

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LEGISLATIVE RECORD**

**OF THE**

***Ninety-Fifth Legislature***

**OF THE**

**STATE OF MAINE**

**1951**

**DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

**HOUSE**

Thursday, January 11, 1951

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

Prayer by the Reverend Mr. Edward L. Manning of Southwest Harbor.

The journal of the previous session was read and approved.

**Papers from the Senate**

From the Senate: The following communication: (S. P. 21)

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AUGUSTA

January 9, 1951

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Ninety-fifth Legislature

Pursuant to Article V, Part 4, Section 2 of the Constitution I am transmitting herewith two bonds of the Honorable Frank S. Carpenter, Treasurer of State, each in the amount of \$75,000, one written by The Travelers Indemnity Company of Hartford, Connecticut, bearing date of January 3, 1951, and the other written by Maine Bonding and Casualty Company of Portland, Maine, bearing date of January 3, 1951, each being payable to the State of Maine.

These bonds bear the Deputy's approval as to form and I recommend them for approval by the Legislature.

Respectfully yours,  
(Signed)

ALEXANDER A. LaFLEUR  
Attorney General.

Came from the Senate read and ordered placed on file.

In the House, read and with accompanying bonds ordered placed on file in concurrence.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the two bonds of the Honorable Frank S. Carpenter, Treasurer of State, each in the amount of \$75,000, one written by The Travelers Indemnity Company of Hartford, Connecticut, bearing date of January 3, 1951 and the other written by Maine Bonding

and Casualty Company of Portland, Maine, bearing date of January 3, 1951, each being payable to the State of Maine, and each bearing the certificate of approval of the Attorney General, be and hereby are approved. (S. P. 22)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

From the Senate: The following 4 Bills which were referred to the 95th Legislature by the 94th Legislature:

Bill "An Act relating to Hours of Sunday Sports." (S. P. 25)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Creating Greater Utilization of Wood Waste and Development of New Products." (S. P. 26)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Natural Resources in concurrence.

Bill "An Act relating to the Caribou Utilities District." (S. P. 27)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Public Utilities.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Public Utilities in concurrence.

Bill "An Act relating to the Powers of Tax Assessors." (S. P. 28)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Taxation.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Taxation in concurrence.

**Bills and Resolves Requiring Reference**

The following Bills and Resolves were received, and upon recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills, were referred to the following Committees:

**Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

Resolve in favor of Veterans of Spanish American War. (H. P. 36)

(Presented by Mr. Berry of South Portland)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Claims

Resolve in favor of the Town of Strong (H. P. 37) (Presented by Mr. Jennings of Strong)

Resolve in favor of Jackman Plantation (H. P. 38) (Presented by Mr. Watson of Moose River Pl.)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Highways

Resolve in favor of the Town of Holden (H. P. 39) (Presented by Mr. Debeck of Holden)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Bradley (H. P. 40) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Holden (H. P. 41) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Passadumkeag (H. P. 42) (Presented by Mr. House of Lincoln)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Burlington (H. P. 43) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Enfield (H. P. 44) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Lincoln (H. P. 45) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of North Yarmouth (H. P. 46) (Presented by Mr. Knapp of Yarmouth)

Resolve in favor of the Town of North Yarmouth (H. P. 47) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Yarmouth (H. P. 48) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Jay (H. P. 49) (Presented by Mr. Macomber of Jay)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Wilton (H. P. 50) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Andover (H. P. 51) (Presented by Mr. Parent of Rumford)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Andover (H. P. 52) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of Township 2, Range 6, Penobscot County (H. P. 53) (Presented by Mr. Potter of Medway)

Resolve in favor of Stacyville Plantation (H. P. 54) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Medway (H. P. 55) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve in favor of Jackman Plantation (H. P. 56) (Presented by Mr. Watson of Moose River Pl.)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Inland Fisheries and Game

Bill "An Act relating to Free Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Maine Veterans on Leave." (H. P. 57) (Presented by Mr. Jennings of Strong)

(Ordered Printed)

Resolve to Open Black Pond, in the County of Oxford (H. P. 58) (Presented by Mr. Moulton of Sweden)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Judiciary

Bill "An Act relating to Fees of Disclosure Commissioner." (H. P. 59) (Presented by Mr. Fuller of Bangor)

(Ordered Printed)

Resolve in favor of Sylvia B. Holden, of Moose River (H. P. 60) (Presented by Mr. Watson of Moose River Pl.)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Building of a Road Across Massacre Pond, in Scarborough." (H. P. 61) (Presented by Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Sea and Shore Fisheries

Bill "An Act relating to the Taking of Soft Shelled Clams in Jonesport." (H. P. 62) (Presented by Mr. Hanson of Machiasport)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Taxation

Bill "An Act Creating a Tax Commission." (H. P. 62) (Presented by Mr. Berry of South Portland by request)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Towns and Counties

Bill "An Act Permitting Municipalities to Raise Money to Assist

Historical Societies." (H. P. 64) (Presented by Mr. Fuller of Bangor)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Incorporation of the Phillips Village Corporation." (H. P. 65) (Presented by Mr. Jennings of Strong)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Welfare

Resolve Providing for State Pension for Austin M. Weikel, of Cape Elizabeth (H. P. 66) (Presented by Mr. Berry of South Portland)

Resolve Providing for State Pension for Wilfred Turgeon, of Waterboro (H. P. 67) (Presented by Mr. Bradeen of Waterboro)

Sent up for concurrence.

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

From the Senate: The Following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they adjourn to meet on Tuesday, January 16, 1951, at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon. (S. P. 30)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

### Orders

On motion of Mr. Travis of Westbrook, it was

ORDERED, that Rev. Warren B. Lovejoy of Westbrook, be invited to officiate as Chaplain of the House on Wednesday, February 7, 1951.

The gentleman from Blaine, Mr. Bubar, presented the following Order and moved its passage:

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House be authorized to provide a room for the members of the House equipped with tables, chairs and typewriters so that the members of the House will be able to perform their duties in privacy and with the proper equipment.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blaine, Mr. Bubar.

Mr. BUBAR: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: We were

elected, sent down here at some expense and they are paying us a salary to do a job and they have not furnished us with any tools with which to do the job. We are just about in the situation that a farmer is in when he attempts to pull his two-wheeled jigger with a yoke of oxen; he can't compete with the tractor; it is impossible. And here we are now—there isn't any place where we can go to prepare our work.

We have a room here which is called the Retiring Room. That is filled up all the time. There is one typewriter there—sometimes it goes and sometimes it doesn't go. Yesterday morning, for instance, I wanted to use a typewriter desperately and there were four persons in there waiting to use the one typewriter. I have done that many, many times and I have had to run around to the different departments to try to find a typewriter that I could use, and they are tired and sick of my running in on them. They are all busy. I don't find anyone in the departments eating molasses candy and peanuts and doing their knitting work. They are all busy and it is difficult to find a typewriter that you can use. So, we have to go off to our rooms, leave the House, in order to get any chance whatever to do the work that we were sent here to do.

Now, I believe, Members, that we should have some consideration. I know that in other State Houses that I have visited they have a room where they go to do their work and they are not interrupted or interfered with in any way. Now, this room out here is a room all right but it's a cloak room and when we put on a country fair out here you will notice they will move all the bric-a-brac and old furniture in there on us and we don't have hardly room to turn around.

I notice the Speaker of the House has a room. It is necessary; he can't do his work without it. And I notice that the Clerk has a room. He can't do his work without it. I have been in that room many and many a time wanting to speak to the Clerk about some matter of legislation and I couldn't get any chance whatever, people were milling around there, and there were

things I wanted to talk about in private and couldn't do it. But we have granted him a room. I know it is only a glass cage; I'm glad he's in it. (Laughter) He won't throw very many stones so long as he lives in there. But I would like to say this, though, in all seriousness, that our Clerk who has served us so many years, faithfully and well, is now recovering from an illness and let's you and I practice the Golden Rule and be very kind and considerate of him until he fully recovers, then if you want to haunt him, go ahead. (Laughter).

I am just trying to show you Members that we need a place to work. Now, the press men have a room. They can't do their work down there. This room is for deliberation while we listen to the ills and the woes and the fault-finders of everyone. We can't put a typewriter on here. The press men, of course, have a room but nobody wants to go there—it's the "Hub of Hell." (Laughter) They're welcome to it. I hope no one in this Honorable House ever goes there unless it is the Democrats. (Laughter) You know, Members, I don't mean that; you have a hot enough time right where you are.

But here we are, the highest legislative body in the State of Maine, and we haven't a thing to work with. We seem to be the ragtailed, bobtailed group.

Now, Members, let's see what we can do about it. I don't know as it needs any discussion. I am going to say this, though, Members: I have read the biography of you all; I have tried to study your faces, and when we have stopped discussing and cross-firing, when we have boiled down and sugared off, I think we will go down in history as the grandest bunch of Legislators who ever sat in this State House. Now, let's have a chance to work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cape Elizabeth, Mr. Chase.

Mr. CHASE: Mr. Speaker, I certainly sympathize with the problem of Representative Bubar. I have frequently seen him go to the House postoffice to get his mail. I think he gets more mail in a day

than I have received from my constituents in four entire terms in the House of Representatives. Between my scarcity of mail and his great plenty, most of us in the House may be bragging.

Now, I certainly think that there ought to be an opportunity somewhere for the gentleman from Blaine, Mr. Bubar, to take care of his mail without undue disturbance but I have no such great problem which requires finding a room in the State House for that purpose. I don't know where the Clerk can go to find a room. He has already pushed State employees into the corridors of the State House and I think we ought to be satisfied to be cramped to some extent also.

Now, I believe that the Officers of this House will do all they can to afford space and facilities to the House of Representatives without the necessity of passing a formal order which will impose this responsibility by order on the Clerk, and I think that the matter should be left to the discretion of the Officers of the House to do what they can. I, therefore, hope that the formal Order will not be passed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blaine, Mr. Bubar.

Mr. BUBAR: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am perfectly willing to leave this to the Officers but I tried last year—two years ago—to see if we couldn't have a typewriter somewhere, even in the rotunda or anywhere else where we wouldn't stand, two or three or four of us waiting for one machine. I don't care to enter into any discussion so far as the room is concerned. I believe our Clerk is a good of a magician. He might be able to pull it out of the hat with the rabbit.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is on the passage of the Order.

All those in favor will say aye; all those opposed will say no. A viva voce vote being taken, the Order failed of passage.

On motion of Mr. Bubar of Blaine, it was

ORDERED, that Rev. Joseph Bubar of North Vassalboro be invited to officiate as Chaplain of the

House on Wednesday, January 24, 1951.

### Orders of the Day

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

Members of the House: The Chair, at this time, dislikes to call to your attention the fact that Rule 25 has not been suspended and, of course, Rule 25 prohibits any smoking. The Chair knows that you enjoy the smoke but feels confident that in due course the Ladies will make the usual motion to suspend it.

The Chair would also like to call the attention of the Members to another matter and that is that before the Chair can recognize any Member he must have a microphone. The Reporters must have the recording and, therefore, it is very important that when Members rise and are recognized that they wait until the microphone is brought to them.

And further, the Pages have been delegated to attend to nothing more than to be sure that the Members have a microphone. Therefore, for the personal benefit of the Members, the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and the Messengers will always be available. The Chair hopes the Members will not ask the Pages' help because they have got all they can do with the microphones when the House is in session.

The Chair would like further to call the attention of the Members to the proof of the directory section. It will probably go to print sometime this weekend and please make special effort to read over the proof in the part that pertains to you to see that there is the proper identification and that you are on the proper committees, that your residences are correct, and so forth. Will all of the Members please give it their attention. Unless corrections are reported, it will be printed as it is with the corrections that have already been made.

The SPEAKER: A message from the Senate suggesting a Joint Convention is expected at any moment, for some reason it has not appeared as yet, and until it is received the House may be at ease.

### House at Ease

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

A message was received from the Senate, through the Secretary, proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature, to be held forthwith in the Hall of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of extending an invitation to His Excellency, Governor Frederick G. Payne, to attend the Convention and make such communication as he may be pleased to make.

On motion by Mr. Chase, of Cape Elizabeth, the House voted to concur with the Senate in the proposal for a Joint Convention, and the Clerk was charged with and conveyed a message to the Senate, informing that body that the House concurred in the proposition for a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature.

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

The Senate then entered the Hall of the House and a Joint Convention was formed.

### In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Burton M. Cross, in the Chair.

On motion of Mr. Crosby of Franklin, it was

ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon his Excellency, Governor Frederick G. Payne, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators: CROSBY of Franklin  
LEAVITT of Cumberland  
REID of Kennebec

Representatives:

JACOBS of Auburn  
COLE of Liberty  
JAMIESON of Presque  
Isle  
FINNEGAN of Bangor  
PHILLIPS of Southwest  
Harbor  
CAMPBELL of Guilford  
JALBERT of Lewiston

Senator Crosby for the Committee subsequently reported that the Committee had discharged the duties assigned it, and the Governor was pleased to say that he would forthwith attend the Convention.

Whereupon Governor Frederick G. Payne, escorted by Honorable Harold I. Goss, Secretary of State, and attended by the Executive Council, entered the Convention Hall amid the applause of the Convention, the Members rising.

The CHAIRMAN: I am highly honored to present to this Convention our Governor, the Honorable Frederick G. Payne.

The Governor addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President and Members of the 95th Legislature:

Today we discuss finances in the form of a budget for the coming biennium.

As we do so, our only concern should be the business of government, which to me means strengthening of our democratic institutions in an era when our Nation is under threat from within, as well as from without.

The budget document now before you, represents painstaking research and analysis by the Budget Officer and the Governor.

At the outset of this discussion and review, please accept my unqualified conviction that the time has come to exhibit a willingness to pioneer in legislation, designed to protect the security and well-being of our citizens.

Something of the magnitude of our financial problem, is indicated by the fact that requests by department heads, institutions and agencies of State government exceeded estimated income by approximately \$15,000,000 for the biennium. It should be noted that basically these requests were justified, but first things come first and many of them have been eliminated as they are not considered essential items in the next biennium.

#### GENERAL FUND

Before entering into a frank discussion of financial affairs, certain premises should be understood and accepted, namely:

1. The problems are social and economic, not political.

2. Revenue estimates are fair. They are not, in my opinion, understated.

3. The recommendations are based upon absolute need to carry out the provisions of existing law.

4. There are in the recommendations only reasonable allowances for extra commodity expense made necessary by the growing population in our Institutions; for increased case load and subsidy programs in our Health and Welfare and Education Departments as required by law; for merit increases to State employees; minimum amounts for additional staff workers in some of our departments where the need has been proven; and urgently needed heating plant replacements. There is also provision for our Public and Private Hospital program, and essential maintenance for State buildings.

5. The budget is unbalanced under current tax laws. To present it otherwise, in face of deficiencies in our operations, would not be presenting a factual report.

6. Each of you should indulge in a careful scrutiny and analysis of every budgetary recommendation. Please be guided by the principle that proven needs must come first. Upon this Legislature rests the full responsibility of either providing sufficient funds to finance these needs, or eliminating or reducing the functions requiring monies in excess of available revenues as provided by current laws.

7. Appropriations and the method of financing them should be given top priority in your deliberations.

8. To finance the recommendations set forth—recommendations covering only a compliance with law as now constituted—will require an additional \$3,578,198 in the first year of the biennium and \$4,127,365 in the second year. This total projected outlay represents a sum over and above presently known and honestly estimated undedicated revenues of the general fund, including more than \$400,000 each year which will accrue from an increase in State property valuation.

9. To consider seriously the imposition of higher levies on many of our general fund tax sources would be unwise.



The budget makes provision for setting aside \$250,000 for the biennium as an institutional emergency fund and \$300,000 in each of the two years to permit adoption of the basic recommendations of the Public Administration Service, which surveyed our wage scale under authority of the 94th Legislature.

The institutional emergency fund would be available to meet commodity costs should they so far exceed present levels that they cannot be met from regular appropriations. It also would provide funds for added personnel and other expenses if population loads soar beyond expectations.

The money would be expended only upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Finance, with the approval of the Governor and Executive Council.

For years we have been trying to bring the compensation of our loyal employees in line with prevailing economic requirements. The recommendation of the Public Administration Service does just this. The required \$300,000 merely brings salaries in line with going rates in private business as of last October. It makes no allowance for increasing costs of living.

#### STATE OFFICE BUILDING

It is neither feasible nor practical to discuss at length the proposed new State Office Building in this budget message.

There will be presented to each legislator an outline of what would be involved in the way of financial support before the authority, already established by law, could proceed.

The addition of such a building to the present Capitol could make possible greater efficiency of operation and permit consolidations which could be translated into economies.

The proposed addition should be constructed at the earliest possible time consistent with the availability of funds and materials.

#### FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Budgetary recommendations for the biennium provide, as already mentioned, only the financing of basic needs as set forth by existing laws. There are, however, many other worthy requests for funds be-

yond those required to underwrite costs of functions now upon the statute books. Most of these demands fall into the capital improvements category and are essential to the protection of property or to enable us to better meet the demands of our citizens from a standpoint of health and safety.

There should be expended at the Augusta State Hospital for example an estimated \$34,000 for a sprinkler system.

