governor's press release, the "Illinois pension debt is so catastrophically bad and progress or a solution has been so slow" he is putting the "squeeze" on opponents of his pension reform. He wants a public debate.

Jeez Louise—the friends of Squeezy have been screaming out pension reform for over two years. It's as if they and the press say Illinois is broke 1,437,738 times, then it must be true. Listen to this roll off his lips, off his committee members' lips, off of tax and civic groups' tongues, and of course, off the lips of the press, who give new meaning to the term "beating a dead horse."

So c'mon, say it with me—M I C, K E—no wait, wrong mantra. It's *Illinois is Broke!* But see the analogy? It's all Mickey Mouse stuff, one may say. Small, cartoonish, but unlike the real Mickey, certainly disingenuous. Instead of a lovable mouse, it is an oh-so-scary snake. As an aside, have you noticed the remarkable similarity of "Squeezy" to two of Disney's iconic movie pythons? Kaa in the *Jungle Book* and Sir Hiss from another animated movie with snakes, *Robin Hood*? Maybe Disney can sue them.

But even with the cries that Illinois pension debt changing almost daily of \$80 billion to \$90 billion and now \$95 billion and rising into the next few years to a "googolplex of numbers" (a number with so many zeros attached that you can't count that high) that all of our children, grandkids, their rugrats, and then their progeny and 27 generations of little smiling faces thereafter will be stuck paying our pension debt—unless we, the people, reduce public sector retirement pensions. Stopping the big squeeze is seemingly the point of Squeezy. Quick, someone ask Chicken Little if the sky is falling! Maybe Squeezy can eat that chicken.

So yes, the governor and his sycophants must think that a cartoon character will convince the public to hate us even more. "Sack their pensions—it's the only way! Squeezy doesn't lie!"

Save me, Lord. The reality is people are laughing at this whole campaign.

Never mind that public sector workers once more during Hurricane Sandy proved again their value and their dedication to saving life and limb and do deserve the benefits we get.

I'm not so sure that Illinois is broke strictly due to pension problems. It's more a "bull crapping" the people problem trying to deflect the idea that the politicians screwed this all up in the first

place. And maybe it's really a spending problem. Because we all know that the politicians (or some) will say and do whatever it takes to get elected, get their way, and to remove your wallets from one group of citizens to another in order to spend, spend, and spend some more. We, as public service workers, are an easy target.

Don't fall for the Squeezy or the sleaze as that is all what this sham really is. You know, it's winter time now, and we all know what happens to pythons in the winter. They freeze to death.

And that's what we hope happens to this snake wrapped around the capitol.

Vita é bella