

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Legislative Record

OF THE

Ninety-second Legislature



Special Session

July 8, 1946

HOUSE

Tuesday, July 23, 1946

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Good of Monticello.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward, asks unanimous consent to address the House. Does the Chair hear objection? The Chair hears none. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We have this morning three printed amendments to the bill we will later take up for consideration. Many of you have not as yet had the opportunity to read and study the amendments, and it is the thought of a number of the Members that if we recess until 12.30 o'clock, Standard Time, that it will give us all an opportunity to go over these and without doubt will facilitate our action on the bill. We will find perhaps in going over these amendments that we may or may not wish to file perfecting amendments to these amendments, and for that reason I ask unanimous consent that the Members be given until 12 noon, Eastern Standard Time, today to file with the Clerk perfecting amendments to the pending amendment to Bill "An Act providing for the Payment of a Bonus to or Insurance Premiums for Maine Veterans of World War II and for the Payment of Other Veterans' Benefits and to Provide for Such Payments by a Sales Tax. (H. P. 1528) (L. D. 1245)

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward, asks unanimous consent that the Members be given until 12 noon, Standard Time, which is 1 o'clock, Daylight Time, to file with the Clerk perfecting amendments to the pending amendments to the main bill under consideration, which is

H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245. Does the Chair hear objection?

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. ELA—Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela, objects.

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker, not to the whole of it but part of it.

The SPEAKER: That is all there is to it.

Paper from the Senate

Bill "An Act Providing for Construction of Dormitories at the University of Maine and Appropriating Moneys Therefor" (H. P. 1530) (L. D. 1246) which was passed to be engrossed in the House on July 19th.

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

In the House:

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Caribou, Mr. Collins.

Mr. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, in regard to Senate Amendment "A" to H. P. 1530, L. D. 1246, I move that we recede and concur with the Senate.

In explanation of that motion, I would like to call the attention of the members of the House to the fact that this amendment authorized the University of Maine to borrow one million dollars instead of five hundred thousand dollars which was in the bill put out by the committee. The committee, if you will remember, made a redraft of the original bill which asks for an appropriation of two million dollars to provide for three dormitories and six hundred students at the University of Maine. As the bill came out of the committee in its redraft, it called for one million to be appropriated; but it is evident from the information that was furnished at the hearing that the cost of construction of dormitories to provide for the number of students that is specified in the bill would be two million dollars. For that reason, the University wishes to have the authorization of the Legislature to increase the borrowing capacity from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Caribou, Mr. Collins, moves that the House do now recede and concur with the Senate in the pas-

sage of H. P. 1530, L. D. 1246 as amended by Senate Amendment "A." Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion to recede and concur prevailed, and the bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" is concurrence.

Orders of the Day

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward.

On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, the House recessed until 12.30 P. M. E. S. T.

After Recess

(12:30 P. M. E. S. T.)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

Paper from the Senate

The following paper from the Senate was taken up out of order and under suspension of the rules:

Bill "An Act relating to Control of Rentals" (H. P. 1527) (L. L. 1242) which was passed to be engrossed in the House on July 19th.

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

In the House:

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

Mr. ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I move we recede and concur with the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Allen, moves that the House recede and concur with the Senate.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Boothbay Harbor, Mr. Perkins.

Mr. PERKINS: Mr. Speaker, might I ask for information what this amendment is?

The SPEAKER: If there is no objection, the Clerk will read Senate Amendment "B".

Senate Amendment "B" was read by the Clerk as follows:

Senate Amendment "B" to H. P. 1527, L. D. 1242, Bill "An Act Relating to Control of Rentals."

Amend said Bill by striking out the period at the end of section 1 thereof and inserting in place thereof the following: "; and from reducing the services rendered for such rents or accommodations on June 30, 1946."

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of section 2 thereof and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 2. Stay of writ of possession. In all case of forcible entry and detainer brought under the provision of chapter 109 of the revised statutes of 1944, and acts additional thereto and amendatory thereof, the judge of the court may stay the issuance of the writ of possession for good cause from time to time, in no event longer than the duration of this act'.

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

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, if I am in order, I would move that this bill be indefinitely postponed, and I would like to state my reasons.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may talk on the motion to recede and concur and state his reasons why he is opposed to that motion.

Mr. BROWN: Well, Mr. Speaker, after that is carried, I will have an opportunity to speak on the bill?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Allen, has moved that the House do recede and concur with the Senate. The gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown, has moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed, which motion is not in order. At the present time the question is wholly on whether this House will recede and concur with the Senate. That motion is open to debate. The matter is of sufficient importance so that when we come to a vote the Chair will have a division of the House.

All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Allen, to recede and concur will rise and stand in their places until counted and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division was had.

The SPEAKER: Sixty-nine having voted in favor of the motion and eight against, the motion to recede and concur with the Senate carries.

**Passed to be Enacted
Emergency Measure**

On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, it was voted to take from the table the seventh tabled and unassigned matter, "An Act Appropriating Moneys for Anticipated Overdrafts in the Department of Health and Welfare Due to Insufficient Appropriations, (S. P. 460) (L. D. 1191) tabled by that gentleman on July 22nd pending passage to be enacted.

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of the entire elected membership of the House being necessary, a division was had.

One hundred and twelve voted in favor of the same and none against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, it was voted to take from the table the eighth tabled and unassigned matter, "An Act to Incorporate the South Brewer Water District," (H. P. 1497) (L. D. 1204) tabled by that gentleman on July 22nd pending enactment.

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of the entire elected membership of the House being necessary, a division was had.

One hundred and sixteen voted in favor of the same and none against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, it was voted to take from the table the 9th tabled and unassigned matter, "An Act Adjusting the Salaries of All Full-Time State Employees and Appropriating Money Therefor" (H. P. 1501) (L. D. 1209) tabled by that gentleman on July 22nd pending enactment.

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of the entire elected membership of the House being necessary, a division was had.

One hundred and ten voted in favor of the same and none against,

and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, it was voted to take from the table the 10th tabled and unassigned matter, "Resolve in favor of the town of Greenville," (H. P. 1526) tabled on July 22nd by that gentleman pending enactment.

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of the entire elected membership of the House being necessary, a division was had.

One hundred and six having voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, the Resolve was finally passed, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

On motion by Mr. Gowell of Poland, it was voted to take from the table the sixth tabled and unassigned matter, Bill "An Act Providing for the Payment of a Bonus to or Insurance Premiums for Maine Veterans of World War II and for the Payment of Other Veterans' Benefits and to Provide for Such Payments by a Sales Tax" (H. P. 1528) (L. D. 1245), tabled on July 20th by that gentleman pending passage to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell.

Mr. GOWELL: Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that we now find it unnecessary to want to give consideration to Amendment "G" which was adopted by the House on that date, I now move that we reconsider our action whereby we adopted House Amendment "G" to H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245.

The SPEAKER: Did the gentleman vote with the majority?

Mr. GOWELL: I did, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell, moves that the House reconsider its action whereby it adopted House Amendment "G" to H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Boyker.

Mr. BOYKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: A short time ago the gentleman from Monmouth, Mr. Marsans, well said that the Members of this House should be well informed on all matters brought

before us. I would like to refer briefly to the bill which is before us at this time. This bill was presented by the gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Williams is as well informed on the contents of this bill L. D. 1245 as any member who has had the privilege of studying this bill for the past two weeks.

Now, the gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams, tells us that this bill which proposes a sales tax to finance a soldiers' bonus is so constructed that it will produce that amount of revenue. In other words, the gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams, says to us substantially that if we pass this bill providing a sales tax and a soldiers' bonus it is so worded that if passed by this Legislature and accepted in a referendum by the people it will take from the veterans of World War II and the veterans of World War I, with squeezing of the hard pressed taxpayers of the State, all the money that the Administration wants, not only for today, not only for tomorrow, but for years to come.

Now I am opposed to this sales tax, in justice to the veterans of World War II and to the citizens of our State, and, lest we forget, I would like to remind myself and the Members of this House that the soldiers of America, the living and the dead, have just fought and won the most cruel and the most destructive war in the history of the world, and also to remind myself, my friend, the gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell, and the Members of this House, that today the mangled bodies of thousands of our loved ones lay buried in the fields and pastures of Europe, in the valleys and jungles of Asia, beneath the waves of the Pacific and the Atlantic. Mr. Speaker, these soldiers of ours did not cross the oceans and march up to the firing lines of their own free will; we sent them there in order that our liberty, our freedom and our happiness might be preserved. Some of them have come back to us with shattered nerves, with fever, with limbs taken away, and with wounds unhealed. They have come back to their country to chaos, to unrest, to disputes, to trouble, and, above all, to an empty larder, and I will cite one instance to illustrate the empty larder.

A short time ago a soldier, his wife and two children were guests at my hotel in Bethel, in Oxford County, Bethhaven Inn. Shortly be-

fore the arrival of this soldier, Bethhaven Inn had sent its report to the head of our OPA in Augusta. That report showed that for the previous two months Bethhaven Inn had served in its public dining room meals to over one thousand persons, and, on the basis of that report the OPA here in Augusta sent Bethhaven Inn sugar stamps to be used in cooking and serving another one thousand meals during the following two months.

Previous to this incident, a vessel left one of our Atlantic ports carrying tons of sugar to foreign countries. Previous to that also, a Maine bottling company sent its trucks past my door to the City of Portland and brought back nine thousand pounds of sugar to be used in the manufacture of their bottled goods. I called the attention of my guest to the amount of this stamp. It was for four pounds of sugar; four pounds only. Tears came to my eyes and tears came to the eyes of the soldier with his family.

Let it be said that we are poor and that we feed our enemies while our soldiers go without, but never let it be said that Maine refused to pay her fighting men a just reward.

Mr. Speaker, we were assembled here to pass a soldiers' bonus bill. We of this House have done so. It was a cash bonus because we remembered that our soldiers did not ask us to tell them how they should fight and how they should die, and it is not for us to tell them how they should spend their reward. Today, as we again ponder the one thought, our great responsibility to the veterans of this conflict, and God grant there may be no other, may it still be a cash bonus and a maximum amount within the means of the citizens of our State.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell, that the House reconsider its action of Friday, July 19th, whereby House Amendment "G" was adopted. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: If my memory serves me correctly, I believe Saturday we voted to reconsider our previous action. Then this matter was tabled. I wish to inquire if this motion is in order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that a motion to take from

the table has already been made and carried. The action of Saturday was to reconsider our action whereby the bill was passed to be engrossed. It was then tabled pending passage to be engrossed as amended. The gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell, now moves that we reconsider our action whereby House Amendment "G" was adopted. All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell, will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken,

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell.

Mr. GOWELL: Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that there are other amendments pending, one of which is one to replace the amendment of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, submitted last Friday, I now move you that we indefinitely postpone House Amendment "G" to H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Poland, Mr. Gowell, moves that the House indefinitely postpone House Amendment "G". Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: Under the unanimous consent agreement, the Chair now lays before the House House Amendment "I" to L. D. 1245, offered by the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert. The Clerk will read the amendment.

House Amendment "I", being L. D. 1251, was read by the Clerk.

On motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Deering Moffatt, the House voted to suspend House Rule 25 for the remainder of today's session, to permit smoking.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Letourneau.

Mr. LETOURNEAU: Mr. Speaker, I offer House Amendment "A" to House Amendment "I" and move its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Letourneau, offers House Amendment "A" to

House Amendment "I". The Clerk will read the amendment.

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

House Amendment "A" to House Amendment "I" to H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245, Bill "An Act Providing for the Payment of a Bonus to or Insurance Premiums for Maine Veterans of World War II and for the Payment of Other Veterans' Benefits and to Provide for Such Payments by a Sales Tax." (House Amendment "I" being L. D. 1251)

Amend said Amendment by inserting after the 9th line thereof a new paragraph to read as follows:

Further amend said Bill by striking out the figures "\$150" wherever they may appear in Titles I and II thereof and inserting in place thereof the figures '\$300'.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House at the present time is on the adoption of House Amendment "A" to House Amendment "I". The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Letourneau.

Mr. LETOURNEAU: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: In looking over the bill to which this amendment applies, I notice in the program for the payment of the veterans' bonus there is no set time for the duration of the tax. In other words, once this tax becomes law, it will remain a tax, like other taxes, permanently. Since the veterans are going to pay their share of the taxes, it is only fair that they should receive a greater benefit from them.

In talking with the veterans themselves, especially in my community, they feel that a \$150 bonus is inadequate. Now this is a serious proposition. We have a lot of veterans in our town. I suppose we have our share in proportion to every other town, but let me tell you confidentially and honestly that the veterans are not in favor of a \$150 bonus.

In listening to the remarks of the gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Boyker, which I quite agree with, I recall two years ago before coming to the Legislature at the regular session, on December 16th, during the Battle of the Bulge, when the Germans broke through and made their swing toward Antwerp to cut the American lines, I know I for one kept my ears glued to the radio and we all worried more or less. I am sure

at that particular time that we would not have hesitated to grant the veterans of Maine—and many of them fought in that battle, and many of them are dead—I am quite sure that we would have been more than glad to pay them \$300. I for one am in favor of it. Therefore in my amendment I propose \$300, which I feel is fair and just under the circumstances, and I hope it is adopted.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the adoption of House Amendment "A" to House Amendment "I". Are you ready for the question. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Clinton, Mr. Knight.

Mr. KNIGHT: Mr. Speaker, if in order I will move that we do not adopt House Amendment "A" to House Amendment "I".

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Clinton, Mr. Knight, voices opposition to the adoption of this amendment.

All those in favor of adopting House Amendment "A" to House Amendment "I" will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken,

The motion did not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House now is on the adoption of House Amendment "I".

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: For just a moment addressing myself to the Speaker, I have read Rule 13 thoroughly. If I should raise my voice, it is not in anger. I am just a little excited: I never get angry.

In presenting this amendment last Friday, as I stated, I meant to have the veterans' program as was in L. D. 1245 included. I believe that has been gone over in everyone's mind.

In this Amendment "I", as you will notice, I have taken out the five per cent tax on sporting goods, due to the fact I have been informed by our able Mr. Stevens and Mr. Slosberg that it would be an impossible tax to administer, and also due to the fact that it would hit directly at kids who might want to buy a ball or a bat or a baseball glove, also schools who buy equipment. I also took out the negligible tax of five per cent on agricultural fairs because I feel they are gradually becoming extinct and this might

help it along; also on church fairs, because those things are conducted in the interests of charity.

I got these figures from this sheet here that was dropped on my desk and on all of your desks telling us that L. D. 1245, if it is adopted and we pay the bonus and different items, we need \$2,190,000. That is even lower than the figure I got myself here of \$600,000—I cannot find it—I guess it got lost in the shuffle. This is the reason we came here.

I have had every argument thrown at me against the luxury tax by the proponents of a sales tax. I too have been home over the week-end. I got telegrams and letter upon letter from all the merchants against a sales tax. I wouldn't want to go home, I wouldn't want to go back to my people if I voted for a sales tax. A sales tax has been defeated; a sales tax will be defeated.

There was talk of five per cent on liquor yesterday. I scratched that off, because, according to my plan, we do not need the money. Besides, you will find we will have to tax liquor at the next regular session, because the revenue on liquor, due to the shortage of liquor and malt beverages, is going to be way below what it was last year.

The proponents of a sales tax when they issued these documents — and I say "proponents" because I know they are proponents of a sales tax — they do not tell you that I was in error when I stated that the cost of administration of a sales tax would be \$100,000. And I was not in error when I stated that the cost of administration of a luxury tax would be \$20,000 or at the most \$30,000. However, I will say that I was in error when I said it would cost \$100,000 to administer the sales tax. I consulted the finest and ablest accountants in Maine, and they tell me that they would stake their reputation that the cost of administration of the sales tax would be upwards of \$200,000, probably nearer \$300,000.

Turning to Table A of this thing that dropped out of the clouds, you will notice that it says "2c increase in cigarette tax — \$1,600,000 to \$1,800,000 (Compromise) — annual yield, \$1,700,000." The tax last year on cigarettes was \$1,960,000.

It is fair to assume that thousands of our boys who are back and thou-

sands of other people use cigarettes. I admit, no matter how you look at it, they will have to pay for part of this. They expect it; they know it; but they want the bonus, these fellows I have talked to. It is fair to assume then that we will draw \$2,000,000, and that is the figure I say we will draw.

This financial summary says "5% admission tax on gross receipts basis, plus 5% retail tax on luggage, cosmetics, jewelry and furs, annual yield \$500,000." I say \$650,000. These are items where there is a shortage and people are clamoring for some of them. Cutting down the federal tax by four, it brought the total down to \$650,000. I do not think we are going into a depression next year. I have cut down on radios, phonographs and musical instruments an estimated tax — and Mr. Stevens is right there — of \$250,000. That brings my total up to \$2,900,000, which is enough money to take care of L. D. 1245.

We have got in our fund now, our post war reserve, approximately \$1,950,000. I think we can use this money for the University of Maine, we can use it for this bill we just passed to adjust the salaries. A lot of these items do not belong before this special session. We are coming back here in four or five months and we should take some of these things up at a regular session. We should take up also the matter of income taxes or sales taxes at a regular session. As far as voting a sales tax measure through, I do not think there is anybody in this hall that honestly believes that a sales tax will be accepted by the people. Admittedly I took the easy way out — let us not call it a luxury tax; let us call it a miscellaneous tax.

But there is one thing I do know; I do know this: that a sales tax will never come off. No tax that goes on ever comes off, whether it is for ten, fifteen, twenty or thirty years; it is here to stay. The sales tax will stay. This tax will stay. It is just like when they raised the poll tax from two dollars to three dollars for a period of years. I get my bill, and it is three dollars and it will be three dollars.

A sales tax, as I stated before and as I stated time and time again, has not a chance to pass before the people, not one chance, and everybody knows it. We have been

here for three weeks and nobody has changed their mind on that.

In closing, I want to bring this thought to your mind. As has been stated by many, we cannot pay this off in dollars and cents. But we can do this: when we come to the next depression we can avoid tacking onto the people who have to live real close to their income this two per cent tax on food, clothing, medicine, footwear and necessities. My amendment calls for a tax on non-necessities, and that is why I say it is a luxury tax. A sales tax taxes these dire necessities.

Mr. Speaker, I move that my amendment be adopted, and I ask for a yea and nay vote.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, moves adoption of House Amendment "T" and has asked for the yeas and nays. In order for the Chair to rule that the vote shall be by the yeas and nays it is necessary that one-fifth of the members present request it.

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

Mr. JACOBS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We have a decision to make this afternoon, and I believe that we should meet this proposition with the amendment that Representative Jalbert has presented fairly on its merits.

I believe that we all agree that this is not the time to create a sales tax in Maine at this special session. I believe further that the only consideration that we should give here should be to the matter of a bonus as a gift to our veterans at this time.

Notwithstanding this proposition facing us, the administration sees fit to put before us a program including the bonus and other considerations for the soldiers and the veterans, including the educational features, which is all right with me. I believe we should consider that, but when we do consider it we are legislating for only about five per cent of the veterans of the State of Maine and disregarding, if we do not have a bonus, 95 per cent of the veterans of the State of Maine. And I believe further that the people have answered in regard to this sales tax, in a large degree against it, a short time ago. I do not want to be one to go away from this hall and not pass the bonus supported by a revenue that will take care of it.

It has further come to my attention, ladies and gentlemen of this House, that this is a minority measure, presented by a member of the minority party. I do not believe we should recognize for a moment any political features in this proposition. I am of the majority party, I believe, heart and soul, and had not Mr. Jalbert presented the amendment as he did I should have done so, because I had it all prepared. Do not vote against this amendment because of the opinion, possibly, by some of the members of the House that it may be political. We are all here irregardless of party to vote what we think is right at this time. Do not let it be broadcast through the country that the Legislature of Maine has failed to do its duty when the duty presented itself and the revenue attached to the bill is adequate to pay it.

As has been said, there are 75,000 independent voters in this State that do not vote in the primaries but they do vote in the election. They too are to be reckoned with in this proposition. No one knows how they are going to vote in September.

I will cite you an incident of a few years ago when a former Governor went into office with 83,000 majority, the largest, I believe, ever given a Governor in this State. And two years from that time down goes his plurality to 12,000. Who are those 71,000 people? Are they Republicans? No. They voted the Republican ticket in September of that year when this vote was 82,000. They also voted in September, two years later, when there was only 12,000 majority.

Bear this in mind when you vote on this question. I believe it is our duty to support this proposition, this measure, with a luxury tax and let the sales tax go by. I do not want it to be defeated in September. I want the boys and girls who served us faithfully and well to have what we voted here. It was not enough, in my belief, but the majority rules, and I will support the \$150 bonus. But when you vote remember this: there are thousands of people in Maine watching us today, what we are doing and how we do it.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert for the adoption of House Amendment "I."

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

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Earlier this afternoon I was referred to as one who knew something about the finances of this particular bill. I could not agree with everything that the speaker said, but, because he flattered me, I am going to attempt to do what is really a difficult thing, and that is to try to explain some of the figures which are being acted upon in this session of the Legislature. The member referred to the fact that I did introduce the bill which started the Veterans' program, which is a fact, but I will remind the member and all members that at the present time we are voting on a committee redraft of that bill. The first bill was L. D. 1240. We are now voting upon the redraft of the committee, L. D. 1245, or, in fact, we are voting upon the so-called Jalbert amendment to that bill. The main bill is a committee bill which, after two days of hearings which many of you attended, the committee, after working all day and most of the night, completed and placed before this body. It was the only program that apparently has come from this session which provided for the things that many have said they wished to do. I realize that a program of this kind has so many different features in it that it can stir up a lot of ill will, and I believe, with all the amendments of last Friday and the shooting behind the apple trees and the corners which has taken place before and since as a result of so many things being added, that each of us wish to take a little whack at things on this program. But I think your joint Committees on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs realized they had to present to you a program, which was this L. D. 1245.

Now some have said that we are covering up facts in bringing out this bill, and we do not want that to happen. But it so happens that since this particular bill was drafted that members of this Legislature at this special session have decided that we wanted to spend state funds for certain other features rather than a veterans' program.

And so at this time I for one—and I hope there are others who will recognize the fact—if some of you will turn to this particular sheet which has been passed out, which

was prepared by the Finance Officer of the State of Maine, Mr. Mudge, at the request of the joint Committee on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs, you will find that near the top it shows a deficit of \$157,545, with no changes in present obligations and no increased sources of revenue. That is projected from the report of the Legislative Research Committee brought up to date. Then you will find figures for the deficit with additional expenditures. I believe, this very afternoon, we enacted one of these measures in this House. The Department of Health and Welfare have asked for \$500,000 more to carry on Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children and some of our services for the needy which they conduct in that department. Then there is the salary increase bill which your Committee on Salaries and Fees reported unanimously "Ought to pass," and, as near as I can find out, those are the figures which they recommended as near as they can be evaluated by the financial officer of the State. If these things are added, there already rests before us—and it does not have any bearing whatever upon the veterans' program, only we are passing it at this time—a deficit of \$1,407,000.

Now I know many will say that should be allowed to go over to the regular session, and some feel we should not do anything about it. If that is a fact, the time to act is now and not do anything about it; but if we do wish to take care of these things I believe you will agree with me it is necessary for us to finance it.

Now there are people in the State of Maine, and we have seen them, who seem to think there is no connection between a tax bill and the amount of money you and I appropriate. It seems to me it is time at this special session of the Legislature to leave that thinking behind and realize that for every dollar we appropriate we must also appropriate revenue.

