

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - T H I R D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1409

H. P. 1692

House of Representatives, April 16, 1947.

On motion of Mr. Campbell of Garland read and tabled pending adoption. Specially assigned for Thursday, April 17th, 1947 and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

Joint Resolution Relating to the Proposed Price to Producers Ordered by the Secretary of Agriculture for Class I Milk in the Greater Boston Milk Marketing Area and Other Federally Regulated Milk Markets in the Northeast.

Offered by Committee on Agriculture.

Whereas, the Hon. Clinton P. Anderson, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, has ordered that the price for Class I milk payable to Boston producers for May and June 1947, shall be reduced 44 cents per hundredweight below the April price, and has ordered similar reductions in prices to be paid to producers supplying milk to other federally regulated markets of New England and New York; and

Whereas, producers supplying milk to Boston and other federal markets have already taken a reduction of 88 cents per hundredweight, or 2 cents per quart, in February and March; and a further reduction for May and June would mean a decline of 3 cents per quart in 4 months' time, which is entirely out of line with the trends of industrial earnings or of other commodity prices; and

Whereas, milk production costs have increased sharply from a year ago, as a result of an advance in feed prices of about 21 per cent; farm labor 19 per cent; and farm machinery and supplies at least 25 per cent; and

Whereas, the order of the Secretary will result in returns to Boston producers of not more than \$3.50 per hundredweight in June, being a reduction of more than 60 cents below the return of \$4.17 for June last year, despite the sharp increases in milk production costs; and

Whereas, such action with respect to fluid milk prices will inevitably result in serious injury to dairy farmers of Maine, and indicates clearly that the Department of Agriculture has failed to understand or give adequate consideration to actual production conditions existing in this State, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives: That we formally protest this action on the part of the Secretary of Agriculture which will result in serious injury to dairy farmers of Maine; and that we respectfully request the Secretary of Agriculture to reconsider and amend his order of April 9, 1947 in line with actual cost and production conditions, so as to maintain returns to producers for Class I milk at least at the April level, in the federal order markets of New England; and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Hon. Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, and to each member of the Maine delegation in Congress; and be it further

Resolved: That this joint resolution be treated as a memorial to the members of the Maine congressional delegation to take affirmative action to advise the Secretary of Agriculture of the needs of the Maine dairy industry as expressed herein.