

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Record**

OF THE

**Ninety-second Legislature**



**Special Session**

**July 8, 1946**

**HOUSE**

Thursday, July 25, 1946.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Akeley of Gardiner.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

**Orders**

Mr. Elliott of Corinth, presented the following Order and moved its passage:

WHEREAS, the House is informed of the birth of a baby boy to Representative R. Leon Williams and Mrs. Williams, and

WHEREAS, the Members of the House are much pleased and wish to extend their heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Williams and her husband,

BE IT ORDERED, that the baby boy be named Raymond Leonard Williams, and that the Clerk of the House be directed to send to Mrs. Williams an attested copy of this Order.

The Order received passage.

The SPEAKER There will be some items to be considered under the heading of Enactors, but they have not yet been received from the Engrossing Department.

**Orders of the Day**

The SPEAKER: The House may be at ease.

**House at Ease**

10:50 A. M. (E.S.T.)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: A word of explanation. We are now awaiting a bill which is in the Engrossing Department. This is a very long bill and the engrossing of it is an exacting task, and it is rather slow. It is expected it will be completed

in perhaps an hour's time. I therefore move that we recess until 12:30 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

The motion prevailed and the House so recessed.

**After Recess**

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House at this time the Order that was introduced yesterday, and, under the House Rules, is in order at this time. The Clerk will read the Order.

The CLERK: (Reading)

Ordered, that House Rule 36 be amended by adding thereto the following paragraph: 'All amendments presented or filed with the Clerk for printing or reproduction shall bear the signature of the member presenting or filing the same.'

The SPEAKER: The question is upon the passage of the Order. Is it the pleasure of the House that the Order receive a passage?

The motion prevailed.

**Passed to be Enacted**

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 Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Carpenter.

Mr. CARPENTER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As you members of the House know, I have been opposed to this sales tax right along. My reasons are the same as they were last week and the week before. This is no time to put through a sales tax on the back of a bonus. I do not think it will pass the public, but it seems to me the public, the citizens of Maine will take this attitude, that this is a bad bill, and if we pass it they will feel the Legislature has been sent up here to investigate the matter. Because we are here we do not have to pass a bonus bill. We were asked to come here to consider a bonus bill, but we do not have to pass it. Certainly we should not feel that we had to pass any bad bill. The citizens of Maine will feel that

the Legislature recommends this bill, that we are a committee that recommends it, if it goes to a popular vote, because they have not had a chance to investigate it as we have. For that reason, I hope this bill will not pass.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the passage of the bill to be enacted. Is the House ready for the question.

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

Mr. ROLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill for the same reason, that we are riding a sales tax through on the bonus. I stand here as a veteran. I am in favor of a bonus, but I am afraid, ladies and gentlemen of this House, that this bill will not do what we want. It will not give a bonus.

I have stood here before all alone and opposed a blank check for a million dollars for a previous Governor. I stand here now opposing what appears to me like a blank check for three million dollars for our present Governor. This bill, without the bonus, or with the bonus, they admit will produce six and a quarter million dollars. It will produce a good deal more than six and a quarter million dollars, and the program calls for less than four million dollars. The balance in between is what I call a blank check. I hope that the bill does not receive final enactment.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the passage of the bill to be enacted.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Westbrook, Mr. Warren.

Mr. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote against this measure. I am not opposed to the bonus. I came down here expecting to support a moderate-sized bonus payment to our veterans, thinking it would be a token of our gratitude. I am not opposed to a sales tax; in fact I think the State should have a sales tax. They will have to have it before very long. And yet I can conscientiously vote no on this measure not feeling I am blind to the bonus.

The situation is so confused I cannot give you any sound argument. I do not know what will

happen if we pass L. D. 1245, and I do not know whether L. D. 1244 is going through. I do not know what will happen if L. D. 1245 goes through and L. D. 1244 does not go through. I know what will happen if they both pass, but if you turn down one of them I don't know what will happen. I do not think a vote of "No" is blocking the bonus. I do not think there is any chance of that bonus getting by the Legislature and the people.

I had a program which seemed to me sound and logical and feasible, but there does not seem to be any chance of it getting through here, and that was the argument given you the other day by the gentleman from Saco (Mr. Jordan).

If we would pass L. D. 1244 and put it up to the people on the question of whether they preferred a bonus loading the State with a debt, that is a fair question to put to the people; but when you tie it up with the sales tax it is not a fair question; it is a confused question. If we could be sure L. D. 1244 was not tied up with a sales tax but simply to be paid by a tax and the people realized they had to pay it if they spent the money, then you might say that the next Legislature could not possibly pass a sales tax. A sales tax is bound to come up to the people. They say you have got to give a sales tax a sugar coat to get it through. I cannot visualize that. I can visualize that the next Legislature would work out a combination income and luxury tax, that is, provided the people say they want a bonus, and I am very sure that such a tax would be carefully considered, and, carrying with it a reduction of the property taxes, would be put through the Legislature as an emergency measure.

I am afraid now, however, that plan does not appeal to you, and I am going to vote no, although I am not opposed to giving the soldiers, the veterans, a bonus. I do not believe I am blocking it either, and I do not believe I am giving it to them when I vote "Yes," so I vote "No."

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

Mr. BOYKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This special session of the 92nd Legislature has been in session nearly three weeks. We have argued, we have discussed,

we have cross-fired, and now, in the dying moments of this session, I would like to say just a few words in a most serious mood.

I am an advocate of a soldiers' bonus, but I do oppose an over-all sales tax to pay that bonus, and, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I want to say to you that time will show that I am not alone.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Legard.

Mr. LEGARD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I believe we were called here for one specific purpose and that was to enact a veterans bonus. I do not feel that some statements that I have heard relative to that request are either unscrupulous, crafty or indiscreet. I do feel the veterans have a justifiable request.

Our American Legion at Bath, which is composed about equally of veterans of World War II and World War I, went on record at an official meeting and recorded a letter that they were in favor of a cash bonus, the method or methods to be left to the discretion of the Legislature. That letter was signed by the commanding officer and attested by the adjutant. That letter was turned over to the Committees on Military Affairs and Appropriations for consideration. I do feel at this time that we have not fulfilled our duty unless we have devised some type of a soldiers bonus. I do not feel that L. D. 1245 is the right bill, which would give them one dollar with one hand and reach out and take three from them with the other, and I cannot go along with L. D. 1245. I am not opposed to a soldiers bonus' quite to the contrary. Neither am I opposed to a sales tax, if and when the need is shown. To carry the two together is so confusing that I hardly know what we are voting on.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pitts-  
ton, Mr. Jewett.

Mr. JEWETT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: It is very seldom that I rise to speak on an issue in the House, because we have some eloquent speakers who can carry the subject very clearly. I do wish to state, however, that I have been and am now in favor of a bonus for our veterans, but I am thoroughly opposed to letting a bonus ride in with so much other legislation at this time. I have

constantly voted against the measure and plan to do so today.

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

Mr. DOW: Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill particularly because of the sales tax. The soldiers' bonus, which is to be financed partly by this sales tax, we are told if we are going to give them a bonus that on the other hand we will be taxing them for whatever we give them.

I was impressed with the statement made here the other day pertaining to some of the separation centers, when the boys were instructed as to what credits they could expect when they got home, the Federal credits as well as the State credits, and it was enumerated to them from Massachusetts right down through, Massachusetts with so much bonus, New Hampshire so much, Vermont, and then the fellow said, "From Maine you can count on getting a sack of potatoes." Now frankly, I wonder, if we attach a sales tax to the soldiers' bonus to pay it, I wonder, in the last analysis, if the veterans will get as much as a sack of potatoes. I believe that it can be financed, and that if we are really going to give the veterans a bonus we should give it to them. We have a large program, and we will have to take the whole thing or nothing. If we could segregate the veterans' bonus from the balance of the program and finance it as many of the other states have done, I think there would be hardly any opposition, and then we could let each part of the bill take care of itself.

Frankly, I am in opposition to the sales tax to finance a veterans' bonus. I believe that other than the veterans' bonus they should pay their proportional part of whatever our problems may be, but if we are going to give them something and on the other hand make them pay for it over a period of ten years, I would say to the boys they would be better off to take the sack of potatoes.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the enactment of H. P. 1528. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mechanic Falls, Mr. Hemphill.

Mr. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We were called in to this special session

to pass a bonus bill. There have been a lot of bills come in here and a lot of amendments come in here to finance this bonus but they have all been turned down. Nothing in the world will ever pay this bonus except the sales tax, they tell us. Well, we go home, and the veteran says, "Have you done anything for us?" "Yes, we are giving you \$150." "That is good. Do we have to pay for it?" "Yes, you will have to pay your proportional part. We have decided" (and we did decide) "to raise sixty million dollars over a period of ten years. There are somewhere approximately 94,000 of you veterans, and taking you and your families, it would probably amount to about 200,000. Now that is about one-third of the population of the State of Maine, and, with a sales tax, you people will pay approximately \$20,000,000." "Well, do you think that is right?" "Why, yes. We are giving you \$15,000,000 and we are only taking \$20,000,000 away from you."

Well, they do not think that is right; neither do I think it is right. If we are going to give the soldiers something, let us give them something, but do not ask them to finance this State in order to give them something.

Now if you were just going to give them a bonus and ask them to pay for the bonus, part of it, that is all right, but when you link the soldiers' bonus in with a tax bill which will be on the statutes for the remainder of their lives, and in ten years they pay \$20,000,000, they will be paying for it the rest of their lives, and their children and grandchildren all the way down the line.

Do not let us be mean to the boys who have done everything they could for us. Let us be reasonable with them. Let us give them something if we are going to give them something; if not, let us throw it out of the window. Many of them say they do not want a bonus, that the government is doing more for them than they ever expected to get and they do not want it. I am ready and willing to give them a bonus, but I do not think we should load something on their shoulders that will never come off, clear down as long as that generation lives. Look at the money you will collect from the sales tax. Good Lord, there is about four million dollars you will have just to play with! Do not

take advantage of the boys just on that account.

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

Mr. ELA: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: The question of this bill being a sack of potatoes has been brought up. I think if you kill this bill, they will not even get the potatoes; all they will get is the sack.

Now let me disabuse your minds at once, so far as my opinion is concerned, of what the public will do in September if this is presented to them. As outlined in this bill and this resolve, they will vote yes. Everybody nearly had a program here for handling this situation. You cannot write everybody's opinion into a bill. There must be a meeting of the minds on some common level. There has to be a slight measure of compromise. I do not like every provision in this bill. You do not like every provision in this bill. So broad and comprehensive a program precludes that. But look at the bill in its entirety. Look at the results. The overall results are good.

Now when you say you are going to take all the money right back again from the veterans in the form of taxes, you becloud the issue. It is true this has to be paid for and the veteran has got to pay his proportional share. That is axiomatic. We do not try to evade that issue. It is impossible to do otherwise; he must pay his share. But whether you pass this bill or not you have got to provide taxes to provide money to run the State of Maine. He is going to have the taxes anyway whether he has the benefits or not. If L. D. 1245, which has arrived at the final enactment stage in this House, is not passed, in my opinion the bonus is done, along with all the other legislation which goes with it. You may be a better judge of human nature than I am, but if you think you are going to pass appropriations amounting to a great deal of money, and leave the bonus question dead, that is carrying it too far. If you are prepared to junk the whole program, go home and do nothing, vote no. If there is any part of the program which seems wise, which seems sound, which in your own mind expresses your gratitude, overlook some of those features to which you do not give full approval and pass the bill.

Now the general public under this set-up is going to look it over. They have ample opportunity to veto this bill and this resolution. Let us get on with the business. There is no need of arguing this thing over and over again. Settle it. Enact this bill.

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

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, out of order, could I be allowed to ask the Chair a question.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may do so.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire if the remarks by the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Haskell, which were heard here yesterday afternoon, and upon which matter an order was passed that two thousand copies be printed, are ready for distribution?

The SPEAKER: The remarks have been printed and are ready for distribution, and the House may be at ease while they are being distributed.

#### (House At Ease)

Called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the enactment of H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245. The gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Thompson, has asked for a vote by the yeas and nays. Is the House ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bingham, Mr. Dutton.

Mr. DUTTON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: The other day when this matter was under consideration I spoke in favor of its passage. We were told the passage of this measure was the only measure that could possibly pay the soldiers bonus; that it was the only measure that could possibly raise the funds to do so. I accepted it, the same as I have much of the other misrepresentations to this House throughout this whole proceeding.

In the very first place, I feel that it was a sad mistake to summon this Legislature here in the heat of the summer, with all the work that should be done at home, to consider this matter. I do not believe that safe and sane consideration can be given it. But we are here, we have been here—I have lost all time in the commotion—but it has been a long time, listening to the pros and cons of this, and while I was

in favor of the passage of a sales tax the other day, I was told it was the only way we could raise the money.

Now I honestly believe that there are several other ways that have been proposed here whereby the money to pay the bonus could be raised. I believe there are other methods besides a sales tax. Personally I believe that a sales tax is the only fair and legitimate way of raising funds to pay the expenses of the State of Maine. Real estate is taxed far and away beyond the possibility of carrying the pressure. I have been through the seige of high taxes on real estate and I realize that everybody who owns real estate has to suffer the burden of taxation and I believe there are other methods that could be far better legitimately used. I am opposed to the passage of a sales tax for two reasons. One is that members of this Legislature are absolutely opposed to the passage of a sales tax. When they go home they will go home with the same opposition in their minds regardless of whether we pass it here or not. I do not believe we want to face the referendum with any such a feeling or any such a sentiment. For that reason I believe that I shall vote against the passage of a sales tax.

I do not want to have it believed or understood by any person in the State of Maine that I am opposed to a bonus. I believe the bonus should be paid to the boys, and at least \$150 paid to them, and I believe they should have it, but I believe that other ways to raise it can be had besides the passage of this bill. I do not like the idea of coming in here and being told that "Here is this; you can take it or leave it; that is all there is; you have got to vote that or everything else goes by the way." I believe the rest of the people of this State House want to see the boys receive some bonus and I think \$150 is certainly low enough. I believe the members of this Legislature are smart enough to provide a means of raising and paying it besides by this particular measure that has been presented to us. For that reason I am going to vote against the enactment of this measure, although I am for a \$150 bonus for the soldiers. I am willing to stay here until next January if necessary, to see that some method is provided to raise the money and give it to vet-

erans without too many strings hitched to it.

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

Mrs. DEERING-MOFFATT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Possibly it would be just as well if nothing more was said and the vote was taken, but I am quite concerned about this. Whereas other people like to explain their stand, rather briefly I would like to say exactly how I feel and how I think the people are going to feel if at the end of nearly three weeks' deliberation and talk we come out and say: "What did we do? You have had tax measures brought in and you voted them down because there was not enough money to pay for it, and now you turn around and vote against this tax measure because it is too much money." I think each one of us should go off and honestly look ourselves in the face and ask the question: "Would I vote for a sales tax in order to put this through if I hadn't been accosted every time I went down the corridor by the person who is opposed to a sales tax?" You and I are not deciding here today whether or not the State of Maine will have a sales tax. The only thing we are deciding today is the question: Are we willing for the people in the State of Maine to vote on this problem? I think it is the only fair thing to do. We have not reached any sound conclusions. The talk that we are saddling our families with a sales tax for years is not true. If the people in the State of Maine want a sales tax they will vote for a sales tax. We need not worry about having too much money in our treasury, because I know that the people who come here at other sessions of the Legislature will probably, if the people vote for a sales tax, introduce measures that will take care of the surplus we are so frightened of.

I was hoping there would be an amendment brought into this either with a time limit on the sales tax or a reduction of some of our other taxes, which really would have been of help to the veterans and everyone paying money on property taxes.

In all fairness, I think it is too late for us to throw up our hands now and say that it is too much of a problem. Let the people in the

State of Maine vote on this. Thank you.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: There appears to be but one question as there has been in all the discussions, and that is whether or not we want a bonus. Apparently most of us in this branch are agreed we want a bonus, but we wonder about a tax.

The other day, it is true, and I will say to the gentleman from Bingham (Mr. Dutton) or any other gentleman, that I stated that we did not, in any tax proposal put before this House, have one that would provide money enough to carry out a veterans' program. I would not say that you could not have taken some other tax bill. In fact, the original bill that was placed before this House for consideration had upon it an income tax, which is a sound and safe method of raising the money necessary, but this body turned it down. I will say that not one person, either a member of this House or any other person, had the courage to stand up before that committee and say they wanted an income tax.

There have been other proposals; there have been many stop-gap proposals before us. I would not say that all of them, if adopted, would not have produced the revenue, but at no time did anyone come in with a proposal that would have provided the funds. I would even turn that over to the financial expert of the House, who today has received a courtesy which has been extended to no other member in this special session or a regular session—that of having his remarks referred to the House in the middle of a debate.

You say you are confused upon this issue, confused upon the bill, and, as near as I can find out, you are confused upon the bill because it carries several provisions in it. You are confused because the bill, in backwoods language, says this: If you pass a bonus, if you want to place a debt of sixteen million dollars upon the State of Maine, you must provide the revenue. And a revenue measure was decided on by your joint committee, and that was a sales tax.

Probably no one here particularly likes a sales tax. I do not believe there is a member of this House



that likes any taxes because you know as well as I know that someone is going to tell you he may not want to vote for you in September because you passed a tax measure. But I do believe, and I think most of you will agree with me, that when you took your oath under the Constitution of the State of Maine you did it without reservation, that you would perform your duty as you saw it in this House of Representatives.

It appears to me rather an unsound argument for us to come here and collect \$130—not an especially enormous sum—for the service that some of these empty seats have given, and many other seats that have been filled upon a few occasions. We will collect our \$130 and say to the voters, "We cannot pass on anything more, because, after nearly three weeks, we have come to the conclusion that this session of the Legislature should not have been called." And today I hear the Chief Executive of the State being accused for calling this special session. So it is of interest to me to find out why he called this session and why we did not hear this argument until today. It appears that all the Republican leaders of the State did not want this special session. Is that the answer? The Republican leaders did not want this session, if that is the answer, then the Republican party is a liar.

