

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

JANUARY 17, 1979

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers and called to order by Sen. Richard H. Pierce, Chairman, at 1:55 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Conley, Sen. Katz, Sen. Pierce, Sen. Pray  
Sen. Sewall.

Representatives: Rep. Garsoe, Rep. Martin, Rep. Mitchell,  
Rep. Tarbell, Rep. Tierney

Staff: William Garside - Legislative Administrative Director  
David Silsby - Legislative Research Director  
Edith Hary - Law Librarian  
Helen Ginder - Legislative Assistants Coordinator  
May Ross - Secretary of the Senate

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that the minutes of the meeting of January 9th be accepted as presented.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Garsoe and carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

William Garside stated his business could be discussed under "New Business."

David Silsby stated his business could be discussed under "New Business."

Edith Hary, nothing to discuss

Helen Ginder submitted to the Council for review three reports, Family tax burdens in Maine and the United States, a report to the Legislative Council by a subcommittee to review the Rule Sunset Law, and a study report from Committee on Labor on House Paper 2180.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing received.

Nothing received.

OLD BUSINESS

Salaries of House and Senate staff - Sen. Pierce requested a printout of the salaries of the House and Senate staff from Ed Pert, Clerk of the House and May Ross, Secretary of the Senate. Rep. Martin stated that there was a slight difference in the salaries of some of the positions based on the length of time that the persons holding the positions have worked for the Legislature.

Sen. Pierce informed the Council that the reason for the printout was to provide a comparison of these salaries and to get comments or discussion on these salaries. The printout would be referred to a subcommittee for consideration. This subcommittee would consist of the Majority Floor Leaders of both Houses, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, as set out in Joint Rule 11, and would meet and discuss these salaries and advise the Council of its recommendations at the next Council meeting.

At this time Sen. Katz brought up the subject of bill drafting for discussion.

On Friday, January 12th, Rep. Martin received from David Silsby, Director of Legislative Research, a bill status report of how many bills were put in for the 109th Legislature, which is roughly 2265, not including redrafts, amendments, Governor's bills and after deadline bills. Rep. Martin explained he requested a report from Mr. Silsby to find out bill status from the previous years and as to how long it would take to draft bills this year. Rep. Martin explained that the biggest problem is to get additional staff to get the drafting out as quickly as possible and to reduce the number of working days from 75 to 50.

MOTION

Sen. Katz moved that for the next 30 days the Legislative Aides be used for bill drafting with the exception for the closing of studies.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Garsoe and carried unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that 30 days be changed to 2 weeks.

The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that David Silsby, Director of Legislative Research be authorized to appoint temporary proofreaders and secretaries at the approval of the Legislative Administrative Director.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Garsoe and carried unanimously.

MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that the Legislative Research Director be authorized not to do any Congratulatory Orders or Resolutions without prior approval of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House until the bills have been drafted.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Garsoe and carried unanimously.

Sen. Katz suggested that a subcommittee of presiding officers, be appointed to share with both Houses, information concerning what happened at this Council meeting. Sen. Pierce advised that a letter be sent to all the Committee Chairmen.

MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that any bills submitted in the future go through David Silsby's office first and then sent out for distribution to the various staff aides.

The motion was seconded by Sen. Katz and carried unanimously.

Rep. Martin presented to the Council a request from a number of Legislators from Piscatiquis County on an after deadline bill request which was presented by Rep. Masterman of Milo. Rep. Martin quoted that according to the Joint Rules adopted, a roll call has to be taken on such a request.

MOTION

Rep. Garsoe moved that this item be tabled.

Discussion followed.

A roll call vote was taken and it was voted unanimously to refuse introduction of the bill.

A new item of business was brought up at this time as to the schedule of meeting dates for the Legislature. Discussion followed.

MOTION

Rep. Tierney moved that the Legislature come in the week of the 26th, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and the following week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Mitchell. A vote was taken, 5-5 which did not carry.

MOTION

Sen. Sewall moved that the Legislature meet on the week of the 26th on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and the following week Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The motion was duly seconded. A vote was taken 8-1, with 1 **abstaining** vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1 - Legislative Parking - There was a question as to let the staff use the Legislative Parking Lot.

MOTION

Rep. Garsoe move that staff not be allowed to use the Legislative Parking Lot.

The motion was duly seconded. Discussion followed.

MOTION

Rep. Garsoe moved to amend his motion and moved that the staff not be allowed to use Legislative Parking Lot during Legislative hours.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Mitchell and carried unanimously.

Item #2 - Partisan Staff for nomination hearings - Sen. Pierce advised the Council that 2 people needed to be nominated for Confirmation hearings. Rep. Martin informed Sen. Pierce that each party had their own partisan assistant for nominations.

Item #3 - Legislative Advertising - The Legislative Council discussed the advertising of committee hearings. A suggestion was made that all the following week's hearings appear in Saturday's Kennebec Journal and in Sunday's Portland Paper so it will be listed in one place. Rep. Martin suggested a supplement be printed and

inserted in the paper. Sen. Pierce suggested that May Ross, Secretary of the Senate, and Bill Garside, Legislative Administrative Director look into this matter.

Sen. Sewall discussed with the Council the subject of the Maine Register being used for campaign purposes. He suggested the possibility of the Constitution and Joint Rules not be included in publications of books being sent out to outside distribution, as a cost savings. Rep. Martin explained that the Maine Register was the only source of information that has the only updated copy of the Constitution and Joint Rules, which are used for classroom purposes.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

It was moved that the Council meeting be adjourned. (3:20 p.m.)

The motion was duly seconded and carried.