

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Third
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1967

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

ERRATA:

**The header on page 39
in the Regular Session**

should read

“HOUSE, JANUARY 5, 1967”

instead of

“HOUSE, JANUARY 4, 1967”

HOUSE

Thursday, January 5, 1967

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Douglas Robbins of Augusta.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Papers from the Senate

From the Senate: The following Report:

STATE OF MAINE

The Joint Select Committee of the One Hundred and Third Legislature on returns of votes for Governor given in the several cities, towns and plantations of this State for the political years 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970, has attended to its duty and asks leave to report that the whole number of votes returned for Governor was 323,838; and that John H. Reed of Fort Fairfield had 151,802 votes; and that Kenneth M. Curtis of Manchester had 172,036 votes.

(Signed)

NORMAN K. FERGUSON

Chairman on the part of the Senate
(Signed)

THELMA B. CORNELL

Chairman on the part of the House

Came from the Senate read and accepted.

In the House, the Report was read and accepted in concurrence.

From the Senate: The following Orders:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules of the One Hundred and Second Legislature, as amended by the Special Session of 1966, be the Joint Rules of this Legislature. (S. P. 17)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that three hundred twenty-five (325) copies of the Legislative Record for the session of 1967 be printed and bound, one copy for each of the members of the Senate, House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House, and the remainder to be deposited in the State Library

for exchange and library use and be it further

ORDERED, that suitable index be prepared for such Legislative Record, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House. (S. P. 18)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all printing and binding authorized by the Legislature shall be under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House (S. P. 19)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Superintendent of Public Buildings is hereby given charge of all assignments of rooms for hearings in the Capitol Building, and that all applications for rooms for hearings must be made to him in writing forty-eight hours previous to the time when said rooms are to be used for that purpose (S. P. 20)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House jointly prepare the Senate and House Register, and that 10,000 copies be printed for the use of the Legislature (S. P. 21)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that any Town or City Clerk or Board of County Commissioners may, upon written request to the Document Clerk, receive without charge, copies of all printed bills, so that there may be available to the public during the legislative session a complete and convenient file of all printed bills (S. P. 22)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, be authorized to furnish to the Superintendent of Public Printing, postage on all correspondence relative to advertising committee hearings during the present session, same to be charged to Legislative expense (S. P. 23)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Legislative Finance Officer be authorized and directed to prepare weekly, from expense accounts to be submitted to him by the members of the Senate and House, expense rosters showing the entitlement of each member for meals allowance and lodging reimbursement and to obtain approval thereof by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the

House respectively, and deliver the same to the State Controller for processing and payment, in the manner and form recommended by the Joint Interim Committee of the 101st Legislature created to study and report on a method of implementing the administration of the provision of law relating to the mileage and expenses for members of the Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Legislative Finance Officer be authorized and directed to provide the forms necessary for such purpose and provide suitable space in his office for the filing and safekeeping of all such expense accounts and other papers and records pertaining thereto (S. P. 24)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that free telephone service be provided for each member of the Senate and House to the number of 50 calls, of reasonable duration, from Augusta to points within the limits of the State of Maine, and that each member of the Senate and House be provided with a credit card to be certified to by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House, respectively, the cost of this service to be paid to the New England Telephone Company at regular tariff rates; and be it further

ORDERED, that free telegraph service be provided to each member of the Senate and House to the number of twenty messages of reasonable length, from Augusta to points within the limits of the State of Maine, and that each member of the Senate and House be provided with a card, to be certified by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House respectively; the cost of this service to be paid to Western Union Telegraph Company at regular tariff rates (S. P. 25)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the members of the Senate and House as advances on account of compensation established by statute, the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200) fortnightly, according to lists certified to the State Controller by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House, respectively; and that the final