I want to read to you from the Republican Party Platform, adopted at Bangor, by the way, April 12, 1946. Among their recommendations, they said:

"By the State of Maine—We recommend the action of Governor Hildreth in announcing a special session of the Legislature. We advocate that the Legislature consider and act upon Maine veterans' desires and needs for financial assistance, jobs, education, occupational training and homes and provide the means of financing the plan adopted. We pledge party support to liberal legislative action that will, so far as possible, do those things left undone by present Federal Legislation and that will give our veterans full opportunity to take the place in our economy they desire and deserve."

This platform was drawn up and recommended by the Resolutions Committee. The members of the Resolutions Committee were: Robert N. Haskell, Bangor; Frederick

N. Allen, Portland; Charles Nelson, Augusta; Mrs. Ruth Ellingwood, Rockland; Nathan Solman, Houlton.

I do not think it is fair to say this was not the wish of the Republican Party or that it was not the wish of its leaders in calling this special session.

I would also recommend to you that this particular bill, which appears obnoxious because some wish the bill to be paid after adopted, calls in a large respect for those things which the members of the Republican Party who are sitting here today called for in their platform.

I did not have the time to look over all these remarks of the eminent legislator from Bangor, my friend Mr. Haskell, but I notice he says, "I hope in acknowledging real need"—yet his platform, the resolution by the Committee of which he was Chairman, said that they wished to recognize the desires and needs of the veterans, both the desires and the needs, but it has changed since that day in April in Bangor.

Now I wonder. You know I have never been an especially strong Republican. At times I have been against the administration. When I go to the Republican Convention, I am like the majority of you folks: the Republican leaders of the State do not recognize I am there; they do not bother to put you and I on the platform to make the policies of the party. You know how little we all have to say about what goes on in a Republican Convention. But there are gentlemen who apparently are recognized by the party and who are put up as men who can dictate the action of that party.

I wonder what the Republican platform is anyway? It appears to me it is like the old darky in the south who was trying to influence one of his brothers to vote, I suppose the good Democratic ticket, and was telling about this candidate he was presenting. The other darky says, "Oh, he is all right but I do not like his platform. The first darky said, "Oh, Rastus, don't pay any attention to the platform, that is something to get in on." (Laughter)

Today, if we indefinitely postpone this bill which answers what the Republican Party at Bangor on April 12th pledged themselves to the State of Maine, we are saying that you

and I have used the Republican Party label and platform simply to get in on.

It does not appear that a group of men and women interested in the welfare of Maine would turn down the vote which they themselves, many of them delegates, recorded at the Bangor Convention. It does not appear that after three weeks of honest effort to meet the veterans' program that we will turn it down at this time.

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

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

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

Mr. DOWNS of Rome: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. DOWNS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to address the House.

The SPEAKER: In order for the Chair to entertain the motion for the previous question it is necessary that one-third of the members present request it. All those in favor of the motion 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 an insufficient number of the members having arisen, the motion for the previous question is not entertained. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rome, Mr. Downs.

Mr. DOWNS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I had hoped that after serving the long term that I have had in this House, and so many of you members have been so tolerant toward me, that I would not find it necessary to raise my voice either for or in opposition to any measure. I do find at this time, when it is probable that this is the last time that my voice will ever be heard in this House of Representatives, that I must go on record as opposed to the enactment of this measure.

I wish to review with you briefly the purpose for which we were called here. As I understood it then, and as I understand it now, it was for the purpose of enacting a rea-

sonable soldiers bonus and to provide funds for its financing. Just how far we have drifted from that course is purely problematical. I think I can well state, with one of the gentlemen who preceded me, frankly I do not know where I am at. I want to say to you that no member within the sound of my voice is more anxious to pay tribute to the returned and returning veterans than I am. No member came here with a more determined mind to do something in the line of a soldiers' bonus than did I, but if I go along with the measure which is presented to us today, I will do him a greater injustice than anything else that I could do.

I am not at all afraid to go back to the boys at home. I think it is clearly understood that I am not coming back to the Legislature so I am not fishing for votes. I am not afraid to go back to my boys at home and say to them: "No. We did spend three weeks in session and I did not bring you back a bonus. No, neither did I bring back to you a liability which is going to follow you through years to come." I could not conscientiously say to them: "Yes, I did or I helped give you a \$150 bonus and in the next two years we are taking that out of your pocket and the end is not yet in sight."

I do not feel that we were called down here to consider, strictly speaking, the financial structure of the State of Maine. Neither at a special session were we called down here to enact legislation which would impair the masonry upon which that stands. We were called here to protect it to the extent of any action which we might take.

You have heard suggestion of a sales tax and the suggestion that if this piece of legislation is enacted a sales tax will be passed. You have been told there is no danger if this Legislature in its wisdom enacts a sales tax, under the guise of duty to the returning veterans, that the voters of the State of Maine will march to the polls and say yes to our action. But we cannot be so forgetful to recall that last time ten years ago when the electorate of the State of Maine said no to a sales tax. Do you believe that today, when the purchasing price of a dollar bill is only about fifty-three cents, that they are going to be less tax conscious?

I would be remiss in my duty, I would feel remiss to those who have

sent me here for four consecutive terms, if I did not raise my voice in opposition to a measure which I believe would place an added burden on their shoulders. Whatever I may say here, or whatever action this House may take is but a slight tribute to the returning veterans. I might say that at the present time I see no crying need for legislative action on a soldiers bonus. If I am correct, the veterans who appeared here in support of the bonus measure said: "We want \$500; we don't want \$100." Your committee in its wisdom has said: "We cannot appropriate \$500, but as a palliative measure we will give you \$150." Is that what they want? Are they going to be satisfied with \$150? Well, let's see what the answer is. Only yesterday on the streets of Augusta I met a boy I have known for years. I knew him before he went into the service. I saw him after he came out. He took a two weeks' vacation and today he is working over here in the pulp mill earning a good salary. He said, "Well, Doc, I see you are going to give us a sales tax. You are going to give us a bonus but you are going to make us pay for it by means of a sales tax." That was his attitude, and I am saying to you that it is the attitude of thousands of veterans who have returned and are returning to the State of Maine.

Now the situation of the veteran is not so tough as we might be led to believe and I want you to believe that no word I say can be construed as meaning anything but the highest respect for the veteran and sympathy toward a bonus for him at the proper time. Now he came out of the service and got his \$300 and, in cases where it is necessary, for fifty-two weeks he can draw down twenty dollars a week. Terminal leave pay, if I am correctly informed, is going to come into the State of Maine to the tune of about twenty-five million dollars. He has got that money now or will have it. I submit to you that there may come a dry time in the State of Maine when the veteran will need a bonus, when he will need it worse than he does today, and I have confidence enough in the Legislature of that time to pay that money and deal with any emergency or with any soldiers' bonus proposition with judgment and with fairness, and I submit to you that the need will be more crying than it is today.

Now my esteemed colleague, the

gentleman from Clifton (Mr. Williams), who heretofore has always agreed with me, has told us a very amusing story and has told you what the attitude of the negro was on that platform; that it was something to ride in on. I want to leave this thought with you today: If we enact this bill as presented, are we providing a vehicle that something may ride in on outside of the soldiers bonus? I thank you.

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

Mr. BOYKER: Mr. Speaker, we are not assembled here to pass a sales tax bill to bolster the finances of the State of Maine: we are here to protect the veterans of World War II who risked their lives to protect us. We must also ask those veterans to help pay our expenses here of \$40,000, and we must also ask those veterans to help pay \$375,000 for the next six months to take care of a raise in the pay of our State employees; but to ask those soldiers to pay back to the State of Maine what we propose to give them in a bonus, God forbid.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the passage of the bill to be enacted.

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

Mr. ALLEN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: My remarks will be very brief. I have listened with amazement up and down the corridors of this State House to remarks which have been made time and time again by people who said, "Yes, I believe in a bonus; yes, I believe in a sales tax, and I think next winter we should pass a sales or an income tax, but I do not think we should put them together." Do they believe in giving a bonus, do they believe in giving a Christmas present to me and then next year sending me a bill? I wonder! I listen with amazement when people say that ten years ago the people of this State voted against a sales tax. Do you mean to say that you haven't confidence enough in the people of this State to let them vote more than once in ten years on the matter? Do you mean to say you do not think the people of this State might not change their minds on certain matters in ten long years? Members, I am flabbergasted. I am flabbergasted that you have not got confidence in these 93,000 veterans and

the rest of the 850,000 people in the State of Maine to send them the most important piece of legislation which this State has had to consider in twenty-five years.

Our job is to investigate. You have sent a lot of referendums down to the people on matters much less important than this. I think there was one not long ago on the gas tax and so forth, and I am sure there have been recently questions about which the people hardly knew a thing before they voted, and yet you mean to say you have not got confidence in the people of your State to let them decide the issue but you want to say on a controversial question, "No, we will be the judges." A few men here in Augusta, sent down here to legislate, sent down to investigate for the people as a committee of the whole on veterans' legislation, you say, "We will decide it here; to heck with the people and to heck with the veterans."

Members, the people of this State have a right to decide on whether or not they want a bonus and whether or not they want to pay for it, and you cannot pay a bonus and let Santa Claus pay for it.

There is hardly a member in this house; there is hardly a family in the State of Maine that has not a veteran in that family. It is not a question of "we" or "they," it is a problem for all the people. Let the people decide.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vassalboro, Mr. Hawes.

Mr. HAWES: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We have had an opportunity to provide for a bonus for the soldiers without the imposition of a sales tax. We have not thus far seen fit to take advantage of that opportunity. Any necessary emergency appropriation can properly be paid from the unallocated surplus of the general fund. Any financing for future anticipated budget deficits as well as possible downward revision of budget requirements should be left to the next Legislature. Because I believe a general sales tax falls most heavily upon those least able to pay it, I am unable to vote for the pending bill.

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

Mr. PAYSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I find that we are in complete agreement on two matters: first, that we were called down here to provide veterans' benefits, and, secondly, that we have been here for three weeks. Beyond that, there is a great deal of confusion which has resulted in my organization, which I naturally head up, being the most confused of all.

When I first came down here I found so many in favor of the bonus that it seemed to be practically unanimous.

I remember when I was a boy down at South Hope, Maynard Bowie had a frog pond down in back of his house. Ray Folger lived down in South Hope too, but he moved to West Rockport and then went away to college and became quite a fellow. He works for the store that Mr. Grant owns. Ray came back and built himself a summer place, and he was going to have some of his city friends down to visit him one week-end and he wanted to give them some frogs' legs for supper. We don't eat them down there in South Hope ourselves. He wanted ten dozen pair of frogs' legs. Maynard Bowie says "I can get them all right for you." Ray says, "Are you sure?" Maynard says, "Yes, of course I can get them for you." So the time came to deliver the frogs' legs and Maynard was not in a position to deliver them. He had eight pair. Ray says, "What is the matter?" Maynard says, "Well, I could only find eight pair of frogs' legs. From the noise they made I thought there was a million of them." (Laughter)

Now, as I view the bewildering situation, the Legislature has mounted its horse and ridden off in three different directions. Two of these directions arrive at the same destination, in my opinion: that is right where we started. The third one, which is already dead, would, I think, have paid the soldiers' bonus and I think it would have stuck.

I enjoy the naive enthusiasm of our younger colleague from Portland, but I am one of those who by experience am compelled to believe that no major tax measure will stick unless it is passed as an emergency measure in this Legislature.

The 1937 bill has been referred to. I recall it because I was here in the Legislature when we passed

it, and the Governor at that time went out on a limb and spoke for it.

That bill was tied up with Old Age Assistance and an increase in pay for teachers, which were two of the most popular and hottest propositions there were at that time, and when the voters got through with it in September they had slaughtered it three to one.

No major tax has ever been passed here except as an emergency measure in the Legislature. And I am not personally distrustful of the people at all; I simply follow what happened in the past, and I say if you pass this along to the people in September they still will vote no.

You unfortunate members who are coming back here next year, if my prognostications are correct, are going to be faced with the same bonus issue plus more deficit spending, and you will not have a sales tax to pay it with because the people will have slapped it down three to one and you won't dare to touch it.

The reason I am going to vote against this measure is because, in my experience it would be chicanery on my part to vote for a measure which I do not believe has a burglar's chance of getting past the people in September, and I will not vote dishonestly that way.

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

Mr. POULIN: Mr. Speaker, just one year after the end of World War I a grateful Legislature of the State of Maine granted a Bonus of \$100.00. I was one of those who received a check of \$100.00.

I did not solicit nor did any of the World War I Veterans lobby or try in any way to influence the Legislature. History again repeats itself in that at least 90% of the Veterans of World War II have not publicly expressed their desires or wishes to this Legislature.

An expression of gratitude by the State in terms of bonus and money should be this way, and we who were not required to fight for our country in the Army or Navy should not only be grateful to our veterans but show it by voting a bonus of \$150.

We who stayed home have our health, in most cases more money than ever before, while those who served have lost their health,

wealth, ambitions, and chances to lead the normal life of a citizen who is not required to go to war.

The problem of the wounded and rehabilitation is that of the Federal Government. Whatever the benefits that our World War II Veterans have received or will receive are not those of the State of Maine. One must realize that there are many cases that do not come under Federal jurisdiction.

No one can deny that the Federal Government has not been generous and grateful to its Veterans. Remember that the Federal Government has hundreds of thousands of Veterans of all wars in hospitals and elsewhere to care for.

So far our veterans' program costing in excess of \$800,000 a year, is a limited one. We are seeking to provide overall individual benefits now.

In 1917-18 the State of Maine furnished 32,000 or more veterans in defense of our country.

In 1941-45 it furnished over 90,000 men and women.

In 1918 the national debt was 45 billion; in 1946, it was 250 billion.

The State of Maine has a debt of less than 18 million, and we are in better financial condition than we ever were. It is estimated that the State is worth for borrowing purposes, \$100,000,000.

In 1919 a Constitutional Amendment was passed by the people for 10 million Highway Bonds.

When the Maine Bonus was passed at the 1919 Special Session in November, only five states had a State Bonus.

It recommended a \$3,000,000 bond issue in 1920, and in 1920 the people so voted. All this has been paid many years ago.

In 1917-19 Maine furnished aid to more than 7000 families. In 1941-45 the Federal Government took care of all dependent families of veterans in the Service.

A Sales Tax is proposed to take care of these Bonds required not to be paid back in one year or five, which might embarrass the State financially but in 10 year bonds at the low interest of only 7/8%, it is estimated.

If it takes a sales tax to pay for these benefits and a \$150 cash bonus, let us be honest with ourselves and State, and approve it. In brief, if this \$16,000,000 program is enacted it will have to be paid. In the opinion of the commit-

tee, a sales tax was the only way this money could be raised.

It is predicted that this Sales Tax will be turned down by the people in September. Who is it that predicts this? Is it the other political party, the man who might presumably be affected financially, or he who personally wishes to deny the Veteran of World War II a bonus or benefits given under this bill. The cost of the bonus to the State is small in comparison to the rewards we will derive.

The veteran might have not been a man old in years when he left for war but he has aged in wisdom and in his heart a love for the State of Maine.

In closing my remarks let me say that being a veteran of World War I and the father of a World War II veteran, and a member of several war organizations, I know what is in the heart and desire of the World War II veteran. I am not afraid to leave the final decision in September to the voters of Maine.

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

Mr. ROLLINS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I hate to rise in opposition to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Clifton, Mr. Williams, sponsor of this bill who has so ably defended it all through this session and who at this moment is the proud father of a new born son, but, in speaking as I do, I am thinking of him, as I am thinking of all the veterans. We might be led to believe that, with the exception of Mr. Williams, most every member of this House has a home; they have furniture; they have refrigerators; they have everything. We have 94,000 veterans. Perhaps Mr. Williams has not all those things because he is a young man starting with a young family. A sales tax is a direct tax upon those boys. Mr. Williams suggests that this House has rejected the original bill, turned it down. My memory may be wrong but I think the committee turned it down. I do not think this House has had a chance to turn down the original bill because there were many members sitting here today who are speaking and thinking that they would like to have that opportunity.

My colleague, the gentlewoman from Bath, Mrs. Deering Mofatt, said that we are not deciding

today whether Maine is to have a sales tax or not. That I thoroughly agree with, but, as many of the members have said, they know it will be defeated.

The gentleman from Anson, Mr. Ela, says the public will have ample time to look it over and if they see fit, to veto this measure. Yes, I agree with him; they will kill it in September.

Ladies and gentleman, there are many members on the floor of this House today who have said "I am voting for this bill but I will vote against it in September." I want to reiterate here that I stand the same as my colleague, the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. Poulin, a veteran of World War I, and the father of a veteran, but I oppose the passage of this bill because to pass this bill means no bonus.

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

Mr. CROSBY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have heard a good deal of discussion on giving the veterans a bonus with one hand and taking it back with the other. Now any tax measure outside of the document, the bill before us, so far as I can see, must come from the citizens of the State of Maine. I think that includes the veterans. I believe, if I am not misinformed, that a sales tax would bring in some two million dollars in revenue from people who come to the State of Maine from other states. I will submit to you: Is that taking it out of the veterans? The rest is the money they will pay their proportional part for. That goes mainly to the expense of running the government of the State of Maine, and I think they should assume their responsibility on that part.

As you all know, I come from a small town. I am perfectly willing to let the people in that small town vote on this measure. I believe they are fully as capable of deciding the things they want as I am.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the enactment of the bill. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Pascucci.

Mr. PASCUCCI: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: There has been so much said about this particular bill pro and con that I feel I have not the language to add further to it; but there is one thing

here particularly for those who are in favor of submitting this particular proposal to the people; there is the question of the referendum.

It has been mentioned here that we have befogged the issue. At least the proponents of this bill have come out into clear water and have admitted that this particular bill is nothing more than a revenue measure subjugating a so-called veterans' program. At the same time I feel they are showing a great deal of disrespect for the intelligence of our people. They hope to put the sales tax through under the guise of veterans' benefits. How do they do it? On Page 19, Title 9 of the referendum of this particular bill here is the question that is put before our people: "Shall the act providing for the payment of a bonus to and 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, as submitted by the 92nd Legislature to the people, be accepted?"

