

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Council Meeting
March 24, 2005
Executive Director's Report

1-The State YMCA of Maine's annual Youth in Government program will be held in the State House on April 8-10, 2005, beginning at noon on Friday. The program will host about 200 youth, and will occupy the House and Senate chambers and many committee rooms. As a result, many committees will not be meeting in order to avoid room-scheduling conflicts.

2-I want to advise you that a staffing issue has arisen for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council. By legislative resolve, the Muskie School is required to provide staffing to the council. The person from the Muskie School who staffed the council has resigned and the Muskie School has run out for money to continue staffing the council. The Department of Education and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center has both expressed some interest in assuming the staffing role. The Muskie School would like to continue staffing the council if money is appropriated (or received from grants). Funding remains the issue. I am in communication with both the DOE and the Muskie School to see if a temporary staffing arrangement can be secured until a longer-term approach can be arranged. It may well require legislative action to resolve.

3-For those who may not have seen the show earlier this week, the State House made *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart (Comedy Central). A Senator and a Representative were interviewed. Without commenting on the substantive aspects of the program, the State House looked really good. The clip is available on the Internet.

4-Several bills affecting the Legislative Council has been introduced. They are facility/technology related: LD 802 relating to providing lap computers for Legislators, LD 1315 regarding recording legislative proceedings and making them available through the law library, and LD 1452 relating to consumption of Maine farm products at the State House complex: