

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**House Legislative Record**  
of the  
**One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature**  
of the  
**State of Maine**

**Volume II**

**First Special Session**

May 16, 1997 - June 20, 1997

**Second Regular Session**

January 7, 1998 - March 18, 1998

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
34th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, March 17, 1998

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

Prayer by Reverend Lamar Robinson, Christ Congregational Church, Kennebunk.

National Anthem by Lindsay Bynum, Farmingdale.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Russell Radcliffe, M.D., Auburn.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator Pingree of Knox of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both Branches to be held in the Hall of the House at 11:00 in the morning for the purpose of extending an invitation to the Honorable Lucien Bouchard, Premiere of Quebec to attend the Convention and to make such communication as pleases him.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 11:00 in the morning and the Speaker appointed Representative KONTOS of Windham to convey this message to the Senate.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 429)

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

March 13, 1998

The Honorable Mark W. Lawrence

President of the Senate

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell

Speaker of the House of Representatives

118th Legislature

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings and recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources from the review and evaluation of the Board of Environmental Protection under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the committee found that it does not have sufficient information to evaluate the Board of Environmental Protection at this time. The committee therefore recommends that the Board submit a follow-up report to us next session that addresses and makes recommendations regarding issues outlined in the report.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Sharon Anglin Treat

Senate Chair

S/Representative G. Steven Rowe

House Chair

**READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 430)

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

March 13, 1998

The Honorable Mark W. Lawrence

President of the Senate

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell

Speaker of the House of Representatives

118th Legislature

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings and recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources from the review and evaluation of the Department of Environmental Protection under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the committee found that the Department is operating within its statutory authority. However, the committee does make recommendations regarding four areas in need of further consideration that are outlined in the report.

Sincerely,

S/Senator Sharon Anglin Treat

Senate Chair

S/ Representative G. Steven Rowe

House Chair

**READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 431)

**CONNIE LAPOINTE BRENNAN**

**45 EASTERN PROMENADE**

**PORTLAND, ME 04101**

**THE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
MAINE'S FRANCO-AMERICAN RESOURCES**

March 13, 1998

Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell

Speaker of the House

118th Maine Legislature

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Mitchell:

Pursuant to Resolves of 1997, Chapter 83, the Commission to Study the Development of Maine's Franco-American Resources is pleased to submit its final report, including recommendations. On behalf of all the members of the Commission, I would like to express our appreciation for having the opportunity to participate in the study and development of recommendations relating to the development of Maine's Franco-American Resources.

Sincerely,

S/Connie LaPointe Brennan

Chair

**READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 432)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

March 13, 1998

The Honorable Mark W. Lawrence

President of the Senate

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell

Speaker of the House of Representatives

118th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

The Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources is pleased to submit its findings from the review of the Department of Marine Resources under the State Government Evaluation Act pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee found that the department is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,  
S/Senator Jill M. Goldthwait  
S/Representative David Etnier

**READ** and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 433)

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

March 13, 1998  
The Honorable Mark W. Lawrence  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
118th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

The Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources is pleased to submit its findings from the review of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission under the State Government Evaluation Act pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee found that the commission is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,  
S/Senator Jill M. Goldthwait  
S/Representative David Etnier

**READ** and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 434)

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

March 9, 1998  
The Honorable Mark W. Lawrence  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
118th Legislature  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. President and Madam Speaker:

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings and recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry from the review and evaluation of the Baxter State Park Authority under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the committee found that the Authority is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Marge L. KilKelly

Senate Chair  
S/Rep. George H. Bunker, Jr.  
House Chair

**READ** and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following items:

**Recognizing:**

Paul Lessard, of Topsham, who has been named "Chief of the Year" by the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to him;

(HLS 1266)

Presented by Representative TRIPP of Topsham.  
Cosponsored by Representative SHIAH of Bowdoinham, Senator SMALL of Sagadahoc.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative TRIPP of Topsham, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Tripp.

Representative TRIPP: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. It is with great pleasure today that I ask you to join me in honoring Topsham Police Chief, Paul J. Lessard on his recent selection as Maine Chief of the Year. He is in the balcony with his wife Shirley. Maine Chiefs of Police Association presented Chief Lessard with the honor at their annual meeting on March 6. Sixteen years ago as Chair of the Topsham Board of Selectmen, I had the pleasure of hiring Paul Lessard as Topsham Police Chief. He settled down a difficult situation within the department, which is, today, one of the best in the state. I consider Paul a personal friend. Among his many accomplishments is being a 24 year veteran of the Maine State Police, a board member of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and district director of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association and a strong advocate of community policing. Thank you.

**PASSED** and sent up for concurrence.

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Subsequently, Representative KONTOS of Windham reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Ought to Pass Pursuant to Joint Order (S.P. 859)**

Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services Personnel" (S.P. 860) (L.D. 2276)

Reporting **Ought to Pass** pursuant to Joint Order (S.P. 859).

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.**

Report was **READ.**

On motion of Representative SAXL of Portland, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Report and later today assigned.