What is the inference the voter is going to draw when he reads that question? His impression will be that this particular tax measure is nothing more than to pay veterans' benefits and a bonus. Little will the voters know, or we hope they do not know, that that tax is going to be saddled on them for the rest of their lives and on future generations. Why do they not come out and say it instead of inserting a question like this in a referendum measure? Why do they have to put an ambiguous cloak around it to put this through under the guise of veterans' benefits if they are honest?

They have been saying right along this is a measure to raise bonus money for benefits for the veterans. Do you think we can infer it to be such under the particular question that is put up on the referendum?

It is in the little things that you realize what some people are trying to get at. It is those little things which go to make up the major issue. And I feel, in view of the question that is going to be put before the people, that we can draw only one opinion, that we are trying to put through a sales tax under the guise of a veterans' bonus. I hope this measure does not pass.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the enactment of H. P. 1528,

L. D. 1245. The gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Thompson, has asked for a vote by the yeas and nays. In order for the vote to be taken by the yeas and nays it is necessary that one-fifth of the members present request it. 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: Obviously more than one-fifth of the members having arisen, the vote will be taken by the yeas and nays.

On motion by the gentlewoman from Bath, Mrs. Elizabeth Deering Moffatt, House Rule 25 was suspended for the remainder of today's session.

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

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, it seemed to me in the course of the discussion that some members were under the impression that a motion was before the House to indefinitely postpone this matter. Will the Chair please state the question again?

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the enactment of the bill. A vote of "Yes" is a vote for enactment; a vote of "No" is a vote against enactment. Is there any further question? If not, the Clerk will call the roll.

YEA—Allen, Ames, Anderson, Baker, Bell, Benn, Blake, Brownfield; Boulier, Bowker, Burton, Byron, Carpenter, Skowhegan; Chase, Cobb, Bangor, Cobb, Gardiner; Cole, Casco; Collins, Connellan, Crosby, Deering-Moffatt; DeSanctis, Dicker, Dorsey, Edwards, Ela, Elliott, Forhan, Gillies, Gowell, Haskell, Portland; Hayward, Jennings, Jordan, So. Portland; Knight, Jay, Leathers, Lombard, Lord, Camden; Marsans, Meloon, Morrison, Rumford; Morse, Moulton, Patterson, Plummer, Poulin, Pratt, Rankin, Roberts, Sanborn, Sargent, Southard, Sweetser, Thomas, Tozier, Ward, Webber, Weeks, Wells, Williams, Clifton; Wood, Wright.

NAY—Adams, Berry, Blake, Dexter; Boutin, Boyker, Brown, Brunswick; Brown, Unity; Carpenter, Augusta, Cole, West Gardiner; Conant, Dow, Downs, Dutton, Emerson, Gay, Grenier, Hanson, Haskell, Bangor; Hawes,

Hemphill, House, Jacobs, Jalbert, Jewett, Jones, Jordan, Saco; Judkins Knight, Clinton; Lacharite, Lackee, Lee, Legard, Letourneau, Longstaff, MacKinnon, Marshall, Martin, Morrison, Winter Harbor; Nadeau, Ouellette, Pascucci, Payson, Peirce, Perkins, Rollins, Ross, Russell, Smart, Smith, Snow, Stillings, Thompson, Warren, Weston, Wight, Williams, Auburn; Williams, Topsham; Barnes.

**ABSENT**—Bird, Rockland; Bird, Washington; Brewer, Brown, Milford; Christensen, Coombs, Corson, Cousins, Cyr, Daigle, Dean, Donahue, Ellingwood, Gallant, Hamilton, Heanssler, Lord, So. Portland; McFee, Mornault, Palmeter, Prout, Renouf, Savage, Springer, Thorndike, True, Vickery, Walsh, Welch.

Yea—61.

Nay—58.

Absent—29.

**THE SPEAKER:** Sixty-one having voted in favor of enactment and 58 against, with 29 absentees, the bill is passed to be enacted. It will be signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

#### Emergency Enactor

\* An Act Authorizing Maine Development Commission to Promote New Industries (S. P. 457) (L. D. 1192)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

**THE SPEAKER:** This is an emergency measure and for its enactment requires a two-thirds vote of the entire elected membership of the House. All those in favor of the passage of the bill to be enacted will rise and stand in their places until counted and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division was had.

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

**MR. WARD:** Mr. Speaker, I request that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays.

**THE SPEAKER:** The gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward, requests the yeas and nays. In order for the Chair to put the vote by the yeas and nays it requires 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.

More than one-fifth of the members present arose.

**MR. PEIRCE** of Augusta: Mr. Speaker—

**THE SPEAKER:** For what purpose does the gentleman arise?

**MR. PEIRCE:** I wish to inquire on what we are voting.

**THE SPEAKER:** The House is voting on S. P. 457, L. D. 1192, "An Act Authorizing Maine Development Commission to Promote New Industries."

A vote of "Yes" is for enactment; a vote of "No" is against enactment.

The Clerk will call the roll.

**YEA**—Adams, Allen, Ames, Anderson, Baker, Bell, Benn, Berry, Blake, Brownfield; Blake, Dexter; Boulier, Boutin, Bowker, Boyker, Brown, Brunswick; Brown, Unity; Burton, Byron, Carpenter, Augusta; Carpenter, Skowhegan; Chase, Cobb, Bangor; Cobb, Gardiner; Cole, Casco; Cole, West Gardiner; Collins, Conant, Connellan, Crosby, DeSanctis, Dicker, Dorsey, Dow, Downs, Dutton, Edwards, Ela, Elliott, Forhan, Gay, Gillies, Gowell, Haskell, Bangor; Haskell, Portland; Hawes, Hayward, Hemphill, House, Jacobs, Jalbert, Jennings, Jones, Jordan, Saco; Jordan, So. Portland; Judkins, Knight, Clinton; Knight, Jay; Lacharite, Lackee, Leathers, Lee, Legard, Letourneau, Lombard, Longstaff, Lord, Camden; MacKinnon, Marsans, Marshall, Martin, Meloon, Morrison, Rumford; Morrison, Winter Harbor; Morse, Moulton, Ouellette, Pascucci, Patterson, Payson, Peirce, Perkins, Plummer, Poulin, Pratt, Rankin, Roberts, Ross, Russell, Sanborn, Sargent, Smart, Smith, Snow, Southard, Stillings, Sweetser, Thomas, Thompson, Tozier, Ward, Webber, Weeks, Wells, Wright, Williams, Auburn; Williams, Clifton; Williams, Topsham; Wood, Wright, Barnes.

**NAY** — Deering-Moffatt; Emerson, Grenier, Hanson, Jewett, Nadeau, Rollins, Warren, Weston.

**ABSENT**—Bird, Rockland; Bird, Washington; Brewer, Brown, Milford; Christensen, Coombs, Corson, Cousins, Cyr, Daigle, Dean, Donahue, Ellingwood, Gallant, Hamilton, Heanssler, Lord, So. Portland; McFee, Mornault, Palmeter, Prout, Renouf, Savage, Springer, Thorndike, True, Vickery, Walsh, Welch.

Yea—110.

Nay—9.

Absent—29.

**THE SPEAKER:** One hundred and ten having voted in the affirmative and nine in the negative, the bill has been passed to be enacted. It will be signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.



On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, the bills just enacted were ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The House may be at ease.

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At Ease

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3:20 P. M. (E.S.T.)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

**Papers From The Senate  
(Out of Order)**

From the Senate, the following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the officers of the Senate and House of Representatives for salaries for this Special Session the amounts included in lists certified to the State Controller by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House respectively, subject to approval by the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. (S. P. 479).

Came from the Senate in that body read and passed.

In the House:

The order received passage in concurrence.

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From the Senate, the following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the Chaplains of the Senate and House of Representatives for this Special Session the sum of five dollars per diem in lists certified to the State Controller by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House respectively. (S. P. 480)

Came from the Senate in that body read and passed.

In the House:

The order received passage in concurrence.

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On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, it was voted to take from the table the eighth tabled and unassigned matter, Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for a Bond Issue for the Payment of a Bonus to or Insurance Premiums for Maine Members of

the Military and Naval Forces in World War II and for the Payment of Other Veterans' Benefits and to Provide for the Payment of Such Bonds by a Sales Tax. (H. P. 1529) (L. D. 1244), tabled on July 24th by that gentleman, pending passage to be enacted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bangor. Mr. Wight.

Mr. WIGHT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I want to oppose this enactment. We have seen companion legislation pass this Legislature by a very, very narrow margin. In order to consider the Constitutional Amendment there should be an overwhelming majority in favor of it. Our founding fathers wrote a good Constitution for us and they recognized that it might be necessary to amend that Constitution. I want to read from Article X, Section 2. It reads: "The Legislature, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, may propose amendments to this Constitution." I do not believe that two-thirds of both houses do deem it necessary, so I hope that this resolution will not be adopted.

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

Mr. PIERCE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I rise in opposition to the enactment of the resolution as this session of Legislature draws to a close. I think that all of us appreciate very deeply the democratic processes which were put into our Constitution and into our statutes which guarantee the various liberties for which our soldiers fought and for which so many of them died.

