

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD
OF THE
One Hundred And Fifteenth Legislature
OF THE
State Of Maine

VOLUME I

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives
December 5, 1990 to May 16, 1991

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH MAINE LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
28th Legislative Day
Monday, March 18, 1991

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker pro tem.

Prayer by Reverend Edward Hatch, Palermo Christian Church.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Wednesday, March 13, 1991, was read and approved.

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES
REQUIRING REFERENCE**

The following Bills were received and, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills, were referred to the following Committees, Ordered Printed and Sent up for Concurrence:

Agriculture

Bill "An Act to Appropriate Funds for the Maine Potato Breeding Program" (H.P. 809) (L.D. 1163) (Presented by Representative MAHANY of Easton) (Cosponsored by Senator PEARSON of Penobscot, Representative MacBRIDE of Presque Isle and Representative PARADIS of Frenchville)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Make Allocations for the Operating Expenditures of the Intergovernmental Telecommunications Fund of the Department of Administration for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1992 and June 30, 1993" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 819) (L.D. 1173) (Presented by Representative FOSS of Yarmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator FOSTER of Hancock and Senator PEARSON of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Various Funds of the Department of Environmental Protection for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1992 and June 30, 1993" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 820) (L.D. 1174) (Presented by Representative FOSS of Yarmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator FOSTER of Hancock, Representative MICHAUD of East Millinocket and Senator PEARSON of Penobscot)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Banking and Insurance

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Status of Employee Benefit Excess Insurance" (H.P. 814) (L.D. 1168) (Presented by Representative GARLAND of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook and Representative KETOVER of Portland) (Submitted by Department of Professional and Financial Regulation

pursuant to Joint Rule 24.)

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Mandatory Motor Vehicle Insurance Laws" (H.P. 826) (L.D. 1180) (Presented by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield) (Cosponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Vassalboro and Representative TRACY of Rome)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Business Legislation

Bill "An Act Concerning Slack-filled Food Packages" (H.P. 802) (L.D. 1148) (Presented by Representative GOULD of Greenville) (Cosponsored by Representative TRACY of Rome)

Bill "An Act to Clarify and Expand Reciprocity in the Certification of Nursing Assistants and Require the State Board of Nursing to Issue Certificates for Nursing Assistants" (H.P. 805) (L.D. 1159) (Presented by Representative PENDLETON of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Representative BOUTILIER of Lewiston, Representative CARROLL of Gray and Senator GILL of Cumberland)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Education

Bill "An Act to Provide a Vocational Planning Initiative for Secondary School Students" (H.P. 799) (L.D. 1145) (Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Increase the State Share of Education to 65%" (H.P. 823) (L.D. 1177) (Presented by Representative NUTTING of Leeds) (Cosponsored by Senator VOSE of Washington and Representative DORE of Auburn)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

On motion of Representative Gwadosky of Fairfield, the House reconsidered its action whereby Bill "An Act to Increase the State Share of Education to 65%" (H.P. 823) (L.D. 1177) was referred to the Committee on Education.

On further motion of the same Representative, tabled pending reference and later today assigned.

Energy and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act Concerning State Provision of Landfill Capacity for Municipal Solid Waste" (H.P. 798) (L.D. 1144) (Presented by Representative COLES of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representative LORD of Waterboro, Senator LUDWIG of Aroostook and Representative GOULD of Greenville)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Use of Either Paper or Plastic Bags at Point of Retail Sale" (H.P. 812) (L.D. 1166) (Presented by Representative POULIOT of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Representative DORE of Auburn and Senator CLEVELAND of Androscoggin)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Provide for Accountability for Travel Expenses in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife" (H.P. 795) (L.D. 1141) (Presented by Representative JACQUES of Waterville) (Cosponsored by Representative ROTONDI of Athens, Senator MATTHEWS of Kennebec and Representative CLARK of Millinocket)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Human Resources

