

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Second Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1945

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL

AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Wednesday, April 4, 1945.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Victor Regan of Portland.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate
Senate Reports of the Committee

Final Report

Final Report of the Committee on Towns.

Came from the Senate read and adopted.

In the House, read and accepted in concurrence.

Ought to Pass in New Draft

Report of the Committee on Indian Affairs on Bill "An Act relating to Agents and Health Officers of Indian Tribes" (S. P. 90) (L. D. 133) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 411) (L. D. 1058) under title of Bill "An Act relating to Agents, Health and Other Officers of Indian Tribes" and that it "Ought to pass"

Report of the Committee on Public Health on Bill "An Act to Provide for Training and Licensing Nursing Attendants" (S. P. 79) (L. D. 73) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 404) (L. D. 1064) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report of same Committee on Bill "An Act relating to Licensing Hospitals and Related Institutions in the State of Maine" (S. P. 121) (L. D. 220) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 405) (L. D. 1063) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report of the Committee on Salaries and Fees on Bill "An Act relating to the Salary of the Recorder of the Ellsworth Municipal Court" (S. P. 157) (L. D. 361) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 406) (L. D. 1062) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report of same Committee on Bill "An Act relating to Salary of Register of Probate and Clerks in Office of Register of Probate in Hancock County" (S. P. 271) (L.

D. 616) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 407) (L. D. 1061) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report of same Committee on Bill "An Act relating to the Salaries of Certain Officials in Knox County" (S. P. 96) (L. D. 138) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 408) (L. D. 1060) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report of same Committee on Bill "An Act relating to the Salary of the Clerk of Courts of York County," (S. P. 272) (L. D. 615) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 410) (L. D. 1059) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Came from the Senate the Reports read and adopted and the Bills passed to be engrossed.

In the House, Reports were read and accepted in concurrence and Bills read twice and tomorrow assigned.

Ought to Pass with Committee Amendment**Tabled and Assigned**

Report of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on Bill "An Act to Simplify Finances of the Department of Education" (S. P. 191) (L. D. 490) reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Came from the Senate the Report read and adopted and the Bill passed to be engrossed.

In the House, Report read and accepted in concurrence and the Bill read once.

(On motion by Miss Deering of Bath, tabled pending second reading, and specially assigned for Friday, April 6th)

Report of the Committee on Library on Resolve for the Purchase of Five Hundred Copies of "The Length and Breadth of Maine" (S. P. 93) (L. D. 135) reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Came from the Senate the Report read and adopted and the Resolve passed to be engrossed.

In the House, Report read and accepted in concurrence, and the Resolve was read once.

Committee Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

Committee Amendment "A" to S. P. 93, L. D. 135, "Resolve for the Purchase of Five Hundred Copies of "The Length and Breadth of Maine".

Amend said Resolve by striking out the figures "500" in the 1st line thereof and inserting in place thereof the figures "100".

Further amend said Resolve by striking out the figures "\$2,500" in the last line thereof and inserting in place thereof the figures "\$500".

Committee Amendment "A" was adopted in concurrence and the Resolve was assigned for second reading tomorrow morning.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Legal Affairs reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act Licensing Steam Engineers and Firemen for the Protection of Life and Property" (S. P. 357) (L. D. 906)

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. BATCHELDER of York
GOULD of Androscoggin
—of the Senate.
WELCH of Mars Hill
RANKIN of Bridgton
SNOW of Auburn
WARREN of Westbrook
—of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought to pass" on the same Bill.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. LEAVITT of Cumberland
—of the Senate.
PAYSON of Portland
WEEKS of Waterville
DONAHUE of Biddeford
—of the House.

Came from the Senate with the Majority Report accepted.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Snow of Auburn, Majority Report "Ought not to pass" accepted in concurrence.

Ought to Pass with Senate Amendment

Report of the Committee on Salaries and Fees on Bill "An Act relating to the Salaries of the Register of Deeds and Clerks in the Office of Register of Deeds in Androscoggin County" (S. P. 358) (L. D. 905) reporting same in a new

draft (S. P. 409) (L. D. 1057) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Came from the Senate, Report read and accepted, and the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A".

In the House, Report read and accepted in concurrence, and the Bill had its two several readings.

Senate Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

Senate Amendment "A" to S. P. 409, L. D. 1057, Bill "An Act Relating to the Salaries of the Register of Deeds and Clerks in the Office of Register of Deeds in Androscoggin County".

Amend said Bill by striking out the underlined figures "\$2,100" in the last line of section 1 thereof, and inserting in place thereof the underlined figures "\$2,400".

Senate Amendment "A" was adopted in concurrence and the Bill was assigned for third reading tomorrow morning.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve for the Laying of the County Taxes for the Year Nineteen Hundred Forty-five (H. P. 1390) (L. D. 1078) which was passed to be engrossed in the House on March 30th.

Came from the Senate passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Jacobs of Auburn, the House voted to reconsider its action of March 30th whereby this Bill was passed to be engrossed.

Senate Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

Senate Amendment "A" to H. P. 1390, L. D. 1078, Resolve for the Laying of the County Taxes for the Year Nineteen Hundred Forty-five.

Amend said Resolve by inserting before the Emergency Clause the following:

"and be it further

Resolved: That the county taxes of the several counties for the year 1945 may be apportioned during the month of April of said year upon the last state valuation."

Senate Amendment "A" was adopted in concurrence, and the Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Authorizing the Highway Commission to Enter upon

Lands for Certain Purpose" (H. P. 873) (L. D. 521) which was passed to be engrossed in the House on March 20th as amended by Committee Amendment "A".

Came from the Senate, indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Peirce of Augusta, the House voted to recede and concur with the Senate in the indefinite postponement of the Bill.

Communications

Communication from the Secretary of the Senate announcing the appointment of the following Conferees on the part of the Senate on Resolve Providing for the Abatement of Certain Interest Owed by the town of Linneus (H. P. 410) (L. D. 164)

Messrs. OWEN of Kennebec
SAVAGE of Somerset
CLEAVES of Cumberland

Communication was read and ordered placed on file.

Communication from the Secretary of the Senate announcing the appointment of the following Conferees on the part of the Senate on Joint Order relative to Register of Bills with Final Disposition at Time of Adjournment (H. P. 1310)

Messrs. NOYES of Hancock
BROWN of Aroostook
STERLING of Somerset

Communication was read and ordered placed on file.

The SPEAKER: At this time the Chair will appoint as Conferees on the part of the House on H. P. 1310:

Messrs. WILLIAMS of Clifton
COOMBS of Belfast
BURTON of Milo

Orders

On motion by Mr. Harrison of Portland, it was

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House convey to Representative Meloon of Portland, who is ill at his home, the deep regrets of the members of the House of Representatives at his illness and their hopes that he may have a speedy recovery.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House send to Representative Meloon at his home a bouquet of flowers and a certified copy of this Order.

On motion by Miss Deering of Bath, House Rule 25 was suspended for the remainder of today's session, in order to permit smoking.

Mr. Payson of Portland, presented the following Order and moved its passage:

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Research Committee is directed to study all the various pension systems which the State pays or makes contributions for the following purposes, viz:

1. To eliminate so far as may be the discriminatory treatment which now exists among different classes of State employees.

2. To determine the feasibility of including those teachers now in the service under the non-contributory pension system in the Employees' Contributory Pension System.

3. To determine the feasibility of combining the Teachers' Retirement System with the Employees' Contributory Pension System.

4. To determine by competent actuarial survey the approximate cost to the State in making such changes as are indicated by the foregoing.

5. To make such other studies and surveys of the State's pension systems as seem to said committee advisable.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson.

Mr. PAYSON: Mr. Speaker, there is on the table, and specially assigned for Friday morning, a Bill to Create a Special Recess Committee. I therefore move that this Order lie on the table and be specially assigned for Friday morning.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson, moves that the Order lie upon the table pending passage and be specially assigned for next Friday morning. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the Order was so tabled and so assigned.

House Reports of Committees Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Labor reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Employment of Minors in Bowling Alleys" (H. P. 730) (L. D. 391)

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. HOPKINS of Kennebec
 GOULD of Androscoggin
 SPEAR of Cumberland
 —of the Senate
 POULIN of Rumford
 HASKELL of Bangor
 BROWN of Unity
 JONES of Waterville
 MARSHALL of York
 WEEKS of Waterville
 —of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought to pass" on same Bill.

Report was signed by the following member:

Mr. RENOUF of Biddeford
 of the House.

Miss Deering of Bath, was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Miss DEERING: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I introduced this Bill pertaining to the employment of minors in the bowling alleys. The bill was not written as I wished in the first place. I offered it in a redraft.

My purpose in asking for this legislation was an attempt to reach our minors, especially our youngsters of the fifteen-year old group, feeling that possibly if we offered them some compromise whereby they would be gainfully employed for a few hours at night—not after nine o'clock at night—not to exceed six hours in any one day—we would be offering them our side of the picture and asking them to cooperate with us in our attempt to settle the delinquency problem. I can understand the confusion. Apparently I am mistaken in my attitude. Therefore at this time I want to thank Mr. Renouf for the opportunity of explaining my position on the bill, and I now move the acceptance of the majority report "Ought not to pass."

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bath, Miss Deering, moves that the House accept the majority report "Ought not to pass." Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the majority report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Divided Report

Report "A" of the Committee on Labor on Bill "An Act relating to Dangerous Occupations for Minors" (H. P. 1079) (L. D. 690) reporting

"Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. GOULD of Androscoggin
 —of the Senate.
 POULIN of Rumford
 RENOUF of Biddeford
 WEEKS of Waterville
 JONES of Waterville
 —of the House.

Report "B" of same Committee reporting "Ought not to pass" on same Bill.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. HOPKINS of Kennebec
 SPEAR of Cumberland
 —of the Senate.
 HASKELL of Bangor
 BROWN of Unity
 MARSHALL of York
 —of the House.

On motion by Mr. Poulin of Rumford, Report "A", "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A", was accepted, and the Bill, having already been printed, was read twice under suspension of the rules.

Committee Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

Committee Amendment "A" to H. P. 1079, L. D. 690, Bill "An Act Relating to Dangerous Occupations for Minors."

Amend said Bill by striking out the underlined words "may be injured or morals depraved" in the last line thereof, and substituting in place thereof the following: "will be injured".

Committee Amendment "A" was adopted, and the Bill was assigned for third reading tomorrow morning.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Labor reporting "Ought not to pass" as it is inexpedient at present time on Bill "An Act relating to Employment of Children under Certain Ages" (H. P. 964) (L. D. 608)

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. SPEAR of Cumberland
 HOPKINS of Kennebec
 GOULD of Androscoggin
 —of the Senate.

JONES of Waterville
 BROWN of Unity
 HASKELL of Bangor
 POULIN of Rumford
 MARSHALL of York
 —of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought to pass" on same Bill.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. WEEKS of Waterville

RENOUF of Biddeford

—of the House.

On motion by Mr. Poulin of Rumford, the Majority Report "Ought not to pass" was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Refer to Committee on Education

Mr. Williams from the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act relating to Membership in the Maine Teachers' Retirement System" (H. P. 822) (L. D. 426) reported that it be referred to the Committee on Education.

Report was read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Leave to Withdraw

Mr. Peirce from the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act relating to the Pollution of the Sebasticook River" (H. P. 1239) (L. D. 855) reported leave to withdraw.

Report was read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Ought Not to Pass

Mr. Williams from the Committee on Judiciary reported "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act to Include Occupational Diseases under the Workmen's Compensation Act" (H. P. 957) (L. D. 523) as it is covered by other legislation.

Mr. Haskell from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act relating to the Sanitary Water Board" (H. P. 1230) (L. D. 854) as it is covered by other legislation.

Mr. Connellan from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act to Make Compulsory the Workmen's Compensation Act" (H. P. 1074) (L. D. 796)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Resolve in favor of Lewis Cook of Bangor (H. P. 1197) (L. D. 756)

Mr. Haskell from same Committee reported same on Resolve in favor of Agnes Cook, of Bangor (H. P. 1198) (L. D. 757)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act relating to Recording of Instruments Issued by the Public

Utilities Commission" (H. P. 817) (L. D. 505)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act relating to Treatment of Employees Under the Workmen's Compensation Act" (H. P. 951) (L. D. 527)

Mr. Peirce from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act relative to Medical and Surgical Aids in Cases of Personal Injury or Occupational Disability Under Workmen's Compensation Act" (H. P. 648) (L. D. 315)

Reports were read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Perkins from the Committee on Judiciary reported "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Employer-Employee Agreements Under the Workmen's Compensation Act" (H. P. 1139) (L. D. 694)

(On motion by Mr. Jordan of Saco, tabled pending acceptance of Committee Report, and specially assigned for Tuesday morning, April 10th)

Mr. Williams from the Committee on Judiciary reported "Ought not to pass" on Resolve relating to Retirement Pension for Henry H. Randall of Rockland (H. P. 1196) (L. D. 755)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act to Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act as to Minors, Illegally Employed, Attorneys' Fees and Waiting Period" (H. P. 1076) (L. D. 797)

Mr. Forhan from the Committee on Pensions reported "Ought not to pass" on Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for William L. Helms of Gray (H. P. 842)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Abbie S. Risska of Lisbon (H. P. 668)

Mr. Harrison from same Committee reported same on Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Charles M. Turner of Palermo (H. P. 974)

Reports were read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Ought to Pass in New Draft

Mr. Bird from the Committee on Salaries and Fees on Bill "An Act

relating to the Salary of the Judge of the Municipal Court of Bath (H. P. 680) (L. D. 273) reported same a new draft (H. P. 1432) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Mr. Collins from same Committee on Bill "An Act relating to Salary of the Judge and the Recorder of the Waldo County Municipal Court" (H. P. 736) (L. D. 404) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1433) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Reports were read and accepted and the new drafts ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Collins from the Committee on Salaries and Fees on Bill "An Act relating to the Salary of the Judge of Probate in Lincoln County" (H. P. 217) (L. D. 80) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1430) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

(On motion by Mr. Perkins of Boothbay Harbor, tabled pending acceptance of Committee Report, the new draft ordered printed, and specially assigned for Tuesday, April 10th)

Mr. Haskell from the Committee on Salaries and Fees on Bill "An Act relating to Salary of Register of Probate in Sagadahoc County" (H. P. 1093) (L. D. 780) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1431) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report was read and accepted and the new draft ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Haskell from the Committee on Salaries and Fees on Bill "An Act relating to the Salary of the Judge of the Lincoln Municipal Court" (H. P. 678) (L. D. 326) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1434) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

(On motion by Mr. Perkins of Boothbay Harbor, tabled pending acceptance of Committee Report, the new draft ordered printed, and specially assigned for Friday, April 6th)

Mr. Sanborn from the Committee on Salaries and Fees on Bill

"An Act relating to Clerk Hire in County Offices in Sagadahoc County" (H. P. 681) (L. D. 274) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1435) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Mr. Connellan from the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act relating to State Employees' Retirement System" (H. P. 955) (L. D. 545) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1438) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Mr. Forhan from the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries on Resolve to Create a Commission to Study the Atlantic Salmon (H. P. 1302) (L. D. 947) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1436) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Mr. Lackee from the Committee on Ways and Bridges on Bill "An Act Authorizing Towns to Cooperate with Federal Government and Commission in Building Secondary Roads" (H. P. 871) (L. D. 513) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1437) under title of "An Act Authorizing Towns to Cooperate with Highway Commission in Maintaining Town Roads" and that it "Ought to pass"

Reports were read and accepted and the new drafts ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Mr. Springer of Danforth, was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Being a new member, I hesitate quite a bit to try to speak at all, but being ill advised, I put the matter off for some time. A fellow-member, who was confined to his home, due to illness, yesterday said that there were two things he would like to say to the members of the House.

Ever since I came here I have found people all the way around very friendly and helpful, and perhaps the whole thing was brought to my mind more fully when I was confined at home because of letters and cards and some telephone messages, and, then later, a beautiful bouquet of flowers was sent to my home.

I just want to say that I deeply appreciate it. I was deeply touched and felt that when I came back here to Augusta I was mingling with a lot of good friends. I want to thank you again for your kindness to me.

**Ought to Pass
Printed Bills**

Mr. Haskell from the Committee on Labor reported "Ought to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Employment of Children" (H. P. 963) (L. D. 529)

Report was read and accepted, and the Bill, having already been printed, was read twice under suspension of the rules, and tomorrow assigned.

Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Downs from the Committee on Salaries and Fees reported "Ought to Pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Clerk Hire in the Lincoln Municipal Court" (H. P. 677) (L. D. 325)

(On motion by Mr. Perkins of Boothbay Harbor, the Report, with accompanying Bill, was tabled pending acceptance of Committee Report and specially assigned for Friday, April 6th)

Mr. Haskell from the Committee on Salaries and Fees reported "Ought to Pass" on Bill "An Act relating to the Salary of the Sheriff of Piscataquis County" (H. P. 738) (L. D. 406)

Report was read and accepted, and the Bill, having already been printed, was read twice under suspension of the rules, and tomorrow assigned.

Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Warren from the Committee on Salaries and Fees reported "Ought to Pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Salary for Clerks in County Offices in Lincoln County" (H. P. 1096) (L. D. 783)

(On motion by Mr. Perkins of Boothbay Harbor, tabled pending acceptance of Committee Report, and specially assigned for Friday, April 6th)

Mr. Weeks from the Committee on Labor reported "Ought to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Employment of Minors and Females" (H. P. 332) (L. D. 111)

Report was read and accepted and the Bill having already been printed, was read twice under suspension of the rules, and tomorrow assigned.

**Ought to Pass With Committee
Amendment
Tabled and Assigned**

Mr. Gay from the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries on Bill "An Act relating to Bounty on Seals" (H. P. 1337) (L. D. 986) reported "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter.

Mr. CARPENTER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that Item 20 and its accompanying documents lie on the table and be specially assigned for April 13th.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Augusta, moves that Bill "An Act relating to the Bounty on Seals" be tabled and specially assigned for April 13th. Is this the pleasure of the House? All those in favor will say yes; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote was taken, and the motion did not prevail.

The SPEAKER: Is it now the pleasure of the House to accept the report of the committee?

Mr. CARPENTER: Mr. Speaker, will the House grant me permission to table this bill until Tuesday, April 10th?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, now moves that this bill lie on the table and be specially assigned for Tuesday, April 10th. All those in favor of the motion will say yes; contrary-minded, no.

A vive voce vote being doubted,

A division of the House was had.

Thirty-one having voted in the affirmative and 41 in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

Mr. CARPENTER: Mr. Speaker, I don't like to be a pest but could I assign it for Friday, April 6th?

The SPEAKER: Apparently the House is in no mood for fooling around to delay.

The gentleman now moves that this matter be tabled and specially assigned for Friday, April 6th. All those in favor of the motion will say yes; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed, and the bill was tabled and specially assigned for Friday, April 6th.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the presence in the hall of the House of a former Speaker, Dr. Merrill, of Dover-Foxcroft, who was

Speaker of this assembly in 1931, and requests the Sergeant-at-Arms to conduct him to the rostrum.

Thereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms conducted Dr. Merrill to the rostrum, where he assumed a Chair beside the Speaker, amid the applause of the House, the members rising.

Passed to be Engrossed

Bill "An Act Permitting Members of the Armed Forces to Receive Operators' Licenses Without Payment of Fee" (S. P. 325) (L. D. 826)

Bill "An Act relating to Applications for Operators' Licenses by Members of the Armed Forces" (S. P. 326) (L. D. 825)

Bill "An Act Amending An Act to Authorize the Incorporation of Credit Unions" (S. P. 389) (L. D. 998)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Tabled and Assigned

Bill "An Act Amending the Charter of the city of Biddeford" (H. P. 733) (L. D. 402)

(Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, and on motion by Mr. Renouf of Biddeford, tabled pending third reading, and specially assigned for Friday morning, April 6th)

Amended

Bill "An Act to Create a Legislative Research Committee" (H. P. 1272) (L. D. 915)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, and read the third time.

Mr. Rankin of Bridgton offered House Amendment "B" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "B" read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "B" to H. P. 1272, L. D. 915, Bill "An Act to Create a Legislative Research Committee."

Amend said Bill by inserting at the beginning of the 1st line thereof the following: 'Sec. 1.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of subsection XII of that part of said bill designated as "Sec. 25" and inserting in place thereof the following:

'XII. The director shall appoint, subject to the provisions of the personnel law, such technical, clerical and stenographic assistants as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 23 to 26, inclusive.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of subsection XIV of that part of said bill designated as "Sec. 26"

Further amend said Bill by adding at the end thereof the following:

'Sec. 2. R. S., c. 10, repealed. Chapter 10 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed.'

House Amendment "B" was adopted, and the Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended and sent up for concurrence.

Passed to be Engrossed

(Continued)

Bill "An Act Amending the Charter of the city of Portland" (H. P. 1387) (L. D. 1054)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Tabled and Assigned

Bill "An Act relating to Keeping Certain Animals Confined" (H. P. 1426) (L. D. 1106)

(Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, and on motion by Mr. Williams of Auburn, tabled pending third reading, and specially assigned for Friday, April 6th)

Resolve in favor of Mrs. Doris G. Cummings of Perry (S. P. 401) (L. D. 1041)

Resolve in favor of Alphonso S. Dube of Togus (S. P. 402) (L. D. 1043)

Resolve in favor of Velma Norton of Caribou (S. P. 403) (L. D. 1042)

Resolve to Reimburse the city of Biddeford (H. P. 622) (L. D. 285)

Resolve for Maintenance and Development of Public Park Facilities (H. P. 1428) (L. D. 1108)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the second time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Amended Bills

Bill "An Act relating to the State Police Retirement System" (S. P. 76) (L. D. 71)

Bill "An Act relating to Use of Drugs or Appliances in Horse Racing" (S. P. 290) (L. D. 721)

Bill "An Act relating to State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation" (S. P. 347) (L. D. 893)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed as amended and sent to the Senate.

Non-Concurrent Matter Amended

Bill "An Act relating to Free Hunting and Fishing Permits for Veterans" (S. P. 363) (L. D. 962)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

Mr. Anderson from Oxbow Plantation, offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "A" to S. P. 363. L. D. 962, Bill "An Act Relating to Free Hunting and Fishing Permits for Veterans."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the 2nd sentence of that part designated as "Sec. 19-B" thereof, and inserting in place thereof the following:

"Such permits shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of discharge or for a period of 2 years from the official declaration of the termination of World War II by the United States Government, whichever is the later date."

House Amendment "A" was adopted, and the Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

Passed to be Enacted

An Act relating to the Digging or Taking of Clam-Worms (H. P. 195) (L. D. 58)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the first tabled and today assigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Public Utilities on Bill "An Act relating to Rural Elec-

trification Cooperatives" (H. P. 544) (L. D. 322) tabled on March 29th by the gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives: Right at the beginning I want to make this remark; that at the end of my remarks I shall ask that the report of the committee, which is unanimously "Ought not to pass," be accepted. I am going, this morning, to take the liberty of doing something I have never done in my term of office in this House of Representatives, and that is to take up your time in discussing a bill which you might class as being dead at the present time. But there are reasons why I wish to do this, which I will explain to you.

In the first place, a few days ago I heard two members of this Legislature speaking outside, and they said this rural electrification legislation is very dangerous. I want to call your attention to what you must consider it is if you think it is dangerous. If the serving of some 40,000 rural homes in the State of Maine is a dangerous proposition, then this is dangerous legislation. If you believe that the rural people of Maine should not have electricity, then this is dangerous legislation.

On the other hand, I wish to speak to you because I wish to make a report to you today. I know that you members of this House and of this Legislature are as interested as I am in doing all that we can for the benefit of the citizens of the State of Maine. I believe in the work connected with this particular bill that a great deal has been done through a spirit of cooperation between the members of this Legislature and the legislative agents of the several power companies within the State in bringing about the end which we all desire, and that is, I believe, the furnishing of electricity to all the people in the State of Maine that it is possible to furnish that service for. And so that is the reason I wish to speak to you today for a short time regarding this bill.

Now I believe it is not necessary to explain to anyone in this room the need of electricity. I think it is sufficient to say in the words of our Commissioner of Agriculture, Carl R. Smith, that electricity, for

any farm to operate today, is a "must." I think we should start on that and go on to realize that electricity is necessary.

Another phase of this matter that interests me to a great extent is the post-war possibilities. We have heard a great deal about post-war; we have bills in this Legislature calling for thousands, and, in some cases, millions of dollars, for developing this State in the post-war period. Now here is a proposition where millions of dollars can be spent in the post-war era for something that is for the common good of all the people of the State of Maine, something that will not cost the taxpayers of the State a cent.

Just to bring that before you, I want to read the remarks of probably the best-informed citizen of the State of Maine — or, probably, of any other section — on this problem. I am reading from the Public Utilities Fortnightly Review of December 21, 1944, and the remarks of Frank E. Southard of the Maine Public Utilities Commission:

"Under normal prewar conditions it is estimated that there are some 38,000 potential customers for electric service in rural areas in the State of Maine. To serve these customers requires the building of approximately 11,000 miles of new line construction. There are possibly some five or ten thousand additional customers if the cost to serve them can be made compatible with long distances and customer thinness.

"It is estimated that the new line construction would cost \$12,000,000 and this figure does not include any cost for generating and transmission facilities. The wiring of farm homes and rural dwellings adds up to some \$3,900,000 more. The presence of electric service means nothing unless use be made of that service and expenditures of \$5,000,000 might be expected during the first eighteen months in the purchase of equipment and appliances."

So you can see from these figures that this is the biggest post-war proposition that is being brought before this Legislature, and the best part of it is that there is private capital and funds of the United States government available to do this whole job without this Legislature providing one cent to accomplish that.

Now as for this bill which I introduced into this Legislature. You

will recall that in 1941 there was passed by the 90th Legislature a rural electrification enabling act. Now that did a great many things to make possible the development of electrical energy in the rural areas of our State; but, in one phase of it, it was somewhat weak in the fact that many felt that all of these electric cooperatives should not be under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission, as it is very evident that they are non-profit organizations serving only their own members. The real purpose of the supervision of the Public Utilities Commission is in the matter of investments and in regulating service and rates, and certainly people who own their own lines do not need to have their rates regulated, because they can look out for that and also look out for their service.

