

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)

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

Legislative Document

No. 1360

H. P. 1145

House of Representatives, March 17, 1955.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Reed of Fort Fairfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

MEMORIAL

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

JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN INVESTIGATION AND
ADDITIONAL REGULATION OF THE MERCANTILE EXCHANGE BY
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine in the Ninety-Seventh Legislative Session assembled, most respectfully present and petition your Honorable Body as follows :

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States provides that the Congress may investigate and regulate in the public interest ; and

WHEREAS, the Mercantile Exchange, as now operating, encourages and develops a large amount of speculation that is entirely disproportionate to the actual needs and requirements of the Potato industry ; and

WHEREAS, Maine is the only state on which the Mercantile Exchange deals in potato futures, prices of Maine potatoes being traded are reflected more quickly than that of other sections of the country ; and

WHEREAS, the Mercantile Exchange does not allow trading in small consumer-type packs which the industry is trying to develop in line with a better marketing program ; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that, although the Mercantile Exchange offers the farmer an opportunity to safeguard trading, its disadvantages, which recently have become so evident, far offset this advantage ; and

WHEREAS, the Mercantile Exchange has tended to depress prices, for during the latter part of February Mercantile Exchange prices were as much as forty cents per hundred weight lower than the actual market; and

WHEREAS, the Mercantile Exchange is being used primarily as a speculating device, for in the month of February, 1955, there were 2,531 cars traded on the Exchange, but only 306 delivered and in most seasons deliveries run approximately one per cent of sales; and

WHEREAS, at a recent meeting of over four hundred Aroostook County potato growers it was overwhelmingly voted in favor of restricting potato trading on the Mercantile Exchange at the earliest possible date; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we, your Memorialists, recommend to the Congress an investigation of the Mercantile Exchange for the purpose of providing greater stability in the potato industry; and be it further

RESOLVED: That if further regulations be necessary, such legislation be enacted by the Congress; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State, by mail, to the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress, to the members of the said Senate and House of Representatives from this State.