

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

VOLUME I

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives
December 7, 1994 to May 23, 1995

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH MAINE LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
17th Legislative Day
Wednesday, February 22, 1995

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

Prayer by Lieutenant Colonel Marvin T. Milbury, Army Chaplin, Windham.

Colors presented by the Maine Air National Guard.
National Anthem by 195th Army Band.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator Kieffer of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both Branches to be held in the Hall of the House at 11:15 in the morning for the purpose of extending to Deborah R. Lee, United States Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases her.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 11:15 in the morning and the Speaker appointed Representative JACQUES of Waterville to convey this message to the Senate.

Subsequently, Representative JACQUES of Waterville reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

The Journal of Friday, February 17, 1995 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Communication: (H.C. 44)
Maine State Senate
State House Station 3
Augusta, Maine 04333
February 17, 1995

The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky
Speaker of the House
117th Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Gwadosky:

In accordance with Joint Rule 38, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following:

Upon the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

Ronald B. Lovaglio of Augusta for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Conservation.

Upon the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development:

S. Catherine Longley of Brunswick for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

Upon the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources:

Kevin W. Concannon of Portland, Oregon for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services.

Melodie J. Peet of Glastonbury, Connecticut for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Upon the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor:

Valerie R. Landry of Ocean Park for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

Upon the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:

Louise P. Alden of Stonington for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources.

Upon the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

Alfred R. Skolfield, Jr. of East Corinth for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Sincerely,

S/May M. Ross

Secretary of the Senate

Was read and ordered placed on file.

Bill "An Act to Promote Competition and Managed Care Cost Savings in the Pharmaceutical Market" (S.P. 224) (L.D. 584)

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

Was referred to the Committee on Human Resources in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Establish the Saco River Corridor Fund" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 323) (L.D. 444) which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in the House on February 14, 1995.

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Utilities and Energy in non-concurrence.

On motion of Representative JACQUES of Waterville, tabled pending further consideration and later today assigned.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following Communication: (H.C. 42)
117TH MAINE LEGISLATURE
January 23, 1995

Daniel E. Wathen, Chief Justice
Kennebec County Court
95 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Chief Justice Wathen:

We are pleased to invite you to address a Joint Session of the 117th Maine Legislature on Thursday, February 23, 1995 at 10:30 a.m. concerning the State of the Judiciary and any other matters that you may care to bring to our attention.

We look forward to seeing you then. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

S/Jeffrey H. Butland S/Dan A. Gwadosky
President of the Senate Speaker of the House
Was read and ordered placed on file.

The following Communication: (H.C. 43)
STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330
February 13, 1995

The Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland
President of the Senate
117th Maine Legislature

Capitol Building - Third Floor
Augusta, Maine 04333
The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky
Speaker of the House
117th Maine Legislature
Capitol Building - Third Floor
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

I am pleased to accept your invitation to address a Joint Convention of the House and Senate on Thursday, February 23, 1995 at 10:30 a.m. I look forward to having the opportunity to report on the operation of the third branch of government and to acquaint the Legislature with our current plans.

Sincerely yours,
S/Daniel E. Wathen
Chief Justice

Was read and ordered placed on file.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

The following Bills and Resolves 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:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Continue Funding for the Maine Quality Centers Program" (H.P. 435) (L.D. 601) (Presented by Speaker GWADOSKY of Fairfield) (Cosponsored by Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BARTH of Bethel, BERRY of Livermore, BOUFFARD of Lewiston, CARLETON of Wells, CHASE of China, CLOUTIER of South Portland, DAVIDSON of Brunswick, DRISCOLL of Calais, FARNUM of South Berwick, FISHER of Brewer, FITZPATRICK of Durham, GAMACHE of Lewiston, GOOLEY of Farmington, HATCH of Skowhegan, KEANE of Old Town, KONTOS of Windham, LaFOUNTAIN of Biddeford, LEMAIRE of Lewiston, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, MAYO of Bath, McELROY of Unity, MERES of Norridgewock, MITCHELL of Vassalboro, MORRISON of Bangor, REED of Dexter, ROSEBUSH of East Millinocket, SAXL of Bangor, SIROIS of Caribou, STEDMAN of Hartland, THOMPSON of Naples, TUFTS of Stockton Springs, VIGUE of Winslow, WATSON of Farmingdale, WINGLASS of Auburn, WINN of Glenburn, Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, BERUBE of Androscoggin, CLEVELAND of Androscoggin, HARRIMAN of Cumberland, PARADIS of Aroostook)

Human Resources

Bill "An Act to Encourage Savings in the Medicaid Program through the Medicaid Waiver" (H.P. 438) (L.D. 604) (Presented by Representative TOWNSEND of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, BRENNAN of Portland, CHASE of China, CHIZMAR of Lisbon, DAVIDSON of Brunswick, DEXTER of Kingfield, DiPIETRO of South Portland, ETNIER of Harpswell, FITZPATRICK of Durham, GOULD of Greenville, GREEN of Monmouth, HATCH of Skowhegan, HEESCHEN of Wilton, JACQUES of Waterville, JONES of Bar Harbor, JOSEPH of Waterville, KERR of Old Orchard Beach, MITCHELL of Vassalboro, MITCHELL of Portland, MORRISON of Bangor, RICHARDSON of Portland, ROSEBUSH of East Millinocket, SAMSON of Jay, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, STEVENS of Orono, TREAT of Gardiner, TRUE of Fryeburg, TUFTS of Stockton Springs, VOLENIK of Sedgwick, WATSON

of Farmingdale, Senators: BEGLEY of Lincoln, BERUBE of Androscoggin, BUSTIN of Kennebec, CAREY of Kennebec, HARRIMAN of Cumberland, LONGLEY of Waldo, McCORMICK of Kennebec, MICHAUD of Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook, RAND of Cumberland, STEVENS of Androscoggin)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Sale of Irradiated Food in the State" (H.P. 437) (L.D. 603) (Presented by Representative KNEELAND of Easton) (Cosponsored by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec and Representatives: BAILEY of Township 27, BUNKER of Kossuth Township, DONNELLY of Presque Isle, LAYTON of Cherryfield, MAYO of Bath, McALEVEY of Waterboro, PERKINS of Penobscot, REED of Dexter, RICE of South Bristol, SPEAR of Nobleboro, STROUT of Corinth, TUFTS of Stockton Springs, Senator: CASSIDY of Washington)

The Committee on Human Resources was suggested.

On motion of Representative FITZPATRICK of Durham, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, ordered printed and sent up for concurrence.

Labor

Bill "An Act to Require the State to Pay for Mediation Sessions" (H.P. 439) (L.D. 605) (Presented by Representative SHIAH of Bowdoinham) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CHASE of China, HATCH of Skowhegan, JONES of Bar Harbor)

Legal and Veterans Affairs

Bill "An Act to Modify the Presidential Primary Laws" (H.P. 442) (L.D. 608) (Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Portland)

Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Include More Information in the Report of the Board of Environmental Protection to the Legislature" (H.P. 436) (L.D. 602) (Presented by Representative MARSHALL of Eliot) (Cosponsored by Representative: RICE of South Bristol)

Bill "An Act to Abolish the Process of Permit by Rule by the Board of Environmental Protection" (H.P. 440) (L.D. 606) (Presented by Representative MARSHALL of Eliot) (Cosponsored by Representative: DEXTER of Kingfield)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Give Increased Local Control in Fiscal Matters by Allowing Municipalities the Option of Charging Minimum User Fees on Certain Tax-exempt Property" (H.P. 441) (L.D. 607) (Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DAGGETT of Augusta, ETNIER of Harpswell, JONES of Bar Harbor, MAYO of Bath, MORRISON of Bangor, SAXL of Bangor, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, STONE of Bangor, TRIPP of Topsham, Senators: GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock, RUHLIN of Penobscot)

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

IN CONVENTION

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, in the Chair.

MURPHY of Berwick
BUCK of Yarmouth
LABRECQUE of Gorham
LEMONT of Kittery

On motion of Senator Kieffer of Aroostook, it was **ORDERED**, that a committee be appointed to wait upon his Excellency, Governor Angus S. King, Jr., and extend an invitation to him to attend this Convention which has been assembled for the purpose of receiving a communication from the Honorable Deborah R. Lee, United States Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

The Chair appointed the following:

Senators:	AMERO of Cumberland CARPENTER of York LONGLEY of Waldo
Representatives:	DAGGETT of Augusta AHEARNE of Madawaska LEMKE of Westbrook SAXL of Bangor GERRY of Auburn ROSEBUSH of East Millinocket ROBICHAUD of Caribou LANE of Enfield SAVAGE of Union YACKOBITZ of Hermon

At this point, the Chair recognized in the House gallery, Lieutenant General Edward D. Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.. (Applause, the audience rising)

The Chair thanked the 195th Army Band, under the direction of Sergeant First Class Peter Polk, for its outstanding concert this morning as well as its rendition of the National Anthem for the House session.

Subsequently, Senator Amero of Cumberland, for the Committee, reported the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and were pleased to report that the Honorable Angus S. King Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, will attend forthwith.

At this point, the Chair welcomed to the Convention the Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine. (Applause, the audience rising)

On motion of Senator Lawrence of York, it was **ORDERED**, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Deborah R. Lee, United States Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, to extend an invitation to her to attend this Convention and make such communication as pleases her.

The Chair appointed the following:

Senators:	FERGUSON of Oxford STEVEN of Androscoggin MICHAUD of Penobscot
Representatives:	MADEAU of Saco GAMACHE of Lewiston TRUMAN of Biddeford CHIZMAR of Lisbon FISHER of Brewer TRUE of Fryeburg

The Chair recognized in the gallery, Major General Earl L. Adams, Commissioner of Defense and Veterans Services and the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard. (Applause, the audience rising)

The Chair thanked Staff Sergeant Patricia A. Buchanan from the 195th Army Band for her rendition of the National Anthem in the Senate earlier today.

The Chair thanked the Army National Guard Color Guard under the direction of the Sergeant First Class Frank Norwood and the Air National Guard Color Guard under the direction of Tech Sergeant Joe Stalter for their participation in today's opening ceremonies in the House and Senate.

Subsequently, Senator Ferguson of Oxford, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable Deborah R. Lee, United States Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, will attend forthwith.

At this point, Honorable Deborah R. Lee, United States Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, entered the Convention Hall amid applause, the audience rising.

Deborah R. Lee then addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Governor King, Members of the Legislature, members of the fabulous Maine National Guard and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am indeed very very honored and very proud to be here today for this Joint Legislative Session, part of an important legislative day devoted to the Maine National Guard.

As the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs I am the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense on matters relating to our National Guard and Reserve Forces, approximately 1.5 million ready reservist, over half of whom are in the Army and Air National Guard.

I am especially pleased to be able to pay tribute to the extraordinary commitment, the commitment of the past and the commitments of the present made by the citizens soldiers and citizen airmen of the great State of Maine.

Your state has truly a rich militia heritage extending back to the very earliest days of Colonial America.

I know that each of us here today has a very busy life. I have a job, a husband, a household, I have two young children — all of us are juggling our responsibilities on a daily basis. But, I just want to take a moment to say that my hat goes off to the men and women of the National Guard who manage their lives around four key responsibilities.

First, they are responsible to the President of the United States when the President calls them to help defend our national interest.

Second, they are responsible to your Governor, when the lives or property of the citizens of the state are in jeopardy.

Third, they are responsible to their civilian employers as full-time contributing members of the civilian work force.

Last, but certainly not least, they, too, are responsible to their spouses, children, their families.

So, I am proud to be here today before you representing these citizens soldiers who meet those family responsibilities, those federal responsibilities, they hold civilian jobs, they come to the call of the Governor, they are doing it all — and they are doing it all very very well.

Winston Churchill was surely right when he called them "twice the citizen".

I want to remind you of the eloquent tribute paid to them by one of your state's most distinguished leaders, a man by the name of Joshua Chamberlain who led the 20th Maine in the Battle of Gettysburg. He said, "Going forth from their homes at the call of the supreme duty, should they return home better or worse men than they went in the privations and suffering endured as well as the strenuous actions of battle, some of the highest quality of manhood are called forth, courage, self-command, sacrifice of self for the sake of something held higher and in the darkest hour tenderness for caring for the wounded and the stricken."

Then, as today, the contribution of citizen soldiers has been extraordinary and I congratulate you on setting this day aside. The first in the Nation, I might add, to honor the men and women who serve in your state National Guard.

What I would like to do this morning, ladies and gentlemen, is to describe for you how these men and women of your National Guard play key roles in implementing our national security strategy. First, I would like to take a few moments and describe for you the new security challenges of the new post Cold War world.

Second, I will tell you about how the new national security strategy we have developed is specifically designed to counter these challenges.