payrolls bear the approval of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (S. P. 26)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the members and officers of the Legislature be furnished with express and parcel transportation for all packages and department reports in a sum not exceeding \$5.00 for each member and officer thereof, and that such transportation be furnished and expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, and the unexpended balance at the close of the year 1967 shall be available for use in 1969 (S. P. 27)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, be authorized to furnish wrappers and postage stamps for each member and officer of the Senate and House, not exceeding \$10.00 in amount each, for the purpose of distributing the various reports of the Departments of State and other public documents such as they may desire to mail to the citizens of the State (S. P. 28)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the officers of the Senate and House of Representatives as advance on account of compensation, amounts included in fortnightly lists, certified to the State Controller by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, respectively, and that the final payrolls of such officers at the end of the session bear the approval of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (S. P. 29)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the payroll of the officers of the House and Senate of the One Hundred and Second and the One Hundred and Third Legislatures who have participated in the organization of the One Hundred and Third Legislature be paid when approved by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively (S. P. 30)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the desk, chair, confer-

ence table and cabinet in the office of Governor JOHN H. REED be presented to him and delivered to his Fort Fairfield home, at the convenience of Governor-elect CURTIS.

The 103rd Legislature wishes this traditional gesture to carry much more than the usual expression of appreciation, since the Honorable JOHN H. REED has served the State of Maine as the Chief Executive, not only longer than any other man in our history, but with exceptional devotion, integrity, and accomplishment (S. P. 31)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

In the House, the Orders were read and passed in concurrence.

From the Senate: The following Communication: (S. P. 35)

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA

January 4, 1967

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the 103rd Legislature:

Pursuant to Article V, Part 4, Section 2, of the Constitution, I am transmitting herewith two bonds of the Honorable MICHAEL A. NAPOLITANO, Treasurer of State, each in the amount of \$250,000, one written by Seaboard Surety Company of Portland, Maine, bearing date of January 4, 1967, and the other written by Bonding and Casualty Company of Portland, Maine, bearing date of January 4, 1967, each being payable to the State of Maine.

These bonds bear my approval as to form.

Respectfully,
(Signed)
JAMES S. ERWIN
James S. Erwin
Attorney General

Came from the Senate read and with accompanying bonds ordered placed on file with the State Auditor.

In the House, the Communication was read and with accompanying bonds ordered placed on

file with the State Auditor in concurrence.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the two bonds of the Honorable MICHAEL A. NAPOLITANO, Treasurer of State, totaling \$500,000, one written by Seaboard Surety Company of Portland, Maine, in the amount of \$250,000, and one written by the Maine Bonding and Casualty Company of Portland, Maine, in the amount of \$250,000; payable to the State of Maine and each bearing the certificate of approval of the Attorney General, be and hereby are approved. (S. P. 36)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

In the House, the Order was read and passed in concurrence.

Messages and Documents

The following Communication: (H. P. 19)

State of Maine
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN
AFFAIRS
Augusta, Maine

January 4, 1967

Honorable Bertha Johnson
Clerk of the House of
Representatives
103rd Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

The following were elected by their respective Indian Tribes as Indian Representatives at the Legislature for the years 1967 and 1968:

John Nelson
Penobscot Tribe
Elected September 6, 1966
George Francis
Passamaquoddy Tribe
Elected November 1, 1966

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed)
EDWARD C. HINCKLEY
Edward C. Hinckley
Commissioner

The Communication was read, ordered placed on file and sent up for concurrence.

**Petitions, Bills and Resolves
Requiring Reference**

The following Petition:

STATE OF MAINE

PETITION TO THE 103rd LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MAINE ON THE SEATING OF ROMEO LABERGE IN THE STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To: Honorable Bertha W. Johnson, Clerk, State of Maine House of Representatives.

Respectfully Represents, PETER T. SNOWE of Auburn, County of Androscoggin, and State of Maine:

Your Petitioner alleges that he was one of the Republican candidates for State Representative to the 103rd Legislature of the State of Maine in the November 8, 1966 election in the city of Auburn, in the County of Androscoggin, and State of Maine,

That he was opposed in said general election for said office of State Representative by four (4) Democratic candidates for said office, one of whom was ROMEO LABERGE of Auburn, County of Androscoggin and State of Maine,

That the return as determined by said city following the November 8, 1966 election indicated that said ROMEO LABERGE received 3,781 votes and that the Petitioner received 3,767 votes, making ROMEO LABERGE ostensibly the winner of the election,

That a re-count of ballots was held on December 5 and 6, 1966 in the office of the Secretary of State in Augusta, Maine and at said re-count it was agreed between the Petitioner and his opponent, ROMEO LABERGE, that ROMEO LABERGE received 3,773 votes and that the Petitioner received 3,772 votes. At said re-count seven (7) ballots cast in the city of Auburn were contested,

That the Petitioner and his opponent, ROMEO LABERGE, have been unable to agree on the validity of said seven (7) ballots or for whom they should be counted.

The Petitioner further alleges that of the seven (7) disputed ballots, four (4) are for the Petitioner,

PETER T. SNOWE, and three (3) are for ROMEO LABERGE.

The Petitioner further alleges that if all seven (7) ballots are valid, it would result in a tie for the seat in the House of Representatives.

The Petitioner also alleges that if all four (4) ballots for the Petitioner are valid as he contends and that if any of the three (3) ballots for ROMEO LABERGE are invalid, as he alleges, that it would result in the election of the Petitioner to the seat in question.

WHEREFORE, your Petitioner prays that the 103rd Legislature will vacate the seat previously awarded to the said ROMEO LABERGE and award said seat to your Petitioner, PETER T. SNOWE and give such further relief as the situation may require.

Dated this 4th day of January, 1967.

(Signed)

PETER T. SNOWE

The Petition was read and referred to the Committee on Elections.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the House and Senate adjourn, they adjourn to Tuesday, January 10, at 10 o'clock. (S. P. 32)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

In the House, the Order was read and passed in concurrence.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Secretary Speers of that body, proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held forthwith in the Hall of the House for the purpose of administering to the Honorable: Fred Hanscom, L. Robert Porteous, Jr., Richard Morton. Kenneth Robinson, Richard Willey. Lewis O. Barrows, and E. Perrin Edmunds the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties as Executive Councilors, and for the further purpose of administering to the Honorable KENNETH M. CURTIS, Governor-

elect, the oath required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

Thereupon, the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention and Mr. Richardson of Cumberland was charged with and conveyed a message to the Senate to that effect.

Mr. Richardson subsequently reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

The following paper from the Senate was taken up out of order under suspension of the rules:

The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a Committee of three on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join, be appointed to wait upon the Honorable KENNETH M. CURTIS and inform him that he has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 1967, 1968, 1969, and 1970 (S. P. 37)

Came from the Senate read and passed with the following members appointed on its part:

Messrs. ROSS of Piscataquis
 RENY of York
 GIRARD of Androscoggin

In the House, the Order was read and passed in concurrence and the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House:

Messrs. RICHARDSON
 of Cumberland
 MOSHER of Gorham
 CUSHING of Bucksport
 HAYNES of Camden
 HEALY of Portland
 CONLEY of Portland

Mrs. BOUDREAU of Portland

Mr. Richardson subsequently reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

Orders of the Day

The Chair laid before the House the first tabled and today assigned matter:

HOUSE ORDER Relative to Rules of the House. Tabled — January 4, by Mr. Benson of Southwest Harbor. Pending — Passage under the rules.

Thereupon, the Order received passage.

House at Ease

Called to order by the Speaker.

At this point, the Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Joseph B. Campbell, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chairman.

On motion of Senator MacLeod of Penobscot, it was ORDERED, that a message be sent to the Councilors-elect, informing them that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to administer to them the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

The Chairman appointed Senator MacLeod of Penobscot to convey the message.

Subsequently, that Senator reported that he had performed the duty assigned him and that the Councilors-elect would attend forthwith.

Thereupon, the Honorables: Fred Hanscom, L. Robert Porteous Jr., Richard Morton, Kenneth Robinson, Richard Willey, Lewis O. Barrows, and E. Perrin Edmunds, accompanied by the outgoing councilors entered the Hall and in the presence of both branches of the Legislature in Convention assembled, before the President of the Senate, took and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

The Councilors and suite then withdrew amid the applause of the Convention.

On motion of Senator Stern of Penobscot, it was

ORDERED, that a Committee of ten be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Justices of the Superior Court, and the Chief

Judge of the District Court inviting them to attend this Convention convened for the purpose of administering to the Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor-elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

MILLS of Franklin
STERN of Penobscot
GOOD of Cumberland

Representatives:

BERMAN of Houlton
WHITE of Guilford
QUINN of Bangor
FOSTER of Mechanic Falls
DAREY of Livermore Falls
DANTON of Old Orchard
Beach
BRENNAN of Portland

Senator Mills, for the Committee, subsequently reported that the Committee had attended to the duty assigned to it and that the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Justices of the Superior Court and the Chief Judge of the District Court were pleased to say that they would forthwith attend this Convention.

At this point the Honorable Chief Justice, the Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Justices of the Superior Court and the Chief Judge of the District Court entered the Convention Hall amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair notes the arrival of and on behalf of the Convention welcomes the wife of the Governor-elect Kenneth M. Curtis, their daughters Angel and Susan and the official party. (Prolonged Applause, the audience rising)

On motion of Senator Harding of Aroostook, it was

ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor-elect, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to

administer to him the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties and receive from him such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

HARDING of Aroostook
WYMAN of Washington
NORRIS of Oxford

Representatives:

DENNETT of Kittery
PRINCE of Harpswell
HAYNES of Camden
RICHARDSON of Stonington
MOSHER of Gorham
CARSWELL of Portland
LEVESQUE of Madawaska

Senator HARDING, for the Committee, subsequently reported that the Committee had discharged the duties assigned to it, and the Governor-elect was pleased to say that he was ready to take and subscribe the necessary oaths of office and would forthwith attend the Convention.

Convention at Ease.

Convention called to order by Chairman Campbell.

Thereupon, the Honorable KENNETH M. CURTIS, Governor-elect, announced by Brigadier General Lawrence B. Webster, escorted by Adjutant General E. W. Heywood, and attended by Hon. Joseph T. Edgar, Secretary of State, U. S. Senator and Ex-Governor Edmund S. Muskie, Ex-Governors Horace A. Hildreth, Burton M. Cross and Robert N. Haskell, Aides de Camp, distinguished guests, entered the Hall of the House amid prolonged applause, the audience rising.

Prayer was offered by the Very Reverend Msgr. Vincent A. Tarczuk of Portland.

Thereupon, the Governor-elect, the Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, before the presiding officer of the Convention, the Honorable Joseph B. Campbell, in the presence of both branches of the Legislature, the Chief Justice, the Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Justices of the Superior Court of this State, and the Chief

Judge of the District Court, took and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

The Chairman of the Convention then called upon the Secretary of State, Honorable Joseph T. Edgar, to read the proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

The votes given in on the eighth day of November last, in the cities, towns and plantations of the State for Governor, the returns of which have been made to the office of the Secretary of State, having been examined and counted by the Legislature which has declared that a plurality thereof was given to Kenneth M. Curtis, and that he is duly elected and he, having in the presence of the two branches of the Legislature in Convention assembled, taken and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to discharge the duties of that office, I, therefore, declare and make known to all persons in this State who are in the exercise of any public trust, as well as all good citizens thereof, that Kenneth M. Curtis is Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State of Maine, and that due obedience should be rendered to all his acts and commands, as such.

GOD SAVE THE STATE OF MAINE

The Chairman of the Convention then presented Governor Kenneth M. Curtis to the Convention, amid prolonged applause, the audience rising.

Governor Curtis then addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker and Members of the 103rd Legislature:

We live in an age of paradox.

Affluence and poverty are both on the march throughout the world.

Challenge and opportunity abound—but only for some.

The wonders of science thrust men toward the stars—while the shackles of poverty still sink men into despair.

The technological revolution has wrought great change in our way of life, and most of mankind is

struggling to understand and to cope with that change.

Here in Maine we have a unique opportunity to enjoy the benefits of modern technology without suffering many of the disadvantages of modern civilization.

We can and must have good schools for our children, good jobs for our men and women, good homes for our families, and an economic climate that allows our young people to stay in Maine.

Most importantly, we in Maine have the rare opportunity to reach these goals without creating dirty cities, dirty air, and overcrowded slums.

During the past four years I have travelled to every corner of every county in this State. Everywhere I encountered the same conflicting attitudes. I found a genuine appreciation of our Maine way of life; but, at the same time, I found a great concern over the lack of opportunity that seems to go with that way of life.

But this need not be so.

And it falls to us, the elected representatives of the people of Maine, to do something about it.

We cannot remake Maine in two years, even if we wanted to. But we can select the long-range objectives toward which our State should be moving. We can point the way toward those objectives, and we must take the first few steps in what will be a long, difficult journey to reach those objectives.

As we commence our work we must understand the role of government in our lives.

Few will deny that our State government has a proper and vital role to play in the development of our resources — human and natural. Fewer still will assert that government can do the job by itself.

What we must agree upon is that government must point the way and create the climate in which our great free enterprise system can prosper. Government must also at times act to prevent abuse or exploitation and to see that our development is balanced.

In applying these general principles to specific legislation, we will

at times disagree. This is so because under our democratic system some conflict between the executive and the legislative branches of government is inevitable.

We need not apologize for or shrink from such disagreements. Our competitive political system is the basis of our democracy. Controlled competition can bring out the best in all of us.

Let us keep such differences in proper perspective, remembering that we all seek the same goals. We must trust in the integrity and responsibility of all men. We must never compromise the good of our State or our people in our reluctance to admit that we have been wrong or that someone else has presented a better solution. The democratic ideals and desire to render a public service, which we share, far outweigh any philosophical differences that may exist among us. I know that we can and will work together for the benefit of the people of Maine.

Next week, in my budget message, I will set forth in detail the program which I recommend for your consideration. Today, it is my purpose to touch upon the highlights of that program and to describe it only in brief outline.

EDUCATION

The greatest challenge facing us today is the need to expand and improve Maine's educational system. This is so for two reasons: first, because in our technological society progress of any kind — whether it be economic, social, or spiritual — requires high quality education for all. And second, because we in Maine have lagged so far behind in educational development in past years that we now have a long, long way to go just to catch up with the rest of the country.

I cannot overemphasize my conviction that education is the keystone in the arch of all progress, and requires our maximum attention and effort.

Our long-range objective must be free education beyond high school for every Maine boy and girl who has the desire and talent

to use this education. We will not achieve this objective during my administration. Nevertheless, it is the objective toward which we must begin to move. It will be up to this Legislature to build the foundation for that move.

The Advisory Commission on Higher Education has rendered a detailed, provocative report charting what it believes our State's course should be in the coming years. These recommendations are of such importance to our future that I believe we should proceed with dispatch, but also with prudence, in their implementation.

The Commission will make certain recommendations concerning the methods by which implementation of its proposals can begin in this Legislature. I urge you to give these recommendations your earnest consideration. I would hope that sufficient progress can be made so that I will be able to present to the 104th Legislature a detailed legislative program to carry out those aspects of the Commission's recommendations which seem desirable.

To the 103rd Legislature, I recommend the allocation of substantial new funds to education for a variety of purposes:

- to expand faculties, equipment and programs in our Vocational Training Institutes and Practical Nursing Schools;

- for the State Colleges and the Maine Maritime Academy;

- for the University of Maine, partly to implement a long overdue salary increase.

I recommend that we fulfill the commitment of the 102nd Legislature under the basic school subsidy program. This will result in a substantial increase over our present state aid to cities and towns.

In addition, I recommend the approval of substantial building construction at our State Colleges, the University of Maine, Maine Maritime Academy, and for our Vocational Training Institutes.

We must intensify the movement to consolidate small school systems until every child in Maine has the opportunity to attend a high school large enough to provide

adequate programs. To do this, however, we may need to develop a new formula for state subsidy payments.

We must find ways to reduce our school dropout rate.

In conjunction with the expansion of our vocational education program, I recommend a state-wide survey of occupational needs, so that our training programs can be closely tied to our industrial requirements. Provision should be made for periodic updating of such a survey, and for the creation of a Vocational Education Advisory Board, with representation from a cross section of Maine employers, labor organizations and educators to assist in the formulation of long-range policy in this field.

ECONOMIC AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

For far too long, we have considered economic development and natural resource development separately, often as conflicting objectives. To emphasize my belief that this can no longer be the case, I will discuss them here under one heading.

The truth is that the one cannot survive without the other. In order to truly prosper, man needs both bread and beauty — both challenge and serenity. In simple terms, we can no longer afford an obsolete philosophy that insists we choose between “payrolls or pickerel” — we must have both.

I propose a major internal reorganization of the Department of Economic Development, designed to improve and strengthen it. As part of this reorganization I recommend the transfer of the Maine Industrial Building Authority and the Maine Recreation Authority to DED as a new Division of Economic Assistance. Our state effort must be redesigned to provide a maximum of technical assistance to existing industry and to the many fine local development agencies existing in virtually every city and town in Maine.

The lack of a coordinated transportation policy has for years hampered our economic development, particularly in view of the importance of tourism to our economy. To meet this need I propose

the creation of a Department of Transportation, with separate Bureaus of Ground Transportation, Aviation, and Marine Transportation. The Maine Aeronautics Commission and the Maine Port Authority should be transferred to this Department.

Over the past century, Americans watched the spoliation of our rivers and lakes with indifference. Decades too late, we wake up to the problem, and we are now faced with a staggering backlog of needs in this area. We cannot let the same thing happen to our air.

Therefore, I propose the creation of an Environmental Improvement Administration, with a Division of Air Pollution Control and a separate Division of Water Pollution Control, to which we would transfer the present Water Improvement Commission.

The Executive Department must provide leadership in mobilizing all the talents and resources existing in our state departments. To do this, I intend to establish a cabinet level staff of department heads who will aid in this effort to broaden and strengthen our economic development programs.

I will recommend substantial capital investments for airport construction and improvement.

There remains great untapped wealth in our forests, and our agricultural potential offers limitless opportunities. I propose the continued investment of State funds in Farmers Home Administration mortgages to keep our money working in Maine, and an extension of the State's credit to assist in the financing of agricultural equipment and projects. We can do much to assure our future and preserve our heritage in these areas.

The same is true of our vast unharvested ocean resources. I also propose a bond issue for the acquisition of shoreline and other land for park and recreation area expansion.

We must continually strive to find ways to reduce our abnormally high power rates, which have so greatly restricted the development of our industrial potential and have burdened Maine consumers. The Dickey power project

deserves our continued attention and support. The recommendations of the Special Legislative Power Study Committee should be given the most careful consideration.

We should revise our consumer credit laws to provide for full and meaningful disclosure of interest rates and credit charges, effective regulation of small loan companies, and protection of consumers against excessive finance charges and unfair and deceptive lending practices.

The time is also at hand when we must eliminate price controls on milk.

WELFARE AND LABOR

No resource is as valuable or meaningful to any state as its people. We know that the image of the Maine worker—dedicated, hard-working, intelligent, and loyal—is by and large a true one. Prosperity is a meaningless word if it is not shared by all segments of society. We must be ever alert to see that our working men and women share equitably in the benefits of our economic progress.

