

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Seventh  
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1975

KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

**SENATE**

Tuesday, January 14, 1975

Senate called to order by the President.  
Prayer by the Honorable Bennett D. Katz of Augusta:

Never has nature been more beautiful.  
Never have trees been more breathtaking than as they glisten in the sunlight with their unaccustomed white foliage.

Never has there been any better evidence at hand that today is for living; that yesterday has gone and will not return.

It is today when we stand astride the bridge that connects two eternities — the infinity of the endless past and the infinity of the uncharted future.

It is today when we must live our lives, make our marks, give our service.

Bless you, Lord, for today.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, January 9, 1975.

**Papers from the House  
Joint Order**

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Election Laws be authorized and directed to examine the election laws of this State as provided in Title 21 of the Maine Revised Statutes and related titles for the purpose of ascertaining as economically as possible all necessary repealers, amendments and modifications of existing laws as, in the judgment of the Committee, are necessary and appropriate and to consolidate all such repealers, amendments, modifications and recommendations in final legislative draft form for appropriate consideration at the regular session of the 107th Legislature. (H. P. 136)

Comes from the House, Read and Passed.

Which was Read and Passed in concurrence.

**House Papers**

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

**Communications  
State of Maine**

Department of Indian Affairs  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
Tel. (207) 289-2831

John W. Stevens      S. Glenn Starbird, Jr.  
Commissioner      Deputy Commissioner  
January 7, 1975

Honorable Edwin H. Pert  
Clerk of the House  
of Representatives  
State House

Augusta, Maine 04330  
Dear Mr. Pert:

This is to advise you that on September 10, 1974, Ernest J. Goslin was elected Indian Representative to the Legislature from the Penobscot Tribe, and that Joseph A. Nicholas was elected Indian Representative to the Legislature from the Passamaquoddy Tribe on September 3, 1974.

Very truly yours,  
JOHN STEVENS  
Commissioner  
Dept. of Indian Affairs  
(H. P. 135)

Comes from the House, Read and Ordered Placed on File.

Which was Read and Ordered Placed on File on concurrence.

**Senate Papers  
Business Legislation**

Mr. Clifford of Androscoggin presented, Bill, "An Act to Redefine the Term 'Payable in Installments' under the Maine Consumer Credit Code." (S. P. 61)

Which was referred to the Committee on Business Legislation and Ordered Printed.  
Sent down for concurrence.

**Orders of the Day**

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

JOINT ORDER — Relative to Senate and House Registers. (S. P. 17)

Tabled — January 9, 1975 by Senator Speers of Kennebec.

Pending — Consideration.

(In Senate — Passed.)

(In House — Passed as amended by House Amendment "A" (H-2).)

On motion by Mr. Speers of Kennebec, retabled and tomorrow assigned, pending Further Consideration.

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

Mr. KATZ: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: Ernest Johnson has been around the State House complex for an awful long time. I think Ernest is one of my constituents, and the fact is that I did not learn of his retirement until the day he retired, on last Friday. This was typical of Ernest because he didn't like to be out in the limelight and he liked to do his work quietly and efficiently.

Ernest Johnson has been State Tax Assessor from 1947 until he retired. He is one of the longest holders of such an office in the United States. He was the Past President of the National Association of Tax Administrators. It was during his administration that the entire modern tax structure of the State of Maine was put into place, starting with the inheritance tax program, taken over from the Attorney General's Office. The sales tax, the income tax, the corporate income tax, it all happened while he was there. I think it is a measure of the man's quiet efficiency that he chose to retire quietly without any fanfare, without any recognition. But the state will miss Ernest Johnson and his service to the state, and I, for one, will miss a good friend around here.

Mr. Wyman of Washington was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate:

Mr. WYMAN: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I can only concur with what the good Senator from Kennebec said. We knew that Ernest Johnson's retirement was coming. We tried our best to arrange a party for him. We finally asked him if he would come to a dinner with the Taxation Committee, and he just didn't want any part of it. We could not accomplish one thing. We all respected his ability and the work he had done, and we wanted to show some recognition. Finally, we did get a small gift for him, which was the best we could do. I do want you to know that the people on the Taxation Committee knew this was coming, but he just didn't want any recognition.

**(Off Record Remarks)**

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

Mrs. CUMMINGS: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I would like to read into the record something I found in

the paper yesterday: "Capital punishment is when the government taxes you to get capital so that it can go into business in competition with you, and then taxes the profits on your business in order to pay its losses.

Thereupon, on motion by Mrs. Cummings of Penobscot,  
Adjourned until 9:30 tomorrow morning.