During this special session opponents of the bonus measure have had a fair opportunity to be heard. Opponents of the sales tax have had the same fair opportunity. Proponents of other revenue measures have presented their cases. In the final analysis, this House has voted to enact a bonus bill. We are now to decide on the bond issue which accompanies it. We should be very appreciative of the democratic processes and the liberties which are guaranteed to us under our Constitution. Despite the winning of the war, there are still too few people in this world who live in a democratic state and who have a chance to express their opinions on such issues. Great Britain and France

are still in there. Germany and the other satellite nations for a long time will be unable to do so. Spain and Russia keep their people subjugated so that we can never learn true public opinion in those countries.

I ask you people who voted no on the bonus bill to stick to your guns and vote no on this bond issue. I think it is appropriate at this time that just a few more statistics should come before this House. According to the Adjutant General's Department, the State of Maine lost 2500 soldiers during this last war. An additional 9000 were wounded in action. Some seventy odd thousand will come back to us in more or less good shape. These are the people that we are called together to help. It is in appreciation of their services and sacrifices that we are called together to legislate a token of appreciation. The proponents of the sales tax, as you all know, think that putting the sales tax on is not a token of appreciation to the veterans who will receive the bonus. It is not a token of appreciation to the widows and orphans of those who gave their lives for the continuance of these democratic processes. It is not a fair proposition for all the citizens of Maine, especially in this extremely inflationary period.

To my mind, the vote in this House on the bonus bill this afternoon is a very good indication of what the people would do in September if they were given a chance to vote. A great many of the proponents of the bill itself have stated in public that they will vote against it in September. The chances are that they feel strongly enough against it that they will go out and work against it. I feel certain that a great many of the opponents of the bill will get out and work against it. Do you honestly believe that a bill which has that type of opposition can get anywhere with the people of the State of Maine? This Legislature has had numerous opportunities to refer amendments of this nature to the people of Maine. The majority of them have been voted down in the Legislature. Others have been voted down by the people themselves. Let us look at the record, ladies and gentlemen, and be guided by the vote of no on this bill.

Various proponents of the bill

have said they do not dare to go home and tell their people they could do nothing for them. I feel that we are doing a lot for the veterans of the State of Maine if we can go home and tell them we have not saddled them with a sales tax which they will have to pay for the rest of their lives. It is unfortunate that more of us do not have a chance to go back to the country and go back to the grass roots of the State of Maine and find out what the real sentiment is on this bill. It is fortunate that those who live in Kennebec County do live within commuting distance of the Capitol and can keep in close touch with their constituents. It is my personal experience that no veterans have come to me and asked for a cash bonus. Some of them have come to me during this session and have told me that they are 100% opposed to a bonus with a sales tax attached to it. Are you members going to vote for the benefit of the veterans? Are you going to following your conscience? If you are I feel quite sure that this bond issue will be voted down in the House. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all of those who opposed the sales tax to vote against this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bridgton, Mr. Rankin.

Mr. RANKIN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am not going to make a speech, but I wish to express an opinion which is precisely the opposite from the opinion which has been expressed by two members of th House. The opinion is this: When we have enacted this measure into law it would be a very bizarre thing to take reverse action in the matter of putting this bond issue through. It is my opinion that it is the rigid obligation of every member of this House to vote on this bill.

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: If we were voting on a bond issue I would be very much tempted to go along with it, but here is what we are voting on: Legislative Document 1244, Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for a Bond Issue for the Payment of a Bonus to or Insurance Premiums for Maine Members of the Military and Naval Forces in World War II and

for the Payment of Other Veterans' Benefits and to Provide for the Payment of Such Bonds by a Sales Tax.

L. D. 1245 is the mechanics of this bill.

I am confident that the people in September, should this be presented to them, would defeat this one as easily as they would defeat the other.

I have heard the remarks made by my good friend from Clifton, Mr. Williams. It is hard for me to congratulate him—I rather envy him for his good fortune. He has said that no program of taxation brought in here would bring a sufficient amount for the veterans. L. D. 1245 calls for \$2,145,000. My program and everybody else's program provides an ample amount of money to pay for this set-up.

It has been said, in jest, of course, but then you can turn it around, that everything has been thrown into L. D. 1245 and L. D. 1244, apparently, but the kitchen sink. Well, I tell you that has been thrown in, because that is going to be taxed if this thing goes through.

There are those who might say that my measure was a baby sales tax. All right let us call it that. But I guarantee you that my proposal did not force the boy or girl veteran to buy in order to pay for their bonus. They could get along without some of these things. But what about food, clothing, footwear.

I, too, have read what my colleague from Bangor so ably has stated, Article 10, Section 2 of the Constitution of Maine: "The Legislature, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, may propose amendments to this Constitution."

The venerable gentlemen who wrote this Constitution said: We do not want to go on a flimsy vote, one or two either way; we want a two-thirds majority." That is what it says; that is what it means; that is what it is. I hope this bill will not have passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson, and appoints him Speaker pro tempore, and asks the Sergeant-at-Arms to conduct him to the rostrum.

Mr. Payson was then conducted to the rostrum amid the applause of the House, and Speaker Barnes retired to his seat on the floor of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Barnes.

Mr. BARNES: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to address you for the first time during a session. I will try to be brief, and I will try not to bore you.

Twice during the discussion of this measure and related measures that go with it, I have voted from the rostrum, and I thought it no less than my duty to come down and explain to you how I feel on this resolve we are now considering.

I was against the bonus measure and I am still against it, but a majority of the members of this House passed it to be enacted. It has gone over to the other body and eventually will go to the Governor. If we fail to pass the resolve that we are now considering, it seems to me it would be an entirely dishonest act on the part of this Legislature. You have passed the bill, and now if by indirection you defeat it by not passing this constitutional resolve, neither you nor I nor any of us are going to be able to go home and feel decent about it.

Now the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Peirce, the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Wight, and the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert do not need to worry about preserving our democratic processes, because it does not make any difference whether the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson, is banging the gavel or whether the gentleman from Houlton is doing it: this resolve will not be finally passed unless it gets a two-thirds majority from this House.

Different members of the House voted against the other bill for various reasons. Some of them, like myself, were opposed to a State bonus, a cash bonus. Many of you members felt as I did, that a bonus, if any, should be paid on a Federal level, because there is not any reason why a veteran from Maine should receive a cent more or a cent less than a veteran from any other state in this Union. They were all in the same game, and a State bonus is to my mind entirely unsound. You have heard various people say we should hand the boys something when we get around to it. When we get around to handing the boys something I would like to hand them something besides \$150. I felt

that way about it; I felt strongly about it, but there were enough of you members in the House to vote the other way. I am saying now that I am going along and vote for this Constitutional Resolve because I think it would be dishonest of this Legislature—and I do not think it would be fair to the people or to our boys—for those members who were against a sales tax or those members who were against a bonus to defeat this measure by indirection. This is going to be decided on by a two-thirds majority of the entire elected membership of the House. Let not the gentleman from Lewiston (Mr. Jalbert) worry about that. But I urge you members who were with me when we were considering voting on the main bill to be good sports at this time. We have been beaten. I urge you to go along with the Constitutional Resolve and pass it because, if you do not, for the first time I am going to be a little bit ashamed of my House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Applause)

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman from Windham, Mr. Pratt, moves the previous question.

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 pro tem: Obviously more than one-third of the members present having arisen, the motion for the previous question is entertained.

This motion is debatable for five minutes at this time.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Barnes.

Mr. BARNES: Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion. I do not think it would be quite proper for the Chair to come down and make a speech and then shut off debate.

Mr. JACOBS of Auburn: I agree with that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I feel we all have a right to change our minds and our views and our opinions. I am young and possibly a little foolish. I am going to change my mind.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair will call the gentleman's attention to the fact that the question under debate at the moment is whether the main question shall be put now. The only matter that can be debated now is whether the main question shall be put now.

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

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, asks unanimous consent to address the House. Does the Chair hear objection? The Chair hears no objection and the gentleman may proceed.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, I am not one hundred per cent convinced that it is a question of sportsmanship, but let us say 99 per cent. I know definitely that both of these questions will be turned down by the people. I bow to the wishes of my Speaker and ask everyone else who voted before with the fifty-eight to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The question before the House now is: Shall the main question be put now? All those in favor of the main question being put now will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed and the main question was ordered.

Mr. WARD of Millinocket: Mr. Speaker, I request a yea and nay vote.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward, requests a yea and nay vote. In order for the vote to be taken by the yeas and nays requires 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 pro tem: Obviously more than one-fifth of the members having arisen, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This Resolve having had its two several readings in the House and

having been passed to be engrossed, and having had its two several readings in the Senate and having been passed to be engrossed, and having been reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, is it now the pleasure of the House that it be finally passed?

This being a Constitutional Amendment requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire elected membership of the House. All those in favor of the final passage of the Constitutional Resolve will answer "Yes" when their names are called. All those opposed will answer "No." The Clerk will call the roll.

The roll was then called by the Clerk.

Mr. HAWES of Vassalboro: Mr. Speaker, I would like to change my vote from "Yes" to "No."

Mr. JALBERT of Lewiston: Mr. Speaker, I would like to change my vote from "Yes" to "No."

YEA—Adams, Allen, Ames, Anderson, Baker, Bell, Benn, Blake, Brownfield; Blake, Dexter; Boulier, Bowker, Burton, Byron, Carpenter, Skowhegan; Chase, Cobb, Bangor; Cobb, Gardiner; Cole, Casco; Collins, Connelan, Crosby, Deering Moffatt; DeSanctis, Dicker, Dorsey, Dow, Dutton, Edwards, Ela Elliott, Forhan, Gillies, Gowell, Haskell, Portland; Hayward, House, Jennings, Jordan, So. Portland; Judkins, Knight, Jay; Lackee, Leathers, Lee, Lombard, Longstaff, Lord, Camden; MacKinnon, Marsans, Marshall, Meloon, Morrison, Rumford; Morse, Moulton, Patterson, Payson, Plummer, Poulin, Pratt, Rankin, Roberts, Ross, Russell, Sanborn, Sargent, Snow, Southard, Stillings, Sweetser, Thomas, Tozier, Ward, Webber, Weeks, Wells, Williams, Auburn; Williams, Clifton; Wood, Wright, Barnes.

NAY—Berry, Boutin, Boyker, Brown, Brunswick; Brown, Unity; Carpenter, Augusta; Cole, West Gardiner; Conant, Downs, Emerson, Gay, Grenier, Hanson, Haskell, Bangor; Hawes, Hemphill, Jacobs, Jalbert, Jewett, Jones, Jordan, Saco; Knight, Clinton; Lacharite, Legard, Letourneau, Martin, Morrison, Winter Harbor; Nadeau, Ouellette, Pascucci, Peirce, Perkins, Rollins, Smart, Smith, Thompson, Warren, Weston, Wight, Williams, Topsham.

ABSENT—Bird, Rockland; Bird, Washington; Brewer, Brown, Milford; Christensen, Coombs, Corson, Cousins, Cyr, Daigle, Dean, Donahue, Elingwood, Gallant, Hamilton, Heansler, Lord, So. Portland; McFee, Morneault, Palmeter, Prout, Renouf,

Savage, Springer, Thorndike, True, Vickery, Walsh, Welch.

Yea—79.

Nay—40.

Absent—29.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Clifton: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER pro tem: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker, gentlemen from another branch are influencing members of this branch.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The gentleman may state his point of order. What is the gentleman's point?

Mr. WILLIAMS: Gentlemen from the Senate are trying to influence votes in this body.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Sergeant-at-Arms will see that the members of the House are not molested while voting.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker, I consider whispering to any member of this body is trying to influence the vote at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tem: Seventy-nine having voted in the affirmative and 40 in the negative, and 79 being less than two-thirds of the elected membership of the House, the motion is lost and the Resolve fails of passage.

Speaker Barnes then returned to the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The House is proceeding under Orders of the Day.

Mr. Jones of Waterville was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mr. JONES: Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday when we voted on H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245, at that time my vote was recorded as "No." If my memory serves me right, I voted "Yes" and it was recorded "No." I would like to have it changed at this time so as to show properly the way I voted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair rules the gentleman cannot change his vote after it has been declared. The gentleman has cleared up the point, but it is not possible to change the record of a vote after the vote has been announced.

On motion by Mr. Brown of Brunswick, the House voted to take from the table the seventh tabled and unassigned matter, An Act Relating to Control of Rentals. (H. P.

1527) (L. D. 1242), tabled by that gentleman on July 24th, pending passage to be enacted.

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

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I went home last night and was greeted by one of my sons who has just returned from Japan and he spoke to me in this manner, in rather an oily Japanese manner: "What has Honorable House done to save face?" Now I do not think that we have done very much so far to save our faces, and I think if we let this rent control bill go, we will lose not only our faces but we will also lose our heads.

This document, An Act to Control Rentals, is offered to us as an emergency bill. Now, an emergency bill should include only such measures as are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety. This bill certainly will not preserve the public peace. On the contrary, it is nothing but a menace to the peace and comfort of this State. While it may protect a few in isolated cases, the rank injustice that will be inflicted on the great majority of others, both landlords and tenants, is so far in excess of any relief it might bring that it should never be permitted to pass this House.

We make laws in this Legislature to guarantee justice as far as possible to each and every one of us. In the past six years that I have been a member of this House, I honestly believe that this body has tried to carry out such a principle. Don't let us change now.

This rent control bill does not come up to our standard. Far from it. It is a bill filled with unfairness, injustice, partiality and bad judgment. I'll prove it to you.

Suppose that you have a house worth \$2500 and it rents for \$25 per month. Now, you spend another \$2500 on it in repairs and it is worth \$5000 and should bring in \$50 a month rent, which is not an unreasonable charge. Can you get \$50 a month for it? Not under this rent control bill. You must stick to the old price \$25 a month no matter how much under value it may be. The assessors in your town may and probably will raise the valuation and you will pay more taxes but that doesn't make any differ-

ence under this bill. Do you call that protecting the landlord, No!

Such a situation as that would be bad enough, but listen to this: Here is where insult and injury are added to injury already inflicted. In the next lot to yours, a person may build a house for \$2500 which is only half the cost of yours, and he can demand and get \$50, \$60, yes—any old price he asks, and this rent control bill actually aids and abets him. Is that fair to either you or the tenant who moves into that house? Of course not.

Here is another example of the inconsistency of this bill. You own two houses, side by side, both alike in all details. You live in one; you rent the other for \$25 a month and you are now losing money. Your tenant moves out. Can you raise the rent on that house to the point where you just break even? Oh, no! This bill says \$25 a month and no more. You are stuck.

However, you just pick up your furniture and move it into that empty house, which as I stated, is exactly like the one you have been occupying, and you are all set. Now you rent the house you left for \$50 or \$75 or any old price you can get. That kind of trick is justified under this bill and the tenant gets stuck good and proper.

If this bill provided some type of a board of appeal where an owner or a tenant could apply for relief and get it, it would not be quite so unjust. However, it doesn't. You just take it and like it, right or wrong, just or unjust. Is that the type of government we wish here in this State of Maine? I don't think so. I don't think that the members of this House, and that includes the sponsors of this bill, really think so either, especially after they have heard me through.

You remember on June 30th of this year when the O.P.A. passed out of power, our Governor, referring to rent control, stated that the people of Maine were adequately protected by laws already on our statutes against rent profiteering and the like. He was right. We were protected and we are now. The present law that any of you may read in the General Statutes is practical, thorough, and affords justice to all. It is too bad that more of us were not familiar with it, since such knowledge would have stopped this bill long before it got

as far along as it has. Here is the law: Chapter 124, Sections 41 and 42:

"Whoever demands or collects an unreasonable or unjust rent or charge, taking into due consideration the actual market value of the property at the time, with a fair return thereon, or imposes an unreasonable or unjust term or condition, for the occupancy of any building or part thereof, rented or hired for dwelling purposes, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than eleven months, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

There it is. Short, sweet and complete, with a good set of teeth in it too. It will work too, if we set it going. That law was passed in 1919, 27 years ago, and it is perfect. It protects the tenant; it protects the landlord.

The Attorney-general, upon his own initiative or upon a petition of fifty or more citizens of this State, shall investigate all seeming violations. If he considers that a violation has been made, he shall prosecute the guilty parties, and if they deserve it, they can be fined up to a thousand dollars and/or tucked away in jail for eleven months. It does the job as it should be done. So, you see, we have protection now, good and plenty.

This rent control bill now before us, a concoction of about everything we don't need, actually will obstruct justice to many of our citizens.

We haven't made a very good showing on our bonus bill. If we pass this rent control bill, what will the folks at home say to us? The mildest reproach they could offer is: "With a good law already on our statutes, why did you offer us this abortion?"

We will go far and look long before we improve our present law.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this rent control bill, L. D. 1242, be indefinitely postponed as it is not only superfluous but is actually pernicious.

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

**MR. ALLEN:** Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I regret that it is necessary for my raucous voice to echo so frequently here in the House, but rent control is a

matter which is of concern to all of us. May I first briefly refute the statements made by the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown. When the Governor's message included the statement that we should consider rent control, I assumed that probably he had consulted with the Attorney General's department regarding present statutes. When I checked with the Attorney General's department yesterday regarding the 1919 profiteering act, I was told, as I expected to hear, that the 1919 profiteering act has nothing whatever to do with rent control. The 1919 profiteering act does not apply to rent control legislation.

Now this rent control bill which we have before us is not superfluous. It is a bill which is very much different from the 1919 profiteering statute. The passage of the bill is not, in my estimation, an unwise act. May I take a few minutes of your time to trace the development of this bill and to advise you as to what is happening in other states in the United States. As you know, many states have considered rent control. I do not consider it is a matter not to be discussed in view of the fact that the Legislature of California went into special session on rent control on Monday morning. I would not consider it a matter to be taken lightly in view of the fact that the State of New Jersey is now in session, called also by their Governor to consider only rent control legislation. I would not consider it a matter to be taken lightly in view of the fact that the voters of New York passed a rent control bill. This is a matter which is of great concern to the people of this State as well as to other states.

I offer no apologies for introducing legislation on rent control. Letters have poured in here from all parts of the State, not only from the larger cities, where I would have expected the majority of these letters, but from the small towns and villages from Fort Kent to Kittery and from every section of this State.