In this field I recommend the establishment of a state minimum wage equal to the federal minimum wage, to be automatically adjusted when the federal minimum wage is changed.

I also recommend revision of the Maine Employment Security Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act. Most importantly, we must create job opportunities with wages sufficient to meet today's cost of living.

While we show our concern for working people, we must also demonstrate our compassion for our senior citizens and for other less fortunate persons who may be victims of poverty, disease, or other physical or emotional defects.

I recommend that recipients of Old Age Assistance from the State Department of Health and Welfare be allowed to earn a reasonable income, without a corresponding reduction in their benefits. Today, if a recipient of Old Age Assistance in Maine takes it upon himself to earn money, his benefits under Old Age Assistance are reduced by the

amount that he earns. As a result of this practice, elderly citizens are actively discouraged from continuing as productive members of society.

In addition, the practice of reducing Old Age Assistance whenever social security benefits are raised should be stopped immediately. Under the present system, senior citizens never see the increase.

The administration of welfare funds should be placed entirely in the hands of those people trained in handling the affairs of the needy. To do this, I urge that administration and financing for welfare programs be shifted from local control and responsibility to the State Department of Health and Welfare as rapidly as possible. This will increase the level of federal assistance to our welfare programs.

We must also provide for expanded professional services and support for self-government for Indians on reservations. I further recommend that Indian representatives to the Legislature be granted full privileges to speak on all legislation on the floor of the House, and that they be granted salary and expense allowances equal to that of other representatives.

STATE GOVERNMENT

There are other areas of government that must be improved.

In the next few weeks I will make specific proposals to consolidate our efforts in acquiring research data and necessary statistical information. This consolidation will also result in better coordination between state departments, and identify weaknesses in our organizational structure.

Of equal importance is the readjustment that must take place in the administration of justice, the structure of the executive department, and the responsibilities of the various state departments.

Briefly, these adjustments include establishment of a District Attorney system to match our District Court network, election of a Lieutenant Governor, abolition of the Executive Council, appointment by the Governor of the Secre-

tary of State, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer, and the realignment of responsibilities in several key departments in order to better meet the needs of the State of Maine.

FINANCING

Next week I will present to the legislature and the people of Maine my proposals for financing State Government for the next biennium. With the assistance of professional advisors, and through consultation with department heads, I have developed a meaningful budget, with supplemental projects, that will not require any new major taxes.

There will be no need for an increase in the present 4% sales tax, nor will it be necessary to institute a state income tax.

To make substantial progress within the framework of our present tax structure, we must accept the principle of state bonding of most capital construction. This is a prudent fiscal course. It is established practice in private industry. It is done by other states. We can and should demonstrate similar confidence in our future.

CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE

There is a call for change that can be heard throughout Maine today. It touches every section of the community. We will meet this call with vision and courage.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said that—
The test of progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

There are too many Maine people today who have too little.

If we are to play useful roles we must provide them with the op-

portunity to share fully in our good Maine way of life.

An inaugural is a time of renewal in our democratic system, heralding the start of a new term in the life of our state. It is a moment when we pause to assess the events of the past years, and to chart our course for the coming years.

For me, it is a time of sober reflection, of humble realization of the tasks ahead. Great as these tasks will be, I look forward to the future with determination and confidence. For, I know that with God's help and the support of the people of Maine, we can demonstrate anew the validity of Thomas Jefferson's observation that —

... the care of human life and happiness is the first and only legitimate object of good government.

At the conclusion of the address, a benediction was offered by the Very Rev. Msgr. Vincent a Tatarczuk of Portland.

The Governor and his suite withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was called having been accomplished, the Chairman declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its Chamber, amid applause of the House, the members rising.

In the House

The House was called to order by Speaker Kennedy.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland,

Adjourned until Tuesday, January 10, at ten o'clock in the morning.