MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

One Hundred And Seventeenth Legislature

OF THE

State Of Maine

VOLUME VI

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of RepresentativesJanuary 3, 1996 to April 3, 1996

Senate

January 3, 1996 to March 13, 1996

MAINE STATE SENATE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

In Senate Chamber Thursday February 29, 1996

Senate called to Order by the President, Jeffrey H. Butland of Cumberland.

Prayer by the Reverend John Hoskins, Free Baptist Church, South Limington.

REVEREND JOHN HOSKINS: Before I start I would like to thank you for inviting me here. It is an honor to come here and speak to you this morning.

Let us pray.

Our Heavenly Father, in the moment of prayer, when there is a silence in this Senate Chamber, may there not be silence in Thy presence. May our prayer be heard. We ask that You bless each of the members of this Senate, who are giving of themselves with their willingness to serve us, and for their dedication to the tasks at hand. We pray the members will turn their thoughts to You, and open their hearts to Your spirit, that they may have wisdom in their decisions, understanding in their thinking, love in their attitude, and mercy in their independs. judgements. We pray that this moment not be merely a gesture to custom, but make it a real experience for each man and woman as we call upon You for guidance and help. We pray for a new spirit to come into their work here, for a new vision and a new purpose that will make their work acceptable to You. We pray, also, for our Governor, and the other officers of our State, as they carry out their assigned duties. May the members of this Senate conduct themselves so as to expect to hear "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." We ask these things in Your precious name, and for Your honor and glory. Amen.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, February 27, 1996.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, motion by Senator **KIEFFER** of Aroostook, the following Joint Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the House and Senate adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 5, 1996, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. S.P. 714

Which was READ and PASSED. Under suspension of the Rules, ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE Non-concurrent Matter

JOINT ORDER relative to Ryan James Anderson, of Boy Scout Troop #184 in Caribou, who has attained the high rank and distinction of Eagle Scout. We extend our congratulations on this occasion; SLS 223

In Senate, February 22, 1996, READ and PASSED.

Comes from the House, INDEFINITELY POSTPONED, in NON-CONCURRENCE.

The Senate RECEDED and CONCURRED.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND INSURANCE

February 26, 1996 Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":

An Act Pertaining to Employee Benefit Plans of Employee Leasing L.D. 1755 Companies

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. I. Joel Abromson Senate Chair

S/Rep. Marc J. Vigue

House Chair S.C. 486

Which was READ and, with Accompanying Bill, ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 26, 1996

Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1148 An Act to Amend the Social Work Practice Licensing Laws

L.D. 1654 An Act to Correct the Law Relating to Small Auctioneers

We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of each bill listed of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Philip Harriman

Senate Chair

S/Rep. G. Steven Rowe House Chair

S.C. 487

Which was READ, and with Accompanying Bills, ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

February 26, 1996

Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature State House Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:
Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to
notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources has voted unanimously to report

following bill out "Ought Not to Pass": L.D. 1604 An Act Requiring the

An Act Requiring the Department of Human Services to Reimburse Nursing Facilities Home Initial Medicaid Eligibility

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,
S/Sen. Joan M. Pendexter S/Rep. Michael J. Fitzpatrick House Chair Senate Chair S.C. 488

Which was **READ** and, with Accompanying ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

February 26, 1996 Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House

117th Maine Legislature State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass": L.D. 572

An Act to Transfer Regulatory Control of Whitewater Rafting to the Department of Conservation's Bureau of Parks and Recreation

L.D. 1737 An Act to Improve the Ability Potential Users of Private Land to Seek Permission from Landowners

We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of each bill listed of the Committee's action.

S/Sen. Stephen E. Hall Senate Chair

Sincerely,
S/Rep. Ernest C. Greenlaw S.C. 489

Which was READ and, with Accompanying Bills, ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 26, 1996

Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature

State House Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D.	423	An Act 1 Noneconor	nic	Damag	jes	
L.D.	526	Malpracti An Act 1	to	Amend	the	

and Health Providers Care Practitioners to Include

Discovery Rule

L.D. 636 An Act to Modify Joint and Several Liability in Medical Malpractice Actions

L.D. 1517 An Act to Create the Sunshine in Litigation Act

We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of each bill listed of the Committee's action.

Sincerely, S/Rep. Sharon Anglin Treat House Chair S/Sen. S. Peter Mills Senate Chair S.C. 490

Which was **READ** and, with Accompanying Bills, **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

February 26, 1996 Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1591 An Act to Implement

the Productivity Plan ٥f the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Relating to of Agriculture, Harness Racing

We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr. S/Rep. Harry G. True Senate Chair House Chair S.C. 491

Which was **READ** and, with Accompanying Bill, ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

February 26, 1996 Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass":

An Act to Increase Penalties in L.D. 1649 the Sea Urchin Fishery

An Act to Permit Retired Marine Patrol Officers to Enter into L.D. 1670 Commercial Fishing

We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of each bill listed of the Committee's action. Sincerely,

S/Sen. Jeffrey H. Butland Senate Chair

S/Rep. Theone F. Look House Chair S.C. 492

Which was READ and, with Accompanying Bills, ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

February 26, 1996 Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1042 An Act to Amend the Surface Water Ambient Toxics Monitoring Program
We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of

the Committee's action.

Sincerely, S/Rep. Edward L. Dexter S/Sen. Willis A. Lord House Chair Senate Chair S.C. 493

Which was READ and, with Accompanying Bill. ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

February 26, 1996

Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation has voted unanimously to report the Taxation has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass":

An Act to Establish a State Income Tax Credit for Health Insurance Premiums An Act to Encourage the Use of L.D. 835 Maine Ports by Allowing a State Income Tax Credit on Taxes Assessed by the Federal Government on Shippers L.D. 1613 An Act to Provide Sales Tax Exemption for Generators Leased

for Dairy Equipment L.D. 1636 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Taxation of Subdivisions L.D. 1748 An Act to Make Pension Payments

Exempt from State Taxes

We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of each bill listed of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Rep. Gary W. Reed S/Sen. W. John Hathaway Senate Chair House Chair S.C. 494

Which was READ and, with Accompanying Bills, ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

February 26, 1996

Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House 117th Maine Legislature

State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass":

Implement L.D. 1676 An Act to the Recommendations the

Registration Improvement Committee We have also notified the sponsor and cosponsors of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Albert G. Stevens, Jr. S/Rep. Donald A. Strout Senate Chair House Chair

S.C. 495 Which was **READ** and, with Accompanying Bill. ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND ENERGY

February 26, 1996 Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland, President of the Senate Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky, Speaker of the House

117th Maine Legislature State House

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 15, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1565 An Act to Create the Prospect Water Authority

L.D. 1752 An Act to Merge the Charter of the Jackman Water and Sewer Districts We have also notified the sponsors and cosponsors of

each bill listed of the Committee's action.

Sincerely, S/Rep. Carol A. Kontos S/Sen. David L. Carpenter Senate Chair House Chair S.C. 496

Which was READ and, with Accompanying Bills. ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR 1 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

February 27, 1996

The Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland President, Maine State Senate #3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky Speaker, Maine House of Representatives #2 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

This letter is to inform the Legislature that I have accepted and will implement the recommendations of the Productivity Realization Task Force regarding the Bureau of Information Services' addition to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services'

productivity plan.

These productivity enhancements reduce All Other costs and result in the elimination of 10 positions, for a biennial net savings of \$896,394 to the General Fund. Specifically, these savings are a result of renegotiating contracts, eliminating underused and outdated hardware and software (along with their accompanying service contracts), restructuring the organization of DDP Computer Operations, and consolidating storeroom operations within the Bureau.

Accordingly, this addition to Department of Administrative and Financial Services' original productivity plan will result in an even more streamlined and efficient organization. Please contact my office or Commissioner Waldron with any questions you may have about this proposal.

Sincerely, S/Angus S. King, Jr. Governor S.C. 497

Which was READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

February 27, 1996

The Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland
President, Maine State Senate
#3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky
Speaker, Maine House of Representatives
#2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

This letter is to inform the Legislature that I have accepted and will implement the recommendations of the Productivity Realization Task Force regarding the State Department of Audit, the Treasury Department, and the Office of the Secretary of State.

Implementation of the Productivity Realization Task Force recommendations for these three agencies will result in position eliminations and cumulative net savings in the current biennium as follows:

Position Net Savings Net Savings Eliminations All Funds General Fund All Funds

Sec. of State 3 (GF) \$71,465 \$71,465 Treasury Dept. 1 (GF) \$36,008 \$36,008 Dept. of Audit 13 (OSR) \$846,036 \$82,000

As noted in the relevant plans, these savings have resulted from automating record keeping functions, sharing databases, and increasing collaboration with other offices in the case of the Secretary of State and in a more efficient use of existing personnel and more streamlined operations in the case of the Treasury Department and the Department of Audit.

Sincerely, S/Angus S. King, Jr. Governor S.C. 498

Which was READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

February 27, 1996

The Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland President, Maine State Senate #3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky Speaker, Maine House of Representatives #2 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

This letter is to inform the Legislature that I have accepted and will implement the recommendations of the Productivity Realization Task Force regarding the collective productivity plan for the Maine Arts Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine State Library, and the Maine State Museum.

Implementation of the Cultural Agencies'

Implementation of the Cultural Agencies' productivity plan will result in a reduction of 3 General Fund positions [includes 2 half-time positions] and 15 Other Special Revenue part-time seasonal positions [equivalent to 5.5 full-time OSR positions]. Net General Fund savings over the biennium total \$72,724.

This plan completes the consolidation of business functions among the Cultural Agencies commenced several years ago when the four Cultural Agencies took initial steps to centralize accounting, payroll, and personnel functions. In particular, business functions for the Maine Arts Commission will now be completely managed by the consolidated business office for the four agencies, the Maine State Museum will seek increased collaboration with the Maine Association of Museums and the Maine State Archives, and part-time seasonal work for the Historic Preservation Commission for archaeological excavations will be contracted for an as-needed basis.

Sincerely, S/Angus S. King, Jr. Governor S.C. 499

Which was READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

February 27, 1996

The Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland President, Maine State Senate #3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky Speaker, Maine House of Representatives #2 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

This letter is to notify the Legislature that I have accepted and will implement the recommendations of the Productivity Realization Task Force relating to the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation with the exception of those recommendations that require legislative approval. I will be introducing the legislation necessary to accomplish these recommendations.

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's proposal recommends the elimination of a total of 126 full-time equivalent positions (or 143 positions when including intermittents), and generates savings to the General Fund of \$4,649,175. The proposal also reestablishes 52 positions as class exchanges to meet both mental health and mental retardation consent decree requirements, for a net reduction in FTE's of 74 positions.

I recommend that 100% of the savings generated by

I recommend that 100% of the savings generated by this proposal be retained and reinvested by the Department in accordance with the approved plan. Some of the Department's primary objectives in the proposal include: significant administrative restructuring for the Department, both at the central office and regional levels; reallocation of Department resources to enable compliance with consent decrees; heightened emphasis on the needs of children and adolescents; contracting out services offered at the Bath Children's Home; and renaming the agency, "Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services."

The attached material provides detailed information about the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's recommendations. Commissioner Peet and her staff are available to provide additional information or respond to questions. I understand that Commissioner Peet has already given the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources an extensive briefing on the proposal.

I continue to be encouraged by the results from the Productivity Realization Task Force and look forward to working with the Task Force and the Legislature as we continue this effort.

Sincerely, S/Angus S. King, Jr. Governor S.C. 500

Which was **READ** and, with Accompanying Papers, **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:
STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

February 27, 1996

The Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland President, Maine State Senate #3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky Speaker, Maine House of Representatives #2 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky:

This letter is to inform the Legislature that I have accepted and will implement the recommendations of the Productivity Realization Task Force regarding the Judicial Department's productivity proposal, with the exception of those recommendations requiring Legislative approval. I will submit legislation in this session necessary to implement these recommendations.

Implementation of the Productivity Realization Task Force recommendations will reduce staff in the Judicial Branch by four authorized positions (one of which is a job share affecting two incumbents). In addition, the Judicial plan generates total net savings for both years of the biennium of \$629,584. In accordance with the Productivity Realization Task Force, I recommend that the net FY 96 savings of \$197,847 be contributed to the productivity goal of \$45.2 million. I recommend that the net FY 97 savings of \$431,737 be retained within the Judicial Branch to offset a budget shortfall and subsequent supplemental request.

I note that the Judicial Department's proposal accomplishes productivity improvements by the following means:

- Court Restructuring closing two District Court locations and restructuring clerks' offices in four locations;
- Transcript Production augmenting transcription staff in the Electronic Recording Unit with private vendors, thereby producing transcripts in a more timely fashion:
- Reorganization of the Administrative Office of the Courts - reorganizing the staff in the central Administrative Office;
- Policy and Procedural Changes using citizen jurors more efficiently by reducing the size of both grand jury and traverse jury pools; limiting judicial travel; streamlining docketing requirements; and expanding the automated bail account reconciliation system; and
 Mediation replacing the current court
- Mediation replacing the current court mediation services with an alternative dispute resolution service.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is eager to answer any additional questions you may have about their proposal, or please feel free to contact me or my staff at any time.

> Sincerely, S/Angus S. King, Jr. Governor S.C. 501

Which was READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

February 27, 1996

The Honorable Jeffrey H. Butland President, Maine State Senate **#3 State House Station** Augusta, Maine 04333 The Honorable Dan A. Gwadosky Speaker, Maine House of Representatives #2 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky: This letter is to notify the Legislature that I have accepted and will implement the recommendation of the Productivity Realization Task Force to create an Administrative Service Center among the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and the Office of Substance Abuse. I also endorse the Task Force's caveats that this Administrative Service Center be subject to Legislative review three years from its effective date and that the Service Center should identify benchmark criteria by which to gauge its performance over time.

The Service Center enhances productivity by bringing together core personnel in five divisions common to all three agencies:

Audit Division;

Contractual Services Division;

Licensing Division;

Administrative Hearings Division; and

Investigations and Complaint Division.

A cumulative total of 25 positions in each of these five areas has been eliminated earlier in the individual reorganization plans of these three agencies. Accordingly, creation of this Service Center itself does not result in additional savings over and above the savings achieved earlier. Rather, this Service Center will serve to enhance coordination, integration, and communication among the three agencies in these 5 critical functions; develop and maintain common policies, procedures, forms, and information; simplify and improve relations with program managers, providers and clients; provide a single point of access for all customers; coordinate audit and license visits to providers using a single team approach; centralize and enhance training and technical assistance to program and provider personnel; and continue to identify administrative efficiencies among these three agencies over time.

Specifically, I support this Service Center in that it will:

Eliminate duplicate functions;

Maximize coordination in the delivery of social services in more efficient and cost effective ways;

Assure optimal accountability and quality of service to providers and contract agencies;

Enhance electronic linkages between the state and its program managers and the

provider community; and Strengthen program management of grants and contracts by providing services to the member agencies in such areas as:

financial analysis;

performance outcome measures;

training; and technical assistance.

Sincerely, S/Angus S. King, Jr. Governor S.C. 502

Which was READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: 117TH MAINE LEGISLATURE

February 28, 1996

Senator Philip E. Harriman Representative G. Steven Rowe Chairpersons Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development 117th Legislature Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Senator Harriman and Representative Rowe; Please be advised that Governor Angus S. King, Jr. has nominated David C. Kitchen of Yarmouth and Jeffrey S. Mitchell of Farmington for reappointment as members of the Maine Real Estate Commission.
Pursuant to Title 32, MRSA, Section 13062, these

nominations will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely, S/Jeffrey H. Butland President of the Senate S/Dan A. Gwadosky Speaker of the House S.P. 717

Which was **READ** and referred to the Committee on BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Sent down for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide a Contingent Allocation to Establish a Federally Funded Military Rebuild Site to be Operated by the Maine National Guard at the former Loring Air Force Base" (Emergency)
S.P. 716 L.D. 1817

Presented by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook (GOVERNOR'S BILL) Cosponsored by Representative O'NEAL of Limestone and Senators: MICHAUD of Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook, Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BERRY of Livermore, CLARK of Millinocket, CLUKEY of Houlton, DESMOND of Mapleton, DONNELLY of Presque Isle, GOULD of Greenville, JOY of Crystal, KEANE of Old Town, KNEELAND of Easton, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, ROBICHAUD of Caribou, SIROIS of Caribou, WHEELER of Bridgewater Reference to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS AND

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS suggested and ORDERED PRINTED. Which was referred to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS and ORDERED PRINTED.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create Uniformity in the Granting of Electric and Gas Utility Easements"

S.P. 713 L.D. 1816

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27. Reference to the Committee on UTILITIES AND

ENERGY suggested and ORDERED PRINTED.

Which was referred to the Committee on UTILITIES AND ENERGY and ORDERED PRINTED. Sent down for concurrence.

ORDER Joint Order

On motion by Senator AMERO of Cumberland, the

following Joint Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that Bill, "An Act to Repeal the Requirement that Disbursement Warrants Receive an Affirmative Vote by Municipal Officers," S.P. 608, L.D. 1612, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the Governor's desk to the Senate. S.P. 715

Which was READ and PASSED. Sent down for concurrence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS House

Ought to Pass
The Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT on Resolve, to Authorize the Exchange of a Parcel of Land Owned by the State with One Owned by Luke Bolduc.

H.P. 1275 L.D. 1751

Reported that the same Ought to Pass.

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Resolve PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

The Resolve READ ONCE.

The Resolve TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

Under suspension of the Rules, all matters thus acted on were sent forthwith.

Ought to Pass As Amended
The Committee on BANKING AND INSURANCE on Bill "An Act Enabling the Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company to Better Serve the Needs of Small Business"

H.P. 1200 L.D. 1650

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended

by Committee Amendment "A" (H-719).

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-719).

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

The Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-719) READ and ADOPTED, in concurrence.

The Bill, as Amended, TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

The Committee on BANKING AND INSURANCE on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code with Respect to Domestic Violence"

H.P. 1215 L.D. 1665

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-720). Comes from the House with the Report READ and

ACCEPTED and the Bill PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-720).

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

The Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-720) READ and ADOPTED. in concurrence.

The Bill, as Amended, TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

The Committee on BANKING AND INSURANCE on Bill "An Act to Consolidate Insurer Billing Procedures and to Streamline the Licensing Process for Reinsurance Intermediaries"

H.P. 1231 L.D. 1684

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-718).

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-718).

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

The Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-718) READ and ADOPTED, in concurrence.

The Bill, as Amended, TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

Off Record Remarks

The Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT on Resolve, Authorizing the Sale by the State of a Certain Parcel of Land to Joseph Squeglia H.P. 1254 L.D. 1723

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-717).

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Resolve PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-717).

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

The Resolve READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-717) READ and ADOPTED. in concurrence.

The Resolve, as Amended, TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on JUDICIARY on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Study Commission on Property Rights and the Public Health, Safety and Welfare Establishing a Land Use Mediation Program and Providing for Further Review of Rules"

H.P. 1188 L.D. 1629

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-711).

Signed:

Senators:

MILLS of Somerset PENDEXTER of Cumberland FAIRCLOTH of Penobscot

Representatives:

TREAT of Gardiner LEMKE of Westbrook JONES of Bar Harbor LAFOUNTAIN, III of Biddeford WATSON of Farmingdale PLOWMAN of Hampden HARTNETT of Freeport MADORE of Augusta NASS of Acton

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same Ought Not to Pass.

Signed:

Representative:

RICHARDSON of Portland

Comes from the House with the Majority OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-711).

Which Reports were READ.
The Majority OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-711) Report ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

The Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-711) READ and ADOPTED,

The Bill, as Amended, TOMMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator HATHAMAY for the Committee on TAXATION on Bill "An Act to Allow Voluntary Withholding of Federal and State Income Taxes from Unemployment Compensation Benefits"

S.P. 639 L.D. 1674

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (\$-437).

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED.

The Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-437) READ and ADOPTED. The Bill, as Amended, TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

Senator CASSIDY for the Committee on TRANSPORTATION on Bill "An Act to Amend the Commercial Vehicle Weight Laws"

S.P. 674 L.D. 1734

Reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-438).

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED.

The Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-438) READ and ADOPTED. The Bill, as Amended, TOMORROW ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on TRANSPORTATION on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sensible Transportation Policy Act"

S.P. 29 L.D. 59

Reported that the same Ought Not to Pass. Signed:

Senators:

PARADIS of Aroostook CASSIDY of Washington

Representatives:

STROUT of Corinth RICKER of Lewiston **BOUFFARD** of Lewiston O'GARA of Westbrook DRISCOLL of Calais LINDAHL of Northport CHARTRAND of Rockland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-439). Signed:

Senator:

STEVENS, JR. of Androscoggin

Representatives: **HEINO** of Boothbay

BAILEY of Township 27 FARNUM of South Berwick

Which Reports were READ.

On motion by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook, Tabled 1 Legislative Day, pending ACCEPTANCE of Either Report.

> Senate at Ease Senate called to order by the President.

> > Off Record Remarks

SECOND READERS

The Committee on Bills in the Second Reading reported the following:

House

Bill "An Act to Conform the Maine Tax Laws for 1995 with the United States Internal Revenue Code" (Emergency)

H.P. 1205 L.D. 1655

Bill "An Act to Require Prisoners to Pay Their Fair Share of Victim Restitution"

H.P. 1263 L.D. 1738 Which were READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE **ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

House As Amended

Bill "An Act to Exempt from the Sales Tax Automobile Equipment Necessary for Paraplegics or People Who are Confined to Wheelchairs"

H.P. 540 L.D. 736 (C "B" H-705)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Goods Sold by Scouting Organizations from the Sales Tax"

H.P. 776 L.D. 1073 (C "B" H-706)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Municipal Certification of Direct Initiative Petitions

H.P. 1187 L.D. 1628 (C "A" H-714)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Freeport Towne Square Mental Retardation Facility"

H.P. 1196 L.D. 1646 (C "A" H-709)

Resolve, to Authorize the Maine Technical College System to Transfer Interests in Real Property

H.P. 1225 L.I (C "A" H-710)

Bill "An Act to Enhance Amusement Ride Safety"

H.P. 1256 L.D. 1728 (C "A" H-713)

Resolve, to Establish a Tuition Rate for the Town of Dennysville and to Review the Provision of Education Services in the Unorganized Territory

H.P. 1297 L.D. 1780 (H "A" H-716)

Which were READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE

ENGROSSED, As Amended, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Discourage the Spread of "Crack" Cocaine"

H.P. 1038 L.D. 1457 (C "A" H-696)

Which was READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED, As Amended, in NON-CONCURRENCE. Sent down for concurrence.

Senate As Amended

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law as It Pertains to Payment of Rent by a Blind or Visually Impaired Individual Who Operates a Vending Facility" S.P. 610 L.D. 1614

(C "A" S-435)

Which was READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED. As Amended.

Sent down for concurrence.

ENACTORS

The Committee on Engrossed Bills reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following: An Act Concerning Notification to Maine Workers and Contractors

> S.P. 341 L.D. 946 (C "A" S-418)

An Act to Amend the Bowdoinham Water District Charter

H.P. 1170 L.D. 1602 (C "A" H-691)

An Act to Provide for Confidential Treatment of State and Federal Regulatory Information in the Application Process for Financial Institutions H.P. 1206 L.D. 1656

(C "A" H-694)

An Act Concerning Portable Scale Tolerances on the Interstate Highway System

H.P. 1227 L.D. 1680 (C "A" H-695)

An Act to Describe Property Posting under the Criminal Trespass and Trespass by Motor Vehicle Laws H.P. 1247 L.D. 1709

Which were PASSED TO BE ENACTED and having been signed by the President, were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Establishing the Study Commission on Workers' Compensation Laws Relating to Small Business H.P. 664 L.D. 887 (C "B" H-689)

On motion by Senator HANLEY of Oxford, placed on the SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE, pending FINAL PASSAGE.

Emergency Resolve
Resolve, to Extend Deadlines Relating to the Task Force to Review the Beverage Container Deposit Laws H.P. 1175 L.D. 1607

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 26 Members of the Senate, with No Senator having voted in the negative, and 26 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was FINALLY PASSED and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for his approval.

> Senate at Ease Senate called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY Unfinished Business

The following matter in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment has preference in the Orders of the Day and continues with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 29.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following

Tabled and Later Today Assigned (Tuesday, February

27, 1996) matter:

Bill "An Act to Provide a Tax Credit for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties"

H.P. 715 L.D. 972 (H "A" H-715 to C "B" H-703)

Tabled - earlier in the day by Senator GOLDTHMAIT of Hancock.

Pending - PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED, AS AMENDED, in concurrence.

(In House, February 20, 1996, PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-703) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-715), thereto.)

(In Senate, February 27, 1996, READ A SECOND TIME.)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator

from Hancock, Senator Goldthwait. Senator GOLDTHMAIT: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Having spent the last eighteen months of my life both listening to, and participating in, a struggle to bring the state finances under control, I was somewhat surprised to find that two more bills, establishing tax credits for the State of Maine, were about to go under the hammer with no comment, or additional explanation. was somewhat familiar with one of them, and not at all with the other. I appreciate your indulgence in allowing me to table that until I could pursue a little bit more about exactly what that bill entails. It is a bill which allows for a state credit for preservation of historic properties, and it's an issue which I fully support. Those properties are an important part of the lives of our towns and cities in the State of Maine, and I have a great personal interest in seeing those preserved. However, I think that this bill is a good example of why the State reached the fiscal point that it did, and that is, when it comes right down to the single issue, particularly an issue that many of us care about, it's very hard to say no. So, I was not able to see this bill simply pass without comment. It is a bill that would have a relatively minor impact on the budget. It would be a loss of approximately \$60,000, about \$57,000 of that to the general revenue fund and about \$3,000 to municipal revenue sharing. It seemed to me that before we went ahead with this bill, we ought to make a point of exactly what we were doing. There seems to be a sense that it's okay to pass things like that here, so that we can express our support for issues in which we believe, and then send it off to the Appropriations Table, where we assume it will die. But, it seems to me, that that is an awfully easy out. I think we need to decide whether we are going to do this or not do this. When I say do this, I mean achieve the kind of control that we have been talking about. When I looked through the list of carry over bills, eight of them involve additional tax exemptions to various organizations, businesses, and so on. There have

been a number of efforts to address the tax exemption issue, talk about reviewing the list to see whether the exemptions are useful or not. Yet, it seems, in the course of this session we will be adding a number of those to the list. If there is anyone who has any information, who can refute any of this and help me to get over this, and vote for the historic preservation bill, which I would very much like to support, I would be glad to hear it. Otherwise, I would urge your serious consideration of what we are doing in increasing the number of tax exemptions we are providing to the State. Mr. President, when we vote, I would ask for a roll call.

On motion by Senator GOLDTHMAIT of Hancock, supported by a Division of at least one-fifth of the

members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Hathaway.

Senator HATHAWAY: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. The good Senator from Hancock makes some good points. I would just like to let you know how the Taxation Committee felt about this. We feel that this is not a tax exemption, it is a tax credit. We feel it is important to preserve the heritage of the State of Maine. We do not see this as a loss, or as new spending. We see it as a budget of \$3.5 billion in this State, much of which goes, we think, to destroy the heritage of this State. We would ask that you support this bill, because we certainly feel that we have a lot to preserve in this State that is worthwhile. We think this would go a long way in doing so. We ask for your support on this bill. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator

from Kennebec, Senator Carey.

Senator CAREY: Thank you, Mr. President. As the Minority Senator on the Committee on Taxation, I would echo the sentiments of the Chair of the Taxation Committee and point out to you that maybe the Taxation Committee is misnamed, it should really be the Tax Exemption Committee, because changing times always dictate that we look at the future. the past we haven't looked at a big enough future to decide which way we were going to go with some of these taxes that we were putting on people.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator

from Lincoln, Senator Begley.

Senator **BEGLEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. May I pose a question through the Chair? Could I have a definition between tax credit and tax exemption from the taxation point of view?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Lincoln, Senator Begley, has posed a question through the Chair to any Senator who may care to respond. The Chair

recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Hathaway. Senator HATHAWAY: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I will do the best that I can. I believe, as you know, let's take, for instance, the sales tax in this State. Everything in this State has a sales tax, unfortunately. However, there are exemptions to that sales tax. We do not say what we are going to tax. We have decided that, in the past, everything would be taxed and certain parts of our economy receive an exemption from it. For instance, bibles are not taxed, groceries are not taxed, or some groceries I should say. We have discussed those before. The tax credit is simply, it is not an exemption. It is a credit where people, if they take it upon themselves

to restore an historic property, then can immediately, against their tax liability, write off that portion of tax from their actual tax liability on a dollar-for-dollar basis. It is not that they are being exempt from a tax that they are obligated to pay, such as a sales tax. They have an actual credit against other income, perhaps, that they might have, or other income in that certain entity where they are doing the rehab.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator

from Lincoln, Senator Begley.

Senator BEGLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to pose another question, if I may. Are

we going to lose money?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Lincoln, Senator Begley, has posed a question through the Chair to any Senator who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Ferguson. Senator FERGUSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

Seeing the other two members of the Taxation Committee have spoken, I feel an obligation to get on my feet. Yes, the State would lose approximately \$57,000.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED, AS AMENDED, in concurrence.

A vote of Yes will be in favor of PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED.

A vote of No will be opposed.

Is the Senate ready for the question? The Doorkeepers will secure the Chamber.

The Secretary will call the Roll.
ROLL CALL

Senators:

ABROMSON, AMERO, BENOIT, BERUBE, BUSTIN, CAREY, CARPENTER, CASSIDY, CIANCHETTE, CLEVELAND, FAIRCLOTH, FERGUSON, HALL,

HANLEY, HARRIMAN, HATHAWAY, KIEFFER, LAWRENCE, LONGLEY, LORD, McCORMICK, MICHAUD, MILLS, O'DEA, PARADIS, PENDEXTER, PINGREE, RAND, RUHLIN, SMALL, STEVENS, and the PRESIDENT, Senator BUTLAND

NAYS: BEGLEY, GOLDTHWAIT Senators:

ABSENT: Senator: **ESTY**

YEAS:

32 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 2 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being absent, the Bill was PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED, As Amended, in concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the second Tabled and Today Assigned matter:

An Act to Establish the Administrative Operating Budget for the Maine State Retirement System for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1997 (Emergency)

H.P. 1193 L.D. 1637 Tabled - February 27, 1996, by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook.

Pending - PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED.

(In House, February 22, 1996, PASSED TO BE ENACTED.)

On motion by Senator BEGLEY of Lincoln, the Senate SUSPENDED THE RULES for the purpose of RECONSIDERATION.

On further motion by the same Senator, the Senate RECONSIDERED its action whereby the bill was PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED, in concurrence.

On further motion by the same Senator, Senate Amendment "A" (S-440) READ.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator

from Lincoln, Senator Begley.

Senator **BEGLEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment is primarily mandated by a law which says that all collective bargaining agreements with the Retirement System must be passed by the Legislature.
On further motion by the same Senator, Senate
Amendment "A" (S-440) ADOPTED.

The Bill PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED, As Amended, in NON-CONCURRENCE.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate at Ease Senate called to order by the President.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE **House Papers** Pursuant to Public Law JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, pursuant to Public Law 1995, chapter 439 asked leave to submit its findings and report, pursuant to Joint Rule 20, that the accompanying Bill "An Act Concerning the Treatment of Ocular Diseases by Optometrists"

H.P. 1326 L.D. 1814

Be referred to the Committee on BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT for Public Hearing and printed.

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill referred to the Committee on BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and ORDERED PRINTED.

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED, in

concurrence.

The Bill referred to the Committee on BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, in concurrence.

> **Pursuant to Statutes** MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

The MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6 asked leave to submit its findings and report, pursuant to Joint Rule 20, that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31,

H.P. 1325 L.D. 1815

Be referred to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION

for Public Hearing and printed.

Comes from the House with the Report READ and ACCEPTED and the Bill referred to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION and ORDERED PRINTED.

Which Report was READ and ACCEPTED, in concurrence.

The Bill referred to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, in concurrence.

Senator AMERO of Cumberland was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Off Record Remarks

Senator BENOIT of Franklin was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate off the Record.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **CIANCHETTE** of Somerset, **RECESSED** to the sound of the bell.

After Recess Senate called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

The ADJOURNMENT ORDER having been returned from the House READ and PASSED, in concurrence, on motion by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook, ADJOURNED until Tuesday, March 5, 1996, at 10:00 o'clock in the