

NASW-NYS Political Post

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He Said / He Said – Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Bruno each went public with their estimated revenue projections this week and that's where the similarity ends. Speaker Silver painted a dismal picture, reporting that we're "facing a recession" and the governor's 2008-09 revenue projection of \$122.9 billion is an over estimation by \$667 million. Meanwhile, on the other side of the aisle, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno posted his chamber's forecast at \$99 million over the Governors' number. If a consensus is not reached by close of business on Friday, the State's Comptroller, Thomas Dinapoli will step in to settle matter.

Holy Cow! – In what has come to be known as one of the biggest electoral upsets that New York has seen in decades, former dairy farmer and Assembly member Darrel Aubertine (D-Oswego) won his Senate bid earlier this week in the highly Republican 48th district. The win further shaves the slim majority margin between the Republicans and Democrats, leaving the Republicans with only a two seat lead; a situation that is sure to set up a lively 2008 election season.

Two Houses are Better than One – Assembly member Peter Rivera (D-Bronx) introduced "Same As" (companion) bills for our Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative and an amendment to Timothy's Law that seeks to include coverage for PTSD treatment. Earlier in the session, Senator Fuschillo (R- Nassau / Suffolk) and Senator Thomas Morahan (R- Orange / Rockland) introduced the Senate versions. Bill numbers are as follows: S.6799 / A. 10069 (Veteran's Mental Health Training Initiative) and S. 6818 / A.10078 (PTSD Amendment).

On the National Front - Democrats around the nation reacted angrily to the recently announced decision by consumer advocate Ralph Nader to run for president again this year. Nadar was widely criticized in 2000 by Democrats for drawing votes away from Al Gore and thereby assisting George W. Bush's campaign and ultimate win. Senator Obama responded to the news by saying "While Nader deserves praise for his past work as a consumer advocate, his more recent performance as a "perennial presidential candidate" is not helping advance the "issues that are so important to working families." Senator Clinton called Nader's announcement a "passing fancy," but also said that she hoped it would not hurt the Democratic nominee.