

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*Ninety-Seventh Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1955

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
Augusta, Maine

## HOUSE

Tuesday, February 1, 1955

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Horace Colpitts of Augusta.

The members stood at attention during the playing of the National Anthem.

The journal of the previous session was read and approved.

### Papers from the Senate

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Salary of Commissioner of Labor and Industry" (S. P. 89) (L. D. 220)

Bill "An Act relating to Support of Children at the State Military and Naval Children's Home" (S. P. 90) (L. D. 221)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in concurrence.

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Instruction in Use of Firearms in Public Schools and Appropriation Therefor" (S. P. 91) (L. D. 222)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Education.

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

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Snow Removal from 'Compact Areas'" (S. P. 92) (L. D. 224)

Bill "An Act relating to Installations within Highway Limits" (S. P. 93) (L. D. 223)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Highways.

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

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act to Revise Certain Election Laws" (S. P. 94) (L. D. 225)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

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

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Definitions and Administration of Bedding and Upholstered Furniture Laws" (S. P. 95) (L. D. 226)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Labor.

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

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Act Creating the Bethel Village Corporation" (S. P. 96) (L. D. 227)

Bill "An Act relating to Salaries of Council Members of City of Portland" (S. P. 97) (L. D. 228)

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

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

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act Exempting Companies for Transmission of Television Signal by Wire from Jurisdiction of Public Utilities Commission" (S. P. 98) (L. D. 231)

Bill "An Act Repealing the Laws on Street Railroads" (S. P. 99) (L. D. 230)

Bill "An Act relating to Public Hearings for Public Utilities" (S. P. 104) (L. D. 229)

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

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

From the Senate:

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Colby Whittemore of Sebec (S. P. 100)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Earl Whittemore of Sebec (S. P. 101)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Retirements and Pensions.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Retirements and Pensions in concurrence.

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act to Increase the Salary of the Clerk of Courts of Kennebec County" (S. P. 102) (L. D. 232)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Salary of the Sheriff of Kennebec County" (S. P. 103) (L. D. 233)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Towns and Counties.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Towns and Counties in concurrence.

### Messages and Documents

The following Communication:

#### STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I, HAROLD I. GOSS, SECRETARY OF STATE, certify, that THE OFFICE OF the Secretary of State is the legal depository of the Great Seal of the State of Maine and of the records of the acts of the Governor and Executive Council.

I FURTHER CERTIFY,

That at a duly held meeting of the Governor and Council in Machiasport, on January 28, 1955, William C. Hanson of Machiasport appeared, and in the presence of the Executive Council took and subscribed to the oaths necessary for him to discharge his duties as a Member, of the House of Representatives of the ninety-seventh Legislature, which the Governor then and there administered to him.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed. GIVEN under my hand at Augusta, this twenty-eighth day of January in the year of our (SEAL) Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five and in the one hundred and seventy-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

(Signed) HAROLD I. GOSS  
Secretary of State.

The Communication was read and ordered placed on file.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is happy to state that the gentleman from Raymond, Mr. Edwards, the Clerk of the House and your Speaker had the privilege of attending this ceremony with the Governor and Council. Representative Hanson, although obviously having been through quite a siege, was quite alert, had humor as usual, remarked that he hoped it would not be

long before he was here again with us participating in the deliberations of the Legislature.

The Chair takes pleasure in announcing the appointment of Representative Hanson to the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries.

### Petitions, 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:

#### Agriculture

Bill "An Act to Clarify Laws relating to Bang's Disease" (H. P. 286) (Presented by Mr. Caswell of New Sharon)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act providing for a Deputy Commissioner of Institutional Service" (H. P. 285) (Presented by Mr. Edwards of Raymond)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Salaries of Superintendents of Schools" (H. P. 287) (Presented by Mr. Fuller of South Portland)

(Ordered Printed)

Resolve in favor of the Town of Kittery (H. P. 288) (Presented by Mr. Seaward of Kittery)

(Ordered Printed)

Resolve in favor of Rockland Armory Project (H. P. 289) (Presented by Mr. Stilphen of Rockland)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Claims

Resolve in favor of the George Green Estate (H. P. 290) (Presented by Mr. Winchenpaw of Friendship)

(Ordered Printed)

