

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Third Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1947

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Thursday, January 2, 1947.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Tom G. Akeley of Gardiner.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Order

On motion by Mr. Mills of Farmington, it was

ORDERED, that the Speaker of the House be authorized to control the use of the Hall of the House when the House is not in session unless the House shall otherwise order.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a committee of three on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join, be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Horace Hildreth and inform him that he has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the current years of 1947 and 1948 (S. P. 13)

Came from the Senate read and passed and with the following members appointed on its part.

Messrs. Savage of Somerset
Murchie of Washington
Williams of Penobscot

In the House, was read and passed in concurrence and the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House:

Messrs. Savage of Mt. Desert
Sargent of Bucksport
DeSanctis of Madison
Marshall of York
Brown of Milford
Elliott of Corinth
Poulin of Waterville

A message came from the Senate, borne by Secretary Winslow of that body, proposing a Joint Convention to be held forthwith in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purposes of administering to the Honorables Robert B. Dow, Harold N. Hanold, John F. Blanchard, Leroy F. Hussey, Hervery R. Emery, Harold W. Worthen and Lee C. Good the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to en-

ter upon the discharge of their official duties and for the further purpose of administering to the Hon. Horace A. Hildreth, Governor-elect the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

On motion by Mr. Mills of Farmington, the Clerk was charged with and conveyed a message to the Senate, informing that body that the House concurred in the proposal for a Joint Convention.

The Clerk subsequently reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

At this point the Senate entered the Hall of the House and a Joint Convention was formed.

IN CONVENTION

The President of the Senate, Honorable George D. Varney, in the Chair.

On motion by Senator Morrill of Cumberland, it was

ORDERED, that the rules be suspended by unanimous consent, and that a message be sent to the Councilors-elect, informing them that the two branches of the Legislature are in convention assembled, ready to administer to them the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

The Chairman appointed as such committee Senator Morrill of Cumberland.

Subsequently the Senator reported that he had performed the duty assigned him and that the Councilors-elect would attend forthwith.

On motion by Senator Dunbar of Washington, it was

ORDERED, that a committee of ten be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Justices of the Superior Court of this State, inviting them to attend this Convention, convened for the purpose of administering to the Honorable Horace Hildreth, Governor-elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

The Chairman appointed as such committee:

Senators: Dunbar of Washington
Batchelder of York
Barnes of Aroostook

Representatives:

Perkins of Boothbay
Harbor
Peirce of Augusta
Haskell of Portland
Anderson of New
Sweden
Silsby of Aurora
Poulin of Waterville
Muskie of Waterville

Mr. Dunbar, for the committee, subsequently reported that the committee had attended to the duty assigned it, and that the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Justices of the Superior Court were pleased to say that they would forthwith attend this Convention.

On motion by Senator Cross of Kennebec, it was

ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Horace Hildreth, Governor-elect, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in convention assembled, ready to administer to him the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties and receive from him such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed as such committee:

Senators: Cross of Kennebec
Noyes of Hancock
Welch of Arcoostook

Representatives:

Collins of Caribou
Marsans of Monmouth
Weeks of South Port-
land
Longstaff of Crystal
Cormier of Rumford
Cadorette of Biddeford
Jalbert of Lewiston

Mr. Cross for the committee subsequently reported that the committee had discharged the duties assigned it, and the Governor-elect was pleased to say that he was ready to take and subscribe the necessary oaths of office and would forthwith attend the Convention.

Thereupon, the Honorables Robert B. Dow, Harold N. Hanold, John F. Blanchard, Leroy F. Hussey, Hervey R. Emery, Harold W. Worthen and Lee C. Good, Councilors-elect, entered the Hall, and in the presence of both branches of the Legislature, in convention assembled, before the President of the Senate, took and

subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

The Councilors then withdrew, amid the applause of the Convention.

At this point the committee escorted the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Justices of the Superior Court to the Convention Hall, amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

Thereupon, the Honorable Horace A. Hildreth, Governor-elect, accompanied by Honorable Harold I. Goss, Secretary of State, escorted and announced by Sergeant Charlton Finley, of Winthrop, Maine, and also escorted by a Boy Scout Troop composed of Eagle Scouts Henry Christensen and his brother, Russell Christensen, Troop 210, Gardiner, Michael Vickery, Troop 233, Unity, and Elwood Littlefield, Troop 76, Stillwater, and Cub Scouts Michael Beagan, Jr., Pack 26, Bucksport, and John Philbrick, Pack 80, Cape Elizabeth, and attended by Ex-Governors Honorable Percival P. Baxter and Honorable William Tudor Gardiner, the Executive Council, and Heads of Departments, entered the Hall of the House, amid prolonged applause, the audience rising.

Thereupon, the Governor - elect, before the presiding officer of the Convention, the Honorable George B. Varney, in the presence of both branches of the Legislature, and the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Justices of the Superior Court of this State, took and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

The Secretary of State, the Honorable Harold I. Goss, then made Proclamation as follows:

Proclamation

The votes given in on the ninth day of September last, in the cities, towns and plantations of the State for Governor, the returns of which have been made to the office of the Secretary of State, having been examined and counted by the Legislature which has declared that a plurality thereof was given to Horace A. Hildreth, and that he is duly elected, and he having in the pres-

ence of the two branches of the Legislature in Convention assembled, taken and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to discharge the duties of that office, I, therefore, declare and make known to all persons in this State who are in the exercise of any public trust, as well as all good citizens thereof, that Horace A. Hildreth is Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State of Maine, and that due obedience should be rendered to all his acts and commands as such.

GOD SAVE THE STATE OF MAINE

The Chairman of the Convention then presented Governor Hildreth to the Convention, the audience rising and applauding.

Governor Hildreth then addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President and Members of the 93rd Legislature:

This 93rd Legislature meets amidst the blessings of peace. Great as these blessings are, however, we face problems fully as difficult as any Legislature has faced for many years because, during the years of war and threat of war the solution of many problems of great concern to our citizens was postponed until the coming of peace. The cumulative effect of these postponements will require our most strenuous, our most intelligent, and our most courageous efforts if we are to reach wise solutions of these problems.

Two years ago I spoke of the separation of the powers of government as adopted by our forefathers and I reaffirm my confidence that, in Maine at least, each branch of government will continue to function with independent integrity while still having full faith and confidence in the other branches.

Under these tried and true principles Maine has steadily gone forward in the past two years. The record is there for all to see.

This progress was made possible by the cooperation of the 92nd Legislature, the various department heads, the Executive Council, and the citizens of this State—working together as a team—to all of whom I express my appreciation for their cooperation.

Finances

Today the State of Maine is in excellent financial condition. We have

a total surplus of nearly \$10,000,000 almost equally divided between the Highway Fund and the General Fund. Nearly \$3,000,000 of the General Fund surplus has been set aside for purposes designated by the 92nd Legislature, the remaining General Fund excess of over \$2,000,000 is unearmarked, although a surplus of at least a million dollars is required for the management of a business with the volume of the State of Maine. Our highway surplus, which could not be spent during the war, will be spent to some extent in the current biennium.

Our bonded indebtedness is lower than it has been for 20 years. We have every reason to believe that we will complete this fiscal year, ending next June 30, without dipping into our General Surplus Fund.

We have called every bond which could be called before maturity, \$1,450,000 to be exact, at a saving of \$130,000 in interest to the State, and we have refinanced \$600,000 of Waldo-Hancock Bridge Bonds at a saving of \$162,000.

Looking to the future, however, the situation is far from bright. You have examined the comprehensive report of the Legislative Research Committee and the statements of the tax experts from the Institute of Public Administration. The difference between the estimated revenue available for the General Fund for the next biennium and the requests for General Funds by the various State departments is approximately \$7,000,000, and does not provide any appreciable amount for capital expenditures. In addition, the requests for the State Highway Department exceed by approximately \$7,000,000 the funds estimated to be available for that department.

This total difference of \$14,000,000 exists without any provisions for the enactment of new legislation requiring the expenditures of State funds.

It seems to me desirable, however, at this time only to indicate the financial picture in these general terms. How the estimated available income should be divided; whether additional revenue should be provided, and if so, how; and the desirability of drastically limiting new capital expenditures in these days of high prices and shortages in material and labor are questions

which are more properly discussed in the budget message, and will be left for that message.

Education

There are no problems of greater importance or more pressing than those in connection with education.

Two years ago we enacted legislation at an annual cost to the State of approximately \$1,000,000, which resulted in raising the minimum salaries of teachers by 38.8 per cent.

Despite this large percentage increase, it brought our minimum teachers' salaries only to the inadequate sum of \$1,000 in a profession which is entitled to the respect of all and which contributes more to the proper functioning of a democracy than any other field of work. I urge legislation to increase the minimum salaries of teachers in Maine from \$1,000 to \$1,500, with an equitable allocation of this financial burden between the State and the communities.

State subsidies for salaries of superintendents should be increased also. This recognition has been owed this group for some time past.

Maine has ignored its moral obligation to plan adequately and provide the sums necessary so that, in the years immediately ahead, we could meet our pension obligations to our teachers and State employees. One of the best legislative committee reports it has ever been my pleasure to read courageously and intelligently arrives at solutions of these difficult pension problems which fulfill our moral obligations. I hope and expect that you and the great majority of Maine's citizens will give this report wholehearted support.

For nearly twenty years the mill tax act has assured our State University a continuity of support which has facilitated the planning of its future development. The University since 1945 has more than doubled its enrollment. To assist in this expansion, the State increased its support.

The appropriation made for the Plant Science and the Engineering buildings was lost in the referendum vote of last September.

It is reasonable and probably necessary that some additional support be given the University at least for the period of the emergency created by the abnormal enrollment caused by veterans seeking admission.

The Trustees of the University, however, should receive such guidance and direction as the Legislature can give with respect to long-term policy. This would be especially important, if a revision of the tax system should occur. After expansion has occurred, curtailment becomes difficult. There is evidence of an increasing demand for higher education—signs of a demand so great that the existing practice of State support may have to be changed.

But also they should know how large a University the State is willing to support, what percentage of the cost of a college education the State wants to pay, and whether the emphasis should be on quantity or quality. I urge the Legislature to consider carefully the affairs of the University with respect to its future, and to give the Trustees its considered views concerning such basic policies as admissions, tuitions, and desirable size.

Fundamentally, the Legislature must balance the expenditure of dollars available for education between college-level education, secondary-level education, primary-level education, operating costs, and capital expenditures. Despite the extraordinarily fine job our State University has done under the able leadership of President Hauck, the thought of ever-increasing amounts of taxpayers' dollars being spent to subsidize college-level instruction, when our secondary and primary schools are woefully inadequate, our teachers' salaries and pension provisions insufficient, is sobering and even alarming to all thinking persons.

After all, the efficient functioning of a democratic government depends not so much upon a limited few having the special advantages attributed to a college education as upon at least a moderately decent education in a competitive world being given to large numbers of our youths.

It seems to me that the time has come when the Legislature should consider the desirability of creating a State Board of Education. This Board would determine State educational policies, which responsibility is now vested solely in the Commissioner of Education. Under this proposal the Commissioner would be appointed by the State Board, and serve as its executive officer.

A State Board of Education recognizes the fundamental democratic principle that the schools belong to the people by placing policy-making duties in the hands of a representative group. Furthermore, it embodies recognition at the State level of the need for greater interest and participation on the part of the lay public in planning our educational system.

In addition to interpreting the will of the people on policies affecting our public schools, a State Board would lend invaluable influence in consummating such plans. The public and the Legislature would have the assurance that the basic policies had been carefully weighed and approved and would be continuously supported by a group of responsible citizens. Our present system places too great a responsibility on a single impervious State School Officer.

Public Health And Welfare

Modern Public Health and Social Welfare programs emphasize prevention and control rather than temporary, palliative or relief measures.

How much of its income the State of Maine can afford to use for Public Health and Welfare is a matter for you to decide. A survey reveals a deficiency of nearly 1,000 hospital beds in the State, and a lack of health centers in rural areas. Consideration should be given to subsidies to local hospital and health units set up by single towns or combinations of towns to make subsidies available, as well as subsidies looking toward a satisfactory source of adequately trained doctors to cover especially our rural areas.

The Maine Hospital Association advises me that the aid granted by the State for the indigent sick amounted to \$2.50 per patient day, whereas the cost is figured by them at \$7.05 per patient day. How far this cost for indigent sick should be left with the private hospitals and how far provided by the State is a troublesome question, but, particularly in view of the lack of hospital beds, I believe the State should grant additional aid to the hospitals for these cases.

State Institutions

It is not only our private hospitals that are inadequate to meet present demands. Our State insti-

tutions have been for some time, and are now, obviously inadequate despite improvements at Pownal and the earmarking of funds for improvement of our mental institutions at Bangor and Augusta. Fortunately, intelligent, long range plans have been made in this department but the execution of these plans will depend upon the solution to financial problems which only this Legislature can provide.

"The 'Williams Bill'"

During the last two regular sessions of the Legislature, the so-called "Williams Bill" has been presented for the purpose of transferring the towns' share of Aid to Dependent Children and Board and Care of foster children to the State, thereby relieving the towns of approximately \$625,000 of relief costs. Consideration might well be given to such legislation in this session provided the State be permitted to retain the proceeds of the capital stock tax on trust and banking companies and national banks, and also eliminate the distribution of that part of the gross receipts taxes on railroad, telephone and telegraph companies now distributed to the municipalities—the present collection and distribution of which to municipalities present administrative problems of considerable annoyance and cost to all parties concerned.

Finally, I would like to recommend that an intelligent and progressive start be made on the problem of alcoholics. Jail sentences are not the answer to this problem. Chronic drunkenness is more of a disease than a crime, and should be so treated.

There are five States where clinics along the so-called "Yale Plan" are being organized. When the State of Maine takes in nearly \$7,000,000 in revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages, a small portion of this income might well be used to deal with this problem.

Place of Settlement

A measure which would do much to simplify the problems of welfare aid, both on State and town levels, is the abolition of the settlement law and the substitution of residence for settlement in the statutes which refer to welfare and assistance. Such a bill was introduced at the 1945 session, but due to existing war conditions was referred

to this Legislature. With war conditions over, Maine might follow the lead of New York and Rhode Island in the passage of such a bill with the State bearing its fair share of redistributed welfare costs so that communities would not suffer inequitable hardships.

Juvenile Delinquency

In the past few months there has been an appreciable decrease in juvenile delinquency. This does not mean that the problem can or will be ignored. Some months ago, at my request, a group of qualified citizens, particularly interested in the various aspects of this problem, commenced work and it is expected their recommendations will be available for your consideration.

State and National Guard

The close of hostilities found Maine with a well-organized and constantly improving State Guard of about 3,000 men. This is gradually being demobilized and in its place we are re-establishing, in part, units of the old National Guard and also organizing new air and ground units in conformity with Federal plans. Veteran officers with broad experience have accepted positions of leadership.

Our guard units have a very positive value to the State and to the communities in peacetime. They deserve your active support and encouragement.

To make them more efficient and more attractive to our young men, they should have adequate armories. I am hopeful that the time is not far off when, through the combined efforts of federal, state, and municipal governments, an adequate construction program can be established. Such armories should serve not only for the training of the national guard, but also for civic betterment of the communities. Insofar as possible, armories should be built with due deference to this possible civilian and community use, with proper recognition of the communities that are willing to share in expense of building and maintaining armories that can serve both military and civilian purposes.

Aviation

If we are to secure Federal funds for airport construction in Maine, they must be matched on a fifty-

fifty basis. Our Aeronautics Commission recommends that the municipalities provide the land and that the towns and the State match funds equally to meet Federal funds. This represents as fair a plan as can be devised for the various interested parties. I offer one word of caution.

Maine has more airports per capita than any State in the Nation. This Federal money will be available only for the construction of new airports and not for maintenance. Therefore, the allocation of any limited State funds available for aviation development should take into consideration the problem of maintenance of our present airports as well as the construction of any new airports.

Water Pollution

Two years ago a fine start was made on the problem of water pollution by prohibiting pollution from new sources. Although there must be no let-up in our efforts to clean up our polluted waters, we must bear in mind that there are many sides to this problem that require understanding and cooperation, and not overlook or undervalue the huge stake of the working man and industry.

Highways

The importance of highway development, being obvious to all, needs no elaboration in this address. The problems are primarily those of means and methods and the fair distribution of the money available between Federal Aid highways and highway development in our rural areas.

Two years ago, the Legislature adopted a policy of not creating new highway debt in excess of that retired during the biennium. This policy should be continued and current revenues should provide the balance of financing any highway program which the Legislature approves over and above any bonds permitted to be re-issued and this should be only to the same amount that other State highway bonds are retired during the biennium.

Again, I recommend that the so-called "pork-barrel" road resolves be eliminated and that the 93rd Legislature continue this movement started by the 92nd Legislature.

State Parks

The State has accepted a gift of some 250 acres of seashore property

to be developed as its first beach recreational area for public use. This is the generous gift of Mr. Walter Reid, one of Maine's self-made men who has never lost his affection for his native State and its people. Mr. Reid has followed up his original gift with the offer of some 600 additional adjoining acres. I am hopeful that the detailed arrangements for the consummation of this gift can be speedily accomplished, and that when the Park Commission's plans for long range use of this unique property are ready, the Legislature will provide the funds necessary for the maximum development of this Park.

I could not mention State Parks without mentioning Baxter State Park. Our distinguished ex-governor, whose name it bears, continues his generosity by adding to this perpetual memorial to the enduring benefit of the citizens of Maine.

During the past two years as a result of substantial appropriations, our State Parks have been materially improved and the increased patronage is testimony to the value and need of such recreational facilities. Additional capital expenditures are necessary to complete our park program and to provide adequate facilities for our citizens. Once properly equipped, however, most parks should pay their own way to maintain them for future generations.

Fish and Game

With the increasing inroads made each year on our supply of fish and game by thousands of visitors, it is fortunate that some time ago long range plans were made to preserve and increase the supply which brings so many dollars to Maine each year. The plan of the Department to push this program as fast as labor and materials are available should have our full support. On the other hand the objective of this Department should be eventual self-support, for we who enjoy the sports of hunting and fishing should be the ones to support it.

As a courtesy and gesture of good will to our part-time residents, many of whom do more for Maine than year-round residents, it might be worth-while to enable any non-resident taxpayer, paying an annual real estate tax of \$100 or more, to

purchase hunting and fishing licenses upon the same basis as residents. I believe that such a policy would pay rich dividends, for too often these part-time residents get too little in return for the tax dollars they pay.

Agriculture

It is apparent that, if we are to maintain our agricultural income in competition with other great farm states, Maine must maintain its lead in a program of quality. To do this our agricultural industries must continue to devote a great deal of attention to the preparation for market and merchandising of their products. It is commendable that our potato and blueberry growers and our corn canners tax themselves to help finance their promotional program.

Other groups may well consider this plan. With such notable precedents as have been set by these groups in taxing themselves, it should be very difficult for minority groups to secure subsidies at the general taxpayers' expense on the excuse that what helps them helps the whole state.

Sea and Shore Fisheries

Earnings of our fishermen have increased from approximately \$3,000,000 in 1939, to nearly \$14,000,000 in 1946. This increase has been consistent in other phases of the industry, such as processing, marketing, shipbuilding, and allied activities, until today fishing in the broad sense is a \$50,000,000 business. The Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries has assumed greatly increased responsibilities in the fields of marketing, conservation, propagation, research and development. The industry itself, however, should not expect the State to provide the major support of this Department indefinitely but should pay a fair share itself, as do several of our agricultural and industrial groups, and direct its efforts to making this Department largely self-supporting.

Forestry

In the field of forestry long range work and plans have been carried on by the Forestry Department; the Taxation Department, and the Interim Legislative Committee, created for the purpose of studying the utilization of forest products.

The result of these studies and this work, including an aerial survey in Hancock County, portend much for the future economic development of Maine, and more specifically move us toward what seems to be a definite trend from many angles that the system of forestry taxation in organized towns at least should be changed to a severance basis.

Labor

Two years ago Maine passed an Occupational Disease Bill. Today there are many questions of interest to labor in the State of Maine, such as predetermination of wages on State projects, widening the scope of Maine's Unemployment Compensation Law, and the accumulation of second injury funds, which I recommend for your consideration.

Important as these specific matters might seem, however, the problem of overwhelming importance to labor today, not only in Maine but throughout the nation, is whether or not public opinion is going to turn reactionary in protest against vicious abuses of unscrupulous labor leaders. We have in this State many able and fair labor leaders, and organized labor deserves credit for many steps it has taken to improve working conditions.

With the passing of the war, however, the interest of the American public in labor problems is centered on the course that labor leadership is going to follow. Unfair and undemocratic processes are just as bad when practiced by labor leaders as by unscrupulous politicians. Freedom to work should be guaranteed to all of our citizens. Workers are now protected from ruthless discrimination by unfair employers. They should also be protected from discrimination by ruthless labor leaders who have used their positions to oppress and injure both employees and employers.

Whether these problems can best be settled by Federal legislation or piecemeal legislation by the several states is problematical. We solve no vital problems, however, by looking back rather than ahead. Difficult as these problems are, they can only be solved by fair play, mutual understanding, and cooperation by both industry and labor, and with freedom from any spirit of vengeance or desire for punitive action on the part of either the leaders of industry or labor.

Veterans

Two years ago when we met here, the sons and daughters of Maine were scattered all over the world. Of the 95,000 Maine men and women who wore the uniform, 87,000 have been separated from the services. 2,551 made the supreme sacrifice; 3,925 were wounded in action. The latest report shows that about 14,000 Maine veterans had been allowed claims for service connected disability and are receiving \$627,000 per month from the Federal government. Of nearly 5,000 G. I. Loans totaling approximately 18½ million dollars approved for Maine veterans, I am proud to state that only one foreclosure on real estate has been made—the best record of any State in the Union.

The Veterans' Administration is paying a total of approximately a million dollars per month to enable nearly 16,000 of our veterans to fit themselves for civilian life by attending school or college or taking on-the-job training. The State has rendered substantial aid, not only by increasing the facilities at the University of Maine but also by establishing a State Vocational Training School at Augusta. Profiting by the experience of this school, we should continue our efforts to progress in the field of vocational training for veterans and at a later time for post high school youth.

In November only 6,000 Maine veterans received \$608,000 readjustment allowances, indicating that they have not yet found or accepted suitable employment, and consequently, are still unadjusted to civilian life. It is gratifying to report that this figure is gradually shrinking from a peak over \$1,000,000 in August.

The State is now spending more than \$850,000 per year on behalf of veterans of World War I and World War II and their families, quite apart from Federal payments.

Our World War II veterans as a group are modest. The vast majority of them have asked no favors—they have wanted no favors. Upon the people in the home town rested the duty of helping to provide opportunity for the returning veteran, and I feel that for the most part the people have not failed their returning service men and women.

During the critical days of rapid demobilization, the hard-working Maine Council of Veterans Affairs,

with Colonel Robinson Verrill, a veteran of both World Wars, as its able chairman, performed in an outstanding manner, along with the Veterans Service Committee and other patriotic organizations, the duties of coordination between State and town and city, and in guiding community efforts along the paths leading most directly to the absorption of the returning veterans as satisfied and forward-looking citizens. To the members of this Council, and particularly the members of its Executive Committee, do I, on behalf of the citizens and veterans of Maine, express appreciation for their unselfish and uncompensated work.

Last September the citizens of this State rejected a proposal to pay a cash bonus to veterans of World War II. The people have spoken in a decisive manner, and, in view of their decision, this Legislature should determine whether other steps should now be taken to assist our veterans further.

So far as I, as Governor, am concerned I will consider favorably any measure helpful to our veterans, with only two qualifications; first, that we fairly meet the cost of such proposals instead of cowardly dodging them and referring the burdens to future Legislatures and future generations while assuming the credit for ourselves; and, secondly, that any methods to meet the cost of additional veterans' benefits will not bring more evils than benefits, such as opening wider the doors of gambling in the State of Maine.

Governmental Machinery

I believe that our Constitution should be amended to provide a single four-year term of office for the Governor, to prohibit a governor from succeeding himself, and to provide for the governor's election in a year when a presidential election is not being held.

Under the present system, a governor takes office the first week in January and the legislative business is wound up in April. If a governor elects to run for a second term, he has only about eight months to devote himself to the duties of his office before he begins his campaign for reelection, and, regardless of party and of record, the incumbent governor is faced with the political necessity of spending an appreciable amount of time during the next nine months carrying on a primary

campaign and an election campaign. Many states have recognized this and have increased the term of office to four years, even though some have not prohibited a governor from succeeding himself in office. I believe a four-year term without the ability to succeed oneself will give the state the maximum degree of efficient performance from its governors.

I suggest that a committee be appointed to study this and other suggested changes in our Constitution, to do a comprehensive job on a fundamental instrument.

Senator Bishop has at previous sessions placed two constitutional amendments before the Legislature, both of which are worthy of careful consideration. One of these would increase the number of signers required on a referendum petition from 10,000 electors, which is obviously too easy a number to obtain, to 25 per cent of the number of electors voting in the preceding biennial election. The second proposal would change the time when an amendment to the Constitution could be adopted by the people. Now it must be the second Monday in September following passage of the proposed amendment. Such an election should be held over to the next regular or special state-wide election thus preventing an important question from being decided at an expensive special election in which there is always slight public interest. I furthermore recommend that Maine follow the example of New York State and require constitutional amendments to be approved by two successive Legislatures before being submitted to the people for their approval.

Another constitutional change which is worthy of careful consideration, is one changing the power of veto given the Governor. It is impossible to examine carefully the hundreds of bills, including the General Appropriation Bill and the General Highway Bill, that are piled on the desk of the Governor in the closing days of a legislative session. Neither the Attorney General, the Revisor of Statutes, the Governor, nor all three together, with their staffs, can possibly cope with this situation satisfactorily.

I call your attention to the following provision of the New York Constitution:

"No bill shall become a law after the final adjournment of the Legislature, unless approved by the Governor within thirty days after such adjournment. If any bill presented to the Governor contains several items of appropriation of money, he may object to one or more of such items while approving of the other portion of the bill." Such a provision in our Constitution instead of the present five-day limitation would allow adequate checking by the department heads involved as well as the Executive and Legal Departments.

You will note also that the New York Constitution provides a Governor may veto one or more items in an appropriation bill without vetoing the whole bill. Such a provision would result in better legislation.

I recommend also the passage of the Rankin Bill which was passed in one branch of the Legislature last session. In substance this bill creates the office of Director of Legislative Research, while still preserving the Legislative Research Committee, but the Director would have the following three functions:

- A. Research
- B. Continuous revising of statutes
- C. The drafting of legislation.

It would not create a new department but would codify and consolidate several functions which are now being carried on by our state government. The value of governmental research varies greatly with the continuity of the personnel carrying on the research. With our Legislative Research Committee, as constituted at the present, with no continuing Director, there is a constantly changing group, and only with the continued services of at least one person can the maximum results of Legislative Research be achieved. Some states have long since found this out.

Conclusion

Knowing you as I feel I do, I am sure that the affairs of State will have your most careful consideration and deliberation. I trust that our decisions, yours and mine, will, with God's help, do honor to us and be of material, moral, and spiritual benefit to the State and all of its citizens.

May we all, in the exercise of the powers with which we are temporarily vested, say to ourselves as Abraham Lincoln said to himself, "I desire to so conduct the affairs of this administration that if, at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside myself." (Prolonged applause)

Governor Hildreth and his suite then retired, amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The CHAIRMAN: The purposes for which this Convention was assembled having been accomplished, I now declare the Convention dissolved.

The Senate then retired to their chamber, amid the applause of the House, the members rising.

In The House

Called to order by Speaker Ward.

Orders of the Day

The following papers from the Senate were taken up out of order:

From the Senate: The following Orders:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they adjourn to meet on Tuesday, January 7th, 1947, at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon (S. P. 12)
 Came from the Senate, read and passed.

In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a Joint Select Committee of three on the part of the Senate with such as the House may join, be appointed to consider the Governor's Message and report a reference of its several subjects to appropriate committees (S. P. 14)

Came from the Senate, read and passed, with the following members appointed on its part.

Miss Clough of Penobscot

Messrs: Leavitt of Cumberland
 Davis of York

In the House, was read and passed in concurrence, and the Speaker

appointed the following members on the part of the House:

Messrs. Mills of Farmington
Haskell of Portland
Bird of Rockland
Rollins of Greenville
Collins of Caribou
Allen of Portland
Jennings of Strong

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House jointly prepare the Senate and House Register, and that 5,000 copies be printed for the use of the Legislature (S. P. 15)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, be authorized to furnish to the Superintendent of Public Printing, postage on all correspondence relative to advertising committee hearings during the present session, same to be charged to legislative expense (S. P. 16)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the members and officers of the Legislature be furnished with express and parcel transportation for all packages and department reports in a sum not exceeding \$5.00 for each member and officer thereof, and that such transportation be furnished and expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, and the unexpended balance at the close of the year 1947 shall be available for use in 1949 (S. P. 17)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, be authorized to furnish wrappers and postage stamps for each member and officer of the Senate and House, not exceeding \$5.00 in amount each, for the purpose of distributing the various reports of the Departments of State and other public documents such as they may desire to mail to the citizens of the State (S. P. 18)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the officers of the Senate and House of Representatives as advances on account of compensation amounts included in fortnightly lists, certified to the State Controller by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, and that the final pay rolls at the end of

the session of such officers, bear the approval of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (S. P. 19)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that free telephone service be provided for each member and officer of the Senate and House to the number of fifty calls, of reasonable duration, from Augusta to points within the limits of the State of Maine, and that each member and officer of the Senate and House be provided with a card to be certified to by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House, respectively, of this service to be paid to the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company at regular tariff rates (S. P. 20)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair at this time will appoint the House Members of the Standing Committees of the House, together with the House Members of the Joint Standing Committees. The Clerk will read the appointments, together with the Senate Members of the Joint Standing Committees.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Ways and Means

Palmeter of Charlotte
Brewer of Presque Isle
Sargent of Bucksport
Boulter of Stacyville Pl.
Marsans of Monmouth
Morison of Wilton
Gallant of Shapleigh

Leave of Absence

Burton of Milo
DeSanctis of Madison
Hayward of Machias
Adams of Kennebunkport
Mills of Farmington
Johnston of Jefferson
Lacharite of Brunswick

Rules and Business of the House

The Speaker, Ex-Officio
Perkins of Boothbay Harbor
Silsby of Aurora
Anderson of New Sweden

Bills in the Third Reading

Dorsey of Fort Fairfield
Webber of Bangor
Berry of Portland
Tabb of Gardiner
Clements of Belfast
Moulton of Livermore Falls
Tremblay of Sanford

Engrossed Bills

Brown of Unity

Christensen of Calais
Byron of Hollis
Cole of Portland
McClure of Bath
Rich of Detroit
Thompson of Brewer

Elections

Peirce of Augusta
Judkins of Woodstock
McGlaflin of Portland
Williams of Auburn
Foley of Winterport
Dicker of Lakeville Pl.
Benn of Smyrna

County Estimates

Dorsey of Fort Fairfield
Patterson of Freeport
Emerson of North Haven
Perkins of Boothbay Harbor
Burton of Milo
Brown of Unity
Palmer of Charlotte
Bickford of Auburn
McKeen of Lovell
Curtis of Bowdoin
Seeger of Kittery
Sterling of Caratunk Pl.
Jennings of Strong
Holt of Bar Harbor
Boulier of Stacyville Pl.
Hammond of Albion

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES

Aeronautics

Senate Spear of Cumberland
Hopkins of Kennebec
House Dube of Androscoggin
Meloon of Portland
Rollins of Greenville
Christensen of Calais
Anderson of New Sweden
Thomas of Hampden
Rich of Detroit
Lacharite of Brunswick

Agriculture

Senate Bishop of Sagadahoc
Denny of Lincoln
Greeley of Waldo
House Prout of Lubec
Sweetser of Cumberland
Adams of Kennebunkport
Dorsey of Fort Fairfield
Smith of Exeter
Johnston of Jefferson
Tabb of Gardiner

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Senate Cleaves of Cumberland
Savage of Somerset
Williams of Penobscot
House Brewer of Presque Isle
Bowker of Portland
Brown of Unity
Seeger of Kittery
Bird of Rockland
Finnegan of Bangor
Poulin of Waterville

Banks and Banking

Senate Edwards of Oxford
Blanchard of Arostook
House Murchie of Washington
Rollins of Greenville

Meloon of Portland
Thompson of Brewer
Burgess of Limestone
Morison of Wilton
Stetson of Dixfield
Jalbert of Lewiston

Claims

Senate Willey of Hancock
MacKinnon of Oxford
Murchie of Washington
House DeSanctis of Madison
Judkins of Woodstock
Gray of Orrington
Laughton of Ripley
Dufour of St. Agatha
Hammond of Albion
Foley of Winterport

Commerce

Senate Denny of Lincoln
Dunbar of Washington
Dube of Androscoggin
House Emerson of North Haven
Legard of Bath
Prout of Lubec
McGown of Carmel
Dufour of St. Agatha
Kelly of Rumford
Labbe of Brunswick

Counties

Senate MacKinnon of Oxford
Welch of Arostook
Greeley of Waldo
House Burton of Milo
Chase of Limington
Ross of Brownville
Gray of Orrington
Hammond of Albion
Bickford of Auburn
Nadeau of Biddeford

Education

Senate Bishop of Sagadahoc
Leavitt of Cumberland
Edwards of Oxford
House Marsans of Monmouth
Lord of Camden
Russell of Gorham
Longstaff of Crystal
Lee of Dover-Foxcroft
Broggi of Sanford
Fuller of Buckfield

Federal Relations

Senate Willey of Hancock
Clough of Penobscot
Blanchard of Arostook
House Haskell of Portland
Legard of Bath
Jennings of Strong
Meloon of Portland
Robbins of Houlton
Atherton of Bangor
Muskie of Waterville

Indian Affairs

Senate Bishop of Sagadahoc
Ela of Somerset
House Boucher of Androscoggin
Brown of Milford
Palmer of Charlotte
Harris of Chelsea
Hall of Eastport
Randall of North Berwick
Malenfant of Lewiston
Leavitt of Old Town

	Inland Fisheries and Game	House	Rollins of Greenville Marsans of Monmouth Savage of Mt. Desert Allen of Portland Smith of Exeter Robbins of Houlton Fuller of Buckfield
Senate	Spear of Cumberland Davis of York MacKinnon of Oxford		
House	Byron of Hollis Jordan of South Portland Wight of Bangor Smart of Ellsworth Hayward of Machias Judkins of Woodstock Carville of Eustis	Senate	Manufactures Savage of Somerset Cleaves of Cumberland Dube of Androscoggin
	Interior Waters	House	House of Lincoln Lombard of Yarmouth Carville of Eustis Cousins of Fort Kent Berry of Portland MacPherson of Easton Hobbs of So. Berwick
Senate	Spear of Cumberland Barnes of Aroostook Boutin of Androscoggin		
House	Ross of Brownville Campbell of Garland Brown of Wayne Torrey of Poland Bove of Naples Hobbs of So. Berwick Martin of Eagle Lake		Mercantile Affairs and Insurance
	Judiciary	Senate	Hopkins of Kennebec Crosby of Franklin Edwards of Oxford Bowker of Portland
Senate	Dunbar of Washington Clough of Penobscot Barnes of Aroostook	House	Jordan of Saco Sargent of Bucksport MacPherson of Easton Stetson of Dixfield Fitch of Sebago Tremblay of Sanford
House	Perkins of Boothbay Harbor Williams of Auburn Haskell of Portland Peirce of Augusta Mills of Farmington McGlaflin of Portland Silsby of Aurora		Military Affairs
	Labor	Senate	Batchelder of York Savage of Somerset Dube of Androscoggin
Senate	Hopkins of Kennebec Spear of Cumberland Haskell of Penobscot	House	Jordan of So. Portland Jennings of Strong Cousins of Fort Kent Payson of Union Robbins of Houlton Stearns of Hiram Muskie of Waterville
House	Brown of Unity Marshall of York Brown of Woodland Sharpe of Anson Chase of Cape Elizabeth Collins of Caribou Leavitt of Old Town		Mines and Mining
	Legal Affairs	Senate	Hopkins of Kennebec Baker of Kennebec Greeley of Waldo
Senate	Batchelder of York Blanchard of Aroostook Baker of Kennebec	House	Burton of Milo Bell of Thomaston Ellis of Castle Hill Woodbury of New Gloucester Hanson of Machiasport Lacharite of Brunswick Dostie of Lewiston
House	Anderson of New Sweden Rankin of Bridgton Snow of Auburn Atherton of Bangor Payson of Union Woodworth of Fairfield Weeks of So. Portland		Motor Vehicles
	Library	Senate	Cross of Kennebec McKusick of Piscataquis Noyes of Hancock
Senate	Ela of Somerset Wiley of Hancock Smith of Knox	House	Allen of Portland Plummer of Lisbon Christensen of Calais Brewer of Presque Isle Thomas of Hampden Berryman of Sidney Cole of Portland
House	Rankin of Bridgton Russell of Gorham Lee of Dover-Foxcroft Chase of Limington Thompson of Brewer Palmer of Nobleboro Doucette of Lewiston		Pensions
	Maine Publicity	Senate	McKusick of Piscataquis Edwards of Oxford Boutin of Androscoggin
Senate	Denny of Lincoln Morrill of Cumberland Davis of York	House	Patterson of Freeport Savage of Mount Desert McGown of Carmel Ellis of Castle Hill

Harris of Chelsea
 McKeen of Lovell
 Moreau of Westbrook

Pownal State School

Senate Davis of York
 Morrill of Cumberland
 Boutin of Androscoggin

House Corson of Hodgdon
 Williams of Topsham
 Rich of Detroit
 Daniels of Gilead
 Holt of Bar Harbor
 St. Pierre of Lewiston
 Dostie of Winslow

Public Buildings and Grounds

Senate Noyes of Hancock
 Cross of Kennebec
 Savage of Somerset

House Bowker of Portland
 Christensen of Calais
 Boulier of Stacyville Pl.
 Clements of Belfast
 Elliott of Corinth
 Bove of Naples
 Carey of Biddeford

State Lands and Forest Preservation

Senate Cleaves of Cumberland
 Williams of Penobscot
 Murchie of Washington

House Rollins of Greenville
 Benn of Smyrna
 Brown of Milford
 Williams of Topsham
 Webber of Bangor
 Sharpe of Anson
 Brown of Wayne

State Prison

Senate Welch of Aroostook
 Davis of York
 Dunbar of Washington

House Hayward of Machias
 Sleeper of Rockland
 Thompson of Brewer
 Byron of Hollis
 Laughton of Ripley
 Torrey of Poland
 Cadorette of Biddeford

State Sanatoriums

Senate MacKinnon of Oxford
 Leavitt of Cumberland
 Boutin of Androscoggin

House Dicker of Lakeville Pl.
 Longstaff of Crystal
 House of Lincoln
 Ames of Northport
 Emerson of North Haven
 Gallant of Shapleigh
 Nadeau of Biddeford

State School for Boys, State School for Girls and State Reformatories

Senate Leavitt of Cumberland
 Murchie of Washington
 Boucher of Androscoggin

House Dean of So. Portland
 House of Lincoln
 Ellis of Castle Hill

Hatch of Minot
 Fuller of Hallowell
 McKeen of Lovell
 Cormier of Rumford

Taxation

Senate Noyes of Hancock
 Ela of Somerset
 Haskell of Penobscot

House Jordan of Saco
 Dorsey of Fort Fairfield
 Burton of Milo
 Lombard of Yarmouth
 Elliott of Corinth
 Burgess of Limestone
 Morison of Wilton

Temperance

Senate Baker of Kennebec
 Morrill of Cumberland
 Boucher of Androscoggin

House Smart of Ellsworth
 Mills of Farmington
 DeSanctis of Madison
 Peirce of Augusta
 Finnegan of Bangor
 Foley of Winterport
 Jalbert of Lewiston

Towns

Senate McKusick of Piscataquis
 Crosby of Franklin
 Greeley of Waldo

House Benn of Smyrna
 Sterling of Caratunk Pl.
 Dicker of Lakeville Pl.
 Bell of Thomaston
 Curtis of Bowdoin
 Woodbury of New Gloucester
 Moulton of Livermore Falls

University of Maine

Senate Welch of Aroostook
 Denny of Lincoln
 Morrill of Cumberland

House Jordan of Saco
 Bowker of Portland
 Lee of Dover-Foxcroft
 Collins of Caribou
 Brown of Milford
 Brewer of Presque Isle
 Bird of Rockland

Ways and Bridges

Senate Welch of Aroostook
 Crosby of Franklin
 Cross of Kennebec

House Hayward of Machias
 Dean of So. Portland
 Boulier of Stacyville Pl.
 Sterling of Caratunk Pl.
 Holt of Bar Harbor
 Gallant of Shapleigh
 Turner of Leeds

Welfare

Senate Williams of Penobscot
 McKusick of Piscataquis
 Boucher of Androscoggin

House Elliott of Corinth
 Prout of Lubec
 Corson of Hodgdon
 Chase of Cape Elizabeth
 Day of Monticello
 Fuller of Hallowell
 Lessard of Skowhegan

	Public Health	
Senate	Clough of Penobscot Ela of Somersct Leavitt of Cumberland	
House	Longstaff of Crystal Webber of Bangor Hatch of Minot Stearns of Hiram Clements of Belfast McClure of Bath Violette of Van Buren	
	Public Utilities	
Senate	Batchelder of York Noyes of Hancock Hopkins of Kennebec	
House	Collins of Caribou Marshall of York Wight of Bangor Palmer of Charlotte Ross of Brownville DeSanctis of Madison Daniels of Gilead	
	Reference of Bills	
Senate	The President Ex-Officio Cross of Kennebec	
House	The Speaker Ex-Officio Mills of Farmington Sleeper of Rockland	
	Salaries and Fees	
Senate	Smith of Knox Haskell of Penobscot Barnes of Aroostook	
House	Sleeper of Rockland Collins of Caribou Campbell of Garland Berryman of Sidney Kent of Randolph Palmer of Nobleboro Martin of Eagle Lake	
	Sea and Shore Fisheries	
Senate	Morrill of Cumberland Dunbar of Washington Smith of Knox	
House	Emerson of North Haven Heanssler of Deer Isle Ames of Northport Berry of Portland Hall of Eastport Adams of Kennebunkport Hanson of Machiasport	
	State Hospitals	
Senate	Bishop of Sagadahoc Haskell of Penobscot Boucher of Androscoggin.	

House	Patterson of Freeport Dicker of Lakeville Pl. Kent of Randolph Curtis of Bowdoin Day of Monticello Broggi of Sanford Smith of Westbrook
-------	---

The SPEAKER: The information for the House Registers will go to the printer this afternoon, so it is very essential that the members complete the information on their information blanks which were submitted to you, and leave those blanks at the Clerk's office before you leave today; otherwise that information relating to you will be omitted when the book is published, so every member should check that particular item and see to it that the Clerk has all the information that is required for the Register.

In regard to the daily newspapers, according to the order which has been passed, each member is entitled to two daily newspapers. The members must order those newspapers on the blanks which were passed around, and the sooner the members supply the information and pass it into the Clerk's office, the sooner the newspapers will be received.

Another matter which the Chair wishes to call to the members' attention: The oaths which were left on the members' desks have not all been completed. Now if any member has not signed the oath of office and turned it in, he should do so today.

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

On motion by Mr. Dorsey of Fort Fairfield,

Adjourned until Tuesday, January 7th, at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon.