

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

HOUSE

Wednesday, April 26, 1967

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

The SPEAKER: Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: As you know, this is the day set aside to honor the Associated Press Reporter, Robert Crocker. This morning we are fortunate indeed to have the Chaplain of the House, who ministers to the spiritual needs of the Crocker family, and the prayer this morning will be by the Reverend Ondon P. Stairs of Augusta.

Reverend ONDON P. STAIRS: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Before we offer a prayer this morning may I say that Bob Crocker is a faithful member of our church, the moderator of our church, a man greatly loved and much appreciated; and I want to express my appreciation and the appreciation of each member of the church to you for your part in honoring him today. In honoring him you bring honor to our church, to each member. Let us pray.

Thereupon, prayer by the Rev. Mr. Ondon P. Stairs of Augusta.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senators Johnson and Harding of that body proposing a Joint Convention of both branches to be held at 11:30 A.M. today in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to his Excellency, Governor Kenneth M. Curtis, his guest the Honorable Robert M. Crocker, and his official party, an invitation to attend the convention and to address to the same such remarks as either the Governor or his guest may be pleased to make.

On motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention, and that gentleman 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.

Papers from the Senate

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Sources of Supply and Purposes of North Jay Water District" (S. P. 608) (L. D. 1596)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Public Utilities.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Public Utilities in concurrence.

Senate Reports of Committees Ought Not to Pass

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Conservation of Natural and Watershed Resources in Municipalities" (S. P. 553) (L. D. 1449)

Came from the Senate read and accepted.

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

Ought to Pass

Report of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs reporting "Ought to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to State Contribution to Pollