

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 1977

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by the chairman, Rep. John Martin.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Staff: William Garside, Legislative Administrative Dir.  
Edith Hary, Law Librarian

COMMUNICATIONS

Rep. Martin advised the Council that he had received a telegram from the National Conference of State Legislatures urging us to apply for funding from the National Institute of Education. These funds are to support school finance equalization planning studies.

MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that the chairman obtain further information on this study and report to the Council.

The motion was duly seconded and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Helen Ginder, Legislative Staff Assistants' Coordinator requested that the chairman advise the Council on the progress in filling the office vacancies. Out of 186 applicants she has narrowed them down to 25, and plans to eliminate 15 others. At that time Helen Ginder would like a Council member to sit in on the final 10 interviews. Rep. Palmer, Rep. Martin and Sen. Speers, as well as William Garside advised that they will be available to sit in on these interviews.

Rep. Martin presented provisions for the amendment to Joint Rule 13, on reporting out bills. The rule shall be amended to read: "A joint standing committee to which a bill or resolve has been referred shall within 3 legislative days after receiving notices from the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House report that bill out of committee to the floor for consideration.

A tracking system has been developed by Steve Lakis, which he has implemented by initiating computer programming. At certain periods the computer will list delinquent bills, and these lists will be sent to all members of Leadership.

Rep. Martin informed the Council of the juvenile code presented to Leadership by the Maine Human Services. It was suggested that the Joint Standing Committee on Health & Institutional Services direct one member of the staff to work with the Staff Assistants Office to keep track of each area of the juvenile code and report each week to the Council. This would enable the assistants assigned to various committees covering this matter to compile all information into one report.

The chairman advised the Council of a new session schedule to begin February 7, 1977. The House will have 9:30 a.m. sessions and the Senate 10 a.m. sessions. This schedule change will be in effect through February.

The matter of whether or not to call a 7 day recess of the Legislature was discussed. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Discussion followed on studies assigned to the Joint Standing Committee on Performance Audit.

#### MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that Performance Audit review operations of the Bureau of Museum.

The motion was duly seconded and carried.

Another study suggested for the Committee on Performance Audit was on the expenditures of State funds from Title II of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976. This item was assigned to the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Rep. Martin introduced the matter of salary increases for partisan aides employed for over a year.

MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that 4 partisan staff members employed for over a year receive an adjusted salary increase from \$250 to \$288, to be effective January 5, 1977. The 4 individuals are: Mike Barr, William Bell, Robert McKernan and James Mundy.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Palmer and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.