I now come to the proposed veterans' program which was in the joint committee's redraft which was placed before you, the bonds being amortized over a ten-year period, sixteen million dollars in bonds which would pay a \$150 bonus, and one million dollars to the University of Maine which is in another bill which has been proceeding through

this Legislature, \$700,000 for vocational training. That would all be covered by this \$1,600,000 each year, and the interest on that at 7-8ths per cent would be \$140,000. Then the University of Maine has asked for operating expenses which also is covered by another bill that has been passing on through this Legislature, which would be \$250,000; the Director of Veterans Affairs, \$60,000; Administration, \$10,000; and for vocational training, that is the operating expenses of vocational training, not the capital investment, \$100,000; and normal school expansion for veterans who wish training in our normal schools, \$30,000. This makes a total operating cost of this proposed veterans' program which your joint Committee on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs placed before you, of \$2,190,000. That makes a total that appears to be necessary, if we are to finance our program, at the present time of \$3,597,545, which appears to be the burden which this special session of the Legislature should enact.

I think I probably have read enough figures for one day. I hope you all had them digested long ago. This morning you saw another financial summary. I am not going to read it to you because it has been on your desks since the morning session and you have looked it over. That shows under the headings "A," "B," and "C," the deficit that we may anticipate. The anticipated deficit with no changes is shown under heading "A." Under heading "B" it shows the deficit with the proposed measures before the present session of the Legislature calling for appropriations for the Health and Welfare and increases in State employees' salaries; and under the heading "C" is shown the deficit if the proposed veterans' benefits are added.

Now as far as a tax measure to provide this money, I believe on Page 2 you will find what has been estimated by the proper state officials as the revenue that can be arrived at to pay this bonus. In the first place, you have a 2 percent retail sales tax with food exempted, which was the original program in the bill I presented to you, which would yield, as a conservative estimate \$3,000,000. Then the committee takes the proposal of a straight sales tax with food included, which

would raise between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

Now we come down to the amendment which we are considering of a luxury tax. A 2 cent increase on cigarette tax would raise somewhere between \$1,600,000 and \$1,800,000, compromised at \$1,700,000, which is probably a fair estimate. Five per cent admission tax on gross receipts basis, plus 5 per cent retail tax on luggage, cosmetics, jewelry and furs, \$500,000. Five per cent tax on athletic sporting goods, radios, phonographs and musical instruments—the estimate or guess, as I believe Mr. Jalbert just told us, was \$250,000. That gives a total of \$2,400,000.

Now I submit to you: Do you think that is going to take care of the program? Are you satisfied to provide that much revenue and then say "Let's go home and see if the State cannot manufacture some money?" We are not coming within a million dollars of providing what you and I and everyone else knows is needed if this whole program is carried out.

Of course in fairness I must say it is not necessary to carry out this whole program. If we honestly feel we do not dare to pass a sales tax because of political significance at this time, then why not cut out some of these things? But let us not kid ourselves into thinking that a luxury tax on a few items will produce this much.

What is this luxury tax? It is merely a baby sales tax. There is one more angle to this luxury tax I would like to submit to you although I cannot provide the figures to bear out the fact. I think there must be some commonsense in it. These figures for the luxury tax were for the year 1945 on these luxury items, and, as you know, there was no ceiling on them at that time, and all of you know every item on that list, luggage, cosmetics, jewelry and furs, was very high in price, and the government tax reflects that. I would like to see the figures for a normal year, say 1940 or 1941, but it is impossible to see those because the federal tax was not in operation in 1940. So if we depend upon a luxury tax on a ten-year program to pay for these bonds, I think we are basing it upon a false idea. It is true, as the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert said, that for the next two years we will

probably have prosperity and the bill will provide the money. He says it will. But after that does anyone think that for ten years we are going to have this frantic, crazy spending for luxury items we have had during the past year? If you do feel that way about it, probably the amount of money that is stated in this bill might be a safe source of revenue, but if you think we have any possibility of returning to a normal economic system, I know you will see it as I do, that it would be a great fallacy to place the tax on these recurring expenditures for ten years on items that are likely to go up and down like luxury items. I think that is the strongest argument against this particular program, that it does not provide the money.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, to adopt House Amendment "I". The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I wish to make a very short answer.

I admit luxuries in 1945 were high. I admit that. They will be high in 1946; they will be high in 1947, and probably for many years to come. But I also know this: that my milk jumped from 18 cents to 23 cents a quart within the last three or four months, and while I am getting a little beef it has jumped 25 to 30 cents a pound, and butter has jumped 25 or 30 or even 50 cents a pound. That is an argument.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela.

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to comment on one feature that has been sung to us and harped on again and again, and that is that the people will not vote for a sales tax.

We had some fair hearings on these bills; they were largely attended. I am going to say that two out of three proponents to these various bills said "If you have got to have a tax,"—and they recognized we would have to have a tax—they said, "Give us a sales tax." Now the general consensus of opinion in talking with the various people immediately after the hearings and during the hearings was

favorable toward a sales tax, if we needed a tax, and of course we did need a tax. Then we brought a bill out of committee and what happens? Immediately every individual who opposed any feature of the bill at all, or who opposed the bill in its entirety, fastened on the sales tax as a method of opposing the bill. It has almost the appearance of being managed. Let us not comment too strenuously about other managed demonstrations when we have a pretty good example of it right here.

Now as has been brought out, the minimum veterans program which has been proposed, and which has been generally accepted, plus legislation which is in due process of becoming law, amounts to nearly thirty-six hundred thousand dollars for this year, and, with a projected deficit, would be four and one-half million dollars and a little over for next year. The Jalbert amendment does not give evidence to me of being able to produce more than two and one-half million dollars. Even if it produces what it is claimed to produce, \$2,900,000, you still need \$600,000.

We are not trying to ride anything through on the back of a bonus. You passed these bills, some of them, nearly unanimously. You have got to have the money. Now let us consider that chant "The public will not vote for a sales tax because it would not vote for it in 1937." 1937 was a long time ago. We were in the middle of a depression and a serious depression. Ten million people were out of work. The purpose of the bill was to provide for the Old Age Pension for a limited group of the population. A lot of water has gone over the dam since then. We fought a war, a successful war, and a grateful public is ready and willing and anxious to give some recognition to the veterans of that war. There are probably seventy-five hundred veterans that are voters. Now let us be realistic. You do not think a majority of those veterans will vote against a sales tax do you? Probably there are another one hundred fifty thousand wives, fathers and mothers of veterans. They would be even more inclined to vote for a sales tax if it provided this recognition. Beyond that, there are a great many people who of their own volition would readily grant a bonus

and provide the revenue for it by a sales tax.

Now there is a further large group who believe that the rate base of our tax structure is too narrow. They realize that when expenditures occur, if a new source of revenue is not provided, you have got to pile it on top of the base which you have. It is pretty hard somewhere along the line not to pile it right back on the old brindie cow and gray mare and the little house on the side street. I think it fair to say that this House has been jockeyed into a pretty impossible position if L. D. 1245 does not go through and with a revenue measure attached to it that will lug the load. This amendment will not lug the load. A sales tax will lug the load. The public will vote yes on the amendment and will vote yes on the sales tax to support it.

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

Mr. BOYKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: The question before us at the present moment is whether we shall pass a bill proposing a sales tax to not only pay a soldiers' bonus but to pay all other expenses of our State Government. I say no; the veterans of World War II say no and the citizens of the State of Maine say no.

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

Mr. JACOBS: Just one word, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, in regard to this sheet. I think this sheet has been prepared perhaps to becloud the issue on this amendment of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert. We are not responsible, as I see it, for bills incurred during the past six months or for the next six months, as mentioned in this sheet of \$1,407,000. We are not responsible for that. Let the State Treasury pay for them and let the officials find ways and means to pay this deficit, if you call it a deficit. Do not tack it on the bonus bill. If you take that out, the Jalbert amendment will take care of the bonus for the veterans.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Ouellette.

Mr. OUELLETTE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Since the very outset of war, we legislative

representatives realized that veteran legislation would be one of the vital issues confronting us. We also were cognizant of the fact that such legislation could be put off and delayed from time to time, but we were fully aware that indefinite postponement of the veterans' bonus could not be practiced.

This special session of Legislature was called to discuss fully, and act on legislation that would fill the veterans' requirements. We have utterly failed in our task. There have been several good bills submitted that, if enacted, would have proven feasible.

It is my firm belief, and from my observation, that the present administration is attempting to railroad sales tax legislation as the method of taxation to support the veterans' bonus. Preceding administrations have tried to enact such legislation, but were always voted down.

The general assumption is that unless we adopt sales tax legislation at this session, further postponement will arise and the problem will be left to the representatives of the next regular session.

Such delay should not occur again. An obligation to the veteran is ours; the responsibility is ours; and now is the time which is appropriate for a discussion of the issue at length.

Like many prominent businessmen from our state, and I might add the thousands of wage earners, I am definitely opposed to sales tax legislation. On the other hand, I am firmly convinced that some sort of taxation will be necessary to finance the veterans' bonus.

We should settle down to hard work and procure the best workable method at hand to dispose of an issue that should have been attended to months ago.

Our veterans have just completed fighting a brilliant war. To measure their efforts in dollars and cents would be out of reason. But they expected and still expect a reasonable bonus.

It is understandable to all that veterans will not accept a bonus in one hand, and hand it out from the other, which would become the case should the sales tax legislation be enacted. We should be able to devise other systems under which the state can raise sufficient funds to meet the obligation which is our responsibility. I repeat, that the sales

tax, as well as further postponement of this imperative issue, is entirely out of the question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: The previous speaker has made the statement that the administration is attempting to railroad through a sales tax measure. I wish to call to your attention again what was told to us in the message which the Governor delivered when we first met here to consider this problem. I am quoting from the Governor's message: "Some new source of revenue must be found, if we are to make any substantial contribution to the welfare of our veterans. The Constitution of this State provides that bills for raising of revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, and it is a jealously guarded prerogative of the Legislature, which is truly representative of all the people of this State and all sections of the State, to determine Maine's tax policy. It would be presumptuous of me to attempt to dictate to you on this point, or to tell you which source of revenue we should select or which tax you should impose in order to finance our veterans' program. I wish to point out, however, that the income necessary to finance the overall veterans' program which I have outlined can be obtained by the imposition of a State income tax on individuals, with rates running from 1% to 4%, or by the imposition of a retail sales tax, with food exempt."

The retail sales tax with food exempt of course refers to his suggestion that perhaps the Legislature might see fit to grant a \$100 bonus and offer a premium of thirty dollars if the veterans cared to use that money to retain their life insurance or to have it reinstated.

There has been some discussion this afternoon in regard to this item on the page which has been prepared by the Commissioner of Finance of \$1,407,000. One of these items is the Health and Welfare deficiency program of \$500,000 which we enacted in this House as an emergency measure. Another item is the \$375,000 from August 1, 1946 to January 31, 1947, which has been passed in this House as an emergency measure.

I think we should bear in mind

that it is very important to us to pass a tax measure which is going to assure and not be speculative as to the amount of revenue which it is going to produce. If we fail to pass a measure which will produce the necessary revenue, we will leave no alternative but to have the Governor veto it.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, that House Amendment "I" be adopted. The gentleman has asked for a ye and nay vote. In order for the Chair to order a ye and nay vote, it is necessary to have the consent of one-fifth of the members present. All those in favor of a ye and nay vote will rise and stand in their places until counted, and the monitors will make and return the count.

A division of the House was had. The SPEAKER: More than one-fifth of the members having requested it, the vote will be by the yeas and nays. The Chair wishes to remind the Members that the question is open to debate at any time before the roll is called. The Chair did not wish to shut off debate. Is the House ready for the question? A vote ye is a vote to adopt House Amendment "I." A vote no is to reject it. The Clerk will call the roll.

YEA—Boutin, Brown, Brunswick; Carpenter, Augusta; Carpenter, Skowhegan; Cole, Casco; Cole, West Gardiner; Conant, Deering-Moffatt, Dicker, Dow, Elliott, Forhan, Grenier, Hanson, Hawes, Hemphill, House, Jacobs, Jalbert, Knight, Clinton; Lacharite, Letourneau, Morse, Nadeau, Ouellette, Pascucci, Patterson, Payson, Peirce, Plummer, Russell, Savage, Stillings, Webber, Weston, Williams, Topsham.

NAY—Adams, Allen, Ames, Baker, Bell, Benn, Berry, Bird, Rockland; Bird, Washington; Blake, Brownfield; Blake, Dexter; Boulier, Bowker, Boyker, Brown, Unity; Burton, Byron, Chase, Cobb, Bangor; Cobb, Gardiner; Collins, Connellan, Crosby, Dean, DeSanctis, Downs, Dutton, Edwards, Ela, Emerson, Gay, Gillies, Gowell, Haskell, Bangor; Haskell, Portland; Hayward, Heanssler, Jewett, Jones, Jordan, Saco; Jordan, So. Portland; Judkins, Knight, Jay; Lackee, Leathers, Lee, Legard, Lombard, Longstaff, Lord, Camden; MacKinnon, Marsans, Marshall, McFee, Meloon, Morrison, Rumford; Morrison, Winter Harbor; Moulton, Perkins, Poulin, Pratt, Rankin, Roberts, Rollins, Ross, Sanborn, Sargent, Smart, Smith, Snow, Southard, Springer, Sweetser, Thomas, Thompson, Tozier, True, Vickery,

Ward, Warren, Weeks, Wells, Wight, Williams, Auburn; Williams, Clifton; Wood, Wright.

ABSENT—Anderson, Brewer, Brown, Milford; Christensen, Coombs, Corson, Cousins, Cyr, Daigle, Donahue, Dorsey, Ellingwood, Gallant, Hamilton, Jennings, Lord, So. Portland; Martin, Morneau, Palmeter, Prout, Renouf, Thorndike, Walsh, Welch.

Yea—36.

Nay—87.

Absent 24.

The SPEAKER: Thirty-six having voted yes, 87 no, 24 being absent, the motion for the adoption of the amendment fails.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House, under the unanimous consent order, House Amendment "J". The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter.

Mr. Carpenter: Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of House Amendment "J".

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, moves the adoption of House Amendment "J". The Clerk will read the amendment.

House Amendment "J" to L. D. 1245, being L. D. 1252, read by the Clerk.

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

Mr. CARPENTER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This special session was called to deal with veterans' problems of an emergency nature. Now it is called upon to enact a major tax measure estimated to yield between five and six million dollars. Of the proceeds only about one-half will be used for veterans' benefits, new or old. The balance is to be used to liquidate present or anticipated state deficits running from \$750,000 in 1946-47 to over four million dollars in 1950-51.

This Legislature has been requested to pass this sales tax in the name of the veterans. Only about one half the proceeds will be used for his benefit although the tax is to be approved or rejected in his name. Why should we use the veteran as a stalking horse for the State's financial problems?

Each time that an alternative measure is proposed in this House the proponents of this omnibus bill will rise to say: "It isn't enough money." The measure proposed in

this amendment will not yield enough money to finance any large anticipated deficits in the regular expenditures of the State. Without finding any fault with the merits of such legislation they are strictly for a regular session of the Legislature to consider and act upon without now including them in a veterans' program.

This proposed Amendment "J" will finance a \$16,000,000 bond issue maturing in twenty years at an estimated interest rate of 1 1/4%. Out of the proceeds of that bond issue it will finance \$13,890,000 for bonus or insurance benefits, \$1,000,000 for dormitories at the University of Maine, \$400,000 for a Plant Science Building at that University, \$700,000 for a vocational school and \$10,000 for administration of the bonus provisions. In addition it will finance the following annual expenditures: \$250,000 for University of Maine expansion, \$60,000 for supervision of "On the Job" Training. Now this "On the Job" Training, we do not know whether it will be in this veterans' bill or not. I rather think it will not because I think the Federal Government will keep it on the same basis as it is now. Then there is \$30,000 for extension of Normal Schools and \$10,000 for administration; also \$100,000 for operation of the vocational school. After I get through with this introduction I will show you these figures on the sheet which was so kindly handed to us by someone. I assure you it was not the pressure group that has been spoken of before. We had nothing to do with putting these figures in here.

This program including these annual expenditures and retiring of and interest on the bond issue would cost \$1,450,000 for the first year and \$10,000 less for each year thereafter. This takes care of every new item of veterans' legislation introduced at this session except the item of \$50,000 for Ricker Classical Institute which is specifically appropriated out of the Maine Post War Public Works Reserve. It is conservatively estimated in my amendment that the tax provisions of this bill would yield from \$2,000,000 to \$2,100,000 a year in additional revenue. We are only saying that the cigarette tax will yield \$1,800,000 and the liquor tax \$300,000, but both of those I believe will be much larger.

This session has also been called

upon to finance provisions for veterans which have been upon the statute books since shortly after World War I and which were extended to veterans of the last war in 1943. These provisions include the following: World War Assistance \$600,000; Education of Veterans' Orphans, \$10,000; Vocational Rehabilitation \$10,000; Pensions and Burials \$80,000; making a total of \$700,000.

The provisions of this amendment may not yield enough revenue to cover all these items in the next five years but it will take care of them in this fiscal year.

If this measure is adopted with other bills now pending before this Legislature calling for the expenditure of money, the Maine Post War Public Works Reserve will be reduced only by the appropriation of \$50,000 to Ricker Classical Institute. This would leave a balance of \$1,890,000 in that fund. The Governor in his message said we had \$2,750,000 unappropriated surplus in the general fund. We have no tax to take care of the \$500,000 for Health and Welfare and the \$375,000 for salary increases in the State. I believe both of these should be paid very sincerely, but I think those should come out of the surplus we have on hand now. If we took out \$875,000, we will have left \$1,875,000 in the surplus fund after that is taken out.

Mr. Mudge, our Finance Officer, has been very busy. I notice one set of sheets is marked one p. m. and another is marked twelve noon yesterday. Mr. Mudge said yesterday to me and another gentleman that a million dollars was all the money required to carry on the business. If we take this money out of the surplus we will have left nearly two million dollars to carry on the State's business.

If you will just look at this sheet a moment, you will see they plan to pay these bonds in ten years. We plan to spread it over twenty years. So we take \$800,000 a year that we pay back for the bonds, we take that \$800,000 and take care of the veterans' program. We take the figure of \$3,597,545 he estimates it will take to run the State and out of that we take \$700,000 included in my amendment.

The whole logic of this amendment is that it provides all the money needed to pay for the veterans' expenditures at this special

session. If we weren't here it certainly would be taken care of and I don't see why this special session of the Legislature should have to do that. The logic of this amendment is to take care of the expenses we have incurred for veterans and that is the only thing in the world we are here for. If it was not, certainly we would be going about our several businesses. If we adopt this amendment the people of the State will accept it, and I think this amendment will take care of this program.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, that the House adopt House Amendment "J."

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Peirce.

Mr. PEIRCE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to go on record again against this sales tax.

The gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward, has previously stated this afternoon that there has been no pressure regarding the sales tax, that the supporters of it are letting it go through without any pressure. Well, that may be what the leaders of that program are trying to do, but some of their supporters may have gotten out of hand. I have been approached by two different supporters of the sales tax. One of them told me that the administration would support a bill for a new bridge for Augusta next winter if I would support the sales tax. Another one said that the salary increase for the State employees would be vetoed if a sales tax were not enacted.

Now I do not believe that instructions such as those or statements such as those came from the Governor's office, but I do believe it is indicative of the pressure that is being put on some of us to withdraw our position on this sales tax.

I stated last Friday the reasons why I opposed a sales tax. We are living in an extremely inflationary period. The increase in the cost of living cannot be stood much longer by the people of the State of Maine. I also believe that we should not ask the veteran himself to pay twice or more for the bonus which we may give him. I think it should be a gift or nothing. If we give no bonus, then I think we should consider carrying out the rest of the program which has been recom-

mended by the committee, but I do not want to see the entire program killed.

Now the amendment which my colleague has presented is an answer to the revenue problem. His bill, the experts have told us, will raise the necessary money. These gratuitous leaflets which have been placed on our desks are merely for the purpose of confusing the issue.

Under the item of added expenditures, for example, you will notice the figure of \$375,000 for salary increases has been put in twice. That is utter nonsense. It should not be more than \$375,000 once. If that program is going to be continued, it will be up to the next Legislature. That is just an example of the smoke screen they are trying to throw up.

For the reason that the program presented by my colleague will pay for the proposed veterans' program, I heartily urge the adoption of the amendment.

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

Mr. ALLEN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: There is no one in the House who would like to get home any more than I would. We have all come down here with certain ideas. It obviously looks as if we had about 181 of them—or 151 of them in the House, allowing for the different ideas in the Senate, as to what we wanted to do.

I lost a measure the other day by a quiet death, a little matter of the veterans' department. The recommendations of the Research Committee have not seemed to be carried out to a great extent. The Governor's message has not exactly passed as recommended. We have all got to do a little bit of give and take and do it in the manner we think is best for everyone concerned.

My friends over on the right wing say that they would be afraid to go home if we put a sales tax on at this session of the Legislature. I know a lot of people who have accosted me in the street; and have for several years, who say, "When are you people in Augusta going to quit playing politics and come out with a major tax instead of hiding an extra cent or two here and there and everywhere else?" I was tempted at the hearing the other day to get up and propose a tax on

toothpicks. We cannot kid ourselves any more I have no figures, but, as a matter of fact, as far as I can see, the veterans smoke about twice as many cigarettes as any other group, because young people smoke more cigarettes than the older people.

Down at this session we have proposed everything from a use tax on automobiles up, and I for one think we had better quit kidding ourselves and admit we have got to have more money instead of trying to duck the issue and play politics.

I hope the amendment offered by the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, does not prevail. I understand that fifteen out of the seventeen members of that joint committee were agreed on L. D. 1245. If, after a day or two of study in such confused atmosphere, a committee can come to that agreement, it is all right with me. I think it is about time that we got to work and quit trying to duck behind the bushes and scare ourselves out of a major tax program.

I hope the motion of the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, hearing that my good friend from Portland thought of presenting a tax on toothpicks, I might inform him that if the sales tax goes through he will have his way.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela.

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker, I move when the vote is taken that it be taken by the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, for adoption of House Amendment "J." The gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela, moves that when the vote is taken it be taken by the yeas and nays. Is the House ready for the question?

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

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I came here the same as the most of you did, with the intention of giving the soldiers, the veterans, a bonus. It was known as a bonus session. Now it seems to me we are doing about everything else except giving the

soldiers a bonus. I am not in favor of a sales tax and I know the people down in Brunswick are not in favor of a sales tax, but if everything else on our program was eliminated but a bonus of anywhere from \$150 to \$200 and it required a sales tax I would vote for it. But with all these other additions put in, the veterans only want a gift from us. That is why I am opposed to a sales tax and why I hope the amendment of the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, is adopted.

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

Mr. DOW: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: It will probably be hard to explain my position in this matter, being a member of that joint committee. After listening to all the testimony that was turned in and after listening to all of the information that was brought in at the executive committee hearing, I took a little time to think it over whether I should sign the report. There is not much consolation to what I am going to say, because, after thinking it over until about 10:30 that night I went and signed the majority report "Ought to pass." I will tell you why I signed it, and it may sound foolish.

I was confused, and I still am, so far as the sales tax is concerned, but I said, after talking with two or three who did not persuade me, "All right, we will finally pass it out to the people and let them vote on it." Well, frankly I have come to the conclusion that my thinking was very cheap. Now I am not blaming anyone else but myself, and I hope you will forgive me on that part.

