

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

One Hundred And Fifteenth Legislature

OF THE

State Of Maine

VOLUME V

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

July 11, 1991 to July 18, 1991

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FIRST CONFIRMATION SESSION

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

January 8, 1992 to March 9, 1992

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH MAINE LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
4th Legislative Day
Wednesday, January 15, 1992

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

Prayer by Reverend Robert Hargreaves, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Augusta.

The Journal of Tuesday, January 14, 1992, was read and approved.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator **Dutremble** of York proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to His Excellency, Governor John R. McKernan, Jr., an invitation to attend the Convention and make such communication as pleases him.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 6:30 p.m. and the Speaker appointed Representative **GWADOSKY** of Fairfield to convey this message to the Senate.

Subsequently, Representative **GWADOSKY** reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

SENATE PAPERS

Later Today Assigned

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow the State to Refund Bonds (S.P. 813) (L.D. 2012)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on **Appropriations and Financial Affairs** and Ordered Printed.

(The Committee on Reference of Bills had suggested reference to the Committee on **State and Local Government**.)

On motion of Representative Mayo of Thomaston, tabled pending reference in concurrence and later today assigned.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Undocumented Insurance Trade Practices" (S.P. 843) (L.D. 2147)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on **Banking and Insurance** and Ordered Printed.

Was referred to the Committee on **Banking and Insurance** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Petroleum Market Share Act" (S.P. 844) (L.D. 2148)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on **Business Legislation** and Ordered Printed.

Was referred to the Committee on **Business Legislation** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Repeal a Provision Concerning Low Sulfur Fuel" (S.P. 845) (L.D. 2149)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on **Energy and Natural Resources** and Ordered Printed.

Was referred to the Committee on **Energy and Natural Resources** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Immunity to Nonprofit Institutions That Donate Surplus Food" (S.P. 846) (L.D. 2150)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on **Judiciary** and Ordered Printed.

Was referred to the Committee on **Judiciary** in concurrence.

Unanimous Ought Not To Pass

Report of the Committee on **Banking and Insurance** reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**" on Bill "An Act to Provide Coverage for Chiropractic Services under Health Maintenance Organization Plans" (S.P. 289) (L.D. 771)

Report of the Committee on **Banking and Insurance** reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**" on Bill "An Act to Reform Maine Motor Vehicle Insurance" (S.P. 609) (L.D. 1613)

Report of the Committee on **Energy and Natural Resources** reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**" on Bill "An Act to Improve Coordination of Municipal and State Review of Environmental Permits" (S.P. 587) (L.D. 1540)

Report of the Committee on **Human Resources** reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**" on Bill "An Act to Appropriate Funds for At-risk Youths and Families" (S.P. 225) (L.D. 579)

Report of the Committee on **Human Resources** reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**" on "Resolve, to Establish the Alternative Living Community Program" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 720) (L.D. 1910)

Report of the Committee on **Judiciary** reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**" on Bill "An Act to Promote Equity in Court Filing Fees" (S.P. 343) (L.D. 933)

Report of the Committee on **Judiciary** reporting "**Ought Not to Pass**" on Bill "An Act to Require that Restrooms are Accessible to Persons with Disabilities" (S.P. 665) (L.D. 1751)

Report of the Committee on **Utilities** reporting

"Ought Not to Pass" on "Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Analyze the Minimization of Electric Rates as an Integral Factor in the State's Least Cost Energy Plan" (S.P. 713) (L.D. 1896)

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

Unanimous Leave to Withdraw

Report of the Committee on Judiciary reporting **"Leave to Withdraw"** on Bill "An Act Concerning Limitations on Actions for Penalties" (S.P. 706) (L.D. 1881)

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The following Communication: (S.P. 847)

115TH MAINE LEGISLATURE

January 10, 1992

Senator R. Donald Twitchell
Rep. Harold M. Macomber
Chairpersons
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
115th Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Chairs:

Please be advised that Governor John R. McKernan, Jr. has nominated Daniel J. Callahan of Mechanic Falls for appointment to the Maine Turnpike Authority.

Pursuant to Title 23, MRSA Section 1965, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

S/Charles P. Pray
President of the Senate

S/John L. Martin
Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate, Read and Referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Was Read and Referred to the Committee on Transportation in concurrence.

The following Communication:

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
BUREAU OF BANKING
STATE HOUSE STATION 36
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

January 13, 1992

The Honorable John L. Martin
Speaker of the House
State House Station 2
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Martin:

In accordance with Title 9-B Maine Revised Statutes Annotated section 217, as amended, I am submitting "The Status of Maine's Financial Institutions."

This report contains information on the number, type and legal structure of all regulated financial institutions in the state of Maine, as well as the location of offices and total deposits held by these institutions. Nineteen-ninety-one was a challenging year for the state of Maine and its banking system. During the year, State and Federal regulators moved to effect resolutions at problem institutions and put the system on a path for recovery in 1992. This year's report details those actions and other items that we believe will be of public interest.

Copies of this report have been distributed to the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives in order to provide one copy for each member of the House.

Very truly yours,

S/H. Donald DeMatteis
Superintendent

Was read and with accompanying report ordered placed on file.

The following Communication:

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION
STATE HOUSE STATION 49
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

January 14, 1992

The Honorable John L. Martin
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
State House Station 2
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Report of Small Claims to Legislature

Dear Speaker Martin:

Herewith is Report of Small Claims which were received in this office during 1991 and which is being submitted to you for your information and records in accordance with Title 5 M.R.S.A., Section 1510-A, Subsection 8.

A similar report is also being submitted to the Honorable Charles P. Pray, President of the Senate, and if you or your staff should have any questions in connection with this report, please communicate with this office.

Yours very truly,

S/Ronald M. Roy
Chief Counsel

Was read and with accompanying report ordered placed on file.

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES
REQUIRING REFERENCE**

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

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Maintain the Functioning of the Uniform Commercial Code and Corporate Sections of the Department of the Secretary of State" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1531) (L.D. 2160) (Presented by Representative CARROLL of Gray) (Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of Aroostook and Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin) (Submitted by the Department of the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 24.)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Unanimous Ought Not to Pass

Representative CLARK from the Committee on Utilities on Bill "An Act to Encourage the Development of Alternative Energy Sources" (H.P. 1282) (L.D. 1852) reporting "Ought Not to Pass"

Representative CLARK from the Committee on Utilities on Bill "An Act to Promote the Access of Cable Television to Maine Citizens" (H.P. 1124) (L.D. 1649) reporting "Ought Not to Pass"

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

**Refer to the Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources-
Pursuant to Joint Order (H.P. 1508)**

Representative CHONKO from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on Bill "An Act to Eliminate or Modify Certain Environmental Licensing and Permitting Requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1530) (L.D. 2161) reporting that it be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources - pursuant to Joint Order (H.P. 1508).

Report was read and accepted and the bill referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and sent up for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the following matter: RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow the State to Refund Bonds (S.P. 813) (L.D. 2012) (Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs) which was tabled earlier in the day and later today assigned pending reference in concurrence.

(The Committee on Reference of Bills had suggested reference to the Committee on State and Local Government.)

Subsequently, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in concurrence.

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

(At Ease)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

At this point, the Senate entered the Hall of the House and a Joint Convention was formed.

IN CONVENTION

The President of the Senate, Charles P. Pray, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chairman.

On motion of Senator DUTREMBLE of York, it was

ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the members of the Governor's Cabinet inviting them to attend the Convention.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

BERUBE of Androscoggin
BUSTIN of Kennebec
EMERSON of Penobscot

Representatives:

JOSEPH of Waterville
 HEESCHEN of Wilton
 LARRIVEE of Gorham
 KILKELLY of Wiscasset
 GRAY of Sedgwick
 KERR of Old Orchard Beach
 WATERMAN of Buxton
 LOOK of Jonesboro
 NASH of Camden
 SAVAGE of Union

Subsequently, Senator **BERUBE** of Androscoggin, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had discharged the duty assigned it and that the Governor's Cabinet members would attend forthwith.

Subsequently, the Governor's Cabinet members entered the House gallery, amid applause, the audience rising.

On motion of Senator **CLARK** of Cumberland, it was

ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency, Governor John R. McKernan, Jr., and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature were in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communication as he may be pleased to make:

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

BRANNIGAN of Cumberland
 PEARSON of Penobscot
 FOSTER of Hancock

Representatives:

CHONKO of Topsham
 POULIOT of Lewiston
 CARROLL of Gray
 MICHAUD of East Millinocket
 RYDELL of Brunswick
 PARADIS of Frenchville
 HICHBORN of Howland
 FOSS of Yarmouth
 MACBRIDE of Presque Isle
 REED of Falmouth

Subsequently, Senator **BRANNIGAN** of Cumberland, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had discharged the duty assigned it, and the Governor was pleased to say that he would attend the Convention forthwith.

At this point, the Chairman welcomed to the Convention the wife of the Governor, Congresswoman Olympia Snowe; the Governor's mother, Barbara McKernan; two aunts Mary Orestis and Georgia Chalmers. (applause, the audience rising)

At this point, Governor John R. McKernan, Jr., entered the Convention Hall, amid applause, the audience rising.

The Governor then addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the 115th Maine Legislature, Fellow Citizens of Maine: We gather here tonight, at the start of this new year, to take stock of the state of our State and plan anew for our future.

When I delivered my last State of the State address, this new decade dawned ominously in the face of twin threats: Iraqi aggression in the Middle East and a looming national recession. Abroad, we did well. Our victory in the Gulf exceeded our expectations and helped our national pride to soar. No state contributed more to this pride than Maine, as hundreds of Mainers risked their lives and set aside their jobs and their families to serve our nation in the Gulf, and hundreds more gathered each day to welcome our troops home as they flew through Bangor.

But on the home front, it is hard to imagine ways that this year could have been worse. We are fighting a crippling recession, brought on by the overheated New England economy, and now prolonged by the national recession. Like all of the states in the Northeast — and most other states — we have struggled with a succession of budget problems that have undermined confidence in government and challenged Maine's proud tradition of progress over partisanship.

In November, I took the unprecedented step of addressing Maine citizens on statewide television. I presented my plans for dramatic cuts in State spending and proposals to reduce the State bureaucracy. You responded, and we made a good start but I will need your help again this session. It is a daunting challenge that we face. It will require an extra effort from all of us. Tonight I would like to single out one person who has, once again, made that extra effort, days, nights and weekends to prepare the many difficult changes to our budgets and I would like to publicly thank our Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services who is sitting in the balcony with my Cabinet, Sawin Millett, for all his efforts. (applause) When you receive the 400 page revision on Friday, you will see just how daunting that challenge was.

As I said that night in November, our budget problems do cause us concern, obviously, but the simple fact is that only by creating new jobs will we get our economy moving again. Nothing has changed since November, the answer is still jobs.

As you gather in this Second Regular Session of the 115th Legislature, I believe you have but two tasks, the first is to make our State a more hospitable place to preserve and create jobs for our citizens.

The second is to continue to cut State bureaucracy and reduce the financial burden on Maine taxpayers.

On every vote you cast this session, you must ask yourself two basic questions: first, "Will this help save or create jobs," and second, "Can we afford it?" If any of you in the Legislature doubt the importance of these two tasks, you need look no further than the more than 33,000 jobs lost in Maine since 1989.

This is the toll of the hostile attitude toward

those who create jobs. This is the harsh reality of this recession, a recession that affects all of our citizens from all walks of life. The statistics are chilling: 1,489 jobs lost in Oxford County alone.... More than 3,000 jobs lost in Androscoggin County....more than 3,000 jobs lost in Kennebec County, 3,000 more in Penobscot, 4,129 jobs lost in York and more than 9,260 jobs lost in Cumberland County. Behind each of these cold statistics is the face and life of an unemployed worker. Unfortunately, each week the papers bring news of additional layoffs. Make no mistake, these are the people, the families in your districts, whom we in government have failed.

This is the human cost of our inability to adequately reform our workers' compensation insurance system, the real-life consequence of excessive regulatory red tape and it is the price we will continue to pay if Maine businesses cannot compete...because we choose not to act.

Let me share with you a parable I heard recently about a goat, a crow and an oak tree. Each day, the crow sat high among the branches of an oak tree and watched as a little goat came from the pastures of a nearby farm to forage among the roots of the tree for nuts. Over the months, the goat grew large on the acorns it found among the roots of the tree, but as it foraged, it exposed more and more roots. One day, the crow called down to the goat as he dug around the base of the tree, "You must be careful, my friend," the crow said, "In your zeal for acorns, if you expose too many of this tree's roots, the tree will die." The goat looked up at the crow and said, "Silly crow, I don't care if the tree dies. All I want are the acorns."

Well, we ought to care if the tree dies — because frankly, the life of Maine's economic tree is in danger.

For too long, too many have believed that they could increase the burden on Maine businesses and Maine taxpayers without endangering our prosperity. But now, just as the goat in the parable had threatened the life of the tree, we have threatened the well-being of the people of our State. Our first obligation to the citizens of Maine remains restoring the vitality of our economy — to send a clear message that Maine is encouraging businesses to create jobs.

That is why I began the process in December, by conducting two job summits — to hear firsthand from Maine businesses about the obstacles they face in creating jobs. And that is why the Speaker, the President and I appointed a bipartisan Jobs Commission to find ways to create jobs in Maine. We hope their conclusions, which will be reported to all of us at the end of this month, will help us reach consensus on how to create more jobs for our citizens.

From our past efforts, we know there are at least three areas that need to be addressed, a basic health insurance option, revisions to streamline Maine's regulatory burden and additional reforms to our workers' compensation insurance system.

Last year, I proposed a "Basic Care" health plan without costly mandates for employees of small businesses. While more than 20 states have passed similar plans, ours died last year in committee. We will try again this session. Other legislatures stood up to the special interests, this Legislature didn't. This year, that has to change.

In regulatory reform, this Legislature has more

unfinished business as well and you have already begun. We need to ensure clarity, consistency and promptness in our environmental regulations, so our citizens can depend on our system to act on their permit requests in a reasonable time. You have legislation pending before you that can streamline the process and I will introduce more. We cannot afford to delay any longer.

Once again, I will propose to bring our workers' compensation insurance costs in line with other states. We need to protect our workers, but we must break up the feeding frenzy by those lawyers, health care providers and others who are driving up the costs of our comp system. Men and Women of this Legislature, the day of reckoning is here. When Maine's employers pay more than twice the national rate — Maine's injured workers receive only forty cents of each premium dollar — we simply cannot afford more delays in constructing a fairer, less costly and more efficient system.

Some of you may remember the example we used last spring during the workers' compensation debate involving the Boston Bruins. If the Bruins pay a player \$80,000 — in Massachusetts, they pay workers' compensation insurance premiums of \$4,500. If they send that player to the Maine Mariners farm team, pay him the same salary, but have to pay Maine workers' comp insurance premiums, those premiums would be \$13,000! That's three times more for the same person, same salary, same sport, same risk. No wonder there are rumors the Mariners are thinking about leaving Maine.

The disparity just got worse. Lawmakers in Massachusetts, — where like Maine, a democratic majority in the Legislature faces a Republican governor — recently agreed to make reforms to their comp system that will reduce costs by 25 percent. Their new law reduces the length of time most injured workers can collect benefits to 364 weeks, compared to Maine's generous 520 weeks. Massachusetts will reimburse injured workers for 60 percent of their average weekly wage under the new law, down from 66 2/3 percent. The new law will also cut attorneys fees and revamps the Massachusetts Workers' Compensation Commission to further reduce costs.

The question this year is whether you are up to the task of reforming comp in this state in order to save jobs for Maine workers or whether you are content to let even more jobs flow to states like Massachusetts. Maine's workers' compensation insurance system is costing us jobs.

As I told your leadership today, some have called for yet another Blue Ribbon study of Maine's workers' compensation insurance system. We have already had Blue Ribbon studies, one was completed just last year. We know what the problems are, now is the time for solutions. If we care about jobs for Maine workers, we cannot afford to wait any longer.

In addition to fixing comp, we must go even further to provide incentives for businesses to invest and create jobs here in Maine. We need to expand our Investment Tax Credit to provide an incentive for businesses to invest in new plants and equipment — in new technology for Maine workers so we can compete. We must create a Jobs Tax Credit to encourage businesses to expand employment opportunities for our citizens. I will also be establishing a Jobs Team to troubleshoot for businesses struggling with government red tape and speed up the permitting process.

In addition, we have identified construction projects pending before State agencies so we can accelerate their permits this construction season and help create jobs. I have asked State agencies to identify new construction and repair projects that could begin during this construction season as well. We want to work with you to develop these projects as a bond package for voters to consider this spring so we can benefit from the jobs created this year. Combined, these efforts will pump additional money into the economy and put people back to work.

This legislative session is going to be watched very closely by Maine voters, by Maine businesses, by those considering business opportunities here in our State. It is vitally important that we send them a message that we are serious about improving the climate for creating jobs. When this session ends, the message must be clear and that message must be, we are serious about creating jobs and we are taking steps now to remove obstacles to job creation. If we fail to take action, jobs that would otherwise be created in Maine, will go elsewhere. We will have failed at the most important task before us and that is creating opportunities for our citizens to provide for their families.

But all of our attempts at job creation will be for naught if we fail to bring our budget under control without raising taxes. Our problem, contrary to what we all hear in Augusta, is not that the State spends too little money, we are among the highest taxed states in this country. Our problem is that we must learn to live within our means. So, let me state clearly to you and to all of our citizens, I will not support raising new revenues in this session, either by raising current taxes or by removing tax exemptions (applause) nor will I support raising new revenues through video gambling. We must instead insist on strong, responsible solutions to our needs and avoid the persistent demands of the special interests to increase State spending.

I think we need to be straight with the voters, if we remove tax exemptions that were enacted by your colleagues in other legislatures, we are imposing new taxes and costs on people who currently do not pay those taxes. We would be raising taxes. Maine taxpayers, at current rates, are already on their knees crying "Uncle!" It would be irresponsible to place another extra penny's burden on their backs.

I also will not join those of you who are looking to embrace video gambling as a "quick fix" to our declining revenues. Turning to video gambling today would change the landscape of Maine and would alter the character of our towns and cities forever. I will not support video gambling and I will veto any attempt to make it a part of our revenues.

Rather, we must examine the full scope of our government and look for ways to do the job better. That is what we will do in our budget revisions for FY 1993, which I will outline on Friday.

The gap between revenues and requested expenditures in our original budget will be approximately \$115 million but because of the recession, we will also require supplemental spending of \$52 million for 1992 and 1993 to cover the increased number of people who are now eligible for our human services programs. The budget I will present to you continues to cut State bureaucracy. If our budget revisions pass, we will have reduced the number of General Fund employees in the Executive Branch by 1,203 or 15.4 percent since March of 1990.

I must point out that our actions are in stark contrast to the actions of the other branches of government. The Judicial Branch, over the same period of time, has eliminated 11 employees or only 2.8 percent. Remarkably, the Legislative Branch to date has not laid off even one staff member during these tough times. And while salaries for my appointees have been frozen and cut, other branches of government have continued to give increases. We cannot continue with a system that allows this type of inequity or allows some employees to earn more than their supervisors. State government, like every business in our state, must be able to respond to substantial economic pressures. This is why I have ordered a review of our entire personnel system.

As I said earlier, I will outline our budget revisions in more detail on Friday, but I want to give you some of the highlights tonight. To begin with, we have carried forward the 1992 cuts within the budget package that you passed last month for savings of about \$70 million for 1993. In that package, we have limited cuts to General Purpose Aid to just \$10 million, under 2 percent of the total aid that we give to local education. We also will propose to make no further cuts in state municipal revenue sharing. (applause) My decision reflects the concern you in the Legislature and citizens across our state have expressed about the property tax burden.

So, to protect communities from further cuts, we intend to propose refinancing a portion of our outstanding bonds. Many of you have taken advantage of today's lower interest rates to refinance your home mortgages, we have decided to do the same to lessen the burden on local property taxes.

We will continue our efforts to contract out more services at our State mental health facilities and the care and treatment services at our juvenile correctional facilities, for savings of \$6.2 million.

We will make the Public Health Lab in the Department of Human Services self-supporting with resulting savings of almost \$1 million.

We will follow through on our proposal to get the State out of the liquor business by closing additional State liquor stores. I am also proposing to make substantial reforms to control the burgeoning cost of our human services entitlement programs.

My budget includes eligibility changes in the Aid for Families with Dependent Children program that will encourage personal responsibility and focus AFDC on the citizens who need it most. Specifically, we will no longer increase benefits for single parents who have additional children while on AFDC and we will eliminate the "gap" that allows clients to continue to collect benefits even after finding a job. It is unfair that some welfare recipients make more in benefits than the working people of this state. We need to find ways to break the welfare cycle, not perpetuate it.

Our budget also asks State employees to contribute to our reductions. I will freeze merit pay increases for 1993 and ask all State employees to contribute one percent to reimburse the State for contributions to their retirement plans. Maine State employees are working almost a month less, yet are being paid the same salary this year that they earned last year. This reduced work schedule is crippling State programs our citizens depend on, so I will again call on our State employees to return to a more appropriate and efficient work schedule for the

coming year.

We have also continued to try to improve the way government delivers services and build on the restructuring I began last fall. I will propose to reorganize several State departments this year. We will reorganize our current Departments of Human Services and Mental Health and Mental Retardation into a Department of Health and a Department of Children and Families.

I am also proposing an independent Maine Transportation Authority to set a comprehensive transportation strategy managing our rail, highway and ferry systems. Our proposal will expand revenue bonding powers while providing better integration between the Turnpike Authority and the Department of Transportation.

We also need to improve the way government does business. Tonight, I call on you to adopt the recommendations of our Special Commission on Government Restructuring. I intend to implement the Restructuring Commission's proposal of "Total Quality Management" for State offices. We must do more to engage our employees in improving the way government functions, and we must treat taxpayers as customers, and not just a source of revenue. Our role as government officials is to serve the public, not to expect them to serve us.

As difficult as this will be for some of you, we must also accept the recommendation of the Restructuring Commission to reduce the size of the Legislature. I believe it will bring, not only budgetary savings, but also improved responsiveness. Maine does not need a legislature that is the third largest in the nation — and among the most expensive. Nor, quite frankly, do we need the more than 2,000 laws contemplated by this body each biennium. Let's agree, tonight, to consider only those bills that are most important to our State, bills for which this Second Session was designed. Surely, we can limit debate this session to those most crucial issues, complete the State's business and, hopefully, meet your leadership's target of adjournment by March 27th, just over two months from now.

While our budget problems can demand all of our attention, we must force ourselves to focus on the future as well. Toward this end, Friday I will be creating a new goal-setting initiative called "Milestones for Maine" and forming a Task Force to review the work of the Commission on Maine's Future, and develop, through an extensive process of public hearings, a wide range of outcome goals for our State — and milestones for achieving those goals over the next eight years and beyond to our bicentennial.

By setting milestones now, we can enter a new millennium and a new century for our State with clear goals and a vision for our State's future.

This has not been a conventional State of the State address. When I took office five years ago, I told you I wanted to make Maine the very best place in America to live, work and raise a family. That is still my goal even in these difficult times. Maine is a great place to live and raise a family, but we must restore Maine as a great place to work — and to create jobs.

I began this evening by framing the tasks this Legislature must address. I want to repeat again the questions you must ask for every bill, every vote you consider this session: "Will this help to maintain or create jobs in Maine?" "Can we afford it?" These

are drastically different questions from those you have asked in other sessions. The economist John Kenneth Galbraith once said that politics is the art of choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable. As unpalatable as these choices may be for many of you, they pale in comparison to the personal anguish you will cause if you fail to act.

The choice we face is stark, one sets the course for recovery; the other promises only continued economic stagnation. When you return to your community this spring to face your family, friends and neighbors, you will have to again face the reality of our economy. The decisions you make this session will determine whether, on your return, Maine people have begun to go back to work. Our very economic future rests in your hands. Your votes this session will determine whether Maine families have the opportunities they deserve.

I'd like to close by reading an excerpt from a letter from a 15-year-old girl who wrote me recently. Her name is Allison. She writes, "I was born in Waterville, Maine, 15 years ago. My whole family except my mother, father, sister and I, all live in Morrill, Maine, still. I love Maine very much and would love to live there. Unfortunately, there are no jobs available for my father." This session, you and I can give Allison's Dad an opportunity to return to Maine and find work. That is what this session is all about. We can prove to the thousands of our fellow citizens, who are unemployed and the thousands more who are frightened everyday when they have to go to work that they will lose their jobs, that we in government can do the job the voters sent us here to do.

To those of you in the Democratic Party, I ask you to work with me and your Republican colleagues. We all need to set aside partisan politics. Working together, I know we can put Maine back on course and Maine people deserve no less. Thank you.

At the conclusion of the Governor's address, the Governor withdrew amid applause, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chairman declared the same dissolved and the Senate retired to its chambers, amid applause, the members rising.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

On motion of Representative Pouliot of Lewiston, Adjourned at 7:38 p.m. until Thursday, January 16, 1992, at four o'clock in the afternoon.