Resolve in favor of Philip Krisilos of Portland (H. P. 291) (Presented by Mr. Roundy of Portland)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Education

Bill "An Act relating to Apportionment of School Funds on Basis of Pupil Enrollment" (H. P. 292)

(Presented by Mr. Rogerson of Houlton)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Highways

Bill "An Act relating to Compensation of Members of the Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge Authority" (H. P. 293) (Presented by Mr. Seaward of Kittery)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Inland Fisheries and Game

Bill "An Act relating to Open Season on Muskrats in Oxford County" (H. P. 294) (Presented by Mr. Olpe of Brownfield by request)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Permits for Propagation of Muskrat, Beaver or Otter" (H. P. 295) (Presented by same gentleman by request)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Closed Time on Deer on the Island of Mount Desert, Hancock County" (H. P. 296) (Presented by Mr. Reynolds of Mount Desert)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Judiciary

Bill "An Act Regulating Closing-Out Sales and Similar Types of Sales" (H. P. 297) (Presented by Mr. Edgar of Bar Harbor)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Payment to Oxford County Law Library" (H. P. 298) (Presented by Mrs. Mann of Paris)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Town of Madawaska Municipal Court" (H. P. 299) (Presented by Mrs. Michaud of Madawaska)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act Providing for the Union of the Towns of Bucksport and Verona as One Municipality" (H. P. 300) (Presented by Mr. Pierce of Bucksport)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act to Ratify and Make Valid the Incorporation of the First Congregational Church of Millinocket" (H. P. 301) (Presented by Mr. Walls of Millinocket)

(Ordered Printed)

Resolve Proposing Amendments to the Constitution Changing the Date of the General Election and Changing the Tenure of Office of Governor to Four-Year Terms (H. P. 302) (Presented by Mr. MacDonald of Rumford)

(750 copies Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Labor

Bill "An Act relating to Dependency Allowances Under Employment Security Law" (H. P. 303) (Presented by Mr. Couture of Lewiston)

(750 copies Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Employment of Females in Commercial Establishments" (H. P. 304) (Presented by Mr. Evans of Cornish)

(750 copies Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Records of Time Worked by Male Employees Sixteen Years of Age or Over" (H. P. 305) (Presented by same gentleman)

(750 copies Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Employment of Minors" (H. P. 306) (Presented by same gentleman)

(750 copies Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to the Employment of Females" (H. P. 307) (Presented by same gentleman)

(750 copies Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Enlarge the Powers of the Gorham Farmers' Club" (H. P. 308) (Presented by Mr. Alden of Gorham by request)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act to Validate the Acts of the Lawndale Cemetery Corporation and to Authorize the Transfer to and Acceptance by the City of Old Town of that Corporation's Cemetery and Trust Funds" (H. P. 309) (Presented by Mr. Latno of Old Town)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Zoning in Village Corporations" (H. P. 310) (Presented by Mrs. Mann of Paris)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

### Public Utilities

Bill "An Act to Extend the Charter of the Eliot Water District" (H.

P. 311) (Presented by Mr. Seaward of Kittery)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### Retirements and Pensions

Resolve providing for State Pension for Gertrude B. Thompson of Chelsea (H. P. 207) (Presented by Mr. Allen of Chelsea)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Victor James of Princeton (H. P. 241) (Presented by Mr. Brown of Baileyville)

Resolve providing for State Pension Increase for Charles Bowen of Newburg (H. P. 208) (Presented by Mr. Carter of Etna)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Charles H. Nutter of Newport (H. P. 242) (Presented by Mr. Carter of Newport)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Marian Martin of Rumford (H. P. 209) (Presented by Miss Cormier of Rumford)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Raymond Longway of Rumford (H. P. 210) (Presented by same member)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Bertha M. Morrison of Lubec (H. P. 211) (Presented by Mr. Denbow of Lubec)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Perley McEachern of Mapleton (H. P. 212) (Presented by Mr. Foss of Chapman)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Annie McEntee of Westfield (H. P. 213) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Daniel McCurdy of China (H. P. 214) (Presented by Mr. Fuller of China)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Kathleen Whitehouse of Weeks Mills (H. P. 215) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Stephen G. Johnson of Old Orchard Beach (H. P. 216) (Presented by Mr. Hancock of York)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Hazel Whalen of Gardiner (H. P. 217) (Presented by Mr. Hanson of Gardiner)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Roland Laurence Green of

Orrington (H. P. 243) (Presented by Mr. Hatfield of Orrington)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Leland Small of Lewiston (H. P. 218) (Presented by Mr. Jacobs of Auburn)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Merle Merrill of Liberty (H. P. 219) (Presented by Mr. Knight of Searsmont)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Mrs. Therese Jacques of Van Buren (H. P. 220) (Presented by Mr. Madore of Van Buren)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Wilfreda Cyr of Van Buren (H. P. 221) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Annette Cyr of Van Buren (H. P. 222) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Stella Pocius of Rumford (H. P. 223) (Presented by Mr. MacDonald of Rumford)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Evelyn Irvine of Winthrop (H. P. 244) (Presented by Mr. Maxwell of Winthrop)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Donat J. Clavette of Madawaska (H. P. 224) (Presented by Mrs. Michaud of Madawaska)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Mrs. Agnes Bourgoin of Madawaska (H. P. 225) (Presented by same member)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Maurice Albert of Madawaska (H. P. 226) (Presented by same member)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Marie A. Fongemie of Madawaska (H. P. 227) (Presented by same member)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Yvonne Jeanne Dubois of Madawaska (H. P. 228) (Presented by same member)

Resolve providing for State Pension for George Beaulieu of Madawaska (H. P. 229) (Presented by same member)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Bernard Dumond of Aroostook County (H. P. 230) (Presented by same member)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Linwood Bow-

den of Penobscot (H. P. 231) (Presented by Mr. Pierce of Bucksport)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Minnie Shaw of Sebago (H. P. 245) (Presented by Mr. Sanborn of Baldwin)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Isaiah Barker of Ludlow (H. P. 232) (Presented by Mr. Soule of Merrill)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Theresa Bolduc of Lewiston (H. P. 315) (Presented by Mr. Couture of Lewiston)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Joseph F. Boulet of Lewiston (H. P. 316) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Mrs. Aurore Auclair of Lewiston (H. P. 317) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for State Pension Increase for Jennie Mower of Belfast (H. P. 318) (Presented by Mr. Greene of Belfast)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Ava Carter of Belfast (H. P. 319) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Myrtle Conant of Warren (H. P. 320) (Presented by Mr. McCluskey of Warren)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Burleigh M. F. Esancy of Union (H. P. 321) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for State Pension for John B. Herrick of Penobscot (H. P. 322) (Presented by Mr. Pierce of Bucksport)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Sylvia Price of Orland (H. P. 323) (Presented by same gentleman)

Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for John Upham of Thomaston (H. P. 324) (Presented by Mr. Winchenpaw of Friendship)

Resolve providing for State Pension for Esther Genthner of Thomaston (H. P. 325) (Presented by same gentleman)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### Sea and Shore Fisheries

Bill "An Act Regulating the Taking of Marine Worms" (H. P. 312) (Presented by Mr. McCluskey of Warren)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act Regulating Fishing in Dennys River, Washington County" (H. P. 257) (Presented by Mr. Palmer of Meddybemps)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### Towns and Counties

Bill "An Act relating to Annual Statement by County Treasurers" (H. P. 313) (Presented by Mr. Finemore of Bridgewater)

(Ordered Printed)

Bill "An Act relating to Expending Aroostook County Funds for Ricker College" (H. P. 314) (Presented by Mr. Reed of Fort Fairfield)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

#### Orders

On motion of Mr. Haughn of Bridgton, it was

ORDERED, that Rev. Verne Morrey of Bridgton Congregational Church, be invited to officiate as Chaplain of the House on Wednesday, February 9, 1955.

Mr. Hilton of Bremen presented the following Order and moved its passage:

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Chairman of the several Joint Standing Committees be directed to have their respective clerks prepare before 2 P.M. of each Tuesday, copies of a list of all Bills and Resolves which have been assigned for public hearings the following week; and that copies of said lists shall be mailed to each of the weekly papers of the State. (H. P. 326)

The Order received passage and was sent up for concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Kinch of Livermore Falls, it was

ORDERED, that Rev. Bernard Alderman of Livermore Falls, be invited to officiate as Chaplain of the House on Tuesday, March 15, 1955.

On motion of Mrs. Mann of Paris, House Rule 25 was suspended for the remainder of today's session in order to permit smoking.

### Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Cook of Portage Lake presented the following Order and moved its passage:

ORDERED, that the State Highway Commission submit to the 97th Legislature on or before March 1, 1955, in writing, a report providing the information described and answering the questions posed in Items Nos. 1-17, set forth herein, with respect to the period of time beginning July 1, 1950 and ending January 1, 1955.

1. Show diagrammatically in a copy of the Accelerated Highway Program the location, extent, cost and original estimates and type, whether reconstruction or betterment, of each improvement accomplished under the bond issue program.

2. Was full advantage taken of all possible Federal Aid available for the accelerated highway program?

3. Was the backlog of Federal Aid Matching Funds completely absorbed in the Bond Issue Program?

4. Was full advantage taken of all possible Federal Aid available for grants and reconstruction for the hurricane disaster of 1954?

5. Outline the department's procedure in arriving at their estimates.

6. Show the cost of each Federal-State road to the State of Maine and to the Federal Government.

7. Show miles of each and all Federal-State road constructed.

8. Show cost of material and from whom purchased for all Federal-State road projects.

9. Show cost of all engineering for each Federal-State road project and name of engineer in charge of each project.

10. Show cost of all supervising of Federal-State road projects.

11. Show cost of all supervising of State Aid road projects and in addition the cost of all rental equipment and from whom rented for each State road project.

12. Break down all construction into the following categories: State Projects—Federal Aid Secondary and Federal Aid Primary projects; in what proportion were regular State funds, bond issue funds, and

Federal funds used in each project?

13. Show to what extent the orders of priority for the various counties were adhered to, not only as outlined in the original program but also as reconfirmed in answer to a House Order on April 1, 1953 during the 96th Legislature.

14. Does the department have any regulation in regard to bidders on a contract being related to one another or having any interownership of stock?

15. In regard to the Accelerated Program, how much of the funds originally allocated to their program was diverted to other projects?

16. List the projects where changes in specifications were made by the Highway Department on projects after the contracts had been awarded.

17. A. List all projects either Federal or State that required a second submission of bids in those cases where the initial bid exceeded State estimates.

B. How many of the above resulted in a lowering of specifications or in the letting of partial contracts?

The Order was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portage Lake, Mr. Cook.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as a little background for this order I should like to look briefly at the Highway Department—at the highway fund, department and construction program. We have some idea of the importance of this when we realize that this is the largest single expenditure made by the State and that in the fiscal year 1953 this sum was \$31,092,000, or 37.1% of the entire expenditure by the State. In other words, of every dollar spent by the entire State Government 37c of that dollar was spent by the Highway Department alone. In spite of this fact, and in spite of the fact that the Governor made six recommendations calculated to get "maximum value for every tax dollar," not one of these recommendations was aimed specifically at highway economy. Here is the largest single item of State expense and not one



word about the possibility of getting any more for our tax dollar at this point.

Now let us look at highway construction as the Governor shows it to us in his budget message. He reminds us that in the state election of 1950 the people approved a \$27,000,000 bond issue to be used in an accelerated construction program designed to reconstruct 1592½ miles of state highways and state aid highways in the federal secondary system over a period of seven years. The Governor then states "because of rising maintenance and construction costs and other factors the proceeds of the bond issue will be exhausted on July 1, 1957 after only five years and it is estimated that not more than 700 miles of highways will have been constructed."

Now this dissipation of funds, apparently, does not particularly disturb the Governor because he simply recommends that we have a new and bigger bond issue. However, before we discuss this new bond issue I should like to point out that 700 miles of road is only 44 per cent of the 1592½ miles. Consequently, we are only getting 44 miles of road for every 100 miles that we were told we were paying for when we were asked to vote for the \$27,000,000 bond issue.

Another thing to remember is that this bond issue covers only a part of the cost of these roads. The federal government pays a substantial part as does every motorist when he pays the tax on his gasoline. The total cost was to be \$98,000,000 which was supposed to, by promises, pay for 1592½ miles of highway but is actually providing less than 700 miles. Now the Governor states in his budget message that it will take a "minimum of 170 miles per year if we are to replace roads as they wear out." He says that this would call for a construction program of twenty million per year and that "on the basis of normal increases in revenues and other highway fund expenditures over a period of fifteen years" which is how long it would be before we have paid for the bonds of that \$27,000,000 bond issue, "we would fall short of financing such a program by more than eighty millions of dol-

lars," provided even that we get a normal amount of federal funds to help us out.

However, the Governor apparently believes that such an amount is beyond us, and I agree with him, so he offers a compromise program aimed at producing 130 miles of new roads per year. Do not lose sight of the fact that this is 40 miles per year less than what he says is a "minimum of 170 miles per year" needed to replace the roads as they wear out. This 130 miles, he says, would call for construction at the rate of sixteen millions per year which, subject to the same qualifications he made in connection with the \$20,000,000 program, over a period of fifteen years we would fall short of financing such a program by thirty millions of dollars. This he proposes to finance by a new bond issue of \$30,000,000 with a retirement to begin about 1969.

Now let us analyze this to see what it actually does for us. According to the Governor's own words, we will arrive in 1969 with a debt of bonds of thirty millions, and we will have built 130 miles per year for fifteen years, which will be 40 miles per year less than what wears out, provided, of course, that these estimates which perhaps find their source in the Highway Department bear a better relation to fact than did the figures provided by the Highway Department when they wanted the \$27,000,000 bond issue in 1950. If these figures are no closer to fact than those, we would get only 60 miles of road for that same money. But let us assume that these new figures bear some good relation to fact and we accept them. By constructing 40 miles per year less than we are wearing out we will arrive in 1969 not only with a debt of thirty millions of dollars, but with 600 miles less good road than we now have.

Now let us look a little closer at the highway problem and see a few things that the Governor does not show us. Here on a page from a book prepared by the Maine State Highway Commission for the 95th Legislature is shown a portion of Aroostook County. There is a segment of road to be constructed designated by the number 22. It is route

163 running from the Presque Isle city line out through Mapleton for a distance of 4.96 miles. Total estimates of costs for this improvement are reported as being \$260,000. This is the Highway Department's own figure. Let us look at the bids submitted for this job on August 4, 1954. Here we see that there were three bids submitted, the highest one was for \$640,494.15 and the lowest one was for \$629,346.50, which was submitted by the Bridge Construction Corporation. At the time these bids were published in the papers, I voiced a protest to Governor Cross and he said he would instruct the Highway Department to reject these bids and ask for new ones. This was done and on September 1, 1954, approximately 30 days later, we find these bids: Keltic Construction, Inc., proposed, Houlton, \$460,000 informal; Bridge Construction Corp. Augusta, \$471,000; Thomas DiCenzo, Calais, \$489,000. The second lowest bid received the contract because I am told the low bidder had not become incorporated. Notice, however, that this is the same contractor that had the low bid in August. Now this looks better, but let's look a little closer. Up in the title we see in parentheses two words 'stage construction.' These words were in parentheses up there. I inquired of the Highway Department what this meant and they told me that this second group of bids was only on the road base and did not include the bituminous concrete surface, so that they would be able to get a lower bid. I then asked if there had been any other relaxing of specifications and the Highway Department said "yes, they had relaxed the specifications on the gravel fill." That road is now under construction. We are getting a road with a poorer foundation than the original specifications, and no surface on it for \$471,000 as compared to the estimate of the Highway Department of \$260,000 for the entire job. Heaven only knows what the complete job will cost at this rate.

Now let us look at another piece over here on route 1A between Easton and Fort Fairfield and we shall see something that I found seems to be happening quite often. That is, pieces of proposed construction that we originally had estimates on that

are losing their identity by being broken up into different sized segments. This piece is designated as Section No. 6 in the book prepared by the Highway Department and was in this book 8.67 miles long and was estimated to cost \$399,000 or approximately \$44,000 per mile. The contract was awarded to J. R. Cianchette of Pittsfield for 5.739 miles of that original 8.67 miles for the sum of \$531,762, or approximately \$88,000 per mile. That is just a cool 100 per cent more than the estimate that was given to the 95th Legislature.

Now surely the Highway Department is important enough so that the Governor felt that he should probe into it deep enough to find these things that I have just run across, and if he has found some justification for these wide differences between estimates and actual contracts, he certainly should feel obligated to explain this justification to the members of this Legislature and to the general public before advocating another such bond issue. On the face of it, it would appear that there is either gross ineptness or inefficiency on the part of the highway engineers who figure these estimates, or that there is the possibility of there being collusion on the part of the contractors. I do not believe that we can come to any intelligent conclusion as to what we should vote for in regard to highway construction unless this Legislature has a great deal more information than has so far been put before it.

It is with this thought in mind that I submit the foregoing order. In order that everyone may have a chance to study it and have a chance to present any arguments either for or against it or amend it in any way, I move that the order lie on the table and be specially considered for tomorrow and that it be reprinted or reproduced.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portage Lake, Mr. Cook, moves that the order presented by him be tabled and specially assigned for tomorrow morning. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portage Lake, Mr. Cook, also moves that the order be reproduced

and distributed to each member of the House. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed and the Order was tabled pending passage and specially assigned for tomorrow morning and was ordered reproduced.

The SPEAKER: The House is proceeding under Orders.

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

Mr. CHILDS: Mr. Speaker, I move that we reconsider our act of the last legislative day whereby we passed an order to spend \$9,000 for—

The SPEAKER: The Chair will request that the gentleman kindly defer until Orders of the Day are before us.

#### **House Reports of Committees Ought Not to Pass**

Mr. Getchell from the Committee on Claims reported "Ought not to pass" on Resolve in favor of Anastasea Johnston of Milo (H. P. 36)

Mr. Sanford from the Committee on Taxation reported same on Bill "An Act relating to Exemptions from Taxation of Veterans" (H. P. 4) (L. D. 15)

Reports were read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

#### **Ought to Pass Printed Bills**

Mr. Alden from the Committee on Claims reported "Ought to pass" on Resolve in favor of the Town of Avon (H. P. 5) (L. D. 279)

Mr. Hancock from the Committee on Judiciary reported same on Bill "An Act relating to Recording of Notices of Liens and Certificates of Discharge of Liens for Internal Revenue Taxes" (H. P. 2) (L. D. 2)

Mr. Lord from the Committee on Legal Affairs reported same on Bill "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Readfield School District" (H. P. 14) (L. D. 13)

Mr. Martin from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act relating to the Superintending School Committee of the City of Presque Isle" (H. P. 44) (L. D. 55)

Mrs. Thomas from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act relating to Membership of the Board

of Trustees of the North Haven Port District" (H. P. 11) (L. D. 10)

Reports were read and accepted, the Bills read twice, the Resolve read once, and tomorrow assigned.

#### **Ought to Pass with Committee Amendment**

Mr. Quinn from the Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act relating to Definition of 'Elevator' under Board of Elevator Rules and Regulations" (H. P. 12) (L. D. 11) reported "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was read and accepted and the Bill read twice.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 12, L. D. 11, "An Act Relating to Definition of 'Elevator' under Board of Elevator Rules and Regulations."

Amend said bill by inserting after the underlined word "the" in the sixth line thereof, the following underlined words and punctuation: 'doors, well.'

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

#### **Passed to Be Engrossed**

Resolve Repealing the Rule and Regulation Regulating the Taking of Crabs in Cumberland County (H. P. 28) (L. D. 38)

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

#### **Passed to Be Enacted Emergency Measure**

An Act to Provide Credit or Refund for Tobacco Tax Stamps and Correcting Error in Discount for Tobacco Tax Stamps (S. P. 20) (L. D. 4)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a division was had. 127 voted in favor of same and none against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be

enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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#### Orders of the Day

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

Mr. CHILDS: Mr. Speaker, I move that we reconsider our action of the last legislative day whereby we passed an order to spend \$9,000 for the redecoration of the Senate and House Retiring Rooms.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Childs, moves that the House reconsider its action whereby it passed Joint Order, House Paper 284.

The Chair is informed that the order is in the possession of the Clerk of the House.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Call.

Mr. CALL: Mr. Speaker, I wish the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Childs, would reconsider and leave the order tabled until tomorrow—at

that time, he can remove it from the table if he wishes—until I have a conference with the sponsors of the order.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Childs, that the House reconsider its action whereby it passed Joint Order, House Paper 284. Is it the pleasure of the House to reconsider?

The motion prevailed.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Call of Cumberland, the Joint Order was tabled pending further consideration and specially assigned for tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

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

The Clerk will read the notices.

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On motion of Mr. Ferguson of Hanover,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.