

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

Seventy-Fifth Legislature

SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF MAINE

1912

SENATE.

Thursday, April 4, 1912.

The Senate was called to order by the President, the convention in the hall of the House of Representatives having taken a short recess, in order to give both branches an opportunity to assemble separately.

Mr. Osborn of Somerset, presented the following resolve:

Resolve in favor of the adoption of an address to the Governor for the removal of Asa A. Richardson, State attorney for the county of York.

STATE OF MAINE.

In the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twelve.

Resolve in favor of the adoption of an address to the Governor for the removal of Asa A. Richardson, State Attorney for the county of York.

RESOLVED, that both branches of the Legislature, after due notice given according to the Constitution, will proceed to consider the adoption of an address to the Governor for the removal of Asa A. Richardson, State Attorney for the County of York, for the causes following:

First: Because the said Asa A. Richardson, who was then holding the office of State Attorney for the county of York, did on the 23d day of February, A. D. 1912, solicit money from one Charles T. Read in consideration whereof he agreed to refrain from prosecuting certain violators of the prohibitory law who should thereafter come legally before him in his capacity as State Attorney as aforesaid:

Second: Because the said Asa A. Richardson did at the September term of the Supreme Judicial Court, A. D. 1911, in and for the county of York procure an indictment against one William L. White for violation of the prohibitory law which said indictment was presented at the said September term and the case against said White continued to the January term of said Court at which term the said Richardson requested permission to file said indictment and after the court had refused to grant said permission, said Richardson produced in place of the indictment in question a paper, purporting to be an indictment, which was unsigned either by him, the said Richardson or by the foreman of the Grand Jury, whereupon the said White went free and that because of said ignorant and corrupt act of the said Richardson, the said White was not punished for his said violation of the prohibitory law.

Third: Because the said Asa L. Richardson at a hearing before the Legislature of Maine in proceedings for the removal from office of one Charles O. Emery, who was then and there Sheriff

of the County of York, gave false testimony under oath.

Fourth: Because the said Asa A. Richardson, in pursuance of a design to convict the said Charles O. Emery of offering to bribe him, the said Richardson, resorted to methods in the procuring of evidence against the said Emery which were improper and unworthy of an attorney.

Fifth: Because the said Asa A. Richardson, by reason of his incompetency and ignorance of the law, has brought the office of State Attorney for the County of York into disrepute and contempt.

RESOLVED: The House of Representatives concurring, that these resolutions and statements of causes of removal be entered on the Journal of the Senate and a copy of the same be signed by the President of the Senate and served on said Asa A. Richardson by such person as the President of the Senate shall appoint for that purpose, who shall make return of said service upon his personal affidavit without delay, and that the fifth day of April, A. D. 1912, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, be assigned as the time when the said Asa A. Richardson may be admitted to a hearing in his defense.

Mr. OSBORN: Mr. President: I move that the resolve have a passage.

Mr. MILLIKEN of Aroostook: Mr. President, we all understand that this resolve means simply that the two branches of the Legislature will consider these charges against the county attorney, as they are now considering the charges against the sheriff of York county. I think there can be no possible objection to the resolve.

I believe, as I have hinted before, that this Legislature can perform no greater public service than to investigate any charges that may be brought against any officials in this State who are accused of violating or assisting in the violation of the law. And I believe it is perfectly true that wherever the prohibitory law is being openly and flagrantly violated, in that county some one official at least is either a crook or a coward, or both.

I think the resolve should be adopted and that the Legislature should consider the charges in the usual manner.

There being no objection the resolve was passed and sent down for concurrence.

Mr. Osborn of Somerset presented the following Resolve, and moved that it have a passage.

Resolved, the House concurring, that

the Attorney General be and hereby is instructed to present to the joint convention the evidence bearing upon the charges preferred against Asa A. Richardson. Read and passed and sent down for concurrence.

The PRESIDENT: I have a bill here on its passage to be enacted. An Act to provide for the payment of per diem and mileage of members and officers for expenditures incident to the special session of the 75th Legislature, and for other necessary expenditures of government.

Mr. MILLIKEN: Mr. President, of course there is no objection to the passage of the resolve. I want to say that it seems that the appropriation for High schools was left out at the last session of the Legislature by mistake, and it will be needed and should be paid the latter part of this year, and ought to have been included in this resolve. I wish to express here the regret I feel that it has not been included.

Passed to Be Enacted.

An Act to provide for the payment of

per diem and mileage of members and officers for expenditures incident to the special session of the 75th Legislature, and for other necessary expenditures of government.

On motion by Mr. Boynton of Lincoln, it was ordered, the House concurring, that the same rules and procedure as were adopted in the trial of Charles O. Emery be adopted for the trial of Asa A. Richardson.

Sent down for concurrence.

A recess was taken at this point subject to the call of the President and the Senate retired to the hall of the House.

The Senate returned to its chamber at 4.30 o'clock P. M., and was called to order by the President.

The following order came from the House, adopted by that branch:

Ordered, The Senate concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn they adjourn to meet Friday, April 5, 1912, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon.

Passed in concurrence.

Adjourned.