April 1, 2019 shortly before 7³⁰ am

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, if we could go to Rules Report No. 51, it is a Budget Bill, a Legislature and Judiciary Budget.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02001-A, Rules Report No. 51, Budget Bill. An act -- an act making appropriations for the support of government, Legislature and Judiciary Budget.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Weinstein, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Governor's Message is at the desk. The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: I hereby certify to an immediate vote, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Phillip Steck to explain his vote.

MR. STECK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do want to point out that using the Office of Court Administration's

own data that court filings have decreased 41 percent from 2008 to 2017 and, yet, during the same time period we've increased the Judiciary Budget by $700 million. I don't find this particularly appropriate, given all the human needs that we have. Much has been written on the Judiciary Budget. Some have said that it's the most expensive Judiciary in the entire world. I would point out, too, that the -- that the -- we have a problem in Schenectady, where filings have been down, the Mayor has tried to reduce the number of judges from four to three in City Court, and we get resistance from OCA for absolutely no reason.

There's a lot of things going on in the Judiciary. I think this Body needs to give this topic a little more scrutiny. The New York Law Journal reported that the Court of Appeals has heard the fewest criminal cases in the last 15 years. In our 3rd Judicial District, the seven county area, we typically have about 15 civil trials a year. And I did look at some of the statistics for some of the other counties that are supposed to have quite a bit of congestion, research done by a former Bar President, showed that felony filings, even in the Bronx, were substantially down over that same time period, as were civil filings.

I would urge that we not give this -- this topic in the future just complete leeway without scrutiny. There's a lot there to be looked at, and I hope we will undertake that task. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Weinstein to explain her vote.

MS. WEINSTEIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.
So, when we started our last Ways and Means meeting, we had a little musical interlude where I played us some bars of *A Hard Day's Night*. Well, over these past weeks I've heard through the -- where the Ways and Means staff are sunrise -- the lyrics of *Sunrise Sunset. Sunrise Sunset. Swiftly Flow the Days.* Because our staff -- our Ways and Means staff, our P&C staff, our Central Staff have worked so hard over these past weeks to bring us to where we are today. We have thanked them at various times, but I -- I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of the staff just -- it would take us -- if it was a little earlier in the day, I might name them all, but I'll just name -- just highlight the leaders. Our secretary, Blake Washington.

(Applause)

And his two Deputies, Phil Fields and --

(Applause)

And Sean O'Keefe.

(Applause)

And all of -- you know, one day we'll take some time and I'll read through all the names of -- of these -- the Ways and Means staff who worked so hard to bring us where we are today.

And, of course, I want to thank Mr. Barclay throughout this process, beginning at the hearings and through the debates on the -- on the bills. We've --

(Applause)

528

-- really appreciate his support.

(Applause)

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to vote yes on this bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Weinstein in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we can finally go to page 3, Resolutions, Assembly No. 243, Committee on Rules.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Page 3, Rules Report -- Assembly Resolution No. 243. The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 243, Committee On Rules. Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly fixing the salaries of Offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor pursuant to Section 3 and 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

(Laughter)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Since this will be the last vote of the day and the morning, so if we could properly take a vote so that we can move forward --

(Laughter)

-- I would appreciate it. Thank you, colleagues.

SPEAKER HEASTIE: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The resolution is adopted.

So, I know the day has been long, we've been here for almost 24 hours, but I just wanted to say a -- a couple of things. You know, when -- when we all run for office, we all say that we want to change the world, and we tell that to our constituents, that we're going to change the world. But I always feel like the real job for us, as I've said many times before, is just try to make the world a little bit better when we occupy these seats that we have been given the privilege by our constituents to -- to give us.

And I know sometimes it may seem like we didn't do enough. It reminds of the time I would come home with a 97 on my report card and my father would say, *Well, how come you didn't get a 100?* But back then, I remembered why my father said that. He didn't say that to me because he didn't think I didn't do good enough, he said that to me because he didn't want me to settle and he wanted me to continue to try harder.

And sometimes we do try hard, and sometimes we

530