

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

1st Special Session

OF THE

*One Hundred and Sixth
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1974

Kennebec Journal
Augusta, Maine

SENATE

Tuesday, March 5, 1974

Called to order by the President.

Prayer by the Rev. Richard Cleaves of Winthrop:

May we pray. Eternal God, constantly we look to Thee for our strength and for our guidance. You have given us strengths to work from. Help us to be aware of those. You have given us integrity to go about our tasks. Help us to be faithful to that. And you have entrusted us, as our constituents have also, with a trusteeship for the welfare of all the people of this state. Help us to be faithful to that trusteeship. So bless this session and those who function within it. Amen.

Reading of the Journal of yesterday.

Mr. Berry of Cumberland was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

MR. BERRY: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: The legislature has been taking increasingly hard abuse on the progress of the session and what some people claim is an interminable length with an unforeseen date of adjournment. The explanations that have been given by many people don't seem to be getting the publicity that the criticism does, and I felt it would be in order this morning to discuss this matter very briefly with you.

In particular, I want to refer to an editorial that appeared last week in the Bangor Daily News, and I will quote from it in part. It says, "Speaking legislatively, things aren't all that rosy. At the current pace we fear that spring will present itself while Maine's special legislative session is still trying to dig itself out from under the January freeze that rendered its lawmaking machinery so deplorably inoperative.

"It has been two months now since Augusta opened the doors on its special session.

"It is time for serious inquiry and some thoughtful evaluation by our lawmakers themselves. What is going on down there?" This is a comment from a paper that has paid people wandering around here on the third floor, and if

they don't know what is going on then I don't know who does. "Why are you wasting time and expending state money with a modicum of results?"

"Is it an overemphasis on politics? Is it the energy crisis? Is it an unmanageable load of legislation hatched by the Cost Survey recommendations?" And this is one intelligent comment: "Or have you, as a legislative entity, just become too big, cumbersome and unwieldy for the task?"

"Tell us. Explain to us. Shed some light, if you will, upon the elusive dimensions that seems to be turning a special session into a marathon of legislative wheel-spinning."

The President has responded, in part, to this criticism as follows, under date of March, to the editor: "In your vitriolic, uninformed editorial of February 26, 1974, you took the Special Session to task for not having accomplished anything, wasting time and spending State money. You asked somebody to shed light on what was going on here in Augusta. I will attempt to do that.

"First of all, Governor Curtis issued an unusually broad call covering everything but the kitchen sink and the Legislature is compelled to consider all matters that are in the Governor's call. In addition to this, we had approximately ninety bills that resulted from the Maine Management and Cost Survey Commission's study. Many of the bills in the Governor's call and those of the Longley Commission were very slow in being drafted and reaching the floor of the Legislature. For example, one of the bills in the Governor's call was not referred to a Committee until last Friday, March 1, 1974.

"We also have been faced with some complex Federal laws such as the Supplemental Security Legislation. In addition, we are attempting to cope with the Energy Crisis.

"The drafting of legislation to give the Governor emergency powers to deal with the energy crisis has been a difficult undertaking and one which cannot be accomplished overnight.

"We have not been wasting time. All of the Committees have been working very hard and most of the major legislation will be on the floor for debate by the end

of this week. The daily newspapers of the State were critical of the Legislature for not accomplishing anything during our last regular session. After we had finally adjourned and gone home, every State newspaper praised us for having enacted more progressive and meaningful legislation than any in recent history." Those comments should be underlined. "I can assure you that when the Special Session of the 106th Legislature adjourns, we will have set an equally good record."

"Before the obviously uninformed Editor wrote the editorial of February twenty-sixth, he might have taken the time to come to Augusta and to talk to some of us in Leadership to find out what problems we have been facing and the number and complexity of the bills we have had to make decisions upon. I am proud of the 106th Legislature and the members thereof and any unwarranted attack upon it will always elicit a response from me. The people of Maine are fortunate in having a very high quality Legislature that is trying to deal with the many and complex problems facing it. I would only ask your editorial staff that before they go off half-cocked, they come to Augusta and see what is really going on."

I can't imagine it being put in any more plain, direct, understandable terms than in that letter from the President.

