

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. JANE A. AMERO
CHAIR

REP. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
VICE-CHAIR

Lynn Randall
Legislative Council Info.

SEN. JEFFREY H. BUTLAND
SEN. R. LEO KIEFFER
SEN. MARK W. LAWRENCE
SEN. BEVERLY MINER BUSTIN
REP. DAN A. GWADOSKY
REP. PAUL F. JACQUES
REP. WALTER E. WHITCOMB
REP. JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.

SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

117th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

May 22, 1995

Approved June 7, 1995

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Senator Amero, called the Council to order at 10:40 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:

President Butland, Sen. Lawrence,
Sen. Kieffer, Sen. Amero
Absent: Sen. Bustin

Representatives:

Speaker Gwadosky, Rep. Jacques,
Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Mitchell
Absent: Rep. Carleton

Legislative Officers:

Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director,
Legislative Council
Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian
John Wakefield, Director, Office of
Fiscal and Program Review
David Boulter, Director, Office of
Policy and Legal Analysis
Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes
May Ross, Secretary of the Senate
Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House
Millicent MacFarland, Assistant Clerk
of the House

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion: That the Summary of the May 5 Council meeting be accepted and placed on file. (Motion by Speaker Gwadosky; second by Rep. Jacques; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing presented the following items for the Council's consideration:

Item #1: Procedures for Use of Capitol Park (requested at May 5 Council meeting)

Ms. Tubbesing drew members' attention to the materials in their agenda packets, which had been included in response to a request from Sen. Kieffer at the last Council meeting. Ms. Tubbesing noted that, pursuant to enactment of statutory language by the 115th Legislature which assigns responsibility for oversight of Capitol Park to the Council, she had worked with the Director of Capitol Security and others to develop a process for reviewing requests to use Capitol Park. The current process has evolved from experience with various events since 1991. Organizations who wish to use Capitol Park complete an Activity Permit, as they would to have an event anywhere in the Capitol Complex. The Director of Capitol Security and his staff then screen these applications and review them with Ms. Tubbesing. Depending on the nature of the event, they will meet with the applicant to review the rules and to request that the applicant make additional provisions (e.g. sanitary facilities; security; etc.)

The Chair, Senator Amero, recognized Donald Suitter, Director of Capitol Security, and Norm Finley, Superintendent of Grounds. Chief Suitter stated that many groups want to use the Park and that he had taken it upon himself to say "no" to some groups, citing specifically a radio station who had proposed having a rock concert in the Park. He noted that the process that had been developed has worked well, particularly with groups having special requests.

In the brief discussion that followed, Speaker Gwadosky asked how many people had actually participated in the Prayer Vigil the previous fall. Chief Suitter estimated that the crowd had never exceeded 700 - 800 at any one time. The Speaker then thanked Chief Suitter for the "wonderful job he had done coordinating" on behalf of the State, adding that the process seems to work smoothly. Chief Suitter responded that he and his staff take great pride in the Park. He then noted that it was more difficult to process requests for use of the Park when the Legislature was not in session. Rep. Jacques responded that he would defer to Chief Suitter's judgment; and Rep. Whitcomb concurred, adding that he would encourage Chief Suitter to err on the side of conservatism in his reviews.

The Chair, Senator Amero, thanked both Chief Suitter and Mr. Finley for coming to the meeting.

No formal Council action was required on this item.

Note: The following items were deferred until the Council had completed its consideration of the rest of the agenda.

Item #2: General Status Report

Ms. Tubbesing drew members' attention to the Summary Report of the Status of Bills Remaining in Committee, noting that most committees had come very close to meeting the targets established by the presiding officers. She further noted that the presiding officers had set Friday, June 2, as the deadline for completion of work on all bills still remaining in committee.

In response to a question from Rep. Mitchell, Margaret Matheson reported that there were only 16 bills remaining in the drafting process, of which 5 were awaiting signature.

No Council Action was required on this item.

Item #3: Personnel Actions

Ms. Tubbesing reported that Richard Sawyer, Administrative Services Director, had decided to retire from the Legislature effective June 30, having worked as a state employee for more than 33 years, and a member of the non-partisan staff since 1977. She drew members' attention to the position description for the Administrative Services Director, noting that the responsibilities and duties are both significant and central to the effective and efficient operation of the Legislature. She requested that the Personnel Committee meet with her to discuss the opportunities for filling the position.

Sen. Amero stated that she had talked with Mr. Sawyer briefly since learning of his decision to retire and expressed appreciation for his service.

No Council action was required on this item.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: After Deadline Requests

The Council considered after deadline requests. A summary of the Council's action on these requests is attached to this meeting summary.

Item #2: Requests from Joint Standing Committees to Carry Bills Over to the Second Regular Session

Motion: That this item be tabled until Wednesday, May 24, at 1 p.m. (Motion by Rep. Jacques; second by Sen. Kieffer; unanimous).

Item #3: Request from Senator Abromson and Representative Vigue for the State of Maine to join the National Conference of Insurance Legislators

In the discussion of this item, Rep. Mitchell and Senator Amero both asked what the Legislature would gain from membership in this organization that is not available through the National Conference of State Legislatures and other organizations to which the Legislature already belongs.

Senator Kieffer, who had just returned from attending a meeting of the Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference Executive Committee, stated that the Council needs to take a hard look at the organizations the Legislature already belongs to and further advocated that "we either need to be active participants and make use of all their resources or get out."

Motion: That the request be denied. (Motion by Sen. Lawrence; second by Rep. Mitchell; unanimous).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m., on the motion of Rep. Jacques.