In regard to the sales tax, I am not opposed to the bonus, in fact I do not know exactly what amount I would be in favor of. I have been going along with \$150. I am definitely opposed to the sales tax. Now really, when one is opposed to something they should have some other means of taking care of the revenue, which I will agree I have not right now, so I will have to talk on why I think the sales tax is wrong.

We are called here to finance a veterans' bonus. We are allowing that it will be compulsory, if we pass a sales tax for a veterans' bonus, for them to participate in the payment of their bonus. We

have heard that already, so there is not much need of going into it.

In the State of New Hampshire—and I do not believe too much in talking about other states—but in New Hampshire they did take care of a bonus by a poll tax which exempted the veterans, but in this way every veteran will have to participate.

Originally when the sales tax bill was brought forward it was with the exemption of food. Finally they came to the conclusion they had to include food, one reason being they had to have more money and another reason being it would be complicated to administer otherwise.

If we read into the sales tax law, we find it will be very difficult anyway to administer. There are many problems that are involved pertaining to a sales tax, but, getting back to the point at issue, if we are going to give the boys a bonus, the least we can do for them is not to tax them.

We have heard more or less spoken here about playing politics. Frankly, I am not playing politics because I am not up for reelection, but I still think we have a responsibility to decide that. Where any question arises pertaining to this, I wonder if we have the right to send it out to the rank and file of the people to vote on it. When we are confused, it is unfair to think of sending it out to the people. Frankly, I think they will vote it down. That is my opinion, but of course you have heard opinions they will vote for it.

I do not want anyone to think I am double-crossing or anything because of signing that report the way I did. I think I have made an explanation. I do not think under the present conditions a sales tax will work, therefore it seems to me we would have to cut our program down to the nearest possible amount we can find. I hope the amendment will be adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Windham, Mr. Pratt.

Mr. PRATT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We have had a lot of discussion in the last three weeks concerning the veterans bonus program and the method of financing the same. Over and over again, I have heard people say, "Let us not give them a bonus with one hand and take it away with an-

other. There is only one way under heaven that I know of that the State of Maine can give to the veterans of the State of Maine a bonus without their contributing, and that is for kind-hearted individuals and kind-hearted concerns to make a free-will offering as an individual gift. It does not make any difference whether we pass a sales tax, a luxury tax, a tax on cigarettes or liquor, or whatever we may have, the veteran and his family will pay their proportionate part of that.

I have heard said over and over again that the people of the State of Maine will not vote for a sales tax. I do not know that they will. I cannot speak for the voters of the State of Maine. There is no one in this room wise enough to look into the crystal ball and assure us today that the voters of the State of Maine will vote to sustain any one of the amendments from A to K plus any sub-amendments that might be attached to it. Therefore I for one am opposed to this amendment that is before the House, and I am willing to pay my proportion on the sales tax in financing a veterans' program that will go to the limit of what the State of Maine and her citizens are able to give.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the adoption of House Amendment "J." The gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela, has asked for the yeas and nays. In order for the yeas and nays to be called, it is necessary to have the consent of one-fifth of the members present. All those in favor of the vote being taken by the yeas and nays will rise and stand in their places until counted and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division was had.

The SPEAKER: A sufficient number having arisen, the vote will be taken by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will again state the question. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter, that the House adopt House Amendment "J." A vote of yes is for the adoption of the amendment; a vote of no is against the adoption of the amendment.

The Chair notes in the hall of the House the presence of a former Speaker, Hon. Ardine Richardson, of Strong, and requests the Sergeant-

at-Arms to escort him to the rostrum.

Hon. Ardine Richardson, of Strong, was then escorted to the rostrum by the Sergeant-at-Arms amid the applause of the house.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will call the roll.

YEA—Adams, Boutin, Boyker, Brown, Brunswick; Carpenter, Augusta; Cobb, Gardiner; Cole, West Gardiner; Conant, Deering-Moffatt, Dow, Downs, Edwards, Grenier, Hanson, Hawes, Hemphill, House, Jacobs, Jalbert, Jewett, Jones, Knight, Clinton; Lacharite, Legard, Letourneau, Lombard, MacKinnon, Marsans, McFee, Morse, Moulton, Nadeau, Ouellette, Pascucci, Patterson, Peirce, Perkins, Ross, Savage, Smart, Stillings, True, Weston, Williams, Topsham.

NAY—Allen, Ames, Baker, Bell, Benn, Berry, Bird, Rockland; Bird, Washington; Blake, Brownfield; Blake, Dexter; Boulter, Bowker, Brown, Unity; Burton, Byron, Carpenter, Skowhegan; Chase, Cobb, Bangor; Cole, Casco; Collins, Connellan, Crosby, Dean, DeSanctis, Dicker, Dutton, Ela, Elliott, Emerson, Forhan, Gay, Gillies, Gowell, Haskell, Bangor; Haskell, Portland; Hayward, Heansler, Jordan, Saco; Jordan, So. Portland; Judkins, Knight, Jay; Lackee, Leathers, Lee, Longstaff, Lord, Camden; Marshall, Meloon, Morrison, Rumford; Morrison, Winter Harbor; Payson, Plummer, Poulin, Pratt, Rankin, Roberts, Rollins, Russell, Sanborn, Sargent, Smith, Snow, Southard, Springer, Sweetser, Thomas, Thompson, Tozler, Vickery, Ward, Warren, Webber, Weeks, Wells, Wight, Williams, Auburn; Williams, Clifton; Wood, Wright.

ABSENT—Anderson, Brewer, Brown, Milford; Christensen, Coombs, Corson, Cousins, Cyr, Daigle, Donahue, Dorsey, Ellingwood, Gallant, Hamilton, Jennings, Lord, So. Portland; Martin, Morneault, Palmeto, Prout, Renouf, Thorndike, Walsh, Welch.

Yea—44.

Nay—79.

Absent—24.

The SPEAKER: Forty-four having voted in the affirmative and 79 in the negative, 24 being absent, House Amendment "J" is not adopted.

This House has been in constant session two hours and a half. In order to allow the members a chance to stretch their legs, we may be in recess until quarter past four.

After Recess (4:15 P. M.)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair at this time, under the unanimous consent order, lays before the House House Amendment "K" to L. D. 1245 which has been printed and distributed as L. D. 1253.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci.

Mr. PASCUCCI: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am not going to talk about any tax problems. The only tax problem that I am interested in just now is to tax your patience for a while longer.

It is with some degree of apprehension that I bring this matter before you just now, due to occurrences that have happened within the last two hours, but when you believe your cause is right, when you believe you have something worth fighting for, I believe I can ask of you your consideration with reference to this amendment.

Now as I said before, the purpose of this Legislature, particularly with regard to vocational training, was to establish some program whereby each veteran who was willing to take up the program of vocational training could go and take it at some particular point where it would not be a hardship to him.

Under the main bill to which this amendment refers, under Title III, it proposes to establish a vocational school, a central vocational school, to promote specialized training for veterans of World War II. Now I believe that if such a school was set up that it would not be made available to the veterans in our State, bearing in mind, of course, the fact they would have to travel from one end of the State to the other to attend this particular school.

Many of our high schools have some industrial training program, and in some of the high schools in the larger districts they have set up an educational program which could be very easily set up to meet the requirements under which this vocational institute is to be created, and under such a program you would eliminate any unnecessary building, and unnecessary overhead and running expenses, and, at the same time the paramount thing is it would be available to the veterans who are entitled to it.

As I said before, it would be the type of program you would have in your high schools whereby some future generations could take advantage of it, because we are slowly but surely coming to that particular

point where such a vocational school is going to be necessary for our young men and women in our high schools.

Now I want to call to your attention a printed sheet that was introduced a short while ago, to give you some idea of the operating cost of a veterans' program.

You will note in L. D. 1245, in that particular section, Title III, that there is to be appropriated from the bonds issued under this particular act the sum of \$700,000 for such a school, and it stops there. You will note on this particular sheet under Title III it says, "For Vocational Training Institute Operating, \$100,000" — I presume each year. That is after you have spent \$700,000 to erect a set of buildings or a building for this type of program.

Let me read to you what the Legislative Research Committee has to say about this program. I believe all of you have had their report on your desks, and you can refer to it. On Page 13, under the title Vocational Training, they say, and I am quoting:

"We regret that our information on this phase of Veterans Legislation is not too complete. By Governor and Council authority, a modest start has been made but a substantial appropriation for initial construction with later appropriations for annual operating expenses would be required. We were advised that at least \$1,000,000 would be required for buildings and equipment and it is that sum which appears in at least one of the bills dealing with this problem. Thus the Committee, acknowledging that it does not have too accurate information on the subject, will recommend an appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 to start this program. In making this recommendation we are impressed with the fact that many veterans, and in future years many other Maine young men, may desire this type of training and such a program is certainly a part of a broad State educational system."

"If such a program is for the purposes of a State-wide educational system, I ask you in all sincerity if this money with which they want to establish a vocational institute could not be lessened—the operating cost of \$100,000 a year plus the \$700,000 that is desired — could not that amount be lessened and these particular high schools which would re-

quest that type of training be stepped up so their program could be carried out to meet the conditions of this program?

A lot of them have talked to me about this particular program. They are under the impression that all the high schools give is a manual training course. That is not so. I know most of your high schools, particularly those located in the industrial area, have a vocational program which will require very little money, very little effort, and your instructors are there to take care of the situation for a stepped-up program.

The proponents of the original bill, the main bill, want it also. My difference with them is that we can use this money, this \$700,000 for the purpose of stepping up our program, and that that overhead would be lessened thereby without an additional expense of \$100,000 each year. We need that program, whether it be State-wide or centralized in one spot. I admit we have got to face that situation, but I also contend we do not need a central building to carry out this program. If you want the veterans to get the benefit of the program, by the time you have built this set of buildings and hired instructors and laid out a program and come back next January for \$100,000 operating cost, you are going to have missed the boat.

Now I do hope that I have made my point clear. It is not that I object to the program, but I object to the method by which it is intended to be carried out. I think that this amendment deserves your consideration, I think this amendment is the real solution to this problem, and I hope it is adopted.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci, that House Amendment "K" be adopted. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mrs. Deering Moffatt.

Mrs. DEERING-MOFFATT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: When you vote upon this amendment, I think you will find you will be deciding whether or not you want vocational training brought within the reach of your high school pupils and especially those who cannot find a program in high school which fits their needs or will prepare them for the work they want to follow. This amendment

says in substance: "Do you want the money that will allow vocational training to be put into your schools and into your establishments where they already have teachers and materials to continue with the program?" You have those teachers working in the school program at the present time.

In talking with one person about this vocational work, and I will say I do not think he was expressing the wish or opinion of most people, he said, "Train them and send them out of the State. We do not have room for them." We do have need for them in the State of Maine. If we are going to grow and have new industries, we must prepare our boys and girls for taking a part in industry. During the war we found they are adapted to it and many will want to continue it. Those people will be trained in work in different industries and new industries will move into the State, which will help us and help them.

When the vote is taken, I hope you will approve of the amendment and help the boys and girls of the State of Maine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The question is on adoption of House Amendment "K". The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela.

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This amendment House Amendment "K", is almost identical, except for a few phrases, with an amendment upon which we acted a few days ago. It does the same thing. As I stated the other day, there has always existed a tremendous gap or vacuum in our educational system in the State of Maine in that we have no provision for post high school training in vocational and technical lines. This is particularly acute now because our veterans, our students, who previously could go to other states, where they do have that type of school, are now precluded from that because of crowded conditions in those states. They reserve their facilities for their own citizens. I will grant you a great deal of good can be had while the veterans can go and get some training in these various high schools. It is being done now. It can continue to be done, but it is utterly impossible for them to obtain the type of training where the lack of facilities is most acute. High schools in limited communities can only be set up to touch on operational func-

tions, because the need of that course is much broader and wider and of a higher scope.

Now these veterans, most of them who really are interested in serious education, need a course which is not just after supper, which is not just after they have finished their day's work; it needs to be a serious course of six months or two years duration; something for which they can receive a sort of diploma; something to which they can point and say "I graduated from such and such a course and for that I deserve recognition." For that they will get recognition. The desire on the part of the veterans is great for this type of training in relation to other forms of education.

The Veterans' Bureau tells us that over sixty per cent. of those veterans who have acquired educational benefits under the G. I. Bill point to the type of education which can only be given under the post high school type of school. It will not exclude the veterans who have not graduated from high school but it will take in those who have exhibited aptitude for such a course.

A group of representatives from education, representatives from Legislature, representatives of the American Legion, representatives from the Veterans' Administration, two representatives from organized labor, two from industry, and the representative from the vocational course at Orono worked all last winter on this problem. They looked with sympathy on taking over some of these various high schools, seeing if they could not graft these courses onto those high schools, but there just were no facilities existing on the scale necessary to do the job.

Now these courses should not interfere or conflict with the trade and apprentice training of the various trades. Industry is able and should train operators of machines. What is needed is something beyond that, something better.

You can dissipate these funds and not obtain the results which should be obtained. These high schools can be made available to veterans now; it is being done. It would not take \$700,000. That is an absolutely different program altogether.

It has been said that we do not want it here in Augusta because we have not any room. No site has been picked out; it cannot be picked out until the program is set up. I do think, however, that there are

several places, if Augusta does not want it, that might well be considered where the necessary sites and surroundings and industrial activities could be found.

I certainly hope that the amendment of the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci, will not be adopted, and when a vote is taken, I ask for a yea and nay vote.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci, to adopt House Amendment "K". The gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela, has requested a yea and nay vote. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rangeley, Mr. True.

Mr. TRUE: Mr. Speaker, if we are going to stay down here all summer, let's take off the double windows.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Bath, Mrs. Deering-Moffatt.

Mrs. DEERING-MOFFATT: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I will make the same suggestion I did last Friday that the gentlemen be permitted to remove their coats and ties.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bath, Mrs. Deering-Moffatt, moves that the House Members be permitted to remove their coats and ties if they wish. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Sweetser.

Mr. SWEETSER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: There is just one small comparison which I would like to mention in connection with this matter before the House at this time. I am satisfied that most of you gentlemen and ladies feel that the program for education in this State that has been set up for our normal schools is quite satisfactory. There is a definite comparison in this proposed program. Normal schools are definitely a post high school program. They have their programs; they have their teachers. The curriculum and equipment are different than what you could hope to have set up in high schools. This program is more or less similar as it is planned. The vocational students are for the most part of post high school age. I believe that the equipment, the teachers and the curriculum that will be set up in these vocational schools can best be handled in schools par-

ticularly set up for them similar to the way the training school is set up for obtaining teachers. I hope the amendment will not be adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci.

Mr. PASCUCCI: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I will try to be very brief, but it seems to me the issues are being confused. We are out to help the veterans over high school age, because those who are beyond high school age are now in the service of their country, and when they come back they will no longer be high school boys, and the boys who have come back are no longer high school boys. If a boy or a veteran comes back from the service he can get the so-called high grade instruction under the G.I. bill of Rights whereby he can go anywhere he wants to, go to college if he need be.

This particular program is not for the purpose of training men to become shop foremen, to become managers of different plants. This program, I believe, is primarily instituted so that a boy can be trained and go out into industry and get a job. This "post high school course" sounds ambiguous. What a post high school course really means is an additional year or two of high school work after a boy or girl is graduated from high school. If a veteran is interested in a higher type of education, he can take advantage of that at the University of Maine. The program instituted under this vocational program is for the boy who is working on a farm: if he handles farm machinery he can go and take that particular course whereby he will be of more use to his family. If a boy is located in a textile industry, he can take that particular course and go back to work in that particular industry. He wants to earn a living. That is what we want to do, to help the veterans earn a living. And do not forget for a moment that in many places where there are industries they have cooperated with the high school authorities in establishing it by ideas or sometimes by material aid for the purpose of helping high schools to train boys who want to take up that particular type of training, textile or whatever it may be. For instance, we have a boy who might be on the seacoast and might want to take up boat-building. Well, we will teach him boat-building so he can go to work. That

is the purpose of it, to help the veteran so he can get started in life and society. Let us not cloud the issue with higher training, or this particular building or that particular building. We are out to lay out a program best suited for the veterans. They do it in Massachusetts and we can do it here in the State of Maine.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci, to adopt House Amendment "K". The gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela, has requested a vote by the yeas and nays. In order for such a vote to be ordered, it is necessary to have the consent of one-fifth of the members present. All those in favor will rise and stand in their places until counted, and the monitors will make and return the count.

A division of the House was had.

The SPEAKER: Less than one-fifth of the members having arisen, the yeas and nays are not ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci.

Mr. PASCUCCI: Mr. Speaker, I ask for a division.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci, asks for a division. I will restate the question. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci, to adopt House Amendment "K". All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci, to adopt House Amendment "K" will rise and stand in their places until counted, and the monitors will make and return the count.

A division of the House was had.

Twenty-five having voted in the affirmative, and 73 in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

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

Mr. BOWKER: Mr. Speaker, I now move that H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245, be passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: That is the pending question. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell.

Mr. HASKELL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am extremely reluctant to rise in opposition to the committee bill, and I am well aware, in offering my opposition to this bill, of those few futile attempts of mine in the regu-

lar session. My best record was an 88 to 8 defeat. However, at the conclusion of these very brief remarks, I shall offer a motion for indefinite postponement, and, in supporting that motion, I shall submit a few of the reasons for my firm conviction that this bill should be indefinitely postponed.

In the first place, very briefly, I will review the financial statements you have heard recited here today. You have had distributed on your desks the statement of the Commissioner of Finance which indicates that in the fiscal year 1946-47 we face a financial problem of \$3,597,545; in 1948, \$4,655,431; in 1949, \$6,209,744; and, had he completed that by the same method of calculation, he would have recited for the year 1950, \$6,634,000; and, for the last year of this five-year period, the 50-51 year, \$7,332,000. By his calculations, the State of Maine faces a problem of not less than \$28,428,720 for the next five years, but in arriving at his calculations he has quite properly not considered some other very important items.

In the first place, if this committee bill has passage and is accepted by the people in September, I can assure the members of the House that you will have a very insistent demand from the municipalities of the State that the State at least start to take its hands out of the municipal coffers.

We are now collecting from our municipalities some five millions of dollars by our seven and one-quarter mill tax on real property. You who are veterans in this House have heard on many occasions insistent demands that the State, by grants in aid, assist the financial problems of our municipalities, and once the State tax base is broadened, those demands you cannot ignore. If you accept those demands, whether by reduction in the State tax rate or by acknowledging grants in aid, and if you do it by the very modest procedure of reducing that tax at the rate of one mill each year for the next five years—and by that I mean a reduction of one mill the first two years, two the next year, and three the next, and so on, you will in that procedure take from the revenues of this State the sum of \$10,800,000 during the next five years.

Another item that has not been calculated in any of these projec-

tions of our financial problem is the problem of the National Guard, which, in current budgets is practically zero. We can all visualize, in the next few years, National Guard requests for State funds. The Adjutant General's Department would have the problem much larger than I visualize, but certainly \$100,000 a year, which is \$500,000 in the next five years, is not too much to prepare for.

These projections acknowledge no dollars for any institutional capital needs in the State. Can anyone in this House visualize five years in which there will not be insistent demands for new dollars for institutional construction?

At the last session of the Legislature you passed legislation that provided for new facilities at Bangor and Augusta. You did the same thing for the University of Maine. The University of Maine, quite properly, comes back here and says "Our \$630,000 must go up \$400,000 on account of increased construction cost." Can you believe that those two institutional appropriations which have already been passed will not have to be augmented by additional sums, and can you conceive, even remotely that over a five-year period there will not be other substantial institutional capital requests aggregating at least \$2,000,000? That estimate is very modest.

Do you believe that in passing a \$1,300,000 wage increase bill for the State employees, and that that is the gross yearly cost your budget committee and appropriations committee are going to be faced with in dealing with this innocent appearing salary bill, you won't have your teachers back here to tell you that the modest increase you gave to them has not been cancelled by the increased cost of living? Do you not visualize that the trend will be towards increased cost for teachers' pensions? Let us estimate these teachers items at \$500,000 a year. There is two and a half million for the next five years.

Add them all up and you may agree that this twenty-eight to thirty millions of dollars that has been disclosed to you as a five-year program is at least fifteen million short and you really have a forty-five million dollar problem facing the State of Maine in the next five years, or a problem of nine mil-

lion dollars a year if my figures are reasonably accurate. What are you trying to do with the problem? You are trying to face that problem and the veterans' problem, confuse the two, and sell them to this Legislature and the people with a sales tax for veterans' legislation. I recite to you that this procedure is cruel, and I oppose it. You are confusing the issue and departing from the sound financial path for this State to follow in the next five, ten, fifteen or twenty years.

Because I visualize the tax bill the proponents submit is going to cost thirty million dollars in the next five years or sixty million dollars in the next ten years, by that two per cent sales tax — and I submit at least one-third of that will be paid by the veterans, or something over twenty million dollars paid by the veterans if you offer them a fifteen million dollar cash bonus — to me it is completely unfair to confuse a broad tax program with a veterans' issue in a special session. I believe it is unfair because I believe the tax problem has had altogether too little consideration. I believe when the Governor's bill went into committee and came out with the income tax completely sliced out of it you were completely unfair. I visualize the future financial problems of this State being soundly solved by a combination of the sales and income tax because I believe an income tax has a part in the financing of every state. You need no more evidence than that 31 states are depending upon it today, and the average gross from income taxes in those states is nearly seven dollars per capita. You cannot deny that the income tax is the type of tax that best acknowledges ability to pay. You cannot deny it is a type of tax wherein the Federal government is a major participant with the state, and you cannot deny in refusing to offer to this House that type of taxation you are saying that Federal income taxpayers in Maine shall continue to pay maximum Federal taxes while the other states that have the state income taxes have the benefit of the state income tax deductions on their Federal income tax returns. I submit all of that, not as a proponent of an income tax or a proponent of a sales tax, but as one who believes this special session has had very little time and far too few appearances

by interested taxpayers to come out with a broad tax plan sufficient to solve our long-term financial problems.

I oppose the bill because it creates debt during a time when debt should be reduced. Even in our Federal government we hear talk, and sound talk, that tax rates should be maintained because a period of high employment is the period when debts should be reduced. But what does this bill seek to do? It will practically double the debt of the State of Maine, provided it is accepted by the people. I ask you, is this the right and proper time to double the debt of the State of Maine, in this period of high employment, with a debt to be paid off later, with hard dollars? Is this the time to add a flame to the spiral of inflation to be paid off later with depression dollars?

To summarize my position on the veteran and what he might get out of this — though he will pay dearly for what he gets — I have a firm conviction that the veterans' problem should be faced in the light of need rather than desire.

I visualize this House in future years passing appropriation bills that will make this one look very, very modest, but they will do it, I hope, in acknowledging real need. You will have veterans and veterans' problems on your hands for many years, and this State certainly should acknowledge them fully, but let us use the tax dollar and the credit of the State of Maine to acknowledge them in a sound way. Give those dollars to those veterans who need them and give it to them when they need it. Let the cash bonus type of legislation fall where it should, in the lap of the Federal government.

Do you realize that during the four war years, when the State of Maine took \$32,000,000 per year in taxes the Federal government took \$150,000,000 of dollars per year from the State taxpayers? And from that source, the federal source, I believe is the sound place, the right place, for the cash bonus type of legislation to originate, leaving to the State of Maine the task of acknowledging the just due of the worthy veteran and his family. I have complete confidence the State will do that in good faith.