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**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Concerning Firearm Purchase Background Checks"

(S.P. 562) (L.D. 1719)

Signed:  
Senators:

MURRAY of Penobscot  
O'GARA of Cumberland  
MITCHELL of Penobscot

Representatives:

O'BRIEN of Augusta  
PEAVEY of Woolwich  
McALEVEY of Waterboro  
POVICH of Ellsworth  
TOBIN of Dexter  
BUNKER of Kossuth Township  
FRECHETTE of Biddeford  
WHEELER of Bridgewater  
JONES of Greenville

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-516)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

MUSE of South Portland

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

**READ.**

On motion of Representative POVICH of Ellsworth the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act Relating to the Qualifications of the Director of the Bureau of Human Resources"

(S.P. 787) (L.D. 2114)

Signed:  
Senators:

NUTTING of Androscoggin  
GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock  
LIBBY of York

Representatives:

AHEARNE of Madawaska  
LEMKE of Westbrook  
BAGLEY of Machias  
SANBORN of Alton  
GIERINGER of Portland  
BUMPS of China  
FISK of Falmouth  
KASPRZAK of Newport

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

GERRY of Auburn

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

**READ.**

On motion of Representative AHEARNE of Madawaska the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE** and was assigned for **SECOND READING** Wednesday, March 18, 1998.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding Pension Benefits for Former Governors"

(H.P. 1381) (L.D. 1936)

Signed:  
Senator:

MILLS of Somerset

Representatives:

CLARK of Millinocket  
RINES of Wiscasset  
STANLEY of Medway  
PENDLETON of Scarborough  
JOYCE of Biddeford  
TREADWELL of Carmel  
LAYTON of Cherryfield

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-901)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

TREAT of Kennebec

Representatives:

HATCH of Skowhegan  
SAMSON of Jay  
BOLDUC of Auburn

**READ.**

Representative HATCH of Skowhegan moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Pendleton.

Representative PENDLETON: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The majority of the Labor Committee felt this bill should have an Ought Not to Pass. We found out from the Maine State Retirement System what the individuals were receiving in retirement and what their spouses would receive if, in fact, they died. We found that in relationship to other individuals that have retired from the State of Maine, the pensions for these individuals were either equal to or higher. We felt that in this particular case we should not be supporting an Ought to Pass on this bill. Thank you very much.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Hatch.

Representative HATCH: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise and stand today to let you know that the Minority Ought to Pass Report, a very small group of us, saw fit to endorse a concept that the Governor's of this state ought to be rewarded in their later years. This bill would only affect three people in the state. Actually, a man and his wife, a widow and a second widow. The eldest person would be 95 years old now and living on three-eighths of \$20,000 with cost of living increases over the years. He has been retired some 30 years. It seems to me that when someone serves the state in that capacity, that they ought to be rewarded for that regardless of their party affiliation. Currently the executive salary is somewhere around \$70,000. Three-eighths of that would be a little bit more than what they are currently earning. I believe in my heart of heart that this is a good bill. We ought to see it pass. The fiscal note on this bill for this year would be \$755. In the regular years it would be picked up in the regular budget under the Executive Department. They would have to pay the retirement fund. I ask for your support on this bill. I think the concept is sound and I thank you for your support.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Treadwell.

Representative TREADWELL: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am on the Ought Not to Pass side of

the report. I think that our retired Governor's and their widows are adequately compensated already. The cost of living increases that they get are certainly adequate. I don't see the need to put another burden our state's budget by inflating the retirement benefit for former Governors. The most they are going to be able to serve is eight years. A \$28,000 retirement for eight years of service to the state certainly sounds adequate to me. I don't see the need of any increase at this time.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

A vote of the House was taken. 44 voted in favor of the same and 76 against, the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent up for concurrence.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-900)** on Bill "An Act to Give Collective Bargaining Rights to Legislative Employees"

(H.P. 1497) (L.D. 2096)

Signed:  
Senator:

CATHCART of Penobscot

Representatives:

HATCH of Skowhegan  
SAMSON of Jay  
BOLDUC of Auburn  
CLARK of Millinocket  
RINES of Wiscasset  
STANLEY of Medway

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Sensor:

MILLS of Somerset

Representatives:

PENDLETON of Scarborough  
TREADWELL of Carmel  
JOYCE of Biddeford

**READ.**

Representative HATCH of Skowhegan moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report and specially assigned for Wednesday, March 18, 1998.

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#### CONSENT CALENDAR

##### First Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(S.P. 611) (L.D. 1812) Bill "An Act to Authorize Department of Transportation Bond Issues in the Amount of \$79,500,000 to Match Available Federal Funds for Improvements to Municipal and State Roads, State and Local Bridges, Airports, State Ferry Vessels and Terminals and Rail and Marine Facilities" Committees on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-510)**

(S.P. 747) (L.D. 2025) Bill "An Act to Reduce Technical Violations of Maine's Laws Regarding the Protection of Underground Utilities" Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-507)**

(H.P. 1586) (L.D. 2217) Bill "An Act to Authorize the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Grant a License for Groundwater Extraction at Range Ponds State Park" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-903)**

(H.P. 1613) (L.D. 2239) Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Concerning Tax Base Sharing" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-902)**

There being no objections, the above items were ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar tomorrow under the listing of Second Day.

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(H.P. 1441) (L.D. 2005) Bill "An Act to Conform Maine's Safe Drinking Water Laws with the 1996 Amendments of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-904)**

On motion of Representative PERKINS of Penobscot, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Penobscot, Representative Perkins.

Representative PERKINS: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I wonder if a proponent of this could explain what it does and in addition what the concerns would be if this did not pass?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Penobscot, Representative Perkins has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond.