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

Mr. KATZ: Mr. President, as I sit here next to my friend and colleague, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Berry, and note our increasing compatibility, it comes as a little shock to me to take issue with his remarks.

I have never been in a legislative session when I am personally embarrassed at my attendance. The regular session of this legislature was the outstanding session I have ever been in. We accomplished more that will affect the people of Maine for more years than any other session I have been in. I consider this the best Senate I have ever served with.

I think our problem in the Special

Session is that it is a Special Session the origin of which was questionable. In the middle of an energy crisis to come into the City of Augusta and conduct business as usual was a task fraught with potential hazards, and the hazards have caught up with us.

The Committee on Education has one significant bill that has come out of it this session. It is called "Errors and Inconsistencies". And it is possible we might come out with a second significant bill. On the Committee on Business Legislation, of which I am a member, the record is better. The Uniform Commercial Credit Code and No-fault Insurance certainly must be considered two extremely significant bills.

But as I ask myself whether this session was really necessary, whether or not the business at hand could have been deferred, whether when you adopt the posture of annual sessions it is absolutely necessary to take up some of the sheer garbage we have taken up, I become embarrassed and I say no. So in that respect I think the criticism that is coming for the first time since I have been in the Legislature, coming to my ears about my posture in the Legislature, is warranted. I am not proud of our record and I am not proud of the length of this session.

Papers from the House Non-concurrent Matter

Bill, "An Act to Simplify the Occupational Disease Law and to Conform with the Recommendations of the National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation Laws in Regard to Occupational Disease." (H. P. 1993) (L. D. 2542)

In the House February 28, 1974, referred to the Committee on Labor.

In the Senate March 1, 1974, Indefinitely Postponed, in non-concurrence.

Comes from the House, that Body having Insisted.

Mr. Berry of Cumberland moved that the Senate Adhere.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brennan.

Mr. BRENNAN: Mr. President, I move that we recede and concur and would speak briefly on it. Essentially a

lot of work has gone into this bill and the two bills that follow it. There has been input from management, insurance and labor. It has been delayed getting into the session. It is my understanding that George Viles, one of the legislative staff, has been very busy with the Longley Commission reports and did not have the time to do this earlier.

All that I am requesting is that this bill be heard. Apparently it is in the Governor's call under Workmen's Compensation. Frankly, it is a chance to do something to give a fair shake to the working man, to the injured man, and I think that is terribly important. We have certainly heard a lot of ridiculous bills this session. I think this bill is an important one and I hope that we recede and concur and give this bill a hearing, and I ask for a roll call.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brennan, moves that the Senate recede and concur with the House, and a roll call has been requested.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Clifford.

Mr. CLIFFORD: Mr. President, it is my understanding that this bill and the two that follow it are the result of an order which was passed at the regular session, which order referred to the Labor Committee these areas or related areas in the Workmen's Compensation Law. This is my understanding of the history of these bills.

The Labor Committee did not have the kind of staff that some of the other committees had, and the Labor Committee agreed with the Bar Association's Subcommittee on Workmen's Compensation to work with the Bar Association's Committee to come up with agreements on bills in these areas. The Bar Association, of course, in that area is represented by both lawyers who represent claimants and lawyers who represent employers and insurance companies.

They did work along with Mr. Viles, who was working with the Labor Committee, and he represented the Labor Committee at the meetings. They did come up with agreements in these three areas. They were fairly complex but the basic agreements were reached.

It did take some time to draft the bills, one of the reasons being Mr. Viles's assignment to the State Government Committee, which has been rather overworked at this session. So this is the reason why the bills are coming out late. They are complex but they do represent basic agreement by employers, insurance carriers, and employees or labor. I don't think there would be a great deal of difficulty in refining them and getting them through the Legislature. So I hope you would vote against the motion to adhere so that these bills can have a public hearing. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tanous.

Mr. TANOUS: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: Relative to these three bills that are coming up dealing with reference to the Labor Committee, and principally involving the Workmen's Compensation Law in Maine, the Labor Committee, as the result of an order enacted at the last session, and as the result of reference from the Legislative Council, we were asked to conduct a comprehensive study in this area and, because of lack of staff, we were unable to do so.

