

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

One Hundred and Fifth

Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1971

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

SENATE

Tuesday, January 12, 1971

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by the Rev. David Dunn of Augusta.

At the request of the President, Senator Violette of Aroostook escorted Senator-elect Guy A. Marcotte of York to the Council Chamber for the purpose of subscribing the oath of office required by the Constitution.

Senator Violette subsequently announced that he had performed the duty with which he was charged, and the Sergeant-at-Arms then escorted Senator Marcotte to his seat in the Senate Chamber.

Reading of the Journal of yesterday.

House Papers

Bills and Resolves today received from the House requiring Reference to Committees were acted upon in concurrence.

Communications

January 5, 1971

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the

One-Hundred and Fifth Legislature
Submitted herewith is the Bank Commissioners Biennial Report, June 30, 1968-1970, Reference 9 M.R.S.A. Section 4.

Respectfully,
(Signed)

ELMER W. CAMPBELL
(S. P. 68)

Which was Read and with accompanying papers Ordered Placed on File.

Sent down for concurrence.

January 6, 1971

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the 105th Legislature:

Transmitted herewith are three reports completed by the Maine Education Council at the direction of the 104th Legislature. They are the Extended School Year, The Professional Practices Act for Teachers, and a Study of the Desirability of Establishing a

Student Advisory Board to the State Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed)

LINCOLN T. FISH
Chairman
Maine Education Council
(S. P. 45)

Which was Read and with accompanying papers Ordered Placed on File.

Sent down for concurrence.

STATE OF MAINE
Bureau of Taxation
Augusta, Maine

December 1, 1970

To the Members of the 105th Legislature

The accompanying report of state owned delinquent tax lands is submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 1283 of Title 36, M.R.S.A.

A similar report was submitted in 1968 to the members of the 104th Legislature. That report listed a total of 21 parcels or interests at that time owned by the State on account of tax delinquency. The 104th Legislature authorized such property to be disposed of by the State Tax Assessor by sale to designated persons or by sale to highest bidder (Chapter 3, Resolves 1969).

Of the 21 parcels or interests which the State Tax Assessor was authorized to dispose of by sale the following action has been taken

Sold to designated person	11
Sold to highest bidder	9
Withdrawn from sale	1
Total received from authorized disposal of 20 parcels or interests	\$5,241.55

One parcel in Franklin County, on which the accrued taxes and costs amounted to \$18.17, was withdrawn from sale, as noted above, since further investigation indicated that confusion over property lines had resulted in erroneous assessment of the parcel, and consequently erroneous forfeiture.

The current report includes 23 parcels or interests acquired through liens maturing since the last session of the Legislature. Review has been made of each of these parcels, on the basis of which

the descriptive material and recommendations included in the present report are made.

In the case of each parcel, this report shows the entire amount of tax, interest and costs that would have accrued had the property remained in taxation to date. This figure is given as an indication of the total amount of tax liability that should be considered outstanding in the case of each parcel.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

ERNEST H. JOHNSON

State Tax Assessor

(S. P. 69)

Which was Read and with accompanying papers Ordered Placed on File.

Sent down for concurrence.

STATE OF MAINE

Legislative Research Committee

State House

Augusta, Maine

January 1, 1971

To the Members of the 105th Legislature:

By statute the Legislative Research Committee is required to make or cause to be made such studies and investigations as the Legislature directs. In addition, the Committee is empowered to and has liberally exercised its own initiative by undertaking studies of matters pertaining to important issues of public policy and questions of state-wide interest. The Committee's ultimate objective is to assist the Legislature by submitting factual information pertinent to the questions involved along with such findings and recommendations for action or nonaction as the Committee deems desirable.

The Legislative Research Committee has inquired at great length and with serious purpose into those matters referred to it and hereby has the pleasure of submitting to you the first portion of its report on activities of the past two years. This report designated as Volume I deals with eight assigned topics and contains the findings and recommendations pursuant thereto. Reports relative to other matters ordered for study by action of the Legislature or

undertaken by motion will appear in subsequent publications.

On behalf of the membership, I wish to express at this time our individual and collective appreciation to many individuals, organizations and persons in the service of the State whose assistance to the Committee in its studies and deliberations has made it possible to obtain information respecting the many problems confronting the Committee and without whose cooperation conclusions could not have been reached.

The members of the Committee also wish to express their appreciation for being chosen to participate in these assignments and sincerely hope the following reports will prove of benefit to the Members of the Legislature as well as the citizens of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

WILLIAM E. DENNETT

Chairman

Legislative Research Committee

(S. P. 70)

Which was Read and with accompanying papers Ordered Placed on File.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate Papers

Fisheries and Wildlife

Mr. Hoffses of Knox presented, Resolve, Providing Funds for Conservation Education. (S. P. 64) (L. D. 129)

Which was referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Judiciary

Mr. Harding of Aroostook presented, Bill, "An Act Relating to Cheating by False Pretenses." (S. P. 66) (L. D. 131)

Which was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Labor

Mr. Harding of Aroostook presented, Bill, "An Act Relating to Chiropractic Treatment Under Workmen's Compensation Law." (S. P. 65) (L. D. 130)

Which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Taxation

Mr. Moore of Cumberland presented, Bill, "An Act to Repeal Tax Exemption for Planting and Cultivating Forest Trees." (S. P. 67) (L. D. 132)

Which was referred to the Committee on Taxation and Ordered Printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Orders

On motion by Mr. Berry of Cumberland,

ORDERED, that there be paid to the officers of the Senate as advance on account of compensation amounts included in fortnightly lists certified to the State Controller by the Secretary of the Senate and that the final payrolls of such officers at the end of the session bear the approval of the President of the Senate.

Which was Read and Passed.

On motion by Mr. Katz of Kennebec,

ORDERED, that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to purchase ten thousand (10,000) copies of the folder entitled "This is Your Legislature," and ten thousand (10,000) copies of the pamphlet entitled "How a Bill Becomes a Law in Maine," from the League of Women Voters of Maine for the use of members of the Legislature.

Which was Read and Passed.

Orders of the Day

The President laid before the Senate the following tabled and specially assigned matter:

JOINT ORDER — Relative to Special Interim Legislative Committee to Study Maine Industrial Building Authority Being Continued and Reconstituted (S. P. 60)

Tabled — January 7, 1971 by Senator Johnson of Somerset.

Pending — Passage.

On motion by Mr. Sewall of Penobscot, the Joint Order was Indefinitely Postponed.

Joint Order

Out of order and under suspension of the rules, on motion by Mr. Sewall of Penobscot,

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Special Interim Legislative Committee created by Senate Order S. P. 633 dated January 22, 1970 be and hereby is continued and reconstituted until February 15, 1971 with all the powers, duties and balance of appropriation provided by the reference order.

The seats of members of the committee who are not members of the 105th Legislature shall be deemed vacant and the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, as appropriate, shall appoint members to fill the vacancies from their respective branches as is provided in the reference order. (S. P. 60)

Which was Read and Passed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Mr. Sewall of Penobscot was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. SEWALL: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I think it is in order that this order which I presented, in place of a previous order, extending the life of the Special Investigating Committee which looked into the sugar industry here in the State of Maine have a word of explanation.

The Committee, of which I am Chairman, was authorized last spring, and we have been working during the ensuing months attempting to unravel some of the many problems that have beset the sugar industry in Aroostook County. Unfortunately, we were not able to complete this assignment in time to have a report for the Legislature. However, we are working on it and we do hope that this report can be completed by the 15th of February or sooner. But I should add that we certainly reserve the option to extend the life of this Committee if we run into any additional delaying tactics or lack of cooperation on the part of the Maine Sugar Industries' management. The Committee has received next to no cooperation, but we certainly want to remove

this cloud from the endeavor of getting the sugar industry and the beet industry back on its feet in the northern part of the State. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. Violette of Aroostook was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. VIOLETTE: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I think this order that the Senate has passed this morning is in the nature of a compromise, and I hope it will accomplish the task that is intended.