Bill "An Act to Increase the Collection of Child Support Payments" (H.P. 800) (L.D. 1146) (Presented by Representative ERWIN of Rumford) (Cosponsored by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec, Senator GILL of Cumberland and Representative KETOVER of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Change the Title of the Office of Dental Health" (H.P. 801) (L.D. 1147) (Presented by Representative DUPLESSIS of Old Town) (Cosponsored by Senator CONLEY of Cumberland and Senator LUDWIG of Aroostook) (Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Amend the Child Support Law to Include Coverage for Children in College" (H.P. 803) (L.D. 1149) (Presented by Representative MARSANO of Belfast) (By Request)

Bill "An Act Relating to Name Changes During Divorce Proceedings" (H.P. 794) (L.D. 1140) (Presented by Representative FARNSWORTH of Hallowell)

Bill "An Act to Keep Portions of Foster Parent Licensing Records Confidential" (H.P. 808) (L.D. 1162) (Presented by Representative PENDLETON of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator GILL of Cumberland, Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec and Representative STEVENS of Bangor) (Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Preliminary Protection Order" (H.P. 811) (L.D. 1165) (Presented by Representative CAHILL of Mattawamkeag) (By Request) (Cosponsored by Senator PEARSON of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Complaints against Physicians and to Require a Study Concerning Patient Information" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 825) (L.D. 1179) (Presented by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield) (Cosponsored by Representative GRAHAM of Houlton)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Disseminate More Rapidly Information Concerning Missing Children" (H.P. 797) (L.D. 1143) (Presented by Representative FARNUM of South Berwick) (Cosponsored by Representative BOWERS of Sherman, Representative PENDEXTER of Scarborough and Senator MATTHEWS of Kennebec) (Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Certain Activities in Polling Places" (H.P. 807) (L.D. 1161) (Presented by Representative SPEAR of Nobleboro) (Cosponsored by Senator BRAUN of Knox, Representative STEVENS of Sabattus and Representative LORD of Waterboro)

Bill "An Act to Provide a 15-day Waiting Period on the Sale of Handguns" (H.P. 817) (L.D. 1171) (Presented by Representative MANNING of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Allow State Employees to Donate Funds to a Political Cause Through a Payroll Deduction Program" (H.P. 821) (L.D. 1175) (Presented by Representative MAYO of Thomaston) (Cosponsored by Representative STROUT of Corinth and Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Amend the Shellfish Laws" (H.P. 815) (L.D. 1169) (Presented by Representative COLES of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representative MARSH of West Gardiner)

Bill "An Act to Establish a Fund to Promote Lobster Marketing" (H.P. 818) (L.D. 1172) (Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Freeport) (Cosponsored by Senator VOSE of Washington, Representative COLES of Harpswell and Representative SKOGLUND of St. George)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Appointment of Civil Emergency Preparedness Directors" (H.P. 810) (L.D. 1164) (Presented by Representative LOOK of Jonesboro)

(Cosponsored by Representative JOSEPH of Waterville and Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec)

Bill "An Act to Ensure that County Sheriffs Continue to Provide Rural Patrols for Small Towns in the Counties" (H.P. 813) (L.D. 1167) (Presented by Representative ST. ONGE of Greene) (Cosponsored by Representative NUTTING of Leeds and Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin)

Bill "An Act to Improve Outdoor Lighting" (H.P. 824) (L.D. 1178) (Presented by Representative WENTWORTH of Arundel) (Cosponsored by Representative HEESCHEN of Wilton, Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland and Representative HOGLUND of Portland)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Conform the Maine Tax Code to the Federal Tax Code with Respect to Amended Returns" (H.P. 804) (L.D. 1158) (Presented by Representative WHITCOMB of Waldo)

Bill "An Act to Suspend Certain Sales Tax Exemptions for One Year" (H.P. 806) (L.D. 1160) (Presented by Representative CARROLL of Gray) (Cosponsored by Representative HUSSEY of Milo)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws That Govern Stopping for Certain Approaching Animals" (H.P. 796) (L.D. 1142) (Presented by Representative AIKMAN of Poland)

Bill "An Act to Make Emergency Changes to the Motor Vehicle Laws" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 816) (L.D. 1170) (Presented by Representative BAILEY of Township 27) (Cosponsored by Representative MACOMBER of South Portland and Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook) (Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.)