And, third, I would like to tell you about some of our efforts that we have underway to make good on our commitment to try to enhance the quality of life of our people and to also put our people first, even in these days of shrinking budgets and changed world circumstances.

Permit me for just a moment though to harken back to the days of the Cold War, the time in which one major enemy, the Soviet Union, was able to threaten our very survival as a nation. The Cold War was indeed a rather scary period, particularly as we look back. Yet, in some ways the Cold War, despite all the dangers was a more predictable era for military planners than the era that we live in today.

You see, in the Cold War, we had a clear enemy and we had very clear military objectives. We wanted to contain communism. We wanted to deter an attack by Soviet Forces. And, most of all we needed to prevent a nuclear war.

The Military Forces that we deployed to achieve these objectives were characterized by first — enormous plan to mobilize the entire country if necessary, along the lines of World War II.

Second, we had a standing Regular Force which was very large and many of them were stationed overseas.

Third, we had large Nuclear Forces on high alert status targeted against the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies.

In the post Cold War world things have changed a great deal and we need a different set of objectives and forces because there are now different challenges.

Unlike the Cold War, our survival as a nation is really not threatened. However, as President Clinton said recently during a conference with our NATO allies, with the destabilizing consequences of the unfreezing of history which the end of the Cold War has wrought the threat to us now is not so much of advancing armies so much as it is creeping instability.

Today American can confront four broad dangers that if we leave them unattended can disrupt our economic growth, challenge our core values and return us in some ways to the days of the Cold War.

First, we face the threat of large scale aggression by major regional powers. Powers like North Korea, powers like Saddam Hussein's Iraq that threaten our friends and in so doing threaten the world economy.

Second, we face dangers posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction that could fall into the wrong hands.

Third, there are dangers to democracy and market reform, most particularly there is the danger that the experimentation of democracy in Russia could fail and we could once again see a return to a totalitarian state in that part of the world.

Forth, there are very real economic dangers to our future security here at home if we fail to sustain a strong competitive and growing economy.

In light of these changed world threats the leadership of DOD has reformulated America's strategy and America's Defense Forces. We began with the premise that we needed to stand ready to defend our interests in the face of aggression in one part of the world while retaining the forces in reserve to deter aggression and, if necessary, to fight and win in a second part of the world as well, in a nearly simultaneous fashion.

We then did a zero based review of the forces that we would need to accomplish this goal. We called it our bottom-up review of military requirements for the post Cold War era.

Our findings included first, that we need less Active and Reserve Component Forces than we needed during the Cold War. That we will need fewer military bases to sustain our military and that we will need fewer forces stationed overseas.

Second, that we need to have high levels of military readiness — a lot of training, a lot of preparedness for those forces that we do keep.

Third, we learned that selected enhancement ranging from new technology to increased air lifts and sea lifts and smarter use of our National Guard and Reserve Forces can make a big difference in the effectiveness of our force.

A big part is being able to execute this total strategy is making good use of our National Guard and Reserve Forces. Counting on the National Guard and Reserve to respond more often and more quickly for missions that draw on their strength.

As a result, even though we are downsizing the National Guard and Reserve in the future, the National Guard and Reserve will be a larger percentage of the total force than it is today.

I think this makes good sense for two reasons.

First, it reduces the cost of national defense to the taxpayer. This is because Reservists are part-timers and their units cost anywhere from 25 percent to 75 percent of the similarly situated active duty units. So, we are a good buy for the taxpayer.

Second, use of the National Guard helps create American cohesion. What I mean by that is calling upon the Guard and Reserve when we go to war or when we go to do a major mission overseas forces to as a country to make clear to the Congress and to make clear to the American people what the objectives are, what the stakes are and this in fact can help unite the country behind an effort.

The bottom-up review looks to the National Guard and Reserve for three of these major roles. First, they will be fully involved with the first role which is deterring and fighting if we need to in one or more regional contingencies. Much like we saw them do in Operation Desert Storm.

Second, they will help provide us with strategic insurance as we reduce our active duty military force.

What I mean by strategic insurance is we think we are pretty smart in Washington and we think we are pretty good at predicting but, the truth is, you can never totally predict the future with complete certainty and therefore we need some forces in reserve in the event things don't turn out as we plan, in the event a conflict becomes more prolonged than we anticipated, in the event totalitarianism should return to Russia. So, it makes sense to hedge our bet with less costly National Guard and Reserve Forces in the form of strategic insurance.

The third role identified in the bottom-up review is support to domestic emergency response. I might add that this is the first time that the Department of Defense has included response to domestic emergencies as an important part of our national security strategy. This means that the National Guard will remain the nation's first line of defense whether we are talking about earth quakes in California, tornadoes in Florida, floods in the mid-west, forest fires, hurricanes in South Carolina and Hawaii or rescue operations right here in the coastal areas of Maine. Operation Flood Fix in 1987 was one of those times when the National Guard really came through. If my ten year old son were here he would say that their performance was absolutely awesome. But, seeing as how he is not here and seeing as how this is Maine I just want to tell you that their performance was down-right wicked.

They also transported drinking water, they provided temporary shelter, water pumps and power generation equipment, they repaired roads, transported people and supplies, and, finally after the emergency was over and the flood water subsided they were right there as major participants in the clean up effort.

In addition to responding to major disaster operations like the floods of 1987, the Guard is also there to respond to emergencies that occurred daily but on a somewhat lesser scale — such as last month's response by the 112 Medical Co. when an ice climber was seriously injured in Acadia National Park.

Now, what makes it possible for the National Guard to be the first line of defense in this fashion? It is precisely because the National Guard is part of your local community. Here in Maine the 4,000 men and women of the National Guard are present in over 400 communities state wide. Just like members of the

militia in Colonial America they are citizens and soldiers, they are your friends, your neighbors, your employees, your colleagues. They are in every walk of life, teachers, law enforcement officers, truck drivers, bankers, they are people with a vested interest.

The National Guard are members of your communities and they have a vested interest in your communities. In this role, this dual role of citizen/soldier they bring each year approximately \$100 million of federal defense dollars to the State of Maine.

It is this grounding in the community that also has the National Guard involved in drug demand reduction programs. Volunteers from the Maine National Guard are part of a state-wide drug demand reduction program working with a coalition of community groups and law enforcement agencies with one single focus and that is helping to keep our kids away from killer narcotics.

Under the past leadership of General Durgin and now with General Adams as your new Adjutant General, members of the Maine National Guard are truly at the cutting edge of our efforts to increase the use of the National Guard and Reserves nation wide and around the world.

Many of you will recall that many members of the Maine National Guard were mobilized in 1990 and 1991 as part of the Persian Gulf War. More recently, members of the Maine National Guard, again, many of them volunteers, have captured the headlines in a number of recent missions throughout the world. They have been involved with humanitarian efforts in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope. They have been part of the No Fly Zone that we have tried to enforce over Bosnia as part of Operation Deny Flight. They have also been participating in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti.

We are especially proud back in Washington of the Maine National Guard 101st Air Refueling Wing which is responsible for the newly created Northeast Tanker Task Force under the direction of the Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. This task force is the sole agency for the movement of Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and foreign military sales aircraft to and from Europe and other parts of the world and that is a very very big deal for this part of the country.

Through Task Force Dirigo, lead by Colonel Bill Libby, approximately 800 members of Maine's Army National Guard have participated in engineering and medical exercises in Guatemala as part of the United States nation building effort in Central America. I, myself, was privileged to catch up with the Maine Guard in Guatemala so I got to see first hand some of the outstanding work that they accomplished, the tremendous good will that they brought on behalf of the United States, to the people of Guatemala and the excellent training that they received down there in Central America.

There is also outstanding training opportunities right here at home, consistent with President Clinton's Rebuild American initiative and with the support of Congress and Governors across the country we are doing what, in my judgment, are some terrific pilot programs in civil/military corporation where we utilize National Guard individuals, their know-how, their facilities and, in some cases, their equipment. We put them to work as volunteers addressing some of the problems that face here at home. So, we are having them work with troubled

youths, engineering support for state and local communities, and delivery of medical services to people in rural and medically underserved areas. All possible, in part of their annual two week training period.

We know that citizen/soldiers and airmen cannot meet their military commitment without supportive families and employers. It goes back to that juggling act I alluded to earlier. Believe me, we have not lost sight of the needs to protect Guard and Reserves quality of life, to balance the commitment to country also with the commitment to family and civilian employer. And, from guard members, their families and their employers — and I travel quite a bit and I hear this directly, we hear frequently the following sentiment, "Just give us advance notice, give us a chance to plan for our absences and we can meet the commitment." Let me assure you, that is precisely what we are trying to do — better advance planning.

For families, I am pleased to be able to report to you that we have now institutionalized reserve components family readiness programs. It is a requirement for each of the military services now, not just to embrace active duty families when we deploy but National Guard and Reserve families as well.

My office is also developing a legislative proposal which we hope to submit to the Congress for income insurance to keep families from experiencing serious financial loss when their National Guard or Reserve member is activated.

For employers, we are building on our successes in the U.S. Southern Command where rotations of National Guard and Reserve Units are planned well in advance, providing supervisors and employers with longer lead time and clear expectations of when and how long Reservists will be absent from their jobs.

Here again we are developing a legislative proposal which I hope to send to Congress shortly, also aimed at employers, specifically small business, which would be a tax credit for those employers who see one or two or four National Guardsmen go off to deploy.

Let me just take a moment to thank the committee of volunteers here in Maine who participate in the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Under the very able leadership of Albert Gibson this committee promotes awareness of National Guard and Reserve, helps resolve problems created by Reserve service and also tries to recognize outstanding and supportive employers.

Finally, on the employer front, we have an important new tool and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. This is a newly signed law which updates statutes and improves protection for employment and reemployment of our National Guardsmen and Reservists as well as it will provide clear direction to Reservist about their responsibility to their civilian employers.

So, ladies and gentlemen, this is a sampling, if you will, of some of the ways that we are working to enhance quality of life and to put our people first.

I would just tell you on a personal level that it has been very very satisfying for me to be able to represent the top-notch men and women, many of whom you see here today in our National Guard. They are the best force that we have ever had and believe you me, we aim to do all in our power to keep it that way.

Samuel Johnson once said, "That change is inconvenient even when it is for the better." Well, that may be so but nonetheless change is all around us. As the world order had changed so too has our thinking about National Security. We must look to the future and not live in the past. Yet, I think it is also true that we have to learn from the past and to remember those lessons learned.

Last summer I had a very extraordinary opportunity in which I was able to walk the beaches of Normandy with some of the World War II veterans who had returned for the 50th Anniversary and I heard some of the personal accounts of D Day and the weeks and the months that followed. I really left Normandy with a new appreciation for the complete horrors of war, the heroism of our warriors and the high price that we have to stand ready to pay at all times for the freedom that we enjoy.

In 1995, as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of our World War II victory, and, for that matter as we celebrate the accomplishments of those who have served in our of our nations conflicts, I am particularly reminded of a painting that hangs outside of the office of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon. This painting depicts a very poignant theme of a service man with his family in Church praying before deployment and a long separation. Below the painting is a wonderful inscription of the Book of Isaiah and in it God says "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah replies, "Here am I, send me." The 4,000 men and women of the Maine National Guard stand ready to answer that call, the call of the President of the United States, and the call of the Governor of the State of Maine. They are not full-time soldiers or pilots, they have civilian lives. They are woven into the fabric of your 400 communities across the State of Maine but still they stand ready, ready to say, "Here am I, send me."

When they leave home, believe you me, everyone notices — not just their family, but everyone. And, when they return, after deployment, America cheers.

Right here in Bangor, I am told, that children and marching bands and community members stood vigil every day for three months as Desert Storm veterans from Maine returned. That is how America feels about the National Guard and Reserves.

So, the lessons that I take away from the past is that the spirit and the commitment of our people in uniform is second to none. That is why all of us who serve in Washington are committed to investing in their quality of life, in their training and in their readiness for the future. That is also why I came today, to thank you for your support of the National Guard and Reserve Forces.

I know that in the coming months you may be reviewing proposals which similarly will address quality of life. Proposals such as tuition assistance, armory refurbishment and the like and I want to thank you in advance for any consideration that you can afford in this area because they are second to none and we need to work in partnership to make sure that we keep it that way.

Again, it has been an extraordinary honor for me to be able to come before you today. I very very much appreciate the opportunity.

God bless you and God bless the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Thank you. (Applause)

At the conclusion of the address, the Honorable Deborah R. Lee withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled, having been accomplished, the Chairman declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its Chamber amid the applause of the House, the audience rising.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was tabled earlier in today's session:

Bill "An Act to Establish the Saco River Corridor Fund" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 323) (L.D. 444) which was tabled by Representative JACQUES of Waterville pending further consideration.

Subsequently, the House voted to Recede and Concur.

On motion of Representative CAMPBELL of Holden, the House adjourned at 12:15 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 23, 1995.