Now, I did get the Workmen's Comp section of the Bar Association to assist the Labor Committee in preparing legislation, and it has just come in for public hearing. Personally, I feel that these three bills are a nice piece of work on the part of the Bar Association, but I also feel that the interest of the state is involved at this point in time. If we referred these to committee and have public hearings, rest assured that you are going to extend the session at least a week.

I have checked every one of these bills and I don't see any emergency involved in any of them and, in fact, I feel that probably the Labor Committee will have to study them in their interim anyway before it recommends enactment of these bills. So I will personally put another order in and request that this study continue to report back to the 107th, and I would ask that you oppose Senator Brennan's motion and join in the adhering motion on these matters. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question? The pending motion before the Senate is the motion of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brennan, that the Senate recede and concur with the House on Item 1-1, Legislative Document 2542. A roll call has been requested. Under the Constitution, in order for the Chair to order a roll call, it requires the affirmative vote of at least one-fifth of those senators present and voting. Will all those Senators in favor of ordering a roll call please rise and remain standing until counted.

Obviously more than one-fifth having arisen, a roll call is ordered. The pending motion before the Senate is the motion of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brennan, that the Senate recede and concur with the House on Bill, "An Act to Simplify the Occupational Disease Law and to Conform with the Recommendations of the National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation Laws in Regard to Occupational Disease." A "Yes" vote will be in favor of receding and concurring; a "No" vote will be opposed.

The Secretary will call the roll.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Senators Brennan, Cianchette, Clifford, Conley, Cyr, Danton, Fortier, Marcotte, Minkowsky and Speers.

NAYS: Senators Anderson, Berry, Cox, Cummings, Graffam, Greeley, Haskell, Henley, Hichens, Huber, Katz, Morrell, Olfene, Richardson, Roberts, Sewall, Shute, Tanous and MacLeod.

ABSENT: Senators Joly, Kelley, Schulten and Wyman.

A roll call was had. 10 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and 19 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon, the Senate voted to Adhere.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill, "An Act to Amend the Workmen's Compensation Law and to Conform with Certain Recommendations of the National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation Laws." (H. P. 1994) (L. D. 2543)

In the House February 28, 1974, referred to the Committee on Labor.

In the Senate March 1, 1974, Indefinitely Postponed, in non-concurrence.

Comes from the House, that Body having Insisted.

Mr. Clifford of Androscoggin then moved that the Senate Recede and Concur.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon, the Senate voted to Adhere.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill, "An Act Relating to the Commutation of Payments in Workmen's Compensation Law." (H. P. 1995) (L. D. 2544)

In the House February 28, 1974, referred to the Committee on Labor.

In the Senate March 1, 1974, Indefinitely Postponed, in non-concurrence.

Comes from the House, that Body having Insisted.

Mr. Conley of Cumberland then moved that the Senate Recede and Concur.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon, the Senate voted to Adhere.

Joint Order

WHEREAS, the cost of contractual printing services provided by the Kennebec Journal for the Regular Session of the 106th Maine Legislature amounted to \$210,520; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Maine taxpayers to secure the best possible printing services at the lowest possible cost for legislative sessions; and

WHEREAS, all firms which engage in the business of supplying printing services commercially should have the opportunity to bid competitively on an equal basis with other firms for the legislative printing contract; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that upon expiration of current contractual obligations, all contracts for printing services for regular and special sessions of the Legislature shall be awarded on the basis of public bid in accordance with existing policies of the Bureau of Purchases. (H. P. 1997)

Comes from the House Read and Passed.

Which was Read.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Berry of Cumberland, tabled pending Passage.

Committee Reports

House

The following Ought Not to Pass report shall be placed in the legislative files without further action pursuant to Rule 17-A of the Joint Rules:

Bill, "An Act to Establish Pay Scales for Managers and Assistant Managers in State Liquor Stores." (H. P. 1859) (L. D. 2354)

Leave to Withdraw

Covered by Other Legislation

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on, Bill, "An Act to Repeal the Law Requiring Payments to Hospitals to be Dedicated for Care of Those Qualifying for Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled." (H. P. 1877) (L. D. 2387)

Reported that the same be granted Leave to Withdraw, Covered by Other Legislation.

Comes from the House, the report Read and Accepted.

Which report was Read and Accepted in concurrence.