Bill "An Act Regarding Vanity Plates for Automobile Dealers" (H.P. 822) (L.D. 1176) (Presented by Representative DORE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Senator CLEVELAND of Androscoggin and Representative SHELTRA of Biddeford)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative KETOVER of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 617) (Cosponsors: President PRAY of Penobscot, Representative RYDELL of Brunswick, Speaker Martin of

Eagle Lake)

JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL RECOGNIZING HIS RESTRAINT IN NOT EXERCISING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO RETALIATE AGAINST IRAQ

We your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Legislature of the State of Maine, now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present to the Prime Minister of Israel as follows:

WHEREAS, we are outraged at the attacks against the civilian population of Israel by the Iraqis; and

WHEREAS, we condemn the wanton destruction of the lives of innocent men, women and children; and

WHEREAS, we want the people of Israel to know we are supportive of their efforts to work harmoniously with United States and allied forces during this period of war in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, we admire the restraint of the Prime Minister in the face of repeated, unprovoked attacks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we commend the people of Israel for their close cooperation with the United States, fortitude in a time of stress and forbearance in dealing with an unprovoked aggressor nation and assure them that Americans are with them wholeheartedly; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, respectfully commend the Prime Minister of Israel on his restraint; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this Memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George H.W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation and the Israeli Ambassador to the United States for transmission to the Prime Minister of Israel.

Was read and adopted and sent up for concurrence.

On motion of Representative JOSEPH of Waterville, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 793) (Cosponsors: Representative DAGGETT of Augusta, Representative PARADIS of Augusta, and Senator McCORMICK of Kennebec)

JOINT RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE GOVERNOR TO RESCIND HIS ACTIONS IMPLEMENTING DELAYED PAY DATES

WHEREAS, state employees provide vital and necessary services, as determined by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, to the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, the timely and efficient provision of services requires sufficient personnel to operate in

a productive and cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has ordered the systematic deferral of paychecks resulting ultimately in an additional week's delay in pay dates for the purpose of depriving employees of a portion of their salary; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of lag pay dates effectively constitutes the levy of a special tax or assessment on state workers between now and the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1991; and

WHEREAS, several budgetary alternatives to the lag pay-date plan have been presented and received bipartisan support from a majority of the Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we, the members of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Legislature, now assembled in the First Regular Session petition the Governor to rescind his letter of February 13, 1991 that implements lag pay dates; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this joint resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable John R. McKernan, Jr.

Was read.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterville, Representative Joseph.

Representative JOSEPH: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I am asking for your support on this Resolution. If you will notice, this Resolution is asking the Governor to rescind his letter and Executive Order dealing with the delayed pay dates. State employees did not cause this problem, state employees are one percent of Maine's population and I am asking, why are we targeting this select group? This one percent of Maine's population is paying for 8 percent of the problem in this fiscal year. My question would be, why is that?

This policy of delaying pay dates forces state employees to lend the state money. The pay back to these employees could be months or it could be years.

This is a tax. This is a tax on a select group of people. When you derive people of a portion of their income for the purpose of funding of the state budget, what do you call it? It is a tax and at a cost to each state employee of one week's wages. We tend to forget that state employees have voluntarily given \$11 million to alleviate the shortfall that this state government is now experiencing, \$11 million to help balance the state budget through the voluntary cost saving programs.... this year, this fiscal year of 1990 to 1991.

Through this Supplemental Budget process, several alternatives have been put forward to balance the budget and those alternatives still continue to exist, alternatives proposed by the Appropriations Committee, alternatives proposed by the ad hoc committee. The legislature did not propose the furloughs, the legislature did not propose a delayed pay date. The majority of this legislature did not want to do that. L.D. 274 did not propose this action.