On motion of Representative MITCHELL of Portland, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee Report and later today assigned.

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#### CONSENT CALENDAR

##### Second Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the Second Day:

(S.P. 709) (L.D. 1957) Bill "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Sanford Sewerage District" (C. "A" S-499)

(S.P. 753) (L.D. 2031) Bill "An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws" (C. "A" S-498)

(S.P. 802) (L.D. 2172) Bill "An Act to Provide for the Licensing of Farmstead Cheese" (C. "A" S-500)

(S.P. 818) (L.D. 2204) Bill "An Act to Extend the Electric Rate Stabilization Program" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" S-505)

(H.P. 1515) (L.D. 2137) Bill "An Act to Address the Crisis in Access to Dental Care for Low-income Children" (EMERGENCY) (C. "A" H-895)

(H.P. 1521) (L.D. 2143) Bill "An Act to Restore Advocacy for Handicapped Students" (C. "A" H-898)

(H.P. 1614) (L.D. 2240) Bill "An Act to Provide for Equitable Taxation of All Financial Institutions" (C. "A" H-899)

No objections having been noted at the end of the Second Legislative Day, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence and the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** and sent up for concurrence.

**BILLS IN THE SECOND READING**

**Senate As Amended**

Bill "An Act to Protect Customers of Consumer-owned Utilities"

(S.P. 740) (L.D. 2018)  
(C. "A" S-504)

Reported by the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**, read the second time, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment yesterday, has preference in the Orders of the Day and continues with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

An Act to Clarify the Tax-exempt Status of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1488) (L.D. 2087)  
(C. "A" H-843)

**TABLED** - March 16, 1998 (Till Later Today) by Representative KONTOS of Windham.

**PENDING - PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED.**

On motion of Representative KONTOS of Windham, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

**TABLED AND TODAY ASSIGNED**

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** and today assigned:

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass** - Minority (5) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **LABOR** on **RESOLUTION**, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Contractual Obligation for Members of the Maine State Retirement System

(H.P. 735) (L.D. 999)

**TABLED** - March 16, 1998 by Representative HATCH of Skowhegan.

**PENDING** - Motion of same Representative to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report.

On motion of Representative HATCH of Skowhegan, **TABLED** pending her motion to **ACCEPT** the **Majority Ought to Pass** Report and specially assigned for Wednesday, March 18, 1998.

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

Bill "An Act to Conform Maine's Safe Drinking Water Laws with the 1996 Amendments of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act"

(H.P. 1441) (L.D. 2005)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative MITCHELL of Portland pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Mitchell.

Representative MITCHELL: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. In response to the question from Representative Perkins, I wanted to get a short answer not a long technical one that we waded through in committee. Basically what this bill does is it brings us into conformance with federal requirements. If we do not come into conformance, then the feds will basically take over and control our programs for us, which is really not something anyone wants. There are no new

fees involved in this bill. There is no increase in fees. It simply gives the name to existing fees because the statute was unclear. It also creates a system for variances that creates flexibility for smaller systems, which we did not have before. It creates eligibility for financial assistance through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for smaller systems. It cleans up a lot of stuff and should make things run more smoothly. I urge its passage.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Penobscot, Representative Perkins.

Representative PERKINS: Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House. The second part of my question was what would happen if this doesn't pass? I guess it was answered that the feds would take over. I would just like to go on record as saying that at some point that is a concern, of course. The feds will always have sovereignty over the states, but once in a while I think we have to make sure that we are not just bowing too quickly to them. This clean drinking water act has concerned me all along. The EPA was hired by the citizens to keep us from pollution, air and water particularly. We all agree with that. None of us would fault them. When they start telling towns what they can drink, individually and people, I think we need to take a hard look. I know the Town of Castine has been drinking water out of two or three ponds for generations with no sickness and no problems. The federal government passed this Clean Drinking Water Act. They came into town and shut down these ponds. The town had to drill these expensive wells. I just want to make sure we keep an eye on all of this. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Crystal, Representative Joy.

Representative JOY: Madam Speaker, May I pose a question through the Chair?

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative JOY: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Number one, will this add positions to state government and number two, is there a fiscal cost for towns on this because the last time we had some intervention like this on the part of the EPA in Boston, I know one of my neighboring towns, in particular, wounded up with a \$2 million cost to cover their reservoir and to change to wells and all sorts of related expenses that went along with it. I was just wondering how much cost this is going to add to our towns? Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative from Penobscot, Representative Perkins has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Mitchell.

Representative MITCHELL: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I believe that all costs are absorbed by the Department of Human Services.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Waterhouse.

Representative WATERHOUSE: Madam Speaker, May I pose a question through the Chair?

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative WATERHOUSE: Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Does anything in this bill go beyond the federal requirements?

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative from Bridgton, Representative Waterhouse has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Brooks.

Representative BROOKS: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The answer to that question is no, it does not. This responds instead to the federal governments new EPA directions and if we are going to continue to qualify for the loan bank, we do need to put some legislation on the books. This meets that.

Subsequently, the Committee Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-904)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**. The Bill was assigned for **SECOND READING** Wednesday, March 18, 1998.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Resolution: ( S.P. 861)

**JOINT RESOLUTION URGING PEACE IN IRELAND**

WHEREAS, Ireland has been torn by violence for at least the past 2 1/2 decades; and

WHEREAS, the United States presidential envoy, George Mitchell, currently chairs talks aimed at resolving the Anglo-Irish conflict; and

WHEREAS, United States support for peace in Ireland is demonstrated with the words and deeds of no less than 7 recent Presidents, Members of Congress, state legislators and local officials across the nation; and

WHEREAS, this concern for peace in Ireland is supported by American taxpayer investment in the International Fund for Ireland; and

WHEREAS, mutual respect for human and civil rights and a fundamental change in governmental institutions and practices are key to peace in Ireland; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the members of the 118th Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, endorse the interest and involvement of the United States in the Irish peace process and the pursuit of a new democracy in Ireland through peace, justice and reconciliation; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Taoiseach of Ireland encourage the coming together of the people of Ireland to promote the end of partition, emergency legislation, religious discrimination and the corruption of law that sustains it; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Taoiseach of Ireland.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Brennan.

Representative **BRENNAN:** Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Happy St. Patrick's Day. This is the first time since I have been in the House that I have been able to stand up on a day that we have been in session and have been able to say, Happy St. Patrick's Day. It seems like every other day that we haven't been in session or we have had other business to take up. When I think of St. Patrick's Day, I think of parades. One of the reasons I think about parades when I was 10 or 11 years old, I was in the city with my father that had a St. Patrick's Day parade. One of the rules of the parade was that if you were Irish you could march in the parade. That was the only qualification you had to have to be in the parade. My father, who grew up Irish-Catholic on Munjoy Hill, said to me that he wanted to march in the parade and that I could march with him. At that time, it was very exciting to march in this parade. We started out and the parade went on for a mile, then two miles and after about three miles my excitement began to wane a little bit due to the length of the parade. As we got to the end of the parade, my father picked me up as we passed the reviewing stand and I shook hands with the Grand Marshall of the parade. When my

father set me down and I turned to him and I said, "Who is that?" He said, "That was the Grand Marshall of the parade." That man was Harry Truman, the former President of the United States. I shook hands with Harry Truman. I didn't know at the time the significance of shaking hands with Harry Truman or a former President of the United States. I also didn't understand at the time the significance of the conflict that we had in Northern Ireland.

Today, on St. Patrick's Day when I think of the celebration, I think of parades, but I also think of the efforts that we have made to bring about peace in Northern Ireland. In 1995, a similar resolution that you have before you today, was passed by this body. It was also passed in 1996 and 1997. In 1995, we had great hope that we would be able to bring a lasting peace to Northern Ireland. Since that time, we have realized there have been some barriers and roadblocks and that there have been some difficulties in bringing about that peace. The search of peace still goes on. The importance of passing these resolutions may seem small, but the contribution that we make as a state through former US Senator George Mitchell is enormous. I truly do believe that as I stand here today and ask you to support this legislation that through the efforts of Senator Mitchell and the other people that are involved in this peace initiative that next year as I stand here on St. Patrick's Day that we will be looking at a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. It will be because of efforts, such as this, passing this resolution and because of efforts across the country that continue to look for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland that next year at this time we will, in fact, have peace. Again, Happy St. Patrick's Day and thank you.

The **SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY:** Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. The troubles in Ireland have continued for centuries and I think every member of this body hopes that a resolution can be found before this century slips away. Historically, we Irish are dreamers. We are the eternal optimists. We are the only ethnic group in history that watches out for the wee little people who will lead us into the woods looking for the leprechaun's pot of gold. My family pursuing that pot of gold, men of clothmanship, work in the mines, farms, medicine and the classroom. The second from the last paragraph of this resolution addresses the coming together of the Irish leaders. I guess part of my eternal optimism is that this fall I had the opportunity to spend some time with high school students from Northern Ireland who were spending a week at Biddeford High School. They came down to Kennebunk High School for the day, came into our classrooms and talked about their families and talked about their attitudes, talked about their prejudice and talked about the uncertainty of their future. For many of these young people of Protestant and Catholic faith, it was their first full-time contact with young people of their own age who had another religion. We could see the divisions begin to slip away all throughout this week. I came away with the optimism that if it is up to this new generation in Northern Ireland, the use of violence will not be an option in finding solutions to the troubles of Northern Ireland. On this day we give our best wishes to George Mitchell and his continuing efforts to end the trouble.

**ADOPTED** in concurrence. **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

**IN CONVENTION**

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Mark W. Lawrence, in the Chair.

Rappelle A l'ordre.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.



On a motion by Senator Rand of Cumberland, it was ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Daniel E. Wathen, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, Mary Clancy, Canadian Consulate General, and Jean-Guy Pare, Member of the Quebec Parliament, inviting them to attend this Joint Convention.

The Order was Read and Passed.

Le Président va désigné les suivants:

The Chair will appoint the following:

Le Sénateur d'Androscoggin, le Sénateur Jenkins

The Senator from Androscoggin - Senator JENKINS

Le Sénateur de Cumberland, le Sénateur Rand

The Senator from Cumberland - Senator RAND

Le Sénateur de York, le Sénateur MacKinnon

The Senator from York - Senator MACKINNON

Le Représentant d'Augusta, le Représentant Madore

The Rep. from Augusta- Rep. MADORE

Le Représentant de Lewiston, le Représentant Lemaire

The Rep. from Lewiston- Rep. LEMAIRE

Le Représentant de Biddeford, le Représentant Frechette

The Rep. from Biddeford- Rep. FRECHETTE

Le Représentant de Caribou, le Représentant Sirois

The Rep. from Caribou- Rep. SIROIS

Le Représentant de Lewiston, le Représentant Mailhot

The Rep. from Lewiston - Rep. MAILHOT

Le Représentant de Biddeford, le Représentant Dutremble

The Rep. from Biddeford - Rep. DUTREMBLE

Le Représentant de Wallagrass, le Représentant Belanger

The Rep. from Wallagrass - Rep. BELANGER

Le Représentant de Lewiston, le Représentant Bouffard

The Rep. from Lewiston - Rep. BOUFFARD

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Subsequently, Senator Jenkins of Androscoggin, for the Committee, reported that the Committee delivered the message with which it was charged and were pleased to report that the Honorable Daniel E. Wathen, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, Mary Clancy, Canadian Consulate General and Jean-Guy Pare, Member of the Quebec Parliament will attend forthwith.

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The Chair is pleased to welcome the Honorable Daniel E. Wathen, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, Mary Clancy, Canadian Consulate General and Jean-Guy Pare, Member of the Quebec Parliament to this Joint Convention.

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On motion of Senator Pingree of Knox, it was ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Lucien Bouchard, Premiere of Quebec, inviting him to attend this Joint Convention.

The Order was Read and Passed.

Le Président va désigné les suivants:

The Chair will appoint the following:

Le Sénateur d'Aroostook, le Sénateur Paradis

The Senator from Aroostook - Senator PARADIS

Le Sénateur de Penobscot, le Sénateur Ruhlin

The Senator from Penobscot - Senator RUHLIN

Le Sénateur de York, le Sénateur Lafountain

The Senator from York - Senator LAFOUNTAIN

Le Sénateur d'Androscoggin, le Sénateur Jenkins

The Senator from Androscoggin - Senator JENKINS

Le Sénateur d'Oxford, le Sénateur Bennett

The Senator from Oxford - Senator BENNETT

Le Représentant d'Augusta, le Représentant Madore  
The Rep. from Augusta - Rep. MADORE  
Le Représentant de Lewiston, le Représentant Lemaire  
The Rep. from Lewiston - Rep. LEMAIRE  
Le Représentant de Biddeford, le Représentant Frechette  
The Rep. from Biddeford - Rep. FRECHETTE  
Le Représentant de Caribou, le Représentant Sirois  
The Rep. from Caribou - Rep. SIROIS  
Le Représentant de Lewiston, le Représentant Mailhot  
The Rep. from Lewiston - Rep. MAILHOT  
Le Représentant de Biddeford, le Représentant Dutremble  
The Rep. from Biddeford - Rep. DUTREMBLE  
Le Représentant de Wallagrass, le Représentant Belanger  
The Rep. from Wallagrass - Rep. BELANGER  
Le Représentant de Lewiston, le Représentant Bouffard  
The Rep. from Lewiston - Rep. BOUFFARD

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Subsequently, Senator Paradis from Aroostook, for the Committee, reported that the Honorable Lucien Bouchard, Premiere of Quebec, will attend forthwith.

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Le Président est heureux d'accueillir à l'état du Maine, l'Honorable Lucien Bouchard, Premier Ministre du Quebec.

The Chair is pleased to welcome to the State of Maine, the Honorable Lucien Bouchard, Premiere of Quebec.

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The Chair recognized in the House Gallery, Jean-Francois Lisee, Premiere's Office; Marthe Lawrence, Premiere's Office; Thierry Audet, Premiere's Office; Pierre Baillargeon, Director of the Americas, MRI; Michel Robitaille, Director of the US Division, MRI.

We have Members of Commission to Study the Development of Maine's Franco-American Resources: Perry B. Newman, Representing International Trade Center; Julie Carrier, Representing Co-Enterprise; Connie LaPointe Brennan, Representing Business & Civic Leaders (With Connie, her niece, Michelle LaPointe); Madeleine Giguere, Representing Business & Civic Communities; Yvon Labbe, Representing Franco-American Center, U Maine; Raymond Lagueux, Representing Forum Francophones des Affaires; Peter Daigle, Representing Penobscot County; Honorable Severin Beliveau, Representing Maine Chamber & Business Alliance; Edward Youngblood, Representing Business & Industry/Financial Services; Tony Brinkley, Representing Franco-American Center, U Maine; Honorable John Martin, Representing Aroostook County; Michael Cantara, Representing Business & Civic Leaders for York County.

We also have in the House Gallery: Honorable Donna Dion, Mayor of Biddeford (with her are 3 members of the Cultural Committee of Biddeford: John Maxim, Camille Bolduc, Paul Gagne (Mr. Gagne is also the Purchase Agent for Biddeford); Honorable Kaileigh Tara, Mayor of Lewiston; Victoria Malzone, Canadian Consulate's Office; Mayor Lee Young of Auburn; Honorable Dennis Dutremble, First Franco-American President of the Maine Senate, the Honorable Patrick Paradis, a former member of the House and the Honorable Dan Gwadosky, Secretary of State.

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The Chair is pleased to present to you the Honorable Lucien Bouchard.

The Honorable Lucien Bourchard, Premier of Quebec then addressed the Convention.

Honorable Members of the Legislature, Monsieur le Président du Sénat, Madame la Présidente de la Chambre, Friends from Maine,

Je tiens tout d'abord é remercier la Sénatrice Paradis. Je suis particulièrement sensible, madame, au geste que vous venez de poser en prononçant une importante partie de votre mot de présentation en français, langue que nous partageons fièrement avec plusieurs membres de cette prestigieuse Assemblée.

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation for the very deep honor that you have conferred upon me, as Premier of Quebec, to address this special joint session of the Legislature of Maine.

Above all I consider this invitation I received from Madam Mitchell, Speaker of the House, and Mr. Lawrence, President of the Senate, a vivid illustration of the special and long-standing relationship that has developed between the people of Québec and the people of Maine.

And interparliamentary relations are certainly one of the best ways to foster partnership between two political entities. On this score, I would like to highlight the Speaker's and the President's contribution to the maintaining of close relations between Québec and Maine parliamentarians. Indeed they have both been very active in this field, leading two delegations of Maine representatives to Québec in the past six months.

Our people have shared a lot over the past 200 years or so: history, geography and, with the latter... weather conditions! May I take a moment to say on behalf of my government and my fellow citizens that our thoughts were with you during the natural disaster that struck your state recently.

Québec, as you know, was also severely affected by the ice storm. This regrettable turn of events, while detrimental to our region, gave rise to a magnificent effort of human solidarity of which we can all be proud.

The special bond between Québec and Maine goes back to the 17th century, in the early days of New France and the colony of Massachusetts. At that time there emerged a pattern of trade which evolved over the years - but it never ceased.

Our relationship has not been limited to goods and services. In the last half of the nineteenth century, Québec shared with Maine its most valuable resource - its people.

More than one million Quebecers left for the US over a sixty year period - half of them, including my grand mother Lydia, to work in the mills of New England. But whether they worked in the textile mills of Lewiston, or in the shoe factories of Skowhegan, they brought with them their language, their culture and their heritage. They came down by foot and by cart and set up their "petits Canadas" in towns and cities throughout the region.

But most came by rail; in fact, the very first international railway in North America, the Grand Trunk, went from Montreal to Portland. You probably know that 30 years after the disappearing of this passenger train, there is talk of a reopening.

Maine has recognized this cultural heritage for years. Indeed, about 30% of the population of Maine calls itself Franco American. Governor King often refers to the French fact in Maine as "*a crucial economic resource from which we can all benefit.*"

En effet, les Franco-Américains comptent pour près du tiers de la population du Maine et le fait français représente - selon l'expression meme du gouverneur - une "ressource économique essentielle". On comprend pourquoi le Maine a souhaité avec autant d'ardeur à participer au Forum francophone des affaires. Le Maine doit être fier d'accueillir le siège américain de cette organisation. Ce faisant, les Franco-Américains d'ici sont

appelés à jouer un rôle dans le développement de la francophonie.

Franco Americans are indeed active in every aspect of Maine life. It is therefore natural that many take part in political life. The roll of this Legislature shows this to be the case of Madam Paradis and Gagné as well as Mister Bé1anger, Chartrand, Michaud, Lemaire and Sirois, to name but a few. So it is no surprise that each time I travel throughout the United States, and especially in Maine, I appreciate more fully how history has molded us into two very complex societies, which are undeniably different - but societies which have many things in common.

When I think about Quebec's place in North America, I can't help but refer to a gem of a book written by then Washington Post editor Joel Garreau, and published under the title *The Nine Nations of North America*.

In this essay, the author provides the reader with a clear answer: "*Québec, he wrote, is that part of North America that is so distinct from the rest, and against such odds, that it takes pride in serving to define what a nation is - and can be.*" And he goes on: "*Québec, when it comes right down to it, ends up being a nation, not because of industry or armies or stirring political rhetoric, but because when you're there, you know it's no place else.*"

What is striking, I think, about Quebecers is that over twenty years ago we took, simultaneously, two momentous decisions. On the one hand, we decided that we would turn outward, embrace world trends, become players in the North American economy, that we would make our mark here and abroad in all fields of activity. On the other hand, we decided that our identity, our language, our culture, would not only survive, but thrive, in this new global context.

And so we did. We became one of North America's most ardent free-traders. Speaking in Montreal last August, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, William M. Daley, highlighted this point when he said that NAFTA, I quote, "*would have never been completed without the tireless efforts and vocal free trade advocacy of the people and government of Quebec.*" End of quote.

Québec's support for free-trade is the result of an all-party consensus. Those of us who believe that Québec should become an independent country were at the forefront of the trade liberalization movement. And a good decision it was. Quebec's exports have doubled since the signing of NAFTA and we are now among the few nations in the world that export well over half of everything they produce, selling abroad nearly 100 billion dollars of goods and services every year. In the last five years, the United States has become our first trading partner, and conversely Québec now stands as one of the US top ten trading partners. In fact, our trade with your country weighs more than the total of our commercial exchanges with Canada.

We recently supported the signing of a free-trade agreement between Canada and Chile and we are convinced that a greater degree of economic integration in the Americas is desirable. Last September, we invited in Québec City parliamentarians from all the countries of the Americas to discuss this development and its impact on social policy, culture and identity. An important delegation from Maine, headed by President Lawrence, participated in these exchanges. This Parliamentary Conference was a great success.

Next year, Québec city will welcome over a thousand legislators from the U.S. for the General Assembly of the Council of State Governments. It will be the first time the Council meets outside the United States, and Québec is proud to be the first member of the Council from outside the United States.

Our willingness to open our borders, to reach out and to intensify existing relations obviously starts with our closest neighbors.

Last week, Premier Tobin of Newfoundland and I agreed to start negotiating a 10 billion dollar hydroelectric project in Labrador. In making this project, we want to innovate. We want to bring in the local native population as partners in the equity of the project itself. We want them bring their knowledge and their concerns to the table, and we want to make sure that their communities will benefit from this development for generations to come. The people of New England have also reason to be optimistic about the Churchill falls project. The day after our announcement, the Wall Street Journal summed it up this way, and I quote : "Residents of the northeastern U.S. who gripe about their high energy costs will get a break soon". It went on to say that this new project would have the effect of cutting energy costs for New England consumers. Furthermore, hydroelectricity is, as you know, a clean source of energy and it will facilitate State's and Province's compliance with the provisions of the Kyoto agreement, if ratified. This kind of energy is also part of the solution to the serious transborder problem of greenhouse gases. So it looks like a win-win situation all around.

In the last two years, I had the pleasure of reaching agreements on labor mobility with another neighbor, Ontario as well as with Newfoundland. I also signed with Premier Harris of Ontario an agreement opening up our public procurement policies to a greater degree than is the case anywhere else in Canada. Again with Ontario, Québec is spearheading a drive to fasten the lowering of interprovincial trade barriers within the Canadian economic space.

Now, I'm sure you are aware of the political differences that seem to crop up every week between Québec and Canada, on almost every political issue. But the great paradox here is that, as the political gap seems to be widening, our economic relationship is, not only sound, but strong and strengthening. When Québec leaders, whatever their political affiliation, meet with their Canadian counterparts to discuss social policy, education, culture or constitution, they almost always fail to find common ground. But when they meet to discuss the economy, trade, energy or jobs, they almost always agree.

I feel there must be a way to keep what works - the economic relationship, the commercial and monetary union - and do away with what clearly does not - the political arrangement. But that is an issue for Quebecers to sort out, at the ballot box.

What is beyond debate is our decision to increase our economic ties with all our neighbors. The evolution of the rapport between Maine and Québec in the last decade is a case in point : trade between us has doubled since 1990, reaching 800 million Canadian dollars in 96.

It bears repeating that Québec is the leading market for Maine's exports, ahead of all Canadian provinces and way ahead of your second partner, Japan. As Governor King pointed out in his State of the State address: "Bangor is as close to Montreal as it is to Boston." But these figures only refer to the circulation of goods. They do not account for the economic activity generated by the quarter of a million Quebecers who visit the marvelous beaches and peaks of Maine every year.

Tourism is indeed a cornerstone of our respective economies in which we ought to invest more time and effort. This is why Governor King and I decided last year to establish a joint working group to evaluate the relevance of planning and implementing the Chaudière-Kennebec International Corridor. Its mandate is to identify the real potential of Corridor project and the advantages it could bring to the tourism industry and to propose ways of fostering historical interest and of increasing

tourist exchanges on both sides of the border. The working group will table its recommendations on May first.

Our growing tourism and trade benefit from free and easy access to one another's territory and from a tradition of border cooperation. And it so happens that the people of Maine and Québec have every intention of crossing this border even more frequently in the future because we are bound to become partners in a growing number of fields.

A fine example is Co-Enterprise which draws an increasing number of business people. The third edition at Rockport last year was an unequivocal success with over four hundred entrepreneurs in attendance. This year's edition, to be held in Québec City in late April, looks just as promising. Our energy cooperation took on a new dimension recently when Hydro-Québec was chosen as an electricity supplier by two Maine companies - Central Maine Power and Maine Public Service - for a total delivery of 280 MW for the next three years.

Another fine example of the benefits of cooperation can be illustrated by Gaz Métropolitain's pipeline project, designed to supply natural gas to New England customers through the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System.

Approximately 1 billion Canadian dollars, over two-thirds on this side of the border, is to be invested before the turn of the century. This project will significantly improve the North American pipeline connection.

Québec-Maine cooperation is more than meets the eye. The endeavors we contemplate together can serve as symbols of partnership. As far as we in Québec are concerned, this is a path worth pursuing.

We are working hard with other neighbors in New England, through the regional forum of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers. This year we are piloting an initiative to identify remaining irritants to regional trade and explore avenues for greater strategic alliances between enterprises in the region. Business people will get to work on these tasks when they meet in Montreal next month. I know that Maine will be participating actively in this Forum with a delegation of economic decision makers led by the Maine International Trade Center.

In the last year, Québec has broadened its links with another American region that is of great importance to us: the Great Lakes.

My presence here today marks the start of a busy American agenda for my government and for Québec decision-makers in the months to come. I talked of the regional Forum in Montreal and of Co-Enterprise in Québec city. I should add that, along with a group of about 30 Québec business and institutional leaders, I will be touring four American cities in May: Boston, Atlanta, Chicago and Philadelphia. We will spread the word on Québec's economic and cultural successes.

Then in June, I will be meeting with Governor King and the other members of the New England and Eastern Canadian conference. In July, I will attend the Council of Governors of the Great Lakes area.

This demonstrates how, thanks to Free-Trade, the economic focus of Québec has shifted in a decade and how it becomes essential that Québec be more active, better known and better understood, in the US. The timing is good, because in my view, Quebecers now have a very good story to tell.

One of the things we are proudest of is the turnaround Montreal is experiencing as we speak. Among large cities on the continent, it is the fifteenth in terms of population; but it is the ninth for the number of high-tech companies ; seventh for the number of jobs in technology ; sixth in terms of jobs in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors; fifth in aerospace,

and the very first for the proportion of the population working in high technology.

One of the oldest manufacturing cities on the continent, Montréal is quickly turning into one of the North America's leading high-tech metropolises. Few things please me more than the economic rebirth of Montréal.

Our other source of pride is Quebec's collective involvement in major reforms that are now bearing fruit. In 96, we held two important meetings, gathering the government, business, labor and community organizations together, at a large table where cities, students, Québec natives and opposition parties had a voice.

We took a hard look at our strengths and weaknesses. And we set to achieve, in short order, a number of difficult tasks.

The most daunting of them was to tackle the budgetary deficit which amounted to 6 billion dollars when we came to office three years ago. We decided to eliminate it completely by April first 1999. We set stringent targets and we met them, one by one. The budget to be tabled in the next few weeks will show the last of our deficits, of 1.2 billion dollars. A year from now, Québec books will be written in black ink. And from then on, our new anti-deficit law will keep future governments from running in the red.

The second task coming out of our Economic Summit of 96 was to create jobs, thanks to a number of projects. We already know that 20 000 jobs resulted directly from the Summits' projects, but our commitment was also to engage in a number of structural changes.

- easing regulations;
- improving manpower training;
- cutting taxes to create new jobs;
- setting up a fast track for investment projects;
- developing the social economy;
- making access to day care much easier and much cheaper to help reconcile work and family;
- and setting up faster mechanisms for welcoming English-speaking strategic workers and their families to Montreal, and making known the full set of English-speaking public health, education and cultural facilities available to them and to our English-speaking community.

Overall, since the Summit, 87,000 new jobs have been created in Quebec, welfare rolls are down, unemployment is down, investments are growing faster in Québec than in the rest of Canada and we are witnessing record years for foreign investment in Quebec.

So, whatever political future Quebecers decide for themselves, they will enter the new millennium with balanced books - with surpluses in fact - with ever increasing trade relationships, with a metropolis that is taking the high-tech road with a vengeance.

But I told you earlier that we had taken two decisions in Quebec. I talked abundantly of the first decision, that led us to turn outward. What of the second decision, the one about thriving as a French-speaking society in this new global and increasingly English-speaking world? And are these two objectives contradictory?

For a population that represents only 2% on the continent, this may look like living dangerously. Obviously we are taking a number of elementary precautions. The Charter of the French language protects the right of French-speaking citizens to have services and to work in French, and, like in any other society, it makes sure that most newcomers integrate into the mainstream. After twenty years on the job, we now enjoy in Québec an all-party consensus on what these precautions should be. And the results are in: Québec is the only place in

Canada where the proportion of people who live in French is not shrinking.

But that only tells part of the story. Since this French-speaking society has decided to be an active player in globalisation, it needs to be proficient in the language of its clients and partners. And so it is. The number of bilingual Quebecers is growing, and now reaches European levels. Fifty percent of the active population in Quebec, 60 percent in Montreal, 80 percent of managers in the metropolis are bilingual. Which makes us the most bilingual region in North America, an asset we intend to take full advantage of. Our department of Education aims to improve on this record and teach a third language, especially Spanish, to a greater number of Quebecers.

There is an added benefit to being at once culturally different and superbly open to the world. In an age driven by knowledge and innovation, it helps to have an original perspective on things. Here's how it works for us:

A North-South flow of knowledge and ideas is springs from the presence of over 400 American companies on Québec soil, from the countless exchanges between our businesses, laboratories and universities.

But you might be interested to know that over the last generation we have worked very hard to create another flow, across the Atlantic, to Europe. Having 250 joint research programs with French universities, 3,000 exchange students per year, and a total of 100,000 people from France and Québec on work-site exchange programs over the past 30 years has opened a real-time knowledge connection from Europe.

So the ability of Quebec managers, researchers and qualified workers to know intimately both North American and European developments in their fields gives them an advantage in R&D, in production, and in marketing.

To be sure, the whole world is interconnected. But when, as a rule, your key people can switch from a discussion with MIT researchers to a debate with colleagues at l'Institut Pasteur; when they don't simply visit Paris and Boston, but actually live in a technical, scientific and cultural environment that constantly draws from both worlds, there are bound to be some sparks. In a sense, what we have built in Québec is a working interface between America and Europe, a cultural, scientific, and economic interface that is just starting to pay off. And that may explain why Quebecers, a people of seven million, now stand among the top ten in aerospace, pharmaceuticals, information technology, rail transportation, to name a few. That may also explain why we, Quebecers, look to the new millennium with new confidence, whatever the future holds. We feel we have made sound decisions: by remaining true to ourselves, by riding the tides of economic integration, by building lasting friendships with our closest neighbors, we feel we are ready for the challenges to come.

Thank you.

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At the conclusion of the address, Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Premier of Quebec withdrew amid the applause of the convention, the audience rising.

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Le but pour laquelle cette Convention fut rassemblé ayant accompli, je déclare maintenant quel est dissoud.

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

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD - HOUSE, March 17, 1998

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

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The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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On motion of Representative FRECHETTE of Biddeford, the House adjourned at 12:00 p.m., until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 1998 in honor and lasting tribute to Mabel W. Cameron, of Rumford.