Ought to Pass

The Committee on State Government on, Bill, "An Act Relating to State Purchases." (H. P. 1999) (L. D. 2539)

Reported pursuant to Joint Order (H. P. 1966) that the same Ought to Pass.

The Committee on State Government on, Bill, "An Act to Allow a Governor-elect an Additional Four Weeks for Submission of the Budget." (H. P. 2000) (L. D. 2540)

Reported pursuant to Joint Order (H. P. 1966) that the same Ought to Pass.

Come from the House, the Bills Passed to be Engrossed.

Which reports were Read and Accepted in concurrence, the Bills Read Once and Tomorrow Assigned for Second Reading.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on State Government on, Bill, "An Act to Establish a Pilot Rural Housing

Rehabilitation Program." (H. P. 1814) (L. D. 2303)

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-720).

Signed:

Senators:

SPEERS of Kennebec

CLIFFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SILVERMAN of Calais

COONEY of Sabattus

CURTIS of Orono

GOODWIN of Bath

BUSTIN of Augusta

NAJARIAN of Portland

STILLINGS of Berwick

GAHAGAN of Caribou

CROMMETT of Millinocket

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject matter reported that the same Ought Not to Pass.

Signed:

Senator:

WYMAN of Washington

Representative:

FARNHAM of Hampden

Comes from the House, the Majority report Read and Accepted and the Bill Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A".

Which reports were Read, the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report of the Committee Accepted in concurrence and the Bill Read Once. Committee Amendment "A" was Read.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: In reading this bill and its amendment, it is unclear to me whether under this bill the Maine Housing Authority can make direct loans for repairs and renovations of homes, and in particular I would like to have Section 4795, Subsection 3, explained if someone in the committee might care to do so.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz, has posed an inquiry through the Chair which anyone may answer if he desires.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers.

Mr. SPEERS: Mr. President and Members of the Senate. In answer to the

good Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz, a very short answer to his question is no, the Housing Authority is not authorized to make direct loans. In fact, the committee was very careful in its amendment to insure that that was the case, that the Housing Authority would not be authorized to make direct loans. And as to Section 4795, if the good Senator is referring to the subsection or paragraph 3 of that, we have removed that paragraph whereby the loans may be excused.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question?

Therefore, Committee Amendment "A" was Adopted and the Bill, as Amended, tomorrow Assigned for Second Reading.

Senate

Leave to Withdraw,

Covered by Other Legislation

Mr. Sewall for the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on, Bill, "An Act Providing Funds for Implementation of a State-wide Program of Safety of Dams and Reservoirs." (S. P. 740) (L. D. 2152)

Reported that the same be granted Leave to Withdraw, Covered by Other Legislation.

Which report was Read and Accepted.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

Six members of the Committee on Judiciary on, Bill, "An Act Relating to Delegation of Selected Services by Professional Nurses." (S. P. 768) (L. D. 2199)

Reported in Report "A" that the same Ought to Pass in New draft under Same Title (S. P. 922) (L. D. 2551)

Signed:

Senators:

TANOUS of Penobscot

SPEERS of Kennebec

Representatives:

WHITE of Guilford

WHEELER of Portland

BAKER of Orrington

KILROY of Portland

Four members of the same Committee on the same subject matter reported in Report "B" that the same Ought Not to Pass.

Signed:

Representatives:

CARRIER of Westbrook

GAUTHIER of Sanford

PERKINS of So. Portland

DUNLEAVY of Presque Isle

One member of the same Committee on the same subject matter reported in Report "C" that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-378)

Signed:

Representative:

McKERNAN of Bangor

Which reports were Read and the Ought to Pass in New Draft Report "A" of the Committee Accepted.

Thereupon, the Bill in New Draft was Read Once and Tomorrow Assigned for Second Reading.

Second Readers

The Committee on Bills in the Second Reading reported the following:

House

Bill, "An Act Relating to Standards for Selection of State Auditor and Duties of the Office." (H. P. 1996) (L. D. 2538)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Fees Charged by the Department of Public Safety." (H. P. 1989) (L. D. 2533)

Bill, "An Act Amending the Insurance Laws." (H. P. 1990) (L. D. 2534)

Which were Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed in concurrence.

House - As Amended

Bill, "An Act to Collect the Tax on Insurance Premiums Quarterly." (H. P. 1873) (L. D. 2372)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, as Amended, in concurrence.

