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READ AT OWN RISK

A POX IN ILL.

There are times when you have an itch in the middle of your back that you just cannot reach. It slowly grows into a large pus-filled boil that throbs pain. You bend your left arm back to curl your left hand to claw at the bump that is just out of reach. You bend your right arm back to twist your right hand to scratch at the bump that is still just out of reach.

The left hand is the Illinois Democrats and the right hand is the Illinois Republicans. Both are unwilling to reach harder and farther to pop that festering boil because they don't want to get their hands messy.

So the boil continues to grow, and its toxic roots now begin to wrap around the spine, causing paralysis. Yes, the State of Illinois is being paralyzed by its own public officials.

Governor Rauner and Speaker Madigan continue to run a full speed, dead head-on race of chicken while the trappings of Rome are collapsing around them.

As public services come crashing to a halt, and citizens are getting hurt in the fall-out, their representatives are deaf, dumb and blind to their plight.

At the February 5, 2016 rally at Eastern Illinois University,

Scramble

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Charleston businessman and State Rep. Reggie Phillips, asked by a college student why he did vote for a recent Higher Education funding bill, he simply responded "That was a sham vote, young lady. You don't understand these things."

When state colleges are not getting their state funding because Springfield refuses to pass spending bills or a balanced budget, what is there to understand?

The Fund EIU drew approximately 2,000 students, faculty, staff and towns people. The purpose of the rally was to tell the General Assembly and Governor to stop wasting time and find solutions to the budget

stalemate since it was damaging the university.

EIU had announced dramatic cuts because it is running out of resources to finish the spring semester including 200 staff layoffs. In a small town like Charleston, 200 people losing their jobs will cause a negative ripple through the community and its businesses. But that does not seem to bother the legislators like Phillips who are up for re-election in 2016.

The rally was a wake-up call with a sense of urgency because EIU and other state agencies cannot hold out while officials wait the crisis out through the November elections.



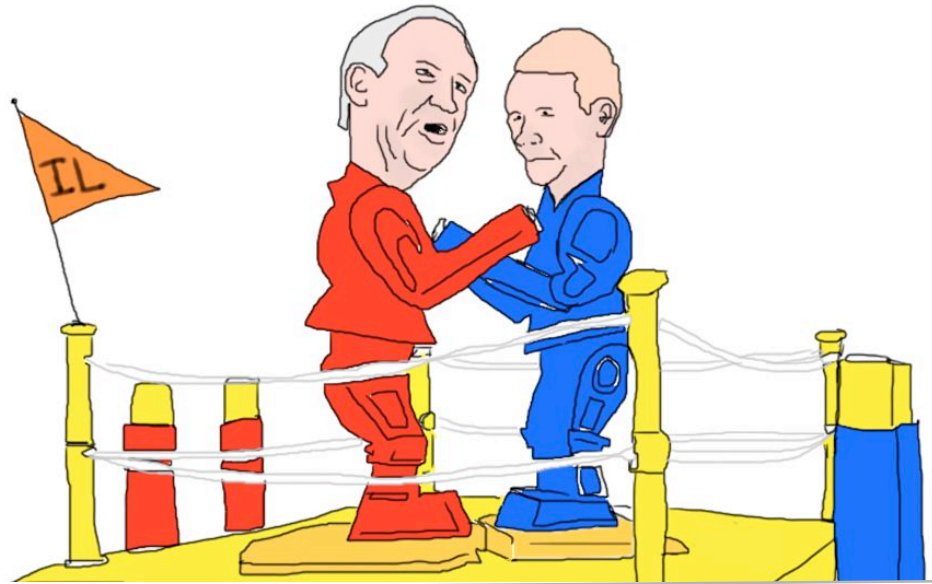
With all the major problems in Illinois due to the budget stalemate, fiscal bankruptcy and corruption, and the people being hit by stopped services in health care and education, this shows how out-of-touch Springfield legislators are to the real world problems (from the Chicago Tribune):

A week before President Barack Obama is scheduled to return to Springfield, Democratic lawmakers introduced a measure that would make his birthday a legal state holiday.

Democratic Rep. Andre Thapedi's bill would close state office buildings on Aug. 4, and Obama would join fellow commander-in-chief Abraham Lincoln in having his birthday commemorated statewide.

ROCK-EM SOCK-EM DUMB-BOTS

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KICK THE CAN CANDIDATES RULE THE ELECTION

We have the worst group of candidates in 150 years, according to historians.

Who can argue?

Incumbents have come to realize that you can get re-elected for doing nothing. It is easier to defend nothing than run on an actual voting record. You can always blame the other side.

As a result, elected officials don't want to make any decisions because it might offend some voter. So it is easier to kick-the-can solutions down the road until the next election cycle.

Illinois has been doing it for decades. Instead of dealing with unbalanced budgets and unsustainable spending, it merely

borrow money to pay operating expenses. Legislators claimed that debt was "an asset," so they never thought to actually fund its repayment. Instead, borrow more money to pay off old debt in an endless cycle of three card Monte.

The shell game is coming to a classic crashing end because the state and its agencies credit ratings have fallen to "junk" status. Even though the state cannot go bankrupt, it can stop paying its bills as it has done for its private vendors.

Both Democrats and Republicans are to blame for this decades old mess. Illinois owes more than 300 times its annual revenue just in unfunded pension

liabilities. But nothing will change because even without a budget and appropriation bill, state officials pensioners and state union workers are still getting paid by questionable court orders. The rest of citizens are left to their own devices.

People are starting to wake up to the fact that Democrats and Republicans are no different: they are basically career politicians who see the public treasury as a means of private gain. Crony capitalism, no bid rigged deals, questionable policies and burdensome regulation have all contributed to real hardship across the state. Unless all the incumbents are voted out, nothing will change.

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