Now I regard any control as a necessary evil. I am convinced, because of the housing shortage, the acute housing shortage, that legislation is needed on the books of the State of Maine.

There were two bills introduced into the Legislature; the so-called Donahue Bill, which would freeze

rents at the June 30th level and abide by regulations of the O. P. A. in the Portland area; and my own bill which originally came in providing for a board and a ten per cent increase. This matter was referred to the Committee on Judiciary. We had hearings. It was of interest to me to note that more landlords appeared at that hearing than any other group. It was also of interest to note that there was not one word of opposition at that hearing. Landlords and tenants alike agreed that control of rentals for the moment was necessary.

The committee turned out its report, a unanimous report, "Ought to pass in new draft." You have that new draft in L. D. 1242, amended by a Senate Amendment. This bill provides a 15% rise instead of 10%, a figure which I think myself is fairer. The bill, as a committee bill, is, I consider, head and shoulders above the bill which I introduced first in this session. I do not consider it superfluous. It is an emergency bill, designed to end on June 30, 1947, to put the brakes on this thing and slow down unfair situations which have arisen in all parts of the State until housing again becomes adequate.

As I said before, hundreds of letters came in here to the State House; and telegrams also. I also received a number of letters and some calls, and they were all in favor of this with the exception of one postcard which said to keep my nose out of this affair if I wanted to be elected in September. These letters came from officials of poor departments in our cities, and from tenants and landlords alike. This bill will give the landlords a 15% rise. It is a compromise bill for the public safety of our people, and also it takes into consideration that many landlords were frozen at rents which were far too low in 1942. I do not think there is any need of going on at great length regarding this measure. You know, as do I, that Federal legislation is pending and is ready for the President's signature. I would like to remind you, if this bill is signed by the President, it applies to only seven counties or parts of some counties of the State of Maine. Nine counties are not covered at all by rent control. If it were not for the fact that so many letters and appeals from small towns in all parts of the State had

come in here, I would think, as many of you may think, let's leave the rest of the State alone. I am convinced there is a definite need for State control. I am convinced, because other states are also acting, that Maine should also act for the protection of her people and at the same time respect the rights of property owners. It is for that reason that I offer this rent control bill in this Legislature, not because I believe in any more controls than are absolutely necessary, but I firmly believe that it is necessary for us for a period of one year at least to prevent unfortunate situations which have arisen not only in the large cities but in small towns alike.

You have read where people have been ousted. In one case a woman and two children. Unfortunately you cannot say, "Go get another rent" because there are no other rents around. There is a great shortage of houses of all kinds. These cases are not isolated; they are numerous throughout the State. You and I may try to be fair as landlords but there are many people who have endured hardships. This is a public safety measure. This is an emergency and requires for enactment a two-thirds vote of this House. I hope you will vote on rent control and vote favorably because I know that you are as anxious as I am that the people of this State will know that the Legislature is sympathetic and understanding toward a problem which is of great importance locally, state wide, and nationally. Members of the House, I urge your support of this measure.

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

Mr. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I come from a small town of about ten thousand and I have yet to find one landlord who has raised his rent and we do not intend to raise our rents. People in our town are earning thirty-five to forty dollars a week and cannot afford to pay any more. I hope the motion of the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown, prevails.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown, to indefinitely postpone "An Act Relating to Control of Rentals" (H. P. 1527) (L. D. 1242)

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



Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: You may have been led to believe when I spoke in regard to the Governor that I was in error, but this is taken from the Portland paper:

"The Governor called attention to the existence of Maine laws 'prohibiting profiteering in the necessities of life, including rents,' and said it was the Attorney General's duty, and that of county attorneys, 'to prosecute violations brought to their attention'" and so forth.

Now there is just one other thing. Mr. Allen spoke about the number of letters he had received. I believe it; I haven't any doubt at all he has received a lot of letters. How many people in the State of Maine, in fact how many people right in this House, knew before I mentioned it this afternoon that we had a law that covered rents? If they would simply enforce this law which we have got on the statutes and which has been there for twenty-seven years, we would not need rent control and we would have a fair law.

I am not speaking for the landlords any more than I am for the tenants. I think if you followed me in my first speech you will agree that this bill is still a superfluous bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown, to indefinitely postpone "An Act Relating to Control of Rentals." (H. P. 1527) (L. D. 1242)

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

Mr. MELOON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Just a brief word. I honestly believe myself that the legislation that has been proposed by Mr. Allen is sound and the need for it is great. Rents in Portland have been sky-rocketing as they have been throughout the rest of the State. There is no chance at all for housing to be built and to be available to veterans or any other people until materials are available.

As you all know, throughout this State as well as throughout the nation, we are in the midst, at the present time, of an expansion in

industry. We are going out and giving \$25,000 to our Development Commission to go out and bring in further industries, and, until labor and materials are available for building houses we cannot do so and we will not catch up with the demand. It will not be possible as long as industry demands and takes all available manpower and building materials. And so I hope that the motion to indefinitely postpone made by the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown, does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown, to indefinitely postpone "An Act Relating to Control of Rentals" (H. P. 1527) (L. D. 1242). The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Allen, has asked for the vote to be taken by the yeas and nays. In order for the vote to be taken by the yeas and nays it requires 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: More than one-fifth of the members having consented, the vote will be taken by the yeas and nays.

The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Brown, to indefinitely postpone "An Act Relating to Control of Rentals," (H. P. 1527) (L. D. 1242). A vote of "Yes" is for indefinite postponement; a vote of "No" is against indefinite postponement.

The Clerk will call the roll.

YEA—Adams, Berry, Boutin, Brown, Brunswick; Brown, Unity; Carpenter, Augusta; Carpenter, Skowhegan; Chase, Conant, Connellan, Crosby, Deering Moffatt; Dicker, Dutton, Emerson, Gillies, Grenier, Jalbert, Jennings, Jones, Jordan, So. Portland; Knight, Jay; Lacharite, Legard, MacKinnon, Martin, Morse, Nadeau, Pratt, Rollins, Smart, Snow, Stillings, Thompson, Wight, Williams, Topsham.

NAY—Allen, Ames, Anderson, Baker, Bell, Benn, Blake, Brownfield; Blake, Dexter; Boulier, Bowker, Boyker, Burton, Byron, Cobb, Bangor; Cobb, Gardiner; Cole, Casco; Cole, West Gardiner; Collins, DeSanctis, Dorsey, Dow, Downs, Edwards, Ela, Elliott, Forhan, Gowell, Hanson, Haskell, Bangor; Haskell, Portland; Hawes, Hayward, Hemphill, House,

Jacobs, Jewett, Jordan, Saco; Judkins, Knight, Clinton; Lackee, Leathers, Lee, Letourneau, Lombard, Longstaff, Lord, Camden; Marsans, Marshall, Meloon, Morrison, Rumford; Morrison, Winter Harber; Moulton, Ouellette, Pascucci, Patterson, Payson, Peirce, Perkins, Plummer, Poulin, Rankin, Roberts, Ross, Russell, Sanborn, Sargent, Southard, Sweetser, Thomas, Tozier, Ward, Warren, Webber, Weeks, Wells, Weston, Williams, Auburn; Williams, Clifton; Wood, Wright.

ABSENT—Bird, Rockland; Bird, Washington; Brewer, Brown, Milford; Christensen, Coombs, Corson, Cousins, Cyr, Daigle, Dean, Donahue, Ellingwood, Gallant, Gay, Hamilton, Heansler, Lord, So. Portland; McFee, Morneault, Palmeter, Prout, Renouf, Savage, Smith, Springer, Thorndike, True, Vickery, Walsh, Welch.

Yea—36.

Nay—80.

Absent—31.

The SPEAKER: Thirty-six having voted in the affirmative and 80 in the negative, with 31 being absent, the motion is lost. The question is now on enactment.

This bill having had its three several readings in the House and having been passed to be engrossed, and having had its two several readings in the Senate and having been passed to be engrossed, and the Committee on Engrossed Bills having reported it to be truly and strictly engrossed, is it now the pleasure of the House that it be passed to be enacted?

This being an emergency measure requires for its enactment a vote of two-thirds of the entire elected membership of the House. All those in favor of the passage of the bill to be enacted will rise and stand in their places until counted and the monitors have made and returned the count.

A division was had

The SPEAKER: The vote having been 76 in the affirmative and 15 in the negative, the bill has failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote and falls of enactment.

The House may be at ease.

At Ease

(5:40 P.M., E.S.T.)

Called to order by the Speaker.  
On motion by Mr. Ward of Millinocket, recessed until 6:30 P. M., E.S.T.

After Recess

(7:40 P.M., E.S.T.)

Called to order by the Speaker.

On motion by Mr. Wight of Bangor, L. D. 1244 was ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

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

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as there is not much business that we can do at this time until we find out what happens at the other end of the hall, I move that we now adjourn until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward, moves that the House now adjourn until nine o'clock tomorrow morning. Is this the pleasure of the House?

Mr. CARPENTER of Augusta: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. CARPENTER: To ask a point of order. Is there not some other business we can do?

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Millinocket, Mr. Ward, that the House adjourn until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, Eastern Standard Time. All those in favor of the motion will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed and the House adjourned until Friday, July 26, 9:00 A.M., E.S.T.