

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

VOLUME I

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives
December 2, 1992 to May 13, 1993

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH MAINE LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
4th Legislative Day
Friday, January 8, 1993

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

Prayer by Reverend George B. Atkinson, Westport Baptist Church.

The Journal of Tuesday, January 5, 1993, was read and approved.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator ESTY of Cumberland proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 11:30 a.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 11:30 a.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

Bill "An Act to Exempt Warden Service Vehicles from Participation in the Central Motor Pool" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 14) (L.D. 4)

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

Was referred to the Committee on **Appropriations and Financial Affairs** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Concerning Private Agencies That Have Contracts with the Department of Human Services" (S.P. 15) (L.D. 5)

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

Was referred to the Committee on **Human Resources** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Arrest Warrants" (S.P. 16) (L.D. 6)

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

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

concurrence.

Resolve, to Allow Neal and Linda Chute to Bring an Action against the State (S.P. 17) (L.D. 7)

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

Was referred to the Committee on **Legal Affairs** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Enforcement Authority of the Maine Sardine Council" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 20) (L.D. 10)

Bill "An Act to Abolish the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission" (S.P. 21) (L.D. 11)

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

Were referred to the Committee on **Marine Resources** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Prohibiting Political Activity by Members of the Workers' Compensation Board" (S.P. 19) (L.D. 9)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on **State and Local Government** and Ordered Printed.

Was referred to the Committee on **State and Local Government** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Legalize Blue-dot Taillights" (S.P. 18) (L.D. 8)

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The following Communication: (S.P. 22)

THE MAINE SENATE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

December 4, 1992

Honorable Joy J. O'Brien
Secretary of the Senate
State House Station #3
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary O'Brien:

Pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Part Third, Section 1-A of the Constitution of Maine, I have appointed Senator Richard J. Carey of Kennebec and Senator Mark W. Lawrence of York to serve on the Apportionment Commission.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these appointments.

Sincerely,

S/Dennis L. Dutremble
President of the Senate

Came from the Senate, read and ordered placed on file.

Was read and ordered placed on file in concurrence.

The following Communication: (S.P. 23)

THE MAINE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
P.O. BOX 5258
AUGUSTA, ME 04332

December 5, 1992

Joy J. O'Brien
Secretary of the Senate
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary O'Brien:

This is to confirm my telephone conversation of this date that I have appointed Mr. David Shiah, RR 2 Box 3500, Bowdoinham, Maine 04008, 666-5902, as my representative on the Maine Apportionment Commission.

Sincerely,

S/Jo Karr
Chair

Came from the Senate, read and ordered placed on file.

Was read and ordered placed on file in concurrence.

The following Communication: (S.P. 24)

116TH MAINE LEGISLATURE

December 10, 1992

Senator Dale McCormick
Rep. Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Chairpersons
Interim Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance
116th Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Chairs:

Please be advised that Governor John R. McKernan, Jr. has nominated Helen Dudman of Ellsworth, Harvey Picker of Camden and Martin Hanish of Manchester for appointment as public members to the Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company.

Pursuant to P.L. 1992, Ch. 885, these nominations will require review by the Interim Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance.

Sincerely,

S/Dennis L. Dutremble S/John L. Martin
President of the Senate Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate, Read and Referred to the Interim Committee on **Banking and Insurance**.

Was Read and Referred to the Interim Committee on **Banking and Insurance** in concurrence.

The following Communication: (S.P. 25)

1993 APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

December 14, 1992

The Honorable Joy J. O'Brien
Secretary of the Senate
State House Station 3
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Madam Secretary:

This is to notify you that Anthony W. Buxton of Portland has been selected by the Democratic members of the 1993 Apportionment Commission to serve as Public Member.

Sincerely,

S/Michael H. Michaud
Chair
Democratic Delegation

Came from the Senate, read and ordered placed on file.

Was read and ordered placed on file in concurrence.

The following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT
STATE HOUSE STATION 66
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

January 5, 1993

Representative John L. Martin
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House Station No. 2
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Martin:

I submit herewith the Eighty-Fourth Annual Report of the State Auditor as required by Title 5, Section 244 of the Maine Revised Statutes.

I would like to express my special appreciation to the managers and staff of the Department of Audit for their continued support of quality audits and to the officials and employees of the various state departments, courts, counties and municipalities for their cooperation with this department.

Respectfully submitted,

S/Rodney L. Scribner, CPA
State Auditor

Was read and with accompanying report ordered placed on file.

The following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE PLANNING OFFICE
STATE HOUSE STATION 38
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

December 1992

Senate President Dennis Dutremble
Speaker of the House John L. Martin and
Members of the 116th Maine Legislature

Dear President Dutremble, Speaker Martin, and Members of the Legislature:

I am pleased to submit herewith the 1992 Governor's Report to the Legislature on Maine's use of Exxon, Stripper Well, and Diamond Shamrock Petroleum Violation Escrow (PVE) funds, otherwise known as "oil overcharge" funds.

This report is submitted to the Legislature pursuant to section 6 of Chapter 818 of Public Laws of 1986, Section 5 of Chapter 533 of the Public Laws of 1989. It is based on information provided by the State agencies responsible for the conduct of programs and activities funded with PVE monies. The report contains information on the status of each program or activity and the amounts of all unexpended balances.

Copies of the Report are being distributed to each member of the Legislature, agencies responsible for PVE-funded programs, and other interested parties.

Sincerely,

S/Stephen J. Adams
Acting Director

Was read and with accompanying report ordered placed on file.

The following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE HOUSE STATION 6
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

January 7, 1993

Honorable Dennis L. Dutremble
President of the Senate
State House Station 3
Augusta, Maine 04333

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

Re: Petroleum Market Share Act/Report to the Legislature

Dear Speaker Martin and Senator Dutremble:

Pursuant to 10 M.R.S.A., Section 1677, I am attaching the Petroleum Advisory Committee's Report to the Legislature regarding the Petroleum Market Share Act. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 626-8855. Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Karen E. S. Pushard
Secretary

Was read and with accompanying report ordered placed on file.

**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:

Banking and Insurance

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Viability of the Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company" (H.P. 23) (L.D. 26) (Presented by Representative RAND of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator LUTHER of Oxford)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Later Today Assigned

Bill "An Act to Permit the Use of All-terrain Vehicles by Law Enforcement Officers" (H.P. 20) (L.D. 22) (Presented by Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Representative CARON of Biddeford, Senator SUMMERS of Cumberland and Representative LARRIVEE of Gorham)

(The Committee on Reference of Bills had suggested reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife.)

On motion of Representative Paradis of Augusta, tabled pending reference and later today assigned.

Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Amend the Lounge License Provisions" (H.P. 19) (L.D. 21) (Presented by Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Representative PLOURDE of Biddeford, Representative VIGUE of Winslow and Senator CONLEY of Cumberland)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act Regarding Closed Clam Flats" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 18) (L.D. 20) (Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Freeport) (Cosponsored by Representative TOWNSEND of Eastport and Senator VOSE of Washington)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Amend the Terms of Public Utilities Commissioners" (H.P. 21) (L.D. 23) (Presented by Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Representative CARON of Biddeford, Representative CLARK of Millinocket, Representative WENTWORTH of Arundel and Senator CARPENTER of York)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Prohibit People from Riding in the Back of Open Pickup Trucks" (H.P. 22) (L.D. 24) (Presented by Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Senator SUMMERS of Cumberland, Representative VIGUE of Winslow and Representative NADEAU of Saco)

Ordered Printed.
Sent up for Concurrence.

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. 30)

ORDERED, the House concurring that when the House and Senate adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 12, 1993, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Came from the Senate, read and passed.

Was read and passed in concurrence.

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

IN CONVENTION

The President of the Senate, Dennis L. Dutremble, in the Chair.

On motion of Senator **ESTY** 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: PEARSON of Penobscot
TITCOMB of Cumberland
FOSTER of Hancock

Representatives: CHONKO of Topsham
POULIOT of Lewiston
CARROLL of Gray
MICHAUD of E. Millinocket
RYDELL of Brunswick
HICHBORN of Howland
KERR of Old Orchard Beach
FOSS of Yarmouth
MACBRIDE of Presque Isle
REED of Falmouth

Senator PEARSON, for the Committee, subsequently reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which they were charged and the Governor was pleased to say that he would attend the Convention forthwith.

Whereupon, 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 116th Legislature, Fellow Citizens of Maine:

Today, I am presenting to you my budget for the State of Maine for the biennium beginning July 1, 1993 and ending June 30, 1995.

As you know, my constitutional responsibility is to balance state spending with revenues and I have fulfilled this obligation.

Before I go on, I would like to thank our Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, Sawin Millett, our Budget Director Jack Nicholas and their staffs, who have worked patiently with us to help us craft our budget. This budget begins the process of defining the kind of Maine we can afford for the remainder of the 1990's.

I am determined to ensure with this budget that future governors and legislatures will not have to face budgets that are structurally unsound, and deal, as we have repeatedly, with budget deficits that approach a billion dollars. We must return this state to sound financial footing.

Before I detail my General Fund budget proposals, I want to remind all of you that much of the reason for our fiscal problems during this decade stems from the lack of jobs for our citizens. Our budget problems are symptoms. The disease has been a faltering economy and the cure is economic growth. That cure will only be achieved if we lower our taxes, cut bureaucratic red tape, and provide incentives to create jobs.

Your first opportunity to do that will be next week, when you vote on a bill to be sponsored by the Speaker, which will give a preferential electric rate to the DFAS Center if it locates in Bangor. Four thousand jobs are at stake and I urge you to support our efforts but that is next week. This week we set the fiscal framework for state government for the next two years.

I am not going to "sugar coat" this budget for you this morning. This budget contains bitter medicine — medicine that none of us particularly wants to take — but it is medicine that is spread fairly across all departments, programs, and constituencies. We have protected services essential to the health and safety of our citizens.

My 1994-1995 budget eliminates \$1 billion from our current services request, reflecting the gap between those spending requests and available revenues, as projected by the new Consensus Revenue Forecasting Committee. Today, I want to tell you why I have made these decisions.

As you know, I recently held a series of town meetings in towns across our state, and later, participated in a series of radio call-ins and television interviews explaining our budget. Our meetings were helpful and well-attended and many citizens offered constructive ideas on how to approach our budget problems. Let me share some with you.

A student at the University of Maine lamented the duplicative administration and high salaries at the University System and urged me to cut back in the budget. "Just do it", she said.

In Auburn, the Lewiston City Administrator told me about the wrenching decisions they have made in balancing their city budget and cutting back on employee benefits. "They're tough decisions to make, but they have to be made," he said.

In Presque Isle, a woman with a special needs child urged me to consider consolidating services, so that more could be spent on the needy and less on administration.

A Biddeford man told me most couples there work three, even four jobs, just to get by. He pleaded

for fairness in the budget.

But of all the voices I heard, I am haunted by the plaintive voice of a man in Biddeford who asked, "Why can the state live within its means?" He told me that the company he works for has cut back to stay within its revenues — he and his family have tightened their belt to live within theirs.

"Just do it."

"Make the tough decisions"

"Consolidate and reduce administration"

"Be fair, but get the job done"

"Why can't the state live within its means?"

These people are living within the reality of the 1990's. They are asking that state government do the same and they deserve an answer.

For these reasons, my budget for the 1994-1995 biennium includes no new taxes and allows the temporary taxes enacted during the last Session to expire as scheduled. (applause) To do less, I hope most of us would agree, we would have broken a promise that those of us here in the last Session of the legislature made to the people of this state. Allowing the temporary taxes to expire means spending less in 1994 and 1995 than we are spending in our current 1993 fiscal year. Yet, I believe this a fair budget.