Now, in going into this matter, it is probably right to bring up here the fact that the past record of some of our power companies and of the Utilities Commission has not been one that you could shout at with praise toward rural cooperatives in this State. That, as all of you know, is past history, and it would be very unfair, I believe, to bring into this issue, as was presented at the hearing, any of these things that happened before 1940, and that, because of the past sins of anybody, that today we should say they were against rural development within this State. So I think we will pass over that.

But it was felt that there was need to change this act. There was only need if the power companies of the State were not friendly to rural people receiving electricity. As long as the power companies of the State were friendly toward rural people receiving electricity, either wishing to supply it themselves or through cooperative adventures of these people, in that case the legislation was unnecessary.

We have seen in this State where a complete cooperation can exist between power companies and rural cooperatives. We have that example in the territory of the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company. Four operating cooperatives now exist within that territory. They took the attitude back in the 1930's that in areas they wished to serve they wanted to serve those areas — and that is a just proposition, because I believe private enterprise in our

State should have the first chance to serve the people—but in areas which they felt were too scantily populated for development they were willing for the cooperatives to come in and build those areas, and they were very generous in the assistance that they gave. So you can see, where the power companies are friendly toward the development of cooperatives, that all of this legislation is unnecessary.

There is another very important matter in this development of rural cooperatives or development of rural areas for electricity, and that is on what basis these areas will be served. One of the objects of this bill was to call to the attention of the power companies of this State and to the attention of the Legislature that people today should be served on an area coverage basis.

Now in the past—and I should not criticize, because it was a natural development—the power companies in this State in the first place furnished electricity to the cities of the State, then to the larger towns, then to connecting roads between these larger towns. Then we have seen it reaching out into the more thickly-settled rural areas. That was the natural development. But the time for this natural development has passed; it is time for the whole of the State to be covered by electric lights and to furnish the blessings of electricity to all rural areas and the people that live in these areas in the State of Maine. That is why it is now time, I believe, that the attention of this Legislature and the power interests of the State is called to the fact there are 40,000 rural homes in Maine without electricity. This was one of the real objects of this bill, to call attention to the area coverage basis. By "Area coverage" we mean they go out and not only take the main roads but take the side roads. Of course, they have to use some commonsense. If a farmer lives off three miles or five miles, or something like that, probably everyone knows they cannot be served unless there is a large unit.

I think we had a good hearing in the Senate Chamber on this bill, and I believe at that hearing none of these old things were dug up, things which happened in the past that should be buried. We did go into it on a constructive basis, that we did need area coverage in the State of Maine; and I believe that the opposition, which was practi-

cally all from the power companies, were somewhat in accord with it.

Now this committee brought out an "Ought not to pass" report. I am not going to argue against that today. I am not authorized to speak for the committee, but I believe the reason they did bring out the type of report which you have before you was because they found this to be a fact—and no one has denied it—that the present law as enacted in 1941 has never been tried by any cooperative of the State of Maine, therefore no one was hurt by that piece of legislation. I think the committee felt that until that law was tried it should stay on the books and see if conditions could not be worked out under the present statutes. I think maybe they showed some wisdom in that choice. I also think there was another reason: I believe they sensed, as I have sensed, and, I believe, a great many of the members of this House, who, I believe, are as interested in this legislation as I am: that there has been a change on the part, maybe, of the Utilities Commission, and on the part of the power companies within the State. Maybe some of the examples which have been brought before them by rural electrification and cooperative development in the State have really sunk home to them and they realize it is now time for a change. Maybe they realize, as many others do, that, regardless of how we vote, that America is marching on as far as social progress goes; that things which twenty years ago might be called socialistic are today only the natural course of events and we are accepting them as real American principles. I believe that is the case in this particular field.

I want to state that before this public hearing those of us who were interested in this legislation were asked to meet with representatives of the power companies down in the Fish & Game room, the old museum. I think we had a good hearing there. We discussed the proposition in the spirit of cooperation which has characterized this fight, as you might call it, for rural electrification in Maine.

Now I believe that the attitude of the Utilities Commission has changed somewhat, so it may not be necessary to have this legislation. That may not be a good statement to make, because, as we all know, that Commission, for which I have the highest respect,

is directed to a very large extent in their action by laws which we put on the statute books. However, it is a fact, that since any of these old arguments regarding the Utilities Commission have come up there are two new members on that Commission; and I believe this committee was convinced, as I am, that that Commission was interested probably as much as we are in the development of electrification for the rural areas of this State. Beyond that, I believe there is a great spirit of cooperation on the part of the power companies of the State towards this development of rural electrification within this State. I am convinced that our power companies are ready to do this job, not a cream-skimming proposition, as someone has characterized their work in the past, but on an area coverage basis.

At this time, to show you that I am not talking to you to ease up the fact that this bill is going to die today, but because I think there are some facts behind it, I want to read you a couple of letters and a few other things.

In the first place, I wish to read you a letter from the Maine Public Service Company, of Presque Isle, the company that serves most of Aroostook County:

March 28, 1945.

"Hon. Leon Williams,
House of Representatives,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Sir:

For your information, we have made a map survey of all of the area served at retail by Maine Public Service Company. The result of this map survey indicates 330 miles of rural roads in Aroostook County in our retail area, not now provided with electric service.

"We recognize the program set forth by the Hon. Carl R. Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Maine, which includes 'electricity for every farm.'

"In accordance with this program, we agree that all of the farms on our back roads, not now served, should have electric service made available to them.

"We intend to build all of this 330 miles of rural line which will make rural electric service available to approximately 1800 farm buildings in our retail area in Aroostook County within a period of not more than five years from the time that

war conditions make men and material available.

"We are very conscious of the fact that the completion of rural electrification in our retail area must be accomplished on an area basis.

"As soon as men and material are available, we are therefore glad to pledge Maine Public Service Company to complete the electrification of all rural areas in Aroostook County in accordance with the rural extension policy of Maine Public Service Company as set forth in M. P. U. C. No. 2 R. & R. Sheet 8, Original, filed with Maine Public Utilities Commission on February 12, 1945.

Yours very truly

MAINE PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY

(Signed) L. A. Alline,
President"

I wish to read another letter from the Central Maine Power Company:

March 23, 1945.

"Hon. Leon R. Williams
House of Representatives
State House
Augusta, Maine
Dear Mr. Williams:

Our Legislative Agent has told me that you would be interested in a statement of the policy the Central Maine Power Company proposes to follow in the matter of extension of service in rural areas. I am very glad to comply.

"The company proposes, as soon as wartime restrictions are removed, to resume its activities in this field in absolute good faith and to prosecute the work with all reasonable dispatch. I don't know how I can say anything more unless it be to remind you of what its policy has been in the past — what I mean when I say it proposes 'to resume its activities.'

"It has expended in the past 24 years, on extensions for so-called rural service, farms and rural residents—\$4,656,335. This period included five years in the 1920's when the work was just getting started, five years at the bottom of the depression in the 1930's, and three years since Pearl Harbor while wartime regulations have been in force.

"The company now serves 27,598 such customers and can serve 4,869 others now located on its existing lines as fast as they elect to take the service. It has on file with the Public Utilities Commission, effective since October 24, 1940, complete

Rules and Regulations under which extensions for such service on an area coverage basis will be made. It has completed a survey of its entire service area to have at hand all pertinent facts to enable it to resume and prosecute this work most effectively when present restrictions are lifted.

"To recapitulate: This company has been active in carrying service to rural areas since long before Rural Electrification became an issue. Subject to the effect of the worst years of the depression, its policy has been continually to expand that work, so that the greatest 5-year period of activity and the greatest single year both ended with December, 1941, when war conditions intervened. It has kept its studies of such needs in the areas which it serves up to date. It recognizes those needs and would have been extending service to meet them during the past three years in accordance with its established policy but for conditions over which it has had no control. It expects to put that policy again into practice as soon as it is permitted to do so, and to step it up with all reasonable speed, as it had been doing in the five years before Pearl Harbor.

"I am glad to have this opportunity to state the company's policy and shall be glad to discuss it further with you, or with any interested person at any time.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) W. B. Skelton
President"

Just to pass over that again, I wish to remind you that the company proposes to resume its activities and extend its service on an area coverage basis just as soon as it is practical to do it.

Now on the matter of the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, the other large operating company in the State, at the private hearing I spoke of down in the old museum, because of the interest in the bill there were a large number of members of the House and the Senate present, and Mr. Edward Graham, President of the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, told us in that meeting he proposed to make eighteen more extensions in his territory. In some cases he has already let contracts for supplying the material, and he stated that he wishes to conduct the same policy that he has in the past toward the rural electrification co-

operatives: that is, in areas in which they do not wish to serve he is willing to help them in any way he can to serve those areas. And they have also assured me they will go as far as any company or any R. E. A. cooperative in the State of Maine on the matter of area coverage.

I know there are many small companies in the State, but I think you will agree with me that usually the small companies in the State follow along in the line of the larger companies. I think you will all agree with me, as I am firmly convinced after some experience with rural electrification cooperatives, that the needs of the rural people of Maine can best be served by existing utility companies and that other rural cooperatives should only enter the picture where the existing power companies are not willing to serve. And you see from these letters that it appears in most cases that the existing companies are ready and willing to serve the rural people.

Now I have complete faith in these letters. If I did not, I would not stand up here today and tell you it. I believe that you members of the House can also have complete faith in them. I might add they were given to me with the understanding they would go in the Legislative Record, so I am not trying to put over anything on any power company in the State. They knew when they presented them to me that they would go in the record as their policy. So I believe the responsibility is now theirs, and I have no doubt it will be carried out.

For these reasons, I feel as I have said about this particular bill: I believe this bill has now accomplished the purpose for which it was put in the Legislature, that is, for focusing the attention of this Legislature and the power companies of Maine on the needs of these 40,000 rural homes of Maine that are now without electricity, and also, in the post-war development, to provide the opportunities that this furnishing of electricity can give to the State of Maine. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move you that the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee be accepted.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams, moves that the House accept the "Ought

not to pass" report of the committee. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the second today assigned matter, Bill "An Act relating to Inheritance Taxes" (H. P. 1385) (L. D. 1046) which in the House was read twice, and tabled on March 30th by Mr. Perkins of Boothbay Harbor, pending third reading; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Perkins the bill was given its third reading.

Mr. Perkins then offered House Amendment "B" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "B" read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "B" to H. P. 1385, L. D. 1046, Bill "An Act Relating to Inheritance Taxes."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of section 1 of said bill and inserting in place thereof the following:

"Sec. 1. R. S., c. 142, sec. 3, amended. Section 3 of chapter 142 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Amount of tax on class A. Property which shall so pass to or for the use of the following persons who shall be designated as Class A, to wit: husband, wife, lineal ancestor, lineal descendant, adopted child, step-child, adoptive parent, wife or widow of a son or husband or widower of a daughter of a descendant, shall be subject to a tax upon the value thereof, in excess of the exemption hereinafter provided, of 2% of such value in excess of said exemption as does not exceed \$50,000, of 3% of such value as exceeds said \$50,000 and does not exceed \$100,000, of 4% of such value as exceeds \$100,000 and does not exceed \$250,000, and of 6% of such value as exceeds \$250,000; the value exempt from taxation to or for the use of a husband, wife, father, mother, child, adopted child, step-child, or adoptive parent, or child or children of a deceased child, by representation, shall in each case be \$10,000, and the value exempt from taxation to or for the use of any other person falling within said Class A, shall in each case be \$500."

(On motion by Mr. Bowker of Portland, the amendment was tabled and specially assigned to-morrow morning.)

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the third tabled and today assigned matter, Majority Report "Ought not to pass" and Minority Report "Ought to pass" of the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act to Establish the Western Oxford Municipal Court" (H. P. 515) (L. D. 204) which in the House the acceptance of the Majority Report "Ought not to pass" was reconsidered, and tabled on March 30th by the gentleman from Brownfield, Mr. Blake, pending acceptance of Majority Report; and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Boothbay Harbor, Mr. Perkins.

Mr. PERKINS: Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the gentleman from Brownfield, Mr. Blake, I wish to say that the committee has some additional information in regard to this matter, and I now move that we recommit it to the Committee on Judiciary.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Boothbay Harbor, Mr. Perkins, moves that the report, with accompanying bill, be recommitted to the Committee on Judiciary. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the report, with accompanying bill, was recommitted to the Committee on Judiciary and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the fourth tabled and today assigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Claims on Resolve in favor of Merton E. Grant of Glenwood (H. P. 920) (L. D. 535) tabled on March 29th by Mr. Corson of Hodgdon, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. CORSON: Mr. Speaker, having talked with the Highway Commission and adjusted all matters in regard to this case, I now move the acceptance of the report.

The motion prevailed, and the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the fifth

tabled and today assigned matter, Senate Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Welfare on Bill "An Act Relating to Old Age Assistance" (S. P. 331) (L. D. 820) which was read and adopted in the Senate, and in the House tabled on April 3rd by Mr. Hawes of Vassalboro, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. HAWES: Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance of the unanimous "Ought not to pass" report of the committee in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mapleton, Mr. Webber.

Mr. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I wish to say a few words in relation to this bill. I am not attempting to upset the report of the committee, but I do wish it to be held before the attention of the members of the Legislature, because I know that throughout the State of Maine there are many aged persons who are looking forward to the time when they can receive a little assistance in their old days and not feel they are to be obligated by having to pay back the money.

I think our Chief Executive was sincere when he, in campaigning for the office, expressed himself as in favor of lessening the obligations which would come upon the estates of those receiving aid, and also when he expressed the idea that what little was given to these aged people should be given to them so that they might spend it in enjoyment and not have too great supervision.

Now I know that a good many of the pensions—and I think justly—appear to certain people to be class legislation. I am interested in social security. I am not a New Dealer, but I am in harmony with the purposes of the government in trying to help those who have reached a certain age. I think our State will cooperate in the matter. I hope it may be kept before the attention of the legislators and, at some future time, some means may be devised to make the last days of these people a little happier than at present.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Vassalboro, Mr. Hawes, moves acceptance of the "Ought not to

pass" report of the committee. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the sixth tabled and today assigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act Relating to Board of Registration for Professional Engineers" (H. P. 1274) (L. D. 917) tabled on April 3rd by Mr. Haskell of Bangor, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Haskell, the "Ought not to pass" report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: Pursuant to House Order, providing that all matters tabled the preceding week and unassigned be taken from the table on Tuesday of each week and until disposed of have precedence under Order of the Day after Specially Assigned matters, the Chair now lays before the House the first tabled and unassigned matter, House Amendment "A" to Bill "An Act relating to the Hunting and Trapping of Foxes" (S. P. 362) (L. D. 902) tabled on March 14th by Mr. Anderson of Oxbow Plantation, pending adoption; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I tabled this amendment that was offered for your consideration because I did not like it, and I still do not like it.

My first reason for not liking the amendment is the enforcement angle involved. By adopting this amendment you are excluding a county which is completely surrounded by other counties to which this bill will apply. My second reason is that the records show that the bill has at least done some good; just how much I am not going to say. I have a feeling that if it has done some good that possibly it did some good in Franklin County too.

There is one other thought I want to leave with you for your consideration when this comes up for adoption. It is stated by those who are supposed to be in authority that there are at least too many

foxes in the State at the present time. Now you had placed on your desks yesterday the expenditures for claims for the past several years. I call your attention to the year 1943. That shows that the amount expended was \$7000. If you add \$10,000 to that, you will get the correct total: that should read "\$17,000." The totals for the years from 1940 to 1944, however, are correct. That amount is \$76,000. Now expenditures up to February 1 of this year have been \$21,000. Now this will be excluding a county that will possibly come back in the next Legislature with a bill similar to that presented to us in 1941. That was too drastic for anyone to accept.

That is the only thought I had in mind. I thought that this amendment should be explained to you, and that was my reason for tabling it.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Farmington, Mr. Crosby.

Mr. CROSBY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature: I think I should offer a word of explanation in presenting this amendment. I had a group of trappers in my locality who objected to the bill, so I tabled it, and, after conferring with the sponsor of the bill and it meeting with his agreement, I presented the amendment.

I believe your records show that through 1941, 1942 and 1943 the damage by foxes in Franklin County was very light and it ran along at an even scale, but this last year it did increase, I think due to the fact these trappers are not operating at this time, because of the war manpower shortage and other things. I believe the poultrymen of my section would be better off with the good will of these trappers. I hope the amendment will be adopted.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the adoption of House Amendment "A". All those in favor will say yes; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, House Amendment "A" was adopted.

Mr. WIGHT of Bangor: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. WIGHT: To amend this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Does the gentleman offer a further amendment?

Mr. WIGHT: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will read the amendment.

House Amendment "B" read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: House Amendment "B" will lie upon the table pending adoption and the amendment will be printed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the second tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Judiciary on Resolve Permitting Examination of Arthur Andrews, of Rockport, by State Board of Examiners of Funeral Directors and Embalmers" (H. P. 1078) (L. D. 667) tabled on March 21st by Mr. Bell of Thomaston, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Bell, the "Ought not to pass" report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the third tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game on Bill "An Act relating to Fees of Town Clerks for Fishing and Hunting Licenses" (H. P. 988) (L. D. 588) tabled on March 22nd by Mr. Benn of Smyrna, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. BENN: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game voted this bill out "Ought not to pass" for the reason that it would take money from the Department. A number of the clerks have asked me to substitute the bill for the report and offer House Amendment "A", fixing the clerk's fee at twenty-five cents and not changing the amount due the State.

The majority of Clerks agree that fifteen cents is not enough compensation for the work involved in the issuance of fishing and hunting licenses, especially now that the clerk has to check the poll tax receipt, note the hour issued, if naturalized, where naturalized, owner of real estate, etc. Also the clerk must keep in mind those who are not eligible for licenses, either as a result of violation of the game laws or from having shot a human being through carelessness. All this be-

sides the financial responsibility of making returns to the State, clerks being held responsible for any errors that may have occurred in making change or in the loss of blank licenses. In most small towns the clerks have to bear the expense of money order fees, etc. in sending their monthly returns to the State, which is deducted from the fees and makes the net amount even less.

Then there is the matter of being called upon at all hours of the day and night. No matter where the clerk may be, whether at church, a funeral, or wedding, there is always someone looking for a fishing or hunting license. Seven days a week and twenty-four hours a day clerks are expected to serve the townspeople who for various reasons did not procure their licenses during regular business hours. In the larger towns this is not as marked, although there are few clerks who do not have a pad of licenses at their home for emergencies.

Few places in the State pay salaries to Clerks. Most are dependent almost entirely upon fees, many of which are practically non-existent at the present time. One of their principal sources of revenue has vanished almost entirely due to war conditions, and therefore many clerks are receiving a total of not over \$50.00 from all sources, for a term of one year. This being the case, the position naturally would not attract individuals of any great mental or business capacity, unless he was a person of some means or had some other employment.

In order that clerks of the present ability level will stay on the job through these lean financial years, in Town Clerk work, and in order to attract persons to the office who have the inherent qualities and business experience desired, it is important that the Clerks receive an adequate fee for the services they are required to give.

I now move that the bill be substituted for the report.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Smyrna, Mr. Benn, moves that the bill be substituted for the committee report.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oxbow Plantation, Mr. Anderson.

Mr. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I think,

on behalf of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game, I should say a word in regard to the report of the committee.

As the gentleman from Smyrna, Mr. Benn, has explained to you, the bill that he offered would take from the department yearly the amount of \$16,000. I do not think it was the intent to do that. However, he now has an amendment prepared which would correct that.

I still do not like this, for the reason that I do not believe that we should increase the license fee for the hunters and fishermen at this time. You may say that this is not an increase. Actually, it is not an increase in the license fee if you consider your increase is an increase in the clerk's fee. Now that is not the way the public is going to look upon this measure. They are going to look upon it as an increase in the license fee. I whole-heartedly agree with him that possibly the clerks in the smaller towns, who derive the whole of their salary from fees, possibly are not getting much money, but I do not know what we can do about that.

This ten-cent increase that is suggested is all out of proportion if you consider the fact that yesterday in passing the porcupine bill you provided that the treasurer shall fill out three copies for the fee of fifteen cents, and now they are filling out one certificate similar to that and asking twenty-five cents. It only takes two and a half minutes to fill out a hunting or fishing license, and I do not think that five cents a minute is really too low pay for that job.

I hope the motion of the gentleman from Smyrna, Mr. Benn, does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: The issuing of hunting licenses is performed for the purpose of raising revenue to assist in carrying on the work of Fish and Game conservation. To me it seems that the present fee the Town Clerks are permitted to retain is sufficient. If the charges for a license had been increased, as suggested by a certain bill presented to this Legislature, then it might be permissible to pay the Town Clerks the increase demanded in this bill.

While it impresses us favorably towards the Town Clerks — that they are, in most cases, very courteous and obliging, and often go to extremes to issue a license to a waiting hunter or fisherman, nevertheless that is not a valid reason for the State to pay the advanced fee now asked in this bill. If a Town Clerk is obliging and goes to a lot of trouble and inconvenience for a sportsman, it is a matter strictly between the clerk and the sportsman when it comes to any compensation over and above the legal fee of fifteen cents. If a hunter or fisherman wants a license so bad that he must put a Town Clerk to a lot of extra work, it is strictly up to the hunter or fisherman to settle his own bills and not expect the State to do it for him.

I hope that the report of the Committee, "Ought not to pass," will be accepted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, we could not hear what Mr. Benn said, not a word of his speech; and we are not prepared to vote on something we do not understand.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Woodland, Mr. Thomas.

Mr. THOMAS: Mr. Speaker, I have had a little experience in the small towns, and I have learned exactly what they do. One gentleman has stated that a license can be made out in two and a half minutes. But, if a man is doing something else, and is away from his house and has to go back, it will take him some time. I know of cases where it has taken me more than an hour before I could get back to my work.

I believe the hunters and fishermen would be willing to pay a little more and give the town clerks a reasonable compensation for their time.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Webber.

Mr. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Some of us from Aroostook and other parts of the State heard quite a good deal of support of the idea of increasing the fee from fifteen cents to twenty-five cents, and, in order to serve my constituents, I am going to vote for this amendment if I am the only one to vote for it. The

House may do what they wish with the bill.

Incidentally, I will say I spoke in favor of raising the town clerks' fee, and I was asked by the Chairman of the committee if I favored the bill. I said I was open-minded and that I was going to do as my constituents wished me to do, if I could find out. I know there are some people who favor this. I am in hearty sympathy with the efforts of the Fish and Game Department to extend the resources of the State of Maine. They outlined a very good plan of what they are going to do after the war, but that is up to the Legislature to decide. Therefore, I move the adoption of House Amendment "A".

The SPEAKER: The motion is not in order until after the vote on the question of substituting the bill for the report.

Mr. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question? Is it not proper to amend during debate?

The SPEAKER: Under the committee report, there is no bill before the House. The gentleman from Smyrna, Mr. Benn, has already said he had an amendment to offer in case the bill is substituted for the committee report, and the Chair understands that the gentleman from Mapleton, Mr. Webber has one too.

Mr. WEBBER: No, Mr. Speaker, it is the same one. I beg your pardon.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mechanic Falls, Mr. Hemphill.

Mr. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, I have had several communications from clerks of different towns and I have also talked with some of them. You know that on the dog licenses they receive twenty-five cents—they get fifteen cents from the owner of the dog and ten cents from the State. They feel they should have the same from the fishing and hunting licenses, and I believe they should.

Now some of them tell me—in fact the town clerk of my own town told me that on several occasions he has been called out of bed at all hours of the night. Now you members know the people in your towns, and, if you are a town clerk, you know some of the citizens come to you for a license at any hour of the night, and, if you do not get up and issue that license, they may

feel sore against you. Possibly they did not have any intention of going fishing or hunting, and someone called them up along in the small hours of the morning and asked them to come along with them. They do not have any license, and therefore they have to go to the town clerk and get a license. It takes the town clerk some time to issue those licenses. He has to keep a record and make a report to the State once in every month. Some of them may not have a checking account and may have to pay for a post office money order or a bank check, and that is an increased expense.

I believe that this is a just and an honest demand, and I am for the raising of the fee from fifteen to twenty-five cents for the town clerks.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Smyrna, Mr. Benn, to substitute the bill for the committee report.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oxbow Plantation, Mr. Anderson.

Mr. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, when the vote is taken, I ask for a division.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Oxbow Plantation asks for a division.

All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Smyrna, Mr. Benn, to substitute the bill for the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee will rise and stand in their places until counted and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division of the House was had.

Fifty-five having voted in the affirmative and 49 in the negative, the motion prevailed and the bill was substituted for the "Ought not to pass" report.

Thereupon the bill was given its two several readings.

Mr. Benn then offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "A" to H. P. 988. L. D. 588, Bill "An Act Relating to Fees of Town Clerks for Fishing and Hunting Licenses."

Amend said Bill by striking out the figures "\$1.15" where it appears in sections 1 and 5 thereof, and inserting in place thereof the following:

'\$1.15 \$1.25'; and by striking out the figures "\$2.15" where it appears in said sections, and inserting in place thereof the following '\$2.15 \$2.25'.

Further amend said Bill by striking out the figures "\$1.65" where it appears in section 3 thereof, and inserting in place thereof the following: '\$1.65 \$1.75'.

Further amend said Bill by striking out the figures "\$15.15" where it appears in section 6 thereof, and inserting in place thereof the following "\$15.15 \$15.25'.

Further amend said Bill by striking out the figures "\$2.15" where it appears in section 8 thereof, and inserting in place thereof the following: '\$2.15 \$2.25'.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rangeley, Mr. True.

Mr. TRUE: Mr. Speaker: I move that this bill be tabled and specially assigned for tomorrow morning, at which time I will offer House Amendment "B."

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Rangeley, Mr. True, moves that the bill be tabled pending assignment for third reading and be specially assigned for tomorrow morning. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed and the bill was so tabled and so assigned.