Senate

Bill, "An Act to Expand the Line Budget in the Department of Mental Health and Corrections." (S. P. 846) (L. D. 2415)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate - As Amended

Bill, "An Act to Establish a Small Grants Program for Municipal Conservation Commissions in the

Department of Conservation." (S. P. 818) (L. D. 2320)

Which was Read a Second Time and Passed to be Engrossed, as Amended.

Sent down for concurrence.

Enactors

The Committee on Engrossed Bills reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

An Act Relating to Property Tax Exemption of Health Care Institutions. (S. P. 910) (L. D. 2519)

An Act to Repeal Fee to Ex Officio Member of Industrial Accident Commission. (H. P. 1882) (L. D. 2392)

An Act Relating to Conferring Degrees by Thomas College. (H. P. 1979) (L. D. 2522)

An Act to Advance Collection of Telephone and Telegraph Taxes. (H. P. 1980) (L. D. 2523)

An Act Relating to Applications for Absentee Ballots. (H. P. 1981) (L. D. 2524)

Which were Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, were by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

Emergency

An Act to Clarify the Power of the Commissioner of Maine Department of Transportation and the Chief of the Maine State Police to Lower Speed Limits in Order to Provide Energy Conservation. (H. P. 1857) (L. D. 2350)

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Cyr.

Mr. CYR: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: There is something that disturbs me in regards to this bill here. In reading the major part of that bill, I find that there is nothing pertaining at all to reducing the speed limit to conserve energy, as it states in the title of this bill. The only place where it states that is in the title and that doesn't get into the law. Now this is what it says on page 2 of that bill: "With the consent and approval of the Chief of the Maine State Police, a rate of speed less than that now authorized by law will minimize the danger of accident, promote the free flow of traffic, or otherwise serve the public interest, and

in each such place shall fix the rate of speed in accordance with his own judgment."

Now what disturbs me most about this bill is the fact that we are delegating our powers, our authority, to a department head, and that could set a very serious precedent in years to come. Now, I would like to call your attention to a bill which is coming to us, which is in the House now, L. D. 2549, "An Act Granting Energy Emergency Powers to the Governor". I think that is where these powers should belong, with the Governor. The Governor is elected, therefore, if he doesn't do his job properly, he can be brought to task by the voters. Also under that bill, it says it has to be approved by at least five members of the Executive Council, and the Executive Council is the body that represents the legislature between sessions. I think, in my estimation, that is where it belongs.

If you will look back under this bill, L. D. 2549, you will find that under powers the Governor is given all kinds of powers under emergency. It doesn't spell out under emergency, for instance, to conserve energy, that he has those powers, but I think it would be very easy to amend this bill and include those powers, and that is where it belongs. Now to those of you that share my feelings, this needs a two-thirds vote, and all you have to do is sit down when it comes to the enactment stage.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tanous.

Mr. TANOUS: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I commend Senator Cyr from Aroostook for echoing my thoughts and my words that I spoke on this bill last week.

The energy bill which came out of Judiciary yesterday and on the House calendar today does include the provision for the Governor to reduce or increase speed according to the energy powers granted to him. It is in the bill. As I mentioned last week, I felt that we could get this bill to the enactment stage and table it and let's see what happens to the executive powers on the energy bill. If that is enacted, then there is no need for this particular bill. I would ask that someone perhaps table this until we

decide the fate of the other bill. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Berry.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Berry of Cumberland, tabled pending Enactment.

Emergency

An Act Relating to the Powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1 in Penobscot County. (H. P. 1940) (L. D. 2477)

This being an emergency measure and having received the affirmative votes of 28 members of the Senate, was Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

Orders of the Day

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

Bill, "An Act to Clarify Certain Election Laws." (S. P. 914) (L. D. 2526)

Tabled — March 1, 1974 by Senator Shute of Franklin.

Pending — Passage to be Engrossed.

(Senate Amendment "A" (S-373).

On motion by Mr. Shute of Franklin, retabled and Tomorrow Assigned, pending Passage to be engrossed.

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

House Reports — from the Committee on State Government — Bill, "An Act to Increase the Authorized Bonding Indebtedness of the Maine State Housing Authority." (H. P. 1804) (L. D. 2284)

Majority Report — Ought to Pass; Minority Report — Ought Not to Pass.

Tabled — March 4, 1974 by Senator Danton of York.

Pending — Motion of Senator Speers of Kennebec to Accept the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers.

Mr. SPEERS: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I have given this matter a considerable amount of thought, as I did in committee as well.

There has been some additional information made available to us as members of the committee and as well to the members of the Senate since this bill came out of committee. My original concern at the time the bill was heard in committee was that the Housing Authority had a \$60 million limit authorization and had not used all of the authorization that it had to issue bonds, and that perhaps increasing the authorization to \$100 million at this time was not either wise or necessary, and that the Housing Authority could come back into the 107th Legislature and ask for an increase if at that time it appeared necessary.

Since the bill came out of committee, and since it was heard in committee, it has developed that the Housing Authority has indeed fully committed all \$60 million of the bonding authority that it now has. And it has also developed that there is a good possibility that some federal programs will be made available during the summer which the Housing Authority would not be able to take advantage of should it not have the additional \$40 million in authorization that is provided in this bill.

My subsequent action in no way indicates a disinterest on my part of the problems that have been alleged to exist in the Housing Authority, and I think the Committee on State Government is going to continue to look into those allegations and the questions that have been raised. But I do feel that perhaps this program of mortgage purchasing is one of the best programs that the Housing Authority does operate. I therefore, Mr. President, withdraw my motion to accept the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report and to make the motion to accept the Majority Ought to Pass Report.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers, withdraws his motion to accept the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report of the Committee and moves to accept the Majority Ought to Pass Report of the Committee in concurrence.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Minkowsky.

Mr. MINKOWSKY: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I would just like

to pose a question through the Chair to the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers. Of course, the rhetoric that we have been hearing around the halls of the Senate and House is really not that clear. Are these new mortgages that the Housing Authority is purchasing, or are they mortgages three or four years of age. This has never been really clarified, and I was wondering if someone might enlighten me along those lines.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Minkowsky, has posed an inquiry through the Chair which any Senator may answer.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Clifford.

Mr. CLIFFORD: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I believe that they have the option of purchasing mortgages from banks, which mortgages exist, VA and FHA mortgages, purchase those old mortgages from the banks in order to free up the money so that the banks can lend new money in the private market. That is one of the options and that is what the bond issue, which was the subject of some controversy in this legislative session, that is what that money went for, to purchase from nearly 20 banks around the state old mortgages, VA and FHA mortgages. Those banks with that money could lend money to new buyers of homes and builders of homes in the private market.

Also they have the authority, of course, to purchase 235 mortgages again in the private market. There is no direct lending provision. This is a mortgage purchase program which pumps money into the private market and I think that one of the reasons that the Majority of the committee signed ought to pass and felt fairly strongly was that, in view of the federal housing freeze and in view of the economic problems we have been feeling, that this was a way, without hurting the state's credit, to pump a substantial amount of money into the private housing market which not only helps housing, of course, but

construction work and the whole economy. We felt that this was one of the areas that really was not controversial, as far as the Housing Authority's administration of the program, and did do an awful lot to help the private market and help the economy and the housing problem in Maine. Thank you Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Speers.

Mr. SPEERS: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I thank the good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Clifford, for his explanation. I would simply add to it for clarification that these mortgages that are being purchased are federally guaranteed mortgages and in no way is the state going to be caught with a lot of property on its hands in a situation where it is foreclosing on these mortgages.

The PRESIDENT: Is it now the pleasure of the Senate to accept the Majority Ought to Pass Report of the Committee in concurrence?

Thereupon, the Majority Ought to Pass Report of the Committee was Accepted in concurrence, the Bill Read Once and Tomorrow Assigned for Second Reading.

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

Bill, "An Act to Clarify Certain Administrative Aspects of the Saco River Corridor Commission." (S. P. 826) (L. D. 2353)

Tabled — March 4, 1974 by Senator Speers of Kennebec.

Pending — Passage to be Engrossed.
(Committee Amendment "A") (S-369.)

On motion by Mr. Danton of York, retabled and Tomorrow Assigned, pending Passage to be Engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Sewall of Penobscot, Adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.