I am sure we all recall the traumatic incidents that occurred when originally this Committee was created and, in a sense, I don't feel any differently today than I did when the Committee was created and when some of us objected so strenuously to it. And I do not stand here to make any apologies to any management of Maine Sugar Industries or anyone who has been studied by this Committee.

I haven't seen any report but, knowing the people who have been on the Committee, I am fairly confident that they have been as objective as they possibly could be. I did, however, want to make sure that while allowing this Committee to finish its work that it did not remain in existence any longer than it possibly had to because we in Aroostook County, and I am sure everyone in the State of Maine, are very, very anxious to allow every possible opportunity for this beet industry to get started again.

I am sure all of you are aware that the Governor has appointed a task force comprised of people in the County who have been active, who were originally active, in originating this industry to supplement the agriculture industry in Aroostook County. Unfortunately, the potato industry has been having a hard time and it has been going downhill steadily. The feasibility and the necessity of a second agricultural crop in Aroostook County is more necessary today than it was when we initially began the programming, the interest and the work to get a second cash crop started.

We are extremely hopeful that with the way things are proceeding now that we can in fact restart this industry and make it the success that initially everyone who was concerned with it hoped that it would be. Certainly it will be a rocky road ahead. There are many problems that have to be surmounted and it will take time to surmount them, but I personally am optimistic that if we can buy the time to allow our farmers in Aroostook County to condition their land, and have them learn more about growing beets, that eventually this industry will be successful.

As we look at it in hindsight or, as we say, the Monday morning quarterback would, we almost have to say that it would have been almost impossible, the way the matter was structured, to have been successful from the start. Our farmers didn't know how to grow beets, and I guess this was the No. 1 problem. And there were management problems. Now this is all past, and we hope that together we can pick this up and make it work, not only for the economy of Aroostook County and our people, but indeed for the entire people of the State of Maine.

I felt that this ought to be mentioned. I am glad to see the study being concluded, and we are trying at this point to remove all the possible clouds that there may be so we can make a fresh start on this and make it what everybody had hoped it originally would be. Thank you very much.

Mr. Levine of Kennebec was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. LEVINE: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I suppose I am going to speak as a pessimist, but I like to call a spade a spade. I know quite a lot about agriculture. I have milked dairy cows, I have planted potatoes, I raised beans, and I owned as many farms as any man in the State of Maine.

I feel that when they started the sugar industry in Aroostook they made a mistake, and it was a costly mistake, but we have got

to try to rectify it and to help the farmers in Aroostook to obtain a good livelihood.

I think we should look into it, and I think that the Agriculture Committee will try to look into it. Are there any other ways or means for the people of Aroostook to obtain a good livelihood? I feel that Aroostook is a land of milk and honey. It has the best soil in the United States. They have more feed than any other county in the State of Maine. Dairying for the last few years has been good, but there is a problem with it: you have to work twelve months out of the year. And some of the farmers in Aroostook would like to go into some business that would only take two or three months out of the year and make a good living, but I think they should try to change their minds and go into a business where you can't get rich overnight, where you have to work hard, but you can still make a good living. I think they should look in that direction, because the feed from Aroostook is shipped out to other parts of the country and they feed it to dairy cattle and they are all making a living. So the feed is there, the soil is there — and they have very good soil —

and I think they should look in that direction. I think they would make a very good living, and it would solve once and for all the problem of Aroostook.

There being no objection, the following communication was read by the Secretary:

January 12, 1971

Hon. Kenneth P. MacLeod
President of the Maine Senate
Senate Chamber
Augusta, Maine
Dear Senator MacLeod:

This is to advise that I find that I shall be able to continue with my duties in the Senate and it is with great pleasure that I revoke my tender of resignation that I made in open session in the Senate on January 6, 1971.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

JAMES MARTIN
Senator
District 23

Which was Read and Ordered
Placed on File.

On motion by Mr. Hoffses of
Knox,

Adjourned until 10 o'clock
tomorrow morning.