On motion by Mr. Ward of Milinocket,

Recessed until 4.00 P. M.

After Recess—4.00 P. M.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the fourth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought to pass" of the Committee on Federal Relations on Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Payment of Benefits" (H. P. 1247) (L. D. 872) tabled on March 23rd by Mr. Warren of Westbrook; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Warren, the "Ought to pass" report was accepted and the bill, having already been printed, was read twice under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Warren then offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "A" to H. P. 1247, L. D. 872, Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Payment of Benefits."

Amend said Bill by striking out the 1st paragraph thereof and inserting in place thereof the following:

R. S., c. 24, §3, sub-§§ (d), (e), repealed and replaced. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 3 of chapter 24 of the revised statutes are hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Further amend said Bill by striking out "(e)" at the beginning of the 2nd paragraph thereof and inserting in place thereof "(d)".

House Amendment "A" was adopted and the bill was assigned for third reading tomorrow morning.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the fifth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought to pass" of the Committee on Federal Relations on Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Benefits" (H. P. 1232) (L. D. 858) tabled on March 23rd by Mr. Warren of Westbrook, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Warren, the "Ought to pass" report was accepted, and the Bill, having already been printed, was read twice under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Warren offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "A" to H. P. 1232, L. D. 858, Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Benefits."

Amend said Bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, benefit payments under the Unemployment Compensation Law are made weekly, and

Whereas, the fiscal year begins April 1st and it would alleviate a great deal of difficulty and expense by passing this legislation as an emergency measure; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the

constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Further amend said Bill by adding at the end thereof the following:

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.

House Amendment "A" was adopted, and the bill was assigned for third reading tomorrow morning.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the sixth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought to pass" of the Committee on Federal Relations on Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Act as to Employer's Experience Rating" (H. P. 1077) (L. D. 926) tabled on March 23rd by Mr. Warren of Westbrook, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Warren, the Report, with accompanying Bill, was retabled and specially assigned for Tuesday, April 10th.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the seventh tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought to pass" of the Committee on Federal Relations on Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Benefits" (H. P. 1231) (L. D. 857) tabled on March 23rd by Mr. Warren of Westbrook, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Warren, the "Ought to pass" report was accepted, and the bill, having already been printed, was read twice under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Warren offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "A" to H. P. 1231, L. D. 857, Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Benefits."

Amend said Bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, benefit payments under the Unemployment Compensation Law are made weekly, and

Whereas, the fiscal year begins April 1st and it would alleviate a great deal of difficulty and expense by passing this legislation as an emergency measure; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Further amend said Bill by adding at the end thereof the following:

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.

House Amendment "A" was adopted, and the bill was assigned for third reading tomorrow morning.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the eighth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Education on Bill "An relating to School Unions" (S. P. 29) (L. D. 1024) which in the Senate, on March 15th, the report was read and accepted; tabled in the House on March 23rd by Mr. Lord of Camden, pending motion of Mr. Donahue of Biddeford, to substitute the bill for the committee report; and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue.

Mr. DONAHUE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This bill was introduced by me at the last special session. At the time I spoke on this bill last week, I was under the impression that the bill reduced the number of teaching positions from 75 to 50. The gentleman from Camden, Mr. Lord, and I later inspected the bill and found that it only provided that where a city or town had a special charter that they would be entitled to their State allotment. However, my position which I took last week, that the number of teachers in a school union should be reduced from 75 to 50, is still the same.

I have prepared an amendment, House Amendment "A", filing No. 136, and, in the event that the House sees fit to substitute the bill for the "Ought not to pass" report, I shall offer that amendment.

The SPEAKER: The question is

on the motion of the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue, that the bill be substituted for the committee report.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Camden, Mr. Lord.

Mr. LORD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I just want to briefly call your attention to the fact that this bill and the amendment, if it gets that far, will simply increase the number of superintending unions that we have in the State. If the number of teaching positions is reduced from 75 to 50, as the amendment will call for, it will, of course, permit towns—not only one town but a group of towns that have that number of teachers—to unite and have a superintendent of schools. In the event that happens, you should know that it will cost the State a considerable amount of money to carry on that extra work because of the extra number of superintendents.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue, that the bill be substituted for the committee report.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue.

Mr. DONAHUE: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue, asks unanimous consent to address the House for a third time on a matter. Is there objection? The Chair hears no objection and the gentleman may proceed.

Mr. DONAHUE: Mr. Speaker and Members of this Legislature: We have all received from the Teachers Association of the State of Maine a pamphlet, and the words on the cover of that pamphlet are these: "How much is a teacher worth to your children?" The purpose of this bill follows along the same line: How much are the superintendents of the State of Maine worth to your children?

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monmouth, Mr. Marsans.

Mr. MARSANS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I appreciate the fact that my colleague, the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue, is working twenty-five hours a day for the City of Biddeford, and he has done a very good job. However, this does not concern all of the towns in the State nor all of the superintendents; it

is merely a situation that exists in Biddeford and something that Mr. Donahue is trying to clear up in Biddeford. That is one of the main reasons he has dropped the number down to fifty, so it will be clear of Biddeford's fifty-six instead of the seventy-five. Also, in the amendment that I understand he proposes to offer there is the provision that no funds shall be withheld by the Department of Education in the forming of these school unions. That would immediately take from the Department of Education any power it has of making towns follow any of their rules, because the only way the department can make a town fall in line with the school laws and see that they conform with the etiquette of the department is to tell them that they do not get any school funds unless they do so. If you take away the fact that the department can withhold school funds, the towns can do anything they wish and feel they might be able to get school funds eventually or perhaps, as has been done, put in a special resolve to get these school funds after they have been taken away from them.

I think this is something that would benefit Biddeford in its anxiety to have its own superintendent of schools, but I still feel the committee's original report "Ought not to pass" should be upheld.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue, that the bill be substituted for the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee.

All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Donahue, will say yes; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the ninth tabled and unassigned matter, Bill "An Act relating to Tax on Street Railroad Corporations and Street Railways" (H. P. 1367) (L. D. 1027) New Draft of H. P. 1010, L. D. 652, tabled on March 27th by Mr. Rollins of Greenville, pending first reading; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. Rollins offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption as follows:

House Amendment "A" read by the Clerk as follows:

House Amendment "A" to H. P. 1367, L. D. 1027, Bill "An Act Relating to Tax on Street Railroad Corporations and Street Railways."

Amend said Bill by striking out in the 1st line thereof the following: "Sec. 1."

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of section 2 thereof.

House Amendment "A" was adopted, and the Bill had its two several readings and was assigned for third reading tomorrow morning.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the tenth tabled and unassigned matter, "An Act relating to the Audit of the Department of Education and the Teachers' Retirement System" (S. P. 193) (L. D. 488) tabled on March 28th by Mr. Williams of Clifton, pending enactment; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Williams, the bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the eleventh tabled and unassigned matter, Resolve Authorizing Commissioner of Agriculture to Employ Poultry Expert (H. P. 1047) (L. D. 655) tabled on March 28th by Mr. Edwards of Oxford, pending final passage; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Edwards, the Resolve was finally passed, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the twelfth tabled and unassigned matter, "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Charges Against Employers' Experience Rating Records" (H. P. 948) (L. D. 604) tabled on March 29th by Mr. Haskell of Portland, pending enactment; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Haskell, the bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the thirteenth tabled and unassigned matter, "An Act Amending the Unemployment

Compensation Law as to Filing Pay Roll Reports and Penalty" (H. P. 949) (L. D. 605) tabled on March 28th by Mr. Haskell of Portland, pending enactment; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Haskell, the bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the fourteenth tabled and unassigned matter, Senate Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Ways and Bridges on Bill "An Act relating to Farm to Market Roads" (S. P. 373) (L. D. 951) which in the Senate was accepted; in the House tabled on March 29th by Mr. Dutton of Bingham, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. DUTTON: Mr. Speaker, I tabled this matter in order to examine it and make some inquiries. I have no motion to make.

Thereupon, the "Ought not to pass" report was accepted in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the fifteenth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act relating to Ballots in Elections" (H. P. 641) (L. D. 294) tabled on March 29th by Mr. Lacharite of Brunswick, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Lacharite, the "Ought not to pass" report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the sixteenth tabled and unassigned matter, Bill "An Act relating to Purchase of Certain Equipment by the State for Use by Towns" (H. P. 1266) (L. D. 889) which in the House was read twice, and tabled on March 29th by Mr. Morrison of Winter Harbor, pending third reading; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Morrison, the bill was given its third reading, passed to be engrossed and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the seventeenth tabled and unassigned matter, Bill

"An Act relating to the Salary of the Judge of the Old Town Municipal Court" (H. P. 1371) (L. D. 1034) in the House, read twice, and tabled on March 29th by the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, pending third reading; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. HASKELL: Mr. Speaker, I now move that this bill be indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, moves that this bill be indefinitely postponed. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed and the bill was indefinitely postponed and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the eighteenth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Federal Relations on Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Disqualification for Benefits" (H. P. 1234) (L. D. 860) tabled on March 29th by the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Renouf, pending acceptance of the report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Renouf, the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the nineteenth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Federal Relations on Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Disqualification for Benefits" (H. P. 1235) (L. D. 861) tabled on March 29th by the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Renouf, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Renouf, the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the twentieth tabled and unassigned matter, House Report "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Federal Relations on Bill "An Act Amending the Unemployment Compensation Law as to Disqualification for Benefits" (H. P. 1236) (L. D. 862) tabled

on March 29th by the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Renouf, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Renouf, the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the twenty-first tabled and unassigned matter, House Report, "Ought not to pass" of the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act relating to the Poll-Tax" (H. P. 524) (L. D. 255) tabled on March 29th by the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion by Mr. Jalbert, the "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the twenty-second tabled and unassigned matter, Bill "An Act relating to Expenses of Patients in State Hospitals" (H. P. 1219) (L. D. 769) in the House, read twice and tabled on March 30th by the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow, pending third reading; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. DOW: Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Boyker.

Mr. BOYKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Our Insane Hospitals Committee of the 92nd Legislature has found by investigation and personal observation that at least fourteen per cent of all inmates of our State hospitals deserve a better fate than to be committed to the insane hospitals of our State. This same committee has found also, by investigation and observation, that our State hospitals, under adverse conditions, with lack of funds to properly attend to the treatment of their patients, the overcrowded conditions in those hospitals, the lack of interest in those institutions by the citizens of our State whose purposes these hospitals serve, still rank among the highest of their class in these United States.

Let us remember that the inmates of these State hospitals are not there voluntarily; they are committed to these institutions by the towns and the cities of our State.

These towns and cities do not take any responsibility for the expense of the treatment and care of these persons whom they commit to these State hospitals, thus placing upon our State hospitals the burden of going and finding out who these inmates are, whether or not their relatives are able to pay their expenses, and, if they are paupers, where their pauper residence has been established.

Who can better say or learn at the least expense what standing financially families have within their borders than the officers of our towns and our cities?

This bill is not designed to place an extra burden upon our towns and cities; its purpose is to create a responsibility upon those who commit persons to our State hospital. We do not feel that it is placing an extra burden upon our towns and cities when we ask them to pay a maximum amount of two dollars when they commit to our insane asylums a person who otherwise would have been on their pauper payroll.

I hope that the motion of the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow, does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow, that this bill be indefinitely postponed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Williams.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I want to comment very briefly on one or two provisions of this bill. I am entirely sympathetic with the idea of the relatives or anyone who is financially responsible for the support of a patient paying that bill and thus relieving the State. However, we now have some 1400 patients in the Augusta State Hospital aside from the number in the Bangor State Hospital, and it is estimated that it will relieve the State of some \$200,000 of expense if we pass this bill.

Now I wonder who is going to pay this \$200,000? Are you in your town, or am I in my town going to be able to go back and get our municipal officers to look up these relatives and to pay this bill, or will it mean that the municipality must take on this added burden?

We have had before us a bill in connection with aid to dependent children, which was designed to relieve the towns and municipalities

from expense. Now this bill would be designed to add to the expense of the local municipalities some \$150,000.

This matter of the amount of payment surely would make no difference in the number committed. We would not commit anyone there, I do not think, from any municipality, unless it is absolutely necessary.

There is another item here—it is not in this bill—the town from which a person has a settlement—if anyone comes into your town from anywhere and is committed, you pay the bill in your town.

I have in mind a case that happened recently in a neighboring town where I was asked to sign the complaint as a notary public. This was not in my town—that was a New Hampshire resident. Under this law, the town from which that New Hampshire resident was committed would have to pay for his expense in the State Hospital. I do not have the figures of what the expense would be for each individual town, but I can assure you that in some instances it would be substantial. Therefore I hope the motion of the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow, that the bill be indefinitely postponed, prevails.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Canton, Mr. Forhan.

Mr. FORHAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As a member of the Hospital Committee, after making a careful examination of the conditions and knowing from my own experience of some of our patients in my own town in the past dozen years, I know that very many of these patients or their relatives are abundantly able to pay the bill to the hospital—two dollars a week—but they have not done so. You were given to understand from my colleague, the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Williams, that this is going to fall entirely on the towns and cities. It is not. It is a matter of trying to collect from the patients or their relatives this small amount of two dollars a week.

I certainly hope the motion does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow, that this bill be indefinitely postponed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson.

Mr. PAYSON: Mr. Speaker, I arise in support of the motion of the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow. I feel this bill is utterly misguided in its approach to the problem. If you will look at the bill you will find in the bold print the existing law. The State already has the right to collect from persons legally liable for the support of an insane person. That is already in the law. The real meat of the bill is when you get down to where the town from where the patient is committed must pay two dollars a week. The City of Auburn, being a shire town, might have a person committed by the Judge of Probate. You may not know that the Judge of Probate has that right, but he does, and insane persons are frequently committed by the Judge of Probate. In that case, anybody committed by the Judge of Probate would be paid for by the town of Auburn, the town of commitment. The town of commitment does not necessarily mean the town liable for the support of a person. If in your town there is a hospital and some patient is brought in there and it becomes necessary to commit him, he is committed from your town and he is not your man or woman at all. It is an utterly misguided proposition.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Boyker.

Mr. BOYKER: Mr. Speaker, the proposition in this bill, as I understand it, is to take from our towns the burden of finding out where these persons have relatives who can pay their bills or where their pauper residence is, and we believe it should be left with those persons who commit the patient to the insane asylum.

Now Portland has in the Augusta State Hospital 241 inmates. Forty-one of those have no right to be in that State Hospital, and only 41 of that 241 are being paid for by their relatives.

Now I am going to state that I believe of that 241 from the City of Portland, at least 50 of those inmates, if they were not in our State hospital, would be on the pauper payroll of the City of Portland.

The purpose of this bill, as I have said, is to place the responsibility for the payment of the expense of these patients on those who send them to our hospitals, and it is the general policy to get the un-

desirables in our towns and cities into our State hospitals to save expense for the towns and cities.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow.

Mr. DOW: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: My reason for making the motion I did was that I felt it would be a real hardship to the municipalities. I still feel so.

In the first place, when a person is committed to the State Hospital there is an investigation, and all the information is sent with the patient to the hospital. In other words, that is as far as the municipal officers can go pertaining to the financial set-up of the individual or those responsible.

Take the case of a person who happens to drop into one of our municipalities and falls into distress and is sick. We have to go through the legal procedure, and all of us know the legal procedure that is necessary to find the place of settlement costs the municipality plenty of money.

The reason that I take my stand on this is because the State hospital has at hand contacts that the town cannot have. In other words, they can make investigations, they can check bank accounts and so forth which a small municipality, or possibly a city, cannot do. It makes a real hardship on the town or city.

Then there is the two dollars that is possibly saved — or "revenue" as we have heard it mentioned in the newspaper clipping that I have, where there was a statement made that this would be a revenue measure and would also bring to the attention of the municipalities that they had a patient or patients in the State hospital. I believe the thought is this: To bring to our attention these infirm cases they have at the hospital. Frankly, there is plenty of law at the present time to take care of the infirm cases. If the superintendent of the hospital decides that a person is able to leave the hospital, he can by law notify the municipal officers that that is the case, and, if they do not come for the patient they can assess that to the particular municipality.

The problem that we have is people dropping in. In our particular town we have a case that

we had to commit to the State Hospital, and, according to my understanding — not a thorough investigation — the patient had a settlement in Columbus, Ohio. Now if you can figure out what it cost the town to find out what his settlement really was so they could prosecute or collect, you can answer that yourself. I feel personally it is going to be a big responsibility to the town.

Frankly, who is paying this money? Is it not better for the State to assume this two dollars — which does not take care of it — I will admit that — than to have additional taxes upon real estate? I believe this a big problem for the town. The town will be a collection agency for the State, and I believe the State is better able and qualified to do it, because they have the Attorney General to decide on such measures, and many of the municipalities do not have attorneys, and, if they do go to that extent, it costs money.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Dow, that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

All those in favor of the motion will say yes; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed and the bill was indefinitely postponed and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the twenty-third tabled and unassigned matter, House Amendment "A" (Filing No. 123) to Bill "An Act relating to Snow Removal" (H. P. 247) (L. D. 157) tabled on March 30th by the gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams, pending adoption.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt House Amendment "A"?

House Amendment "A" was adopted, and the bill was passed to be engrossed as amended and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: That completes the list of unassigned matters. The Chair compliments the House on its action of today.

If there is no further business, the Clerk will read the notices.

On motion by Mr. Edwards of Oxford,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.