While some of the proposals we have made in this budget will be painful and, as I said earlier, I believe that no single group bears the brunt of our decisions.

I have crafted this budget around several guiding principles:

- Restoring accountability to our programs;
- Eliminating duplication of services;
- Restructuring state government to focus on the customer, the citizens we are elected to serve.

In the cost centers that drive much of our budget, we have proposed strict measures to restore accountability to programs that have seen runaway growth over the past decade.

General Purpose Aid to Education

Education funding is a good example. My budget reduces General Purpose Aid to Education to 1991 levels. My proposal will total about \$487 million for each year of the biennium, a reduction of about five percent from 1993 levels, but 13.7 percent higher than 1989 — still 57.3 percent higher than when I took office in 1987.

I want to tell you what has bothered me about our education funding system. Last year a friend with a third grader in a Maine elementary school told me about their school's dilemma. Faced with 36 third graders in the school, the school decided to create three classes of 12 rather than 2 classes of 18. I believe that school's decision was helped by the fact that state taxpayers, not local taxpayers, would cover 70 percent of the costs of that third teacher in that third classroom. I think that that has helped to account for the large increases in staff at schools in this state.

My proposal would cap administrative spending and set the threshold student-to-teacher ratios and

ensure that schools have a stake in keeping costs low in the future. Obviously, we don't want to affect the quality of education in this state and that is why, to ensure that this proposal can be applied fairly to school districts, I have directed Commissioner Martin to convene a task force to examine the impact of these reductions and report back to me and to you by the end of March on exactly what they feel would be the best approach to limiting our costs.

Ensuring Accountability in Entitlements

My proposals to control spending on entitlements, another major cost center in our budget, stems (again) from the economic reality of the 1990's. These proposals are designed to ensure fairness and accountability, to cap utilization and to encourage clients and their families to take responsibilities for their own lives and their benefits.

We have proposed new co-payment provisions for clients who use many of our state services, so that those who receive state aid have a stake in keeping costs low.

We have asked nursing homes and hospitals to bear the same level of cuts as others. We have asked these health care providers to keep costs low by improving efficiency in helping to rein in spiraling health care costs. Where necessary, we are requesting waivers on federal rules and regulations to give our state the flexibility that we need to set our own priorities. Too often, these mandates from the federal government force us to choose between delivering a "Cadillac" service or delivering nothing at all.

My budget will reform the medically-needy option of the Medicaid program, which cares for the elderly in nursing homes. This is one of the fastest growing areas in our budget. Sixteen states do not even participate in the program because they cannot afford it.

An entire legal industry has grown up around our Medicaid system as adult children seek to transfer assets from their parents so their parents will qualify for Medicaid. I believe it is fair to ask families who can pay for their parents' health and long-term care to do so — so that we can continue to offer this service to those who are truly in need.

We are proposing that the state be reimbursed from the estates of those who have received Medicaid benefits to the extent that sufficient assets exist. We are also asking the federal government to allow us to recover state costs from assets that have been transferred from parents to children to help a parent qualify for Medicaid benefits and to further curb abuse and give elderly patients more access to quality health care.

We are proposing a state law to require that adult children be responsible for their parents' health care to the extent that they are financially able to do so. If we truly want to keep taxes low in this state, we cannot expect the taxpayer to care for family members of those who have the financial ability to do so themselves. I believe that these proposals will also bring our costs back in line with other states. In Maine, fully 80 percent of nursing home residents receive government-funded, long-term care under Medicaid, while the national average is 50 percent. That has to change.

We also will encourage personal responsibility in

our AFDC program. We will again propose that single parents who have additional children while on AFDC receive no increase in benefits with those additional children. We will roll back eligibility and payment levels for AFDC, maintaining basic level of benefits, but reserving them for those who are most in need.

We have proposed to eliminate the Maine Health Program. Last year, we asked communities to help us identify ways to pare back the General Assistance Program. The communities responded — cutting costs from \$21 million to \$9 million annually.

This year, my budget will replace General Assistance with funding for basic emergency shelter to serve those most in need. We will work closely with community leaders over the next few months to determine the fairest way to apply these cuts, while reducing our expenses to \$3 million during each year of the biennium.

To keep the impact of this decision to a minimum, we have chosen not to reduce General Revenue Sharing to local communities, and in fact, there will be a small increase over the next two years. Local communities will be able to balance these reductions with a modest increase in revenue sharing.

All told, my proposals for changes in social service programs will save Maine \$56 million below current funding levels over the biennium. Moreover, my proposals to change eligibility and benefits will ensure equity for our needy citizens and fairness for the taxpayers who foot the bill.

Requesting Federal Waivers

As I mentioned earlier, implementing some of these proposals will require waivers or changes in federal law. I have recommended these changes because the only alternatives to our proposals are discharging 6,000 current Medicaid recipients from nursing homes or raising taxes. I am not prepared to address either alternative unless I am convinced there is no other choice.

To begin the process of seeking the federal changes, I have this morning written to each of the members of the Maine Congressional Delegation to ask for their help and support in passing these changes into law.

I believe we can anticipate some success in our proposals. I believe that because President-elect Clinton has been calling for these changes for years as the Governor of one of our states. Just last month, he asked the National Governors Association to identify what we thought were appropriate changes to Medicaid and welfare entitlements in order to give states more flexibility.

Arkansas itself has challenged the federal laws in many of these programs and will benefit from the changes we propose. I have also written to the President-elect directly to ask for his personal support for our proposals.

Reining in Retirement Costs

Retirement costs for state employees and local teachers have also risen dramatically in recent years, largely because of salary and benefit increases given to teachers at the local level — increases over which we have no control, but for which we are obligated to pay.

My budget proposal will help to control these costs. My proposals include:

- * Bringing our retirement system in line with Social Security by increasing employee contributions, capping benefits for some employees who are not vested, and scaling in a higher retirement age for those who are not already vested in the system.
- * Limiting increases in teacher salaries that will be counted toward retirement, and eliminating provisions that include sick leave and vacation time in retirement; and
- * Better defining "teachers" to require certification before the state assumes responsibility for retirement contributions.

We will also continue to work down the unfunded liability the state assumed when we took over teacher retirement in the 1940's but my proposal will re-amortize the program over 40 years.

My proposal will allow employees a strong, fair retirement system and maintain our obligation to employees by fully funding the Retirement System in the long term.

Rethinking State Government

As most of you already know from my remarks on Wednesday at the University's Conference on "Rethinking State Government", we are proposing to dramatically restructure state government — from creating a new Department of Health and Family Services, to transferring AFDC and ASPIRE to the Department of Labor, to creating a new Department of Inland Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife, to transferring the Division of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Transportation, to selling five miles of the Interstate South of York to the Maine Turnpike Authority, and continuing to privatize our liquor and lottery functions. We are continuing to pursue ways to improve the efficiency of our programs and our service to customers. All told, these restructuring proposals achieve savings of almost \$20 million to the General Fund.

With this budget, we will have reduced the size of my Cabinet from 20 Commissioners in 1987 to 15 in 1994 — a cut of 25 percent. We have reduced the number of political appointees in state departments by nearly a third. My own office — already one of the smallest in the nation — will have 20 percent fewer staff than when I entered office in 1987.

Reducing Administration and Duplication

Throughout our budget, despite bold, even radical solutions, we have sought to be fair. Throughout the Executive Branch of state government, 11 of my 17 departments are literally below the General Fund staffing levels I inherited when I became Governor in 1987.

My budget will eliminate 852 positions from state government, 282 of them vacant positions, and 570 through direct employee layoffs. I want to talk with you for a minute about the layoffs.

The decision to eliminate jobs is among the most difficult any employer can make. As Governor, I know how hard state employees work to serve our citizens with worthy programs. We are not eliminating these

jobs because they are unnecessary or because our employees are inefficient. No, we are eliminating these positions because we can no longer afford to support the size of government to which we became accustomed in the 1980's.

As you know, those of you who have served in the legislature before, we tried to minimize layoffs in the past but if we are to function with fewer revenues in 1994 and 1995 than in the current year, we have no alternative but to reduce staff along with the other functions of government. This stark economic reality has forced us to make tough choices throughout state government as well.

Most state agencies have endured cuts of five to ten percent — or more — below level funding in their next biennial budget, although we have maintained our funding for Corrections and Mental Health and Mental Retardation functions above current levels.

Shared Pain Throughout Government

To ensure that this fairness spreads beyond the Executive Branch, my proposals ask other branches of government to do the same.

My proposal reduces funding for higher education by about five percent. Our University System currently has the lowest tuition rate in New England. While our proposals may require some increase in tuition, they will simply bring our tuition costs back in line with other states in our region. Frankly, every indication we have is that a tuition increase to bring funding to our University System back to current level would still leave the University of Maine System with the lowest tuition of any University in New England.

We have spread similar cuts to the Legislature and the Constitutional Officers, asking them to consider the same target levels that other Executive branch agencies have considered.

We have also asked our state employees to return to a full work schedule at present salary levels, eliminating furlough and shutdown days. I hasten to point out that we are not attempting to balance this budget on the backs of state employees; the depth of cuts across state government should speak of our commitment to fairness in this budget. I believe that we have no choice but to make the structural, permanent changes that are going to be necessary if we are to ensure that we do not face a future budget gap in additional years.

I believe that the budget that I am present fairly meets the basic needs that I have heard repeated, again and again, during my town meetings last month.

You will hear, again and again, from the special interest who benefit most heavily from the spending programs in the state budget. They will tell you about the painful cuts their programs will endure. When you are approached by a special interest group, I ask you to remember the hard-working taxpayers of Maine — who we all represent — who cannot take the time from their jobs to be in the halls of the State House protecting their interests. The taxpayers are asking you to support this budget for them. They deserve no less.

Beyond the special interests who frequent the halls of the State House, I passed many of them on my way in here today, there is another broader interest for our state. Seek out the citizens who make up

your hometown and ask them about their budget. Their response may surprise you — and their views will mirror those I mentioned earlier.

"Just do it"
"Make tough decisions"
"Why can't we live within our means?"

Hard-working taxpayers will tell you about how they get by. They'll tell you that they use generic drugs — because they can't afford the name brands that some on Medicaid receive. They'll tell you that they have only basic health care — because they can't afford the expensive options some enjoy on our entitlement programs. They'll tell you that they have watched as their job security has been lost. The lucky ones will tell you that they still have a job.

My budget seeks to restore a basic fairness to our budget, encourage personal and family responsibility, and bring costs back to a level ordinary citizens can afford. I believe that living within our means is one of the fundamental requirements of government.

So before you say we can't cut, I ask you to look again at this budget that I have submitted. Look at the consequences of not making long-term changes to our government — cuts in programs, year after year; citizens living off state services while working people struggle under the burden of high taxes. I would hope that that picture of the future would be unacceptable to us all.

We must change our government and our mindset — and in these difficult times, I see an opportunity for the future. Now, I know that this has been a lengthy speech and I apologize for that (you should have seen the original draft) but we have momentous decisions to make. I am eager to work with each and every one of you to make the most of these opportunities and I hope to be able to spend time with each of you to discuss our budget proposals and why I believe they are so necessary.

By working together, building a consensus on the right budget for this state for 1994 and 1995, I believe that we can ensure Maine citizens that our state is on a sound, fiscal course and spare future leaders from dealing with the problems that have vexed us for so long.

Thank you very much. (applause)

At this point, 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 Chamber, amid applause, the members rising.

IN THE HOUSE

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Representative Ruhlin of Brewer,
Adjourned at 12:25 p.m. until Tuesday, January
12, 1993 at four o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to
Joint Order (S.P. 30).
