

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

One Hundredth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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Inaugural Address
of
Governor John H. Reed
to the
100th Legislature
January 5, 1961

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF JOHN H. REED, GOVERNOR OF MAINE,
TO THE ONE-HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE, STATE OF MAINE

January 5, 1961

Mr. President and Members of the 100th Legislature:

Great opportunity comes infrequently into the life of the average man.

More often, great opportunity comes to the institutions of men . . . institutions such as this distinguished legislative body which meets today in joint convention.

You and I have an unparalleled opportunity to write a major chapter in the history of our state. In writing it, we can bring to our people a renewed and enlarged opportunity for economic, cultural, and social improvement.

This is a challenge which comes to you and to me at a dramatic moment in our history . . . the convening of the 100th Maine Legislature.

There are many of you who are serving in this assembly for the first time. To you the challenge is new and inspiring. I am sure you feel the same pride in public service which came to me when I first became a member of this historic House.

There are others among you to whom these halls are most familiar. However, new member or old, I wish for you a most successful and productive Legislative session. I know that you will faithfully represent the interests of your constituents. I want each of you to know that it is my sincere desire to assist you in every way I can.

You shall be meeting together for the next several months and you will recognize that some Legislative matters call for more of your time and attention than others. It is my purpose today to set forth those things which, in my opinion, are of paramount interest.

Why are we here?

What are we striving for?

What is our responsibility?

Can we make a significant impact upon the history of our State?

I know we can . . . I believe we will.

We are here to represent the interests of all of the citizens of Maine. We must act to increase the opportunity for the people to earn a good living, enhance the prospect of steady economic improvement, augment the means of intellectual advancement, and provide help for those who must turn to us in time of need.

These are ambitious goals.

Do they sound impossible of accomplishment?

To me they do not!

The tools to achieve these goals will be placed in our hands as Legislative proposals. If we use them wisely we can do those things which we have set out to do.

I do not mean to imply that we shall create an economic Utopia in the next few months, nor do I suggest that all of the desired objectives will be reached even within the coming biennium.

I do say, however, that we have a golden opportunity to advance the State of Maine far along the road to Economic, Social and Cultural Horizons that we have not envisioned before. We can make a start . . . and a good one.

EDUCATION

There should be no doubt in anyone's mind as to where I stand in the matter of Public Education and its role in the future of our state.

Education is an area in which the fiscal sights of the State of Maine must be raised to a higher level. More liberal State support in the form of increased subsidy payments is essential.

Teachers' salaries in Maine call for attention and action.

Maine has lagged behind in this respect. The inclination of the Maine teacher to take a position in another state is understandable.

Several legislatures in the past have raised the minimum pay standard for teachers, but we are weak in the matter of annual increases. These should be made more attractive.

The need for more teachers becomes greater every year in Maine. To obtain them we must look to our teacher colleges. These institutions themselves have serious problems.

The competition for teaching staffs at the colleges is keen. There is need for more buildings and equipment.

Our major goal should be full accreditation for all five Maine teacher training facilities. This means not only staff, buildings and equipment, but libraries, laboratories and other necessities. To secure these needs the teacher colleges must have increased funds.

Every Maine boy and girl qualified for college should be afforded the opportunity. However, for various reasons there will always be young people who cannot go on to higher education. For them we must consider the advisability of offering a broader vocational training program. While we do this for our young people, it will also support our effort to expand Maine's industrial development.

Let us turn now to the University of Maine. The difficult position in which the University finds itself today has resulted in requests for additional appropriations for operations and for capital construction in the next biennium.

There is an imperative need for added operating funds with which to improve faculty salaries in order that they may approach the level of those in other state supported universities; to take care of other expense categories where there is a lag behind national inflationary trends; for the teaching of additional students and providing improved services to the state.

With student enrollment rising, to an expected 8,000 by 1970, more money is urgently needed for capital construction. Funds granted the University for capital improvements have been so limited that crowded academic facilities have resulted.

If we do not meet the emergency realistically, the University must deny admissions to many qualified Maine youths, a necessity which already has been felt. I am sure you will agree with me that this situation must be corrected.

The proud seafaring tradition of our State is still cherished throughout Maine. One of the institutions that preserves that heritage is the Maine Maritime Academy at Castine. This is a splendid service in training officers for the maritime industry. The present needs of the Academy demand our most serious consideration.

A modest increase in pension allowances for retired teachers will be asked. This is worthy of passage.

HEALTH & WELFARE

In the field of Health and Welfare I am particularly concerned with the problems of Maine's senior citizens. I emphatically favor the repeal of the present Relative Responsibility Clause in the Old Age Assistance Law. I am convinced that hardships are being endured in many cases where elderly citizens who are in need cannot bring themselves to take court action against their defecting sons or daughters.

In the field of Public Assistance I recommend your favorable consideration of repeal of all residence requirements. This will strengthen the program at practically no cost.

I also hope that this Legislature will support research into the causes of dependency and that as a result of this research we may proceed with experimental programs to test their effectiveness in preventing and dealing with causes of dependency.

I shall request appropriations for extension to other areas of the so-called "Portland Plan" in behalf of dependent children and to purchase more adequate foster home care for children.

Among the many responsibilities of the Department of Health and Welfare, none is more immediately important than provision of more adequate payments to hospitals and nursing homes for services given patients who qualify under state aid programs.

Maine's hospitals find themselves in an impossible situation today in caring for state aid patients at rates which are below the cost of maintaining those patients.

I strongly recommend more realistic payments.

The Citizens Committee on Aging has faithfully studied its assigned problems. I propose that it now be made a permanent committee.

Because of the important work in which our Committee on Children and Youth is now engaged, I recommend that this temporary committee be authorized to function on a continuing basis.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Forestry

I would like to speak now of our natural resources. Since almost 90 percent of all Maine land is covered with forests, this is our greatest natural resource. We have had excellent expansion in markets for Maine wood products. The demand is certain to increase.

Forest productivity must be improved. The five chief steps I would recommend for your consideration are better cutting practices; improvement of timber stand; increased protection of forest lands; accelerated planting; and increased research.

Forestry management and our planting program should be improved. The capacity of the State Forest Nursery should be increased for a long-range re-forestation program.

Greater fire control is urgent, as is insect control. I ask for serious consideration of a proposal to provide more incentive programs for insect control through increased grants.

Infestation of the state's elm trees by Dutch elm disease has become a serious problem. To prevent the loss of these beautiful trees I ask the Legislature to provide funds to meet this threat.

From time to time the suggestion has been made that state agencies concerned with natural resources be consolidated. I do not think this consolidation is necessary. The agencies are already working effectively through an informal joint committee.

Mineral Potential

Through aero magnetic survey and ground reconnaissance we have now mapped a large portion of the state to determine the extent of our mineral assets. This inventory should be continued until the whole state is properly mapped.

Study has also been made of the geology of the State of Maine in those areas near Canadian mineral deposits which have been successfully worked. This part of our program, to determine what we have in minerals, should be continued.

No one could forecast, at this time, whether the mineral deposits which we know exist in Maine will play a major role in the future economic development of the state. But we would be most unwise to neglect a determination of what we have, and in what measure.

Water Improvement

All of us who live and work in the State of Maine are grateful for the rich endowment nature has given us in the form of lakes, streams and coastal waters. We are unanimous in our desire to prevent their contamination and, in those instances where pollution has developed, to correct it.

The basic fact here is that our problem of water pollution is one that has been building up over many years. It is not the kind of problem that is going to be eliminated quickly or at small cost.

To meet this situation previous Legislatures established an orderly, fair, and certain program of pollution abatement through classification of waters under the administration of the Water Improvement Commission. With this plan we are moving toward clean waters without imposing an unjustified financial burden upon any municipality or private enterprise.

My position is not a defense of the status quo, nor a stand-pat attitude in connection with this important matter.

I would recommend that while we continue to classify and improve Maine waters under the plan which is in force, we give the Water Improvement Commission greater enforcement power. In this way, we shall make more effective the rulings and decisions of the Commission.

I would further recommend an increase in the existing grants-in-aid to municipalities as an encouragement toward pollution abatement.

STATE PARKS

Parks comprise one of our most popular recreational assets.

Unless you have used our camp sites and day-park areas in recent years I think you will find it difficult to grasp the extent of the expansion which has taken place. In view of the increasing public demand for these camping facilities, I would recommend that funds be provided for sound expansion of our park program. In a number of areas private camp operators are meeting the need. This effort should be encouraged.

The Park Commission is also responsible for historical preservation. This constitutes a valuable attraction to tourists as well as our own people. I heartily endorse this program and urge that you provide the funds to implement it.

HIGHWAYS

Whatever phase in the development of the State of Maine is under consideration, highways necessarily take a leading position in our planning.

To win our share of the great industrial expansion that is taking place across the nation, we need highways more imperatively than most states, for the speed with which goods can be moved great distances to market becomes increasingly important.

If we are to grow recreationally and to develop into a four-season vacation travel state, highways are of paramount concern to us.

Highway planning is especially difficult in Maine because, while our large geographical area results in great mileage, our population is relatively small, which means that revenue sources for highway building and maintenance are also comparatively limited.

In my Budget Message I shall speak of highway financing in detail and will refer to the balanced budget which the Highway Commission has submitted for the coming biennium.

At this time, let me state my conviction that it is our obligation to continue with our full highway program, including state aid, special state aid, and town road improvement.

I wish to make one other point in connection with our highway program, and this refers to the completed extension of the Interstate Highway from Augusta to Fairfield. I felt that it would be appropriate to designate this section of the interstate system as the "Clinton A. Clauson Highway" in memory of our late Governor. Appropriate legislation will be presented to provide for this designation.

MENTAL HEALTH & CORRECTIONS

Let us consider now one of our largest State Departments, Mental Health and Corrections, and examine some of its current needs.

Recent legislation has created services in this department which will need continued support and expansion if the purposes of the law are to be carried out. The 98th Legislature, for example, established a state-wide probation and parole system.

This 100th Legislature should recognize the present urgent need to complete the program by appropriating the necessary funds.

The 99th Legislature created the Bureau of Mental Health, which was made responsible for the direction of the mental health programs in the institutions and within the communities of the State. The department now seeks funds for continued support and expansion.

The same session of the Legislature provided for expanded community mental health services and appropriated funds to implement that law. The amount appropriated had to be a guess, since the Legislature of 1959 had no way of knowing to what degree municipalities would be able to take part in this grant-in-aid program.

There is now clear indication that more communities and non-profit organizations will organize to participate in 1961-1963. It is probable that funds in excess of those appropriated in 1959 will be necessary for the coming biennium.

This department today faces some very serious problems. The State Reformatory for men is overcrowded. The Maine State Prison is at the saturation point. The Boys Training Center has been forced to operate on an unsatisfactory accelerated release program. We must act to alleviate these conditions.

An important part of the work of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections is Pineland Hospital and Training Center, which is doing exceptional work in the mental health field. I hope that this Legislature will join me in endorsing and supporting that program.

There are as many beds in the three hospitals operated by the Department as there are in all other hospitals in the State of Maine. With present funds none of the hospitals can obtain the accreditation which is so essential if approved standards of program and treatment are to be provided and competent professional personnel be recruited and retained. This Legislature should take steps toward accreditation.

STATE GOVERNMENT

At this point I would like to express my belief that State Government is and ought to be subject to change in accord with contemporary needs.

Legislation will be introduced to provide for the election of the Executive Council by popular vote in the county entitled to representation. I approve of this method and hope the measure will receive your favorable consideration.

In whatever area of State Government change is contemplated, we can accomplish the refinement either by majority passage of resolves by the Legislature, with subsequent ratification by the people; or we can, by legislative vote, convene a constitutional convention. However, this is a cumbersome and expensive device to use.

Governmental reorganization can be accomplished also through a Constitutional Commission. This has been done, once in our history. In 1875 the Legislature created a 10-man commission.

That commission returned seventeen recommendations to the Legislature. Nine were adopted immediately, and five at a later date. Only three recommendations failed of adoption.

In order that we may know the public's desire in the matter of governmental reform, I now propose that the 100th Maine Legislature authorize a bipartisan Constitutional Commission which would consider changes in state functions.

I shall not prejudice the deliberations of this Constitutional Commission by directing what proposals in government reform it ought to consider. The high integrity of such a commission will insure that all subjects bearing on the public interest in governmental improvement would be given full consideration.

In keeping with my belief that the machinery of representative government should be kept up to date, I request that this Legislature address itself to the revision of our State Election Laws. Measures will be offered for that revision. These deserve our concentrated attention.

Congressional Redistricting

This 100th Legislature is obligated to decide the manner in which the State of Maine shall be redistricted, if our representation in the National House is to be reduced by one member.

The Legislature may decide to authorize two representatives-at-large; or it may decide to divide the state into two Congressional Districts. I recommend we follow the second course.

Reapportionment

Under the Constitution of the State of Maine we are required to adjust legislative apportionment in accordance with population changes. I ask that this 100th Legislature act forthrightly in adjusting our legislative representation as directed by the Constitution.

Legislative Procedures

Among the legislatures of the several states, Maine has always followed form and tradition in a way that has brought us distinction. Visitors who sit in the galleries of the Senate or House are always visibly impressed with the dignity and decorum with which our Legislative sessions are conducted.

The 99th Legislature is to be commended for bringing about changes in Legislative Procedure which will bring new dispatch and efficiency to the processing of bills and resolves. I hope that this and all succeeding Legislatures will adhere to this objective of striving for increased efficiency.

JUDICIAL REFORM

The efficient administration of justice is a goal we must constantly keep before us. In a slower moving era it was necessary to have numerous municipal courts and many trial justices and to entrust to part-time magistrates the judicial responsibilities at the level where the greatest number of Maine citizens came in contact with the courts.

Those days have passed.

I recommend the creation of a statewide system of District Courts staffed by full-time judges. At the outset the District Courts would have jurisdiction over the cases presently considered in Municipal courts. In time the jurisdiction might be broadened to relieve some of the burden on our other courts.

This is a progressive step which I hope this Legislature will take.

LABOR

One of the most valuable economic assets our State possesses is our work force. These 300,000 wage earners are deserving of recognition and for this reason I hope this session of the Legislature will give special attention to the interests, the welfare, and the protection of the State's labor force.

There is much to be done in the field of safety on the job. In the last year of record the total of 44 on-the-job fatalities was the highest since we have kept records. I believe that occupational safety supervision should be extended to all work places; that special attention be given the construction industry which is not now covered by a State Safety Service.

We should have periodic wage surveys because this is a service that would aid our industrial development program.

It is the duty of this 100th Legislature to study possible needs for adjustment in our Unemployment Compensation and Workmen's Compensation Laws. We want these insurance programs to be kept up to date and to provide protection for both employees and employers.

I submit to this Legislature that adjustment is needed in our new State Minimum Wage Law. Our experience in enforcement of this Law leads to the recommendation that a number of changes be considered. Legislation will be introduced outlining my specific recommendations for improving the Minimum Wage Law.

This Legislature will receive a report of an Interim Committee on the subject of Workmen's Compensation Coverage and will therein find a proposal that the Workmen's Compensation Law be revised to provide for injured workers to receive vocational rehabilitation with a view to restoring the injured worker to gainful employment.

This proposed expansion of compensation coverage in the interest of injured workers is important and deserves concentrated study.

STATE EMPLOYEES

Your attention is directed to the Jacobs Pay Plan which proposes recognition of the high quality of the performance of our state employees and their efficiency and loyalty.

The study recognizes that fixed salaries at a time when consumer prices are constantly rising creates a difficult situation for salaried workers and imposes a burden on state employees.

I am of the opinion that the State holds at least equal responsibility toward its efficient employees as that of the employer in private business. It is our responsibility to see that state employees receive adequate compensation. I recommend increased adjustments applying the provisions of the Jacobs Pay Plan.

AGRICULTURE

Although industrial and recreational development are the dramatic aspects of the growth of the State of Maine in the present day, farming will always be an important part of our economic life.

Let me discuss with you at this time some of the present needs of the Department of Agriculture.

The program for control of livestock diseases needs strengthening, especially in the poultry industry. Financial support is needed for the operation of our State Division of Markets.

The time has come for our huge poultry industry to seriously consider the value of a program of self-taxation in order to promote its products. The poultry industry itself should first be convinced of the value of such a tax.

In creating and expanding markets for our agricultural products, we have made effective use of the motion picture. This has been a most productive program and I hope you will support a modest expansion of this activity.

Conservation of the soil of Maine is all-important. We must protect our farm soil from the ravages of erosion. I recommend that adequate funds be provided to assure the full continuation of this program.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Modern transportation is taking an increasingly important place in the growth of Maine.

If we are to take our deserved place in the economic sun, we must be assured of fast, frequent and convenient commercial air service. To make that kind of service possible we must improve our present system of airports, few of which were designed for the heavier and faster planes of the present day.

In my opinion the area air terminal is the logical solution to our present-day need for improved service.

To support area airports, local communities must recognize the desirability of the area concept and individually maintain landing areas for feeder service to the area air terminal. Wherever possible existing airports should be developed for area terminals to avoid costly duplication.

With the abandonment of railroad passenger service in Maine, an increased responsibility was placed upon the other forms of transportation. The common carrier most affected by the change was the bus. Adequate bus schedules must be maintained.

In order that the travelling public might be fully protected, the Public Utilities Commission instituted a rigid program of bus inspection. That system will be followed constantly.

There is an appreciable segment of the population of Maine which must depend upon regular ferry transportation . . . a demand which is seasonally augmented by tourist traffic. I believe that citizens using regularly scheduled ferry services are entitled to the same assurance of service and protection as that attending other forms of transportation.

SEA AND SHORE FISHERIES

Throughout this nation and, indeed, across the world, the State of Maine is identified with fine sea foods, the products of our coastal fisheries. The fame of Maine's sea foods is gradually spreading to an increasing list of consumer markets.

This Legislature should support the program to accelerate the demand for these ocean foods. This includes the establishment of a Marketing Advisory Council, market surveys for lobsters and other commercial fish, an inspection program for fisheries products to encourage the distribution with an official Maine "Seal of Approval".

More research and enforcement manpower are needed to assist the Sea and Shore Fisheries Department. We should provide this.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Highway Safety

One of the greatest contributions that this 1961 Legislature could make to the protection of Maine citizens would be to focus attention on the urgent problem of highway safety.

Some states have taken relatively drastic steps, through law enforcement procedures, to reduce the frequency of accidents, injuries and deaths. It is my recommendation that this Legislative session strengthen our Motor Vehicle Laws to provide more severe punishment for violators. In my opinion, this is the most effective way to meet the appalling rise in motor vehicle fatalities.

Our Maine Highway Safety Committee continually works to keep highway accidents down and is to be commended for its public spirited work.

State Police

It has always seemed to me that one of the greatest responsibilities of government was the protection of its citizens from acts of lawlessness and disaster.

Our chief agency in the maintenance of law and order, at the state level, is our State Police organization. The Maine State Police have made a notable contribution to law observance over the years.

It is my opinion that personnel below the rank of Captain in our State Police should be included as Classified Personnel under the jurisdiction of the State Personnel Board. I hope this Legislature will adopt this change.

Civil Defense

In the realm of public protection I do not feel that our Civil Defense and Public Safety organization in Maine has received the full credit which it is due. These faithful volunteers have kept themselves prepared for an emergency which we all pray will never occur. But if it should come we can take assurance from the knowledge that our civil defense organization is trained and alert for any possibility.

INLAND FISH AND GAME

In earlier years there were far fewer hunters and our forest lands and waters teemed with game and fish. Today our Fish and Game Department must emphasize research and management if we are to maintain our fish and game population against demands that are beyond anything our forefathers could have visualized.

Research, and a continuing inventory of Maine's fishing waters, provides a basis for scientific stocking and gives indication of the need for management activity.

In the field of outdoor sport in Maine there is no more important potential problem than the maintenance of access to our valuable recreation areas, whether for hunting, fishing, or other outdoor pursuits. This Legislature should be alert to assure that this right will be protected.

There has been a tremendous increase in boating throughout the United States. This is also true in Maine, which has so many beautiful lakes, ponds and coastal boating areas. I strongly urge that municipalities, civic groups and private operators provide adequate launching facilities. We have a boat registration and safety law, administered by the Fish and Game Department. Legislation will be offered to resolve problems which have become evident with experience.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In the conduct of state business it is obvious that buildings must be constructed and maintained for an increasing volume of operations. Thus, this Legislature will receive requests for capital construction, not all of which are attainable in one biennium. The Bureau of Public Improvements has established priorities for construction. You will find these very valuable.

In the light of growing needs for the housing of state government operations, I urge you to acquaint yourselves with the recommendations of the Bureau. The determination of how much of the requested capital improvement can be financed in the coming biennium is one of the more critical decisions of this Legislature. I shall give you my detailed recommendations concerning capital construction in my Budget Message.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Most of the state functions which I have discussed have been concerned with the disbursement of state funds in the service of the people.

Now I want to discuss the operations of the agency which has a direct effect upon income . . . the Department of Economic Development.

Two principal sources of income, industrial growth and vacation travel, will shape the economic future of Maine. In so doing, they will have a profound effect upon the personal income and the standard of living of every citizen.

We have tremendous assets for both industrial expansion and recreational development.

Let us first consider industrial progress. We have what growing industry needs . . . space for location and expansion, power, water, favorable taxes, manpower, and transportation. We have had success in promoting the use of these assets, but we have hardly begun to utilize our potential.

The first thing we have to do to bring real industrial growth to our state is to let industry know what we have to offer. This is a far bigger job than it appears to be at first glance, because this is a highly competitive field.

In order to sell Maine to industry, we must accelerate our program of personal contact with industrials and industrial realtors. This takes manpower.

At the present time the full responsibility for selling Maine's industrial potential where it counts, through personal contact, is being done almost entirely by three industrial representatives. Obviously more are needed.

Manpower alone is not enough. We must have increased advertising to support an enlarged personal contact program. We must reach industrialists through their trade publications and periodicals. Further, we must keep the name of Maine and its industrial potential constantly before the influential readers of business newspapers.

More manpower and greater advertising promotion are the urgent needs of our recreational development.

Currently, the entire state supported tourist travel promotion of Maine rests in the hands of two men. This is too important an industry to languish for lack of ample promotion.

In addition to added manpower, our vacation travel industry imperatively needs increased advertising support. While it is true we have superlative vacationland attractions, their full potential will never be reached without adequate promotion.

Today, the American people have time and money to visit among the states. When we attract them to Maine, they help build our highway systems, they stimulate retail trade, and they create employment.

Let us use imagination in our approach to appropriations for the Department of Economic Development.

I would like to see this Legislature endorse, and budget for, the most vigorous program of promoting industrial and recreational growth that the State of Maine has ever known. This is the primary way in which we can grow and thrive.

The value of industrial and recreational promotion has been proved beyond a doubt. I suggest that we prime this great economic pump by giving our state agency the tools to go out and sell Maine as it has never been sold before.

I want to suggest to you that the Governor, because of his office, is in a position to be the top salesman for the state. I would, therefore, recommend the creation of a new position in the Executive Department. This person would work with the Governor, with the Department of Economic Development . . . indeed, with all Maine people and with people out-of-state . . . to the end that the Governor may be constantly informed of opportunities where he may personally serve in this role of salesman.

In my opinion, this would prove of tremendous value to Maine in reaching out-of-state interests which might be prevailed upon to locate here. Legislation to effect this will be offered for your consideration.

Boosting Maine is everybody's business, but you and I must lead the way.

TAXATION

The policy of obtaining sufficient revenue to finance the program I have outlined is one in which I know you have a definite interest. Inasmuch as this is largely a financial matter I will discuss this subject in detail during my Budget Message next week.

CONCLUSION

In presenting this 1961 Inaugural Address I have endeavored to outline what I conceive to be the image of the State of Maine in the future.

It has been possible to touch only briefly on the plans and the hopes which I have for the years ahead, but it should be abundantly evident that many major decisions will confront the members of this Centennial Legislature.

Not all of the worthwhile proposals which will reach your desks can be translated into accomplishment this year . . . or next . . . simply because of financial limitations.

This imposes upon each member of this Legislature the burden of choice. What is imperative? What must be deferred? What action do we take in order to make possible the greatest immediate benefit for the largest number of citizens?

These are not going to be easy decisions to make.

It is my sincere belief that this Legislature, by judicious planning and selection, can bring about those accomplishments which will mark the year 1961 as the threshold of truly memorable achievement. On this threshold of opportunity, we . . . you and I . . . share the happy task of representing our State of Maine in all her hopes, desires and ambitions. You share with me the great belief I have in Maine . . . her famous past and enlarged and brighter future.

Today, as we meet for this one-hundredth session, we dedicate all our efforts to Maine . . . her people, institutions, beliefs and welfare.

It has ever been the custom, when great and important decisions are required for Maine people to turn to the guidance and counsel of the Almighty, who is ever with us, and willing to aid us in our laudable undertakings. Let us bear him in mind as we bring this occasion to a close, and turn to the work before us.

In this mood, I wish you well, promise you my constant and steadfast co-operation, and take my leave assured that our beloved State of Maine will prosper and progress by our decisions.

JOHN H. REED,
Governor of Maine