In opposing this bill, I would be remiss in not offering what I consider to be a sound plan, and this

is what I am very hopeful a majority of this House will agree is a sound plan. I would consider the two surplus items in the State balance sheet: the post war public works reserve of \$1,940,000; and the \$2,750,000 of unappropriated surplus general fund. I would add them together and determine that available surplus funds amount to \$4,690,000. I would say that this special session can well consider what should be done with those available surplus funds.

Do you realize that every type of legislation which has been suggested here, requiring an appropriation, except the cash bonus, can be well and generously taken from those surplus funds without additional debt and without a new tax measure at this confused special session.

To recite them roughly, you want one million dollars for the University of Maine dormitories, \$400,000 for the two U. of M. buildings, \$250,000 for the U. of M. operating expense, \$500,000 for Health and Welfare, and \$700,000 for vocational training. In round figures that is \$3,225,000, which leaves over a million dollars in our surplus accounts and which meets the requirements of the financial people who say a one million dollar working capital is sufficient.

I suggest that this is a sound program because I believe that when you go home to your constituents you can say that you have really accomplished something over here. You have met emergency needs with emergency funds out of emergency surplus funds. You have done a major thing, you have not created debt and have not built up a fiction bonus that the veteran will pay for himself. And I believe the constituents that you represent will be very pleased that you have arrived at such a conclusion, and that we will go home with those accomplishments to come back here in regular session, with many new members elected in the post-war period, and we will consider carefully the general fund problem, and consider the Highway Fund problem, which I promise you is blacker than the General Fund; and we will consider proper tax measures with proper hearings for all tax-paying citizens to attend, and we will solve the problem that will exist in both the General Fund and the Highway Fund.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the

House, I move that L. D. 1245 be indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, moves that H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245, be indefinitely postponed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Thomaston, Mr. Bell.

Mr. BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move for a yea and nay vote

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Thomaston, Mr. Bell, asks that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. Poulin.

Mr. POULIN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have just listened to a report of the Research Committee something most of us have heard about. The veterans did their job well in this war. Let us do our job here. Most of us paid in dollars while the veterans were paying in blood and sacrifice. I was called here to pass legislation for the veterans and not to listen to the report of the financial condition of this state. My fellow member, the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, would have you believe that this state is in such bad condition that we cannot even pass a bonus bill for the veterans or any veterans legislation. I do not believe that. This is sound legislation. When you need sixteen million dollars to pass a \$150 bonus bill, you are passing a sales tax. We do not like to pass a sales tax but we have got to pass something in order to pay the bonus.

Also he mentioned we will need some money for the National Guard. We can take care of that. We will not need any National Guard money until after January. As I understand it, the United States Government will give at least four dollars for each dollar the state puts in. I certainly hope that the motion will not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Bath, Mrs. Deering-Moffatt.

Mrs. DEERING-MOFFATT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I need not tell you folks that as I speak at the present time I am not speaking as the Assistant Floor Leader, nor am I speaking for the Administration or any of the so-called steam rollers which are said to be going up and down the corridors. I am just a plain housewife I suppose now, and, as that, I wish to express my opinion.

This Legislature was called into

session to accept a problem. Do you believe the State of Maine should recognize the service that the boys and girls of the State of Maine have given us? Now we have had tax measures introduced and it is a matter of record. I voted for each one as it came along, struggling to find a solution. Repeatedly we have been told that they do not provide the money. If this bill is defeated, we are going home with nothing done. We will not have accomplished a single thing for the time we have been in session here.

Now there are many charges that have been put to us, but most of all you are going to receive the charge that you could not make up your mind and the question is: Was this politics? Now I do not believe that politics should enter into this, not one bit. If we do pass this bill it will go to the people of the State of Maine. It will go out to the people who have the same ideas that you and I had before we were able to be called politicians because we were able to get enough people to vote for us. We have no superior knowledge or intelligence simply because we have been here. It is the only way that we can turn to our constituents and say: "Do you want to help? Do you want to do your share? This is the only way it can be done; it is the only way the money can be raised." On top of that, this being a special session, another group of men, and women I hope, will be here in January, and if the people of the State of Maine do not like what we have done, those people can bring in a tax measure and have a longer time to give it consideration. I think out of fairness we should turn to the people and ask them to decide. I certainly hope the bill will not be indefinitely postponed. I hope we are going home, having accomplished something.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Caribou, Mr. Collins.

Mr. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: When we consider the indefinite postponement of this bill, I think it puts up a serious question to every member in the House. I feel like the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, that the program that he proposes is feasible, and I would like to point out just for a moment the needs of the University of Maine. I think that is the most constructive part of the program. The University of

Maine at the present time or this fall will have over two thousand veterans. They also, if they complete the off-campus program, will have an additional eight hundred members there. They will have a total enrollment at the University of over 3200. If this off-campus program is completed, those men will be coming back to the University if extra facilities are provided at the end of one year or possibly two. For that reason they certainly need the facilities they are asking for in the bills the University of Maine has presented. The Appropriation Committee of course did cut the amount that the University asked for and it came out of committee as being reduced from two million dollars to one million dollars, but, with the amendment we passed this morning the Trustees were authorized to increase their borrowing capacity from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and this would let them proceed. However, if we do just the program that is sponsored by those wishing the educational part of the veterans legislation, there is in my mind a serious question whether we have done the whole job.

I do not like the payment of a cash bonus in its general aspect because I do not believe that the good that it will do will be a significant factor. I do think we should express our loyalty to these boys, and for that reason I cannot quite go along with the recommendation of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, in indefinite postponement. Even if the members of this House should decide to indefinitely postpone, we still need the program that has been suggested as a veterans program for the University of Maine and for vocational training. The emergency appropriation of \$250,000, which apparently meets with no opposition, is very essential and the rest of the program is indeed vital to meeting the needs of the veterans for educational purposes. That is my primary object in speaking at this time, not that I am so keen on the bonus itself but I think in consideration of other parts of the program, we certainly should consider it very carefully when we vote.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Damariscotta, Mr. Gay.

Mr. GAY: Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with parliamentary procedure. Is it correct that a motion

to commit has precedence over a motion to indefinitely postpone?

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We have sat here for nearly three weeks in physical and mental anguish, and I am quite sure when I go to the next Republican Convention in Bangor that I shall see emblazoned across the entrance to that town in electric lights a great sign which says, "Here lives the second Einstein of Maine."

Now we were called here by proclamation of the Governor of the State of Maine to decide probably one of the most urgent pieces of legislation ever to come before this body. We have listened to many bills that have been introduced, but very few measures which have given the financial answer. It is not the time for political aspersions on the part of any individual but it is time that we combined the thoughts for the betterment of the majority of the heroes and the heroines that left this State of Maine in World War II.

Now we have to live with our consciences in the future and we have to go home and face criticism, justifiable criticism in all probability in a great many instances. We also have within the sound of my voice—and I appreciate this although I hate to say it—mothers and fathers and wives who never again will hear the voices of their sons and daughters who paid the supreme sacrifice that you and I might live. That cannot be paid in dollars and cents, I appreciate.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House and gentlemen here assembled: I ask at this time for your unanimous support in this motion that L. D. 1245, H. P. 1528, be re-committed to the Committees on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs jointly.

The SPEAKER: There are now two motions before the House: the motion of the gentleman from Bangor (Mr. Haskell) to indefinitely postpone L. D. 1245 and the motion of the gentleman from Damariscotta, Mr. Gay, to recommit the bill to the Committee on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs jointly. The Chair rules that the motion to recommit has precedence over the other motion and will be put first.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss the motion.

The SPEAKER: The motion is debatable.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am sure that most of us were not envious when these bonus matters were referred to the Committees on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs jointly. These committees held long and extensive hearings over a period of two days and subsequently went into executive session, debated these matters out, and came in here with a report signed by fifteen members that it "Ought to pass."

During the public hearings these committees heard various proposals as to how we might raise revenue to finance the program. We have since heard those programs debated at length and we now have this measure to a point where it can be passed to be engrossed, and I see no object personally in having this recommitted and lengthening this session out. I hope that the motion to recommit does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bingham, Mr. Dutton.

Mr. DUTTON: Mr. Speaker, we came here to pass a soldiers' bonus. We have listened patiently to all the arguments in favor of and against it. The matter has been in the hands of these committees who have considered it carefully. I cannot understand how any good result can come or is going to be gained by recommitting these papers to the committee. We have been here for over three weeks, patiently waiting to vote. We came here for the purpose of voting, and I believe every member of this House, with very few exceptions, is ready to vote upon this matter. I can see no benefit in recommitting this matter and surely no benefit in indefinite postponement. The soldiers, I feel, are well entitled to all that we have recommended. I believe they are not only entitled to it but it is the wish of the members of this House and the people at home that it should be granted, and any pussy-footing at this time is just a waste of so much breath and so much time, and I think we had better be at home cutting our hay and killing our potato bugs.

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

Mr. BOYKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We have known for some time that the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, would move the indefinite postponement of this bill, L. D. 1245. It has just happened. Now I do not want to visualize the return of this Legislature to our constituents at home with the statement that we have taken for ourselves forty thousand dollars of the taxpayers' money and we have raised the wages of our State employees and that is all.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Damariscotta, Mr. Gay, to recommit the bill. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Damariscotta, Mr. Gay.

Mr. GAY: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for recommitment for the reason I stated at the inception when I got on my feet. This committee has had opportunity to hear the pros and cons of the amendment and all bills that have been presented, and surely by now it is possible for them to pick a wee bit from this one and that one and come out with a committee bill that is good for the veterans of the State of Maine.

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

Mr. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to adjourn to such time as this committee can meet and consider this bill, and then call a session at that time. We are not getting anywhere; we are losing a lot of time and we are busy, busy men.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Damariscotta, Mr. Gay, to recommit the bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci.

Mr. PASCUCCI: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have at this session advocated, as you all know, the amendment I just spoke on recently, but the amazing part of my amendment was, I think, that I have had so many people in the Legislature who contacted me personally, and they thought I had a splendid idea but they didn't know enough about it to conscientiously go along with me.

Now I think that this motion to recommit not only takes care of whatever this particular plan of mine had in mind but also takes

care of all the various amendments we had on this bill and iron out the entire matter so when the committee goes into session and reflects on all these matters it will come back with a more full understanding and a better bill for the Legislature to consider. I trust that the motion to recommit prevails.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela.

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will explain to the members of the House that the motion made by the gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela, goes right straight back to the bill, and, if it carries, we will vote on the motions in the order of their precedence: first on recommittal, second, on indefinite postponement, and, third, passage to be engrossed, without further debate.

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw my motion.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Damariscotta, Mr. Gay, that the bill be recommitted to the committee.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, I request a division.

The SPEAKER: All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Damariscotta, Mr. Gay, that this bill be recommitted to the Committees on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs jointly will rise and stand in their places until counted and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division was had.

The SPEAKER: Fourteen having voted in favor of the motion and 69 against, the motion to recommit fails.

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

Mr. MELOON: Mr. Speaker, is the motion to indefinitely postpone again debatable at this time?

The SPEAKER: It is?

Mr. MELOON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I feel that we are in the midst of a very serious and urgent problem. I also feel that the need is here and now. I think this question should be viewed with a very broad aspect. I feel the horizon for this thing should be as wide as the State of Maine. I

have listened and tried to convince myself that the various methods by amendments to raise sufficient funds to carry out our projected program, the University of Maine, the deficit and other things, would be adequate. I have tried to vote with that thing in mind and each time found myself saying, "No, this tax measure will not give us sufficient income." I firmly do believe that a sales tax as proposed would. A combination sales tax and income tax would probably please me personally more. I do, however, believe that whatever question we have before us should at this time take precedence over other things. We need additional income and need it now. We have a problem to take care of and I think we should do it at this session. I hope that the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, does not prevail. I think my feelings are the same as many of you, that if we go home without accomplishing anything on this issue we will go home, if not collectively, at least many of us with deep personal humiliation.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. Poulin.