We are now asking the Governor to rescind his letter and his Executive Order.

Mr. Speaker, when the vote is taken, I ask that it be taken by the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belfast, Representative Marsano.

Representative MARSANO: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I appreciated the opportunity which the House afforded me the other afternoon to have this matter considered today rather than the day we last met here.

I have objection with respect to one of the paragraphs to which the Representative from Waterville alluded to and that is specifically the one which suggests that several budgetary alternatives to the lag pay day plan have been presented and received bipartisan support from a majority of the legislature. Now the phrase "the majority of the legislature" has been one that has been bantered about at great length in the halls of this House during the recent concluded budgetary debates.

The rules are clear that a majority in this House are of two sorts, one is a simple majority and the other is a two-thirds majority. Too often we take the position that simply because the Democrats have a simple majority of the numbers in the legislature that the rule of a two-thirds majority means nothing but, in fact, it does.

It is my suggestion to you, ladies and gentlemen of the House, that there has never been bipartisan support from a majority of the legislature with respect to alternatives to using the money which was derived from the action we took which released the \$8.3 million and which supported the furlough days and this rollback. We are subject to the rollback, the rest of the members of state government are subjected to the rollback — I don't say that it is pleasant, I don't say that it is not one of those things that I would not vote to undo if it were fiscally possible to do that, but the simple immutable facts are that it is not. By passing this Resolution, we are simply, again, acting with a fiscal irresponsibility which cannot continue to be our course if we are to help Maine through these troubled times.

For that reason, I would urge the House to vote against the adoption of the pending Resolution.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: A roll call has been requested. For the Chair to order a roll call, it must have the expressed desire of more than one-fifth of the members present and voting. Those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken and more than one-fifth of the members present and voting having expressed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The pending question before the House is adoption of Joint Resolution (H.P. 793). Those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 21

YEA - Adams, Aliberti, Anthony, Ault, Bell, Cahill, M.; Carroll, D.; Cathcart, Chonko, Clark, H.; Coles, Constantine, Cote, Crowley, Daggett, DiPietro, Duffy, Dutremble, L.; Erwin, Gean, Goodridge, Gould, R. A.; Graham, Gray, Gwadosky, Handy, Heeschen, Hichborn, Hوجلund, Holt, Hussey, Jacques, Jalbert, Joseph, Kerr, Ketover, Ketterer, Kilkelly, Kontos, Larrivee, Lawrence, Lemke, Luther, Mahany, Manning,

Martin, H.; Mayo, McHenry, McKeen, Melendy, Michaud, Mitchell, E.; Mitchell, J.; Morrison, Nadeau, Nash, Norton, Nutting, O'Dea, O'Gara, Oliver, Paradis, J.; Paradis, P.; Paul, Pfeiffer, Pineau, Plourde, Poulin, Pouliot, Powers, Rand, Richardson, Ricker, Rotondi, Ruhlin, Rydell, Saint Onge, Salisbury, Sheltra, Simonds, Simpson, Skoglund, Strout, Swazey, Tammaro, Tardy, Townsend, Tracy, Treat, Vigue, Waterman, Wentworth.

NAY - Aikman, Anderson, Bailey, H.; Barth, Bennett, Bowers, Butland, Carleton, Carroll, J.; Donnelly, Farnum, Farren, Foss, Garland, Greenlaw, Hanley, Hastings, Heino, Hepburn, Hichens, Kutasi, Lebowitz, Libby, Look, Lord, MacBride, Marsano, Merrill, Murphy, Parent, Pendexter, Pendleton, Pines, Reed, G.; Reed, W.; Richards, Savage, Small, Spear, Stevens, A.; Stevenson, Whitcomb.

