

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 425

H. P. 994

House of Representatives, February 8, 1949.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Paine of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress Assembled

**Joint Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Convention of the United
States or Amendments to the Constitution of the United States Relating
to Strengthening the United Nations and Limited World Federal Gov-
ernment.**

MEMORIAL

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the
state of Maine in the ninety-fourth legislative session assembled, most re-
spectfully present and petition your honorable body as follows :

Whereas, war is now a threat to the very existence of our civilization,
because modern science has produced weapons of war which are overwhelm-
ingly destructive and against which there is no sure defense; and

Whereas, the effective maintenance of world peace is the proper concern
and responsibility of every American citizen; and

Whereas, the people of the state of Maine, while now enjoying domestic
peace and security under the laws of their local, state and federal govern-
ment, deeply desire the guarantee of world peace; and

Whereas, all history shows that peace is the product of law and order, and that law and order are the product of government; and

Whereas, the United Nations, as presently constituted, although accomplishing great good in many fields, lacks authority to enact, interpret or enforce world law, and under its present charter is incapable of restraining any major nations which may foster or foment war; and

Whereas, the charter of the United Nations expressly provides, in Articles 108 and 109, a procedure for reviewing and altering the charter; and

Whereas, many states have memorialized congress, through resolutions by their state legislatures or in referenda by their voters, to initiate steps toward the creation of a world federal government; and

Whereas, several nations have recently adopted constitutional provisions to facilitate their entry into a world federal government by authorizing a delegation to such a world federal government of a portion of their sovereignty sufficient to endow it with powers adequate to prevent war; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and House of the state of Maine, that application is hereby made to the congress of the United States, pursuant to Article V of the constitution of the United States, to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the constitution which are appropriate to authorize the United States to negotiate with other nations, subject to later ratification, a constitution of a world federal government, open to all nations, with limited powers adequate to assure peace, or amendments to the constitution which are appropriate to ratify any world constitution which is presented to the United States by the United Nations, by a world constitutional convention or otherwise; and be it further

Resolved, that the secretary of state of the state of Maine is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the senate and the house of representatives of the congress, to the members of the said senate and house of representatives from this state, and to the presiding officers of each of the legislatures in the several states, requesting their cooperation.