Mr. POULIN: Mr. Speaker, I move that when the vote is taken it be by a yea and nay vote.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will inform the gentleman that that motion has already been made. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hermon, Mr. Leathers.

Mr. LEATHERS: Mr. Speaker, I feel that the people are entitled to have a chance to vote on this. I hope the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, in speaking I might state that on this question supporting the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, I am supporting it because I am convinced that a sales tax will be voted down by the people of Maine if placed before them in September. I shall vote and have voted for L. D. 1244, a bond issue. A sales tax has already been placed before the people and if one is passed by this Honorable Body it will again be defeated. Many who have spoken in opposition to this have said that we should give a bonus to the veterans. I agree with that; we should; but the method is not

through a sales tax. The amortization of the bonds is ten years. Where does it say what the amortization of a sales tax is? Not for ten years, or fifteen or twenty. I guarantee if we pick up that baby we have got it and we will keep it. If the people of Maine have a right to vote on the sales tax, by the same token then they should have a right to vote on everything presented before this House.

Many have said that the veterans do not want a bonus. I have heard that, but I have been told they do want one by plenty of the boys back home. I do not know as they are in a particular hurry about it. We have been here, as has been stated, nearly three weeks and we are going to give them a sales tax or nothing. If a sales tax is defeated, what good is the bond issue? I do not believe politics was played here! I will guarantee you one thing: For the first time since the regular session and special session, I will speak as a Democrat. Put this sales tax before us. Politically speaking, the Democratic Party wants it, but as individuals they will turn it down.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Saco, Mr. Jordan.

Mr. JORDAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I do not wish the House to think that in seconding the motion for indefinite postponement that I am personally opposed to the sales tax or the bonus. I feel that the committee has done an excellent job in solving the many problems handed them. I feel, however, that this session has aimed to accomplish more than we should ever have attempted.

The citizens of our State have reserved through the Constitution of Maine the power to themselves of voting the right, or refusing it, to increase the State debt under certain circumstances. This happens to be one of them.

So it seems to me that as representatives of these citizens it is our duty to see that they are protected in this right. It seems to me that we are putting the cart before the horse. We are voting how to spend that money and how to tax the people for that expenditure before we know that our citizens want to increase the State debt for that purpose. It would seem to me that our duty was to discover that vital fact first of all.

In the second place it is my firm conviction that any referendum, or any question asked the people, necessarily answered by the single words yes or no, should be so put that there can be no doubt as to the desires of the people. Now the referendum we put up to them cannot be so answered no matter how many argue hereafter that it can, because it asks at least two absolutely different questions. You ask: "Would you vote for the increase in the state debt, provided a sales or a luxury tax is imposed?" There are many different kinds of taxes and we are picking out just one of these. Nobody likes to vote a tax of any kind, but it is certainly evident to all that if they vote for this measure they will have to pay for it. When you put the question as you intend, you necessarily open the door for the people to say, if the measure is defeated, that they did not vote against the bonus but against that particular kind of a tax. You all know in your heart that this is so. But if you put it up to them simply any kind of a tax, they cannot offer any other reason for voting against it except that they did not want to increase the state debt. Therefore you can get the true wishes of the people.

Indefinitely postponing this L. D. 1245 will not prevent this special session from making progress in settling the veterans problem. L. D. 1244 with the slight change of eliminating the word "sales" wherever it appears asks the very question that I wished to ask: "Would the people like to increase the state debt by sixteen million dollars if they thought they had to pay a tax on it?" Then you will know what to do when you come back. Which ever way they vote should be satisfactory to us for that is their wish. No matter what our private wishes should be, as representatives we are in duty bound to protect those we represent, of which class our veterans are an honored and distinguished part. If we believe that the State should invest more money for veterans' benefits, and I assure you that I, for one, do, we should all get out and help pass the referendum asking for permission to raise our State debt for that purpose.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Greenville, Mr. Rollins.

Mr. ROLLINS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have heard a lot, as I think we all have, of

different programs. I think we all agree that the majority of us are here to give a bonus. I speak as a veteran who our forefathers behind us saw fit to give \$100 to. I for one cannot stand up here and say the veterans should not be rewarded. I have heard a lot about veterans' benefits. I received \$100, the same as many veterans in this House, from the State of Maine. That is all we ever received and that is all we ever expect to receive. The government will take care of us if we are in need; the Federal Government does the job and they have got ample funds to do it. This motion to give a veterans' bonus is just a gesture of appreciation for what our veterans did. The figure is perhaps not as large as some would like, but it is as much as is consistent with our ability to pay.

There has been a lot of projection by my slide-rule friend on different issues which I do not think belong in this issue at all. It is a question of: Is Maine going to give her sons and daughters a bonus?

As our boys were being discharged in Boston some time ago,—I know this for a fact, because my own son-in-law was in the group—the man who gave them the pep talk told them how much Massachusetts was giving, and he says, "I hear Maine is going to give you boys a sack of potatoes." Is that what this House is going to do? That is what they will do if they indefinitely postpone this bill, I hope, members, that you will face the issue, that you will not go home and say, "We came down here, we gave all the money we had on hand to the University of Maine and some of the pet projects, but we could not find the way clear to do anything for the boys."

I hope the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, for indefinite postponement of the bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Westbrook, Mrs. Roberts.

Mrs. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We have been here three weeks. We came here to do a job. I am not speaking of the amount of the bonus or how it is to be raised. I shall vote on this when I have a chance. But I am speaking on the indefinite postponement of this bonus or leaving

it to the next Legislature. For three weeks we have tried to consider this. The next Legislature will have to go all over what we have been going over for three weeks. How much more time will they take with all the things that are coming up at the next Legislature? Will they have time then to carry on with this thing which you and I cannot decide? The committee, it is said, did a good job. Why in the world do we not do a good job and decide something here? I just hate to think I have got to go back home and say that we could not decide on a thing down here at this session when it was put up to us for decision. Remember, I am not speaking in regard to the decision itself, what it should be, but there should be some other decision than indefinite postponement. I hope the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This is an important motion which should have been made last Friday. It puts the issue squarely up to you and I. Do we want a bonus or not? Do we want to benefit the veterans who wish to attend the University of Maine? Do we wish vocational schools for veterans? And, if we do wish all those things and others, do we as legislators have the courage to pass on to the people a tax measure to pay the bill?

My good friend from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, has given, I believe, one of the most expert discussions on the finances of the State of Maine over a long-range period that anyone could possibly give. I doubt if there is another member of this House that has the grasp of these figures and who could do the job he did this afternoon. I hope it made us all think of where the State of Maine financially is going.

Regardless of that, I still think your committee was neither cruel nor unfair in presenting this bill. We had a job to do, and I submit to you that committee tried to do it. If we did not do it to satisfy you, then the motion of the gentleman from Bangor (Mr. Haskell) should prevail. If we did it in a manner that satisfies you, then his motion should not prevail.

I was amused at some of his remarks. As some of you will recall,

at the last session at times I tried to take five thousand dollars—I think I even got up to \$25,000 once—out of this unappropriated surplus in a non-recurring account, and every time Brother Haskell stood on his feet and opposed it, and today he asks us to take \$3,225,000 from the unappropriated surplus and post-war reserve.

I also have been somewhat amused around this House, and at times I have been somewhat kidded for my stand on that issue, because in the past not always has the Chief Executive and I agreed, whether it was the present man at the other end of the hall, or some former Governor, but always when I felt the Chief Executive was right, I have been with him. In this particular issue I am with him and for this reason: I have thought this bonus matter over. I think maybe my thoughts will correspond with a lot of yours. If we pass a bonus it will be necessary to pay for it. The sooner it is paid by the citizens of Maine, the better. Also I believe that these other parts of the program, the University of Maine, and the other parts of this program are necessary at this time. Above all, if we are going into this matter of paying the veterans a bonus and all these benefits and increasing the salaries of the employees, if we are going to do more for our aged and unfortunate, it is up to us to pass this bill. This is what this program proposes to do. We propose to do it not the easy way or with some sleight of hand. No, we have taken the hard way by taking a tried and true and proven way used by other states. That is why I am urging that this is what I believe the members ought to do. I believe it is the best way to provide the means of paying for this program.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Thomaston, Mr. Bell.

Mr. BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question.

The SPEAKER: In order for the Chair to entertain the motion for the previous question, it requires the consent of one-third of the members present. All those in favor of the Chair entertaining the motion for the previous question, will rise and stand in their places until counted and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division was had.

The SPEAKER: Obviously more

than one-third of the members having arisen, the motion for the previous question is entertained.

The question before the House now is: Shall the main question be put now? All those in favor of the motion will rise and stand in their places until counted, and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division was had.

The SPEAKER: Obviously more than the majority having arisen, the main question is ordered. The question before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, to indefinitely postpone H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245. The gentleman from Thomaston, Mr. Bell, has asked for a roll call. In order for a roll call vote to be ordered, it requires the consent of one-fifth of the members present. All those in favor of the roll call vote will rise and stand in their places until counted, and the monitors will make and return the count.

A division of the House was had.

The SPEAKER: Obviously more than one-fifth of the members having arisen, a roll call vote is ordered. The Chair will restate the question. The question before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, to indefinitely postpone H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245. The Clerk will call the roll.

YEA—Bird, Rockland; Brown, Unity; Conant, Hanson, Haskell, Bangor; Jalbert, Jewett, Jordan, Saco; Lackee, Lee, Letourneau, Morrison, Winter Harbor; Moulton, Ouellette, Pascucci, Payson, Savage, Smith, Stillings, Warren, Weston, Wight, Barnes.

NAY—Adams, Allen, Ames, Baker, Bell, Benn, Berry, Bird, Washington; Blake, Brownfield; Blake, Dexter; Boulier, Boutin, Bowker, Boyker, Brown, Brunswick; Burton, Byron, Carpenter, Augusta; Carpenter, Skowhegan; Chase, Cobb, Bangor; Cobb, Gardiner; Cole, Casco; Cole, West Gardiner; Collins, Connellan, Crosby, Dean, Deering - Moffatt; DeSanctis, Dicker, Dow, Downs, Dutton, Edwards, Ela, Elliott, Emerson, Forhan, Gay, Gillies, Gowell, Grenier, Haskell, Portland; Hawes, Hayward, Heanssler, Hemphill, House, Jacobs, Jones, Jordan, So. Portland; Judkins, Knight, Clinton; Knight, Jay; Lacharite, Leathers, Legard, Lombard, Longstaff, Lord, Camden; MacKinnon, Marsans, Marshall, McFee, Meloon, Morrison, Rumford; Morse, Nadeau, Patterson, Peirce, Perkins, Plummer, Poulin, Pratt, Rankin, Roberts, Rollins, Ross, Russell, Sanborn, Sargent, Smart,

Snow, Southard, Sweetser, Thomas, Thompson, Tozler, True, Vickery, Ward, Webber, Weeks, Wells, Williams, Auburn; Williams, Clifton; Williams, Topsham; Wood, Wright.

ABSENT—Anderson, Brewer, Brown, Milford; Christensen, Coombs, Corson, Cousins, Cyr, Daigle, Donahue, Dorsey, Ellingwood, Gallant, Hamilton, Jennings, Lord, So. Portland; Martin, Morneault, Palmeto, Prout, Renouf, Springer, Thorndike, Walsh, Welch.

Yea—23.

Nay—100.

Absent—25.

The SPEAKER: Twenty-three having voted in the affirmative, 100 in the negative, 25 being absent, the motion for indefinite postponement does not prevail.

Thereupon the bill was passed to be engrossed, and sent up for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 A.M., E.S.T.