At the Bangor State Hospital, we should replace and repair present elevators and install a sprinkler system. The cost is estimated at \$130,000.

In order to provide properly for those afflicted with tuberculosis, need exists for a new patients' building at the Central Maine Sanatorium. It will require \$648,000 for construction and operation in the next biennium.

To provide additional facilities at the Western Maine Sanatorium for patients, \$35,000 should be appropriated.

At Pownal State School, a fire escape is vitally needed at the employees' dormitory. The cost is estimated at \$2,500.

Badly needed roof repairs at the Reformatory for Men will cost \$7,000.

The Airport Construction Fund requires a minimum of \$88,000 to do necessary work in connection with the Federal Government, but this does not provide funds for the development of the Augusta State Airport.

Our State Park system requires \$179,910 and an additional \$6,000 is needed to improve and preserve Capital Park in front of the State House.

These additional items in the aggregate call for \$898,665 in the first year and \$231,745 in the second year of the biennium.

No provision is made for any of them in my budget recommendations, yet it is urged upon this Legislature that each be given most serious consideration. Your agreement to undertake any or all of these projects will call for monies not included in the budget recommendations.

In addition, we should provide more facilities for staff and patients at the Augusta State Hos-

pital and persons in custody at our State Prison. The foregoing, I consider minimum improvements.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

It will be noted that the budget recommendation provides for the University of Maine, in accordance with present laws, an amount equal to a one-mill tax on the State valuation or \$818,596 per year.

However, the University of Maine is faced with a serious financial problem. State support for our only land grant college has not kept pace with mounting costs. If this institution is to continue its high educational standards at a tuition rate that does not preclude admission to a great many of our boys and girls, support beyond the returns of the one-mill tax is necessary.

An additional sum of not less than \$500,000 per year should be made available to compensate for the lessened value of the dollar the University of Maine receives under present law. Positive action is earnestly recommended in this matter.

#### GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The foregoing reflects only those requested needs deemed urgent. The needs set forth are realistic and provide an honest approach by your Governor to fulfill the intent and meaning—legally, morally and factually—of the basic requirements of our State Government.

It should be borne in mind during your deliberations that the recommended need for \$7,705,563 in the next biennium to bring us in compliance with law, includes continuation of services financed by the 94th Legislature's supplemental appropriations from surplus of \$3,592,499. This \$7,705,563 does not include additional monies for the University of Maine or for the minimum improvements which have been mentioned.

To keep the record straight, let us recall that the 94th Legislature, meeting in regular session, appropriated all known estimated revenue plus \$451,699 from surplus to finance General Fund operations of State government from July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1951.

By early February of 1950, it became apparent that the appropri-

ated dollars were insufficient. Consequently, the 94th Legislature was reconvened that same month and it voted to make up the deficiency by taking \$3,140,800 from unappropriated surplus.

In other words, the 94th Legislature financed the statutory level of recurring State services by drawing from its bank account. Today, no savings are to be found in unappropriated surplus for current operating expenses.

The \$3,592,499, which now does only part of the job of meeting demands of the law, must be financed in the coming biennium from a new source or we must revert to the sub-standard governmental operations in effect immediately prior to the 1950 Special Session.

My recommendation is that we provide not only the \$3,592,499, which would allow no more than partial adherence to statutory requirements, but the additional \$4,113,064 to bring us in accord with demands of the statutes. The total of these figures is the \$7,705,563 which is suggested as the minimum amount required of us in new revenue for the coming biennium as indicated in the budget recommendations, to merely meet basic requirements of law. The other needs cited are also strongly recommended.

We do have, as you are aware, \$2,000,000 set aside as working capital for the general fund. This money should not be used for appropriation purposes as it is required to maintain our bank balances and provide for any emergency not otherwise covered.

With this explanation, has not the time arrived for us to face the facts—I mean that we face them squarely, honestly and resolutely.

If we are to provide the services the people demand of their State government, we must, at the same time, provide the money to finance them. This government of ours is not unlike the individuals who comprise it. The cost of most everything we buy is increasing steadily. We can't get something for nothing.

As mentioned in my Inaugural of a week ago, three courses are open to this legislative body.

You can resort to deficit financing, which I would oppose. You can reduce expenditures to fit pres-

ent income by amending laws now on the books. This would strike sharply at curtailments in education, health and welfare, and institutions. You can provide additional revenue.

Because essential needs must be met, if we are to keep faith with the people, it is my recommendation that we impose a Retail Sales Tax to raise the required dollars.

At the same time, we should overhaul our antiquated and inequitable tax structure by abolishing the State Property Tax and the so-called 20 per cent tobacco tax.

In consideration of our withdrawal from the property tax field, we should return to cities and towns the responsibility of financing some services now assumed by the State.

The Sales Tax advocated should exempt food purchased for consumption in the home. Such an exemption would lighten the burden on large families and those of low income as well as those receiving assistance from the State or municipalities.

The suggested new levy is commonly known as a "two per cent Sales Tax." It would yield sufficient dollars to enable the State to withdraw from the property tax field, to repeal the tobacco tax and to have sufficient dollars to meet the financial demands already noted.

In recommending the passage of a Sales Tax, your Chief Executive is not unmindful of a contrary stand taken by him before the 94th Legislature.

The combination of advanced study, the National economic picture and findings of the Tax Revision Committee have served to cause me to amend some conclusions drawn nearly two years ago. As Governor and acting in what I believe to be in the best interests of all the people, a Sales Tax is recommended today.

In so doing, I am cognizant of the fact our Federal Government with unlimited power to tax and to determine the value of the dollar, is expanding because of emergencies on hand. Our present high Federal taxes and the daily reminder of greater income tax levies from the Washington level virtually

prohibit us from serious consideration at anything but a Sales Tax.

### HIGHWAY FUND

The budget recommendations for the State Highway Department are based upon a program which utilizes all estimated income plus \$886,-895 from an estimated unappropriated highway surplus of approximately \$2,400,000.

The withdrawal of the nearly \$900,000 from savings for use in current operations would leave highway unappropriated surplus at roughly \$1,500,000 which should be reserved as working capital and to cover any unforeseen emergency.

It is my recommendation that consideration be given to the bond financing plan to be submitted by the State Highway Commission to permit an accelerated highway construction program that will place our major systems in tolerable condition at the earliest possible time and also to take advantage of all available Federal funds.

Unless conditions surrounding the National emergency preclude such an accelerated program, it should be adopted by this Legislature.

My approval, however, will be tempered by the following determinations:

1. That construction be carried out on those highways reflecting the greatest traffic usage, as determined by survey reports, and on highways now requiring heavy maintenance expenditures.

2. That steps be taken to prevent the State from assuming the maintenance of more and more highway mileage each year, and also to reclassify the present State Highway system.

3. That the program be maintained within available funds.

The State Highway Commission has made very remarkable progress in the past year. For the first time in its history, the department has a proper and businesslike fiscal control.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

May I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks and appreciation to Senator Brooks Savage and Representatives Leslie E. Jacobs and Louis Jalbert, who

served faithfully and well in the difficult work assumed by the Legislative Advisory Committee on Budget.

Nothing but words of praise can be given to Finance Commissioner and Budget Officer Raymond C. Mudge, his assistant Maurice Williams and their staff. They are a capable, tireless and efficient group of public officials.

My thanks also to department heads and their employees who have proven to me that we in Maine possess as fine a group of State workers as can be found in any organization, public or private, of any size.

### CONCLUSION

There will be presented as a supplement to Part III of the Budget document the necessary bills to cover all recommendations.

The adoption of these recommendations will mean that we can provide for our needs under a balanced budget. This is mentioned because to embody such bills in the budget document would add to printing costs and serve no practical purpose.

It is hoped, therefore, that you will accept this supplement as a plan to finance our needs in lieu of a detailed mass of duplicated material in the budget document itself.

The recommendations offered are merely an attempt to advance the hopes and aspirations of society. The program is certain to draw opposition from without this legislative body. This we must expect

because any effort designed to take complacency and neglect out of government is bound to be opposed.

The task of righting obvious ills is not difficult if we are ready to apply to it sound judgment, courage and a willingness to place personal or partisan considerations in the background. The time has come to face the facts.

In the name of the people of Maine, it is urged that this 95th Legislature solve the problem now. With your solution will come the opportunity to build a better State, a better government and a fuller way of life. (Prolonged applause)

At the close of the Governor's address the Governor and suite withdrew, amid the applause of the Convention, the Members rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chairman declared the same dissolved, and the Senate retired to its Chamber, amid the applause of the House, the Members rising.

### IN THE HOUSE

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: If there is no further business for the House to consider today, the Clerk will read the notices.

On motion of Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth,

Adjourned until Tuesday, January 16th, at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon.