

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Legislative Council Chamber

January 6, 1977

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Sen. Jerrold Speers at 9 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Conley, Sen. Danton, Sen. Huber, Sen. Sewall,
Sen. Speers

Representatives: Rep. Garsoe, Rep. Martin, Rep. Palmer,
Rep. Quinn, Rep. Tierney

Staff: William Garside, Legislative Admin. Director
Ronald Lord, Legislative Finance Officer
David Silsby, Legislative Research Director
Edith Hary, Law Librarian
Helen Ginder, Legislative Staff Asst. Coordinator

Guests: Steve Lakis, State Legislative Leaders Foundation
May Ross, Secretary of the Senate

ALSO QUERIED WAS THE GOING AHEAD PERIOD BY A

MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that the Council elect Rep. John Martin as Chairman for the Legislative Council during the 108th Legislature.

The motion was duly seconded and voted unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Palmer moved that the Council elect Sen. David Huber as Vice Chairman for the Legislative Council during the 108th Legislature.

The motion was duly seconded and voted unanimously.

The Council took up the matter of setting a schedule for the Legislature. Rep. Martin suggested Legislative sessions for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until cloture, which is January 28, 1977, and have committee hearings at 9 a.m. and the Legislative sessions at 4 p.m. In answer to Rep. Tierney's question on how

best to inform the committee chairmen, Rep. Martin advised having a caucus after today's session in order to announce this schedule to the chairmen. It was agreed that next week's sessions will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday at 4 p.m. and on Thursday at 10 a.m.

The Joint Rules were discussed at great length. There was a question on the wording of the rule pertaining to subcommittees of Appropriation and Financial Affairs. After an explanation by Edith Hary, a motion was presented.

MOTION

Rep. Tierney moved that the paragraph dealing with subcommittees of Appropriation and Financial Affairs be deleted from the Joint Rules.

The motion was duly seconded and carried.

Some members were uncertain as to the makeup and appointment of subcommittees. Sen. Huber suggested leaving it flexible. Sen. Speers felt that if left up to the House and Senate chairmen the subcommittees would be balanced. It was agreed that the Chairman of each Joint Standing Committee, except the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, shall jointly appoint a subcommittee of three of its members to attend and participate in Appropriations Committee budget hearings and to attend and advise at working sessions.

Also questioned was the Joint Rule pertaining to the reporting of bills. Steve Lakis pointed out the effectiveness of the rule in a 21 day holding period, which would depend on the firmness of the cloture date. Rep. Tierney posed the question of the initial day of a bill being the day it is referred to committee or the day of hearing. Sen. Conley suggested that the initial date of a bill be the day it is received from the printer and placed in the Legislators' booklets. Rep. Martin stated that he would like to see this issue resolved by the weekend. Sen. Speers and Rep. Tierney were appointed to work with Steve Lakis on this matter and have a report at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, January 11th. Through discussion of this matter Rep. Martin suggested that each committee have its own errors and inconsistency bill.

Another question concerned sponsorship of bills by the Governor as being perhaps unconstitutional as bills are to be submitted by a legislator. Rep. Martin advised that he and Sen. Sewall would have no objections of sponsoring a bill presented by the Governor. Sen. Speers and Rep. Tierney will check into this matter.

There was discussion at this time on the confirmation process,

Rep. Martin informed the Council of a report submitted by David Silsby of the Legislative Research Office giving the bill status to date.

The Council recessed at 10 a.m. and reconvened at 1 p.m.

During the recess Rep. Martin asked William Garside to contact David Silsby and Helen Ginder to work out a solution to their requests for additional help.

William Garside recommended that the Council fill the vacancies in the Legislative Staff Assistants Office to bring the staff back to a complement of 10. He then suggested that one person be hired for the Legislative Research Office to assist in bill drafting, this position to be filled on a full-time basis or part-time, at the discretion of the director. A second person for Legislative Research drafting will not be hired until July, 1977 because of budgetary reasons. William Garside recommended a starting salary for these positions to be equal to the starting salary of a Legislative Staff Assistant's, \$3,300. He further recommended that the judiciary committee be manned by a person out of the complement of the Legislative Staff Assistants Office to be selected by Helen Ginder and the House and Senate chairmen of the judiciary committee.

MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that William Garside's recommendations be enforced.

Sen. Danton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Again discussed by the Council were the Joint Rules. The results were that there will still be a problem with deadlines in getting bills out of committees. Rep. Martin suggested that Rep. Tierney and Sen. Speers ask Steve Lakis to supply available material to show language used by other states with this same system.

Rep. Martin advised the Council that eleven committee clerks had been hired and that he and Sen. Sewall will get together to discuss the remaining eleven.

Rep. Martin requested that the Secretary of the Senate be present to discuss the number of committee hearings set for next week. May Ross advised that six committees will be holding hearings next week (Judiciary, State Government, Public Utilities, Business Legislation, Liquor Control and Election Laws).

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 1:45 p.m. after setting the next Council meeting for Tuesday, January 11th, at 1 p.m.