ABSENT - Bailey, R.; Boutilier, Cashman, Clark, M.; Dore, Duplessis, Farnsworth, Gurney, Hale, LaPointe, Lipman, Macomber, Marsh, Ott, Stevens, P.; Tupper, The Speaker.

Yes, 92; No, 42; Absent, 17; Paired, 0; Excused, 0.

92 having voted in the affirmative and 42 in the negative with 17 being absent, Joint Resolution (H.P. 793) was adopted and sent up for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon requiring Senate concurrence were ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

On motion of Representative HICHBORN of Howland, the following Order:

ORDERED, that Representative Sharon Anglin Treat of Gardiner be excused March 13 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Margaret Pruitt Clark of Brunswick be excused March 18 for legislative business.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative John F. Marsh of West Gardiner be excused March 18 to March 22 for personal reasons.

Was read and passed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Unanimous Ought Not to Pass

Representative DUFFY from the Committee on **Taxation** on Bill "An Act to Require Registration of Temporary Renters of Retail Space" (H.P. 228) (L.D. 319) reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**"

Was placed in the Legislative Files without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 15 and sent up for concurrence.

Unanimous Leave to Withdraw

Representative TAMMARO from the Committee on **Transportation** on Bill "An Act Concerning Vanity Plates" (H.P. 156) (L.D. 241) reporting "**Leave to Withdraw**"

Representative MACOMBER from the Committee on **Transportation** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Minimum Age for Obtaining a Driver's License" (H.P. 372) (L.D. 526) reporting "**Leave to Withdraw**"

Were placed in the Legislative Files without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 15 and sent up for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Banking and Insurance

Representative LAWRENCE from the Committee on **Legal Affairs** on Bill "An Act to Enhance the Laws Governing Financial Responsibility" (H.P. 686) (L.D. 985) reporting that it be referred to the Committee on **Banking and Insurance**.

Report was read and accepted and the bill referred to the Committee on **Banking and Insurance** and sent up for concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 49, the following item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H.P. 36) (L.D. 50) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Registration of Camp Trailers" Committee on **Transportation** reporting "**Ought to Pass**" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-37)

There being no objections, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar of Thursday, March 21, 1991, under the listing of Second Day.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Second Day

In accordance with House Rule 49, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the Second Day:

(H.P. 306) (L.D. 436) Bill "An Act to Increase the Limit of Indebtedness of the Newport Water District from \$1,500,000 to \$3,500,000" (EMERGENCY)

On motion of Representative Gwadosky of Fairfield, was removed from the Consent Calendar, Second Day.

Subsequently, the Committee Report was read and accepted, the Bill read once and assigned for second

reading Thursday, March 21, 1991.

(H.P. 44) (L.D. 63) Bill "An Act Concerning Capital Improvements and Impact Fees" (C. "A" H-22)

(H.P. 78) (L.D. 106) Bill "An Act Regarding Possession of Certain Weapons, Implements or Aids" (C. "A" H-23)

(H.P. 85) (L.D. 119) Bill "An Act to Amend the Long Pond Water District Charter" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" H-24)

(H.P. 105) (L.D. 148) Bill "An Act to Expand the Law Concerning Failure to Wear a Flotation Device" (C. "A" H-25)

(H.P. 33) (L.D. 43) Bill "An Act to Establish a Permanent Fishing License System for Older Citizens" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" H-26)

(H.P. 151) (L.D. 236) Bill "An Act to Amend the Definition of a Street Rod" (C. "A" H-27)

(H.P. 20) (L.D. 23) Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sunset on Immediate Wage Withholding for Child Support Awards" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" H-30)

(H.P. 147) (L.D. 219) Bill "An Act to Abolish the Homestead Tax Exemption" (C. "A" H-31)

(H.P. 328) (L.D. 458) Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to the Maine Rural Water Association for Services to Water and Wastewater Systems" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 427) (L.D. 610) Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Commercial Lines Cancellation Laws"

(H.P. 173) (L.D. 258) Bill "An Act to Provide for a Student Member of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Technical College System" (C. "A" H-35)

(H.P. 186) (L.D. 279) Bill "An Act to Allow Minors to Make Anatomical Gifts" (C. "A" H-36)

(S.P. 24) (L.D. 34) Bill "An Act to Amend the Retirement Laws"

No objections having been noted at the end of the Second Legislative Day, the Senate Paper was Passed to be Engrossed in concurrence and the House Papers were Passed to be Engrossed or Passed to be Engrossed as Amended and sent up for concurrence.

(At Ease)

The House was called to order by the Speaker pro tem.

Representative Erwin of Rumford was granted unanimous consent to address the House:

Representative ERWIN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: When we voted on the budget last Wednesday, how many people knew exactly what they were voting for. Representative Paul-Jacques of Waterville was wise beyond his years when he refused to vote for something he didn't fully understand. It is our responsibility to know what we are voting for. How many in this chamber knew exactly what they were voting for? Why, after the agreement had been reached, that each side have their staff go over what was being printed so very carefully?

The members of the Appropriations Committee and the staff are dedicated, capable people who have given much of themselves these last several months. They have made many sacrifices of their time and self for the betterment of the people of the State of Maine. One of the best legislators that will ever serve the State of Maine made the supreme sacrifice, Representative Donald Carter. I appreciate the work of the committee and staff and would never deliberately say or do anything to indicate otherwise. However, if I had known that the Human Services Regional Office in Mexico was going to be closed, I would not have voted for the budget. When I picked up the Sun Journal to read early Friday morning, headlines of an article on the front page were, "Mexico DHS Office to Close." I am sure you can understand that my telephone was very busy that day.

I was told that the reason for the closing was the low caseload so I called the Mexico Office and requested information as to the size of the caseload in comparison to the Farmington Office which was not chosen to be closed. Three offices of Human Services are being closed, two are in Oxford County, Mexico and South Paris and one in Bangor. The Bangor Office being closed is a small branch of the main Bangor Office. People will be inconvenienced but they will still have the main office. The South Paris Office is only open one or two days a week and may be considered a branch office. Are the people being served going to have the means to travel? If so, are they physically able to travel and spend the better part of a day away from home? The Mexico Office serves a rural area and may be smaller than those in a city but when you compare it to offices in other rural areas as to their caseload capabilities and so forth, you will find that Mexico will come out ahead. For instance, the Public Health Nursing Unit in Mexico conducts one or two well-child clinics in office each month. These clinics are offered to pre-school children of middle income families. Those families are not covered by Medicaid. These clinics take in children from Wilton, Canton, Dixfield, Peru, North Turner, Dryden, Farmington, Frye, Roxsbury, Byron and other areas as well as Mexico and Rumford. This service is not offered in other Human Services Office in this region. How was the Mexico Office chosen? The people are capable, dedicated and carry out their responsibilities just as efficiently as the Office in Farmington so it can't be because of the workers. The caseload in Mexico is larger than in Farmington so it can't be that. In the past five months, the caseload in Mexico was 2,910 and in Farmington, 2,646.

The unemployment in the Mexico/Rumford area and in the Norway/South Paris area is very high. In fact, our area had the second highest unemployment in the state. In the 1950's, Rumford had over 10,000

people and Mexico had about 5,500; today Rumford has about 7,000 and Mexico, 3,500. Why the decline in population? Jobs. We are working very hard trying to attract more businesses to the area so our people may find work. We certainly need to keep what we have. Thank you for allowing me to make this statement on the Record.

The following item appearing on Supplement No. 1 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

SENATE PAPER

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 449)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the House and Senate adjourn, they do so until Thursday, March 21, 1991, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Came from the Senate, read and passed.

Was read and passed in concurrence.

On motion of Representative Wentworth of Arundel, Adjourned at 4:47 p.m. until Thursday, March 21, 1991, at eleven o'clock in the morning pursuant to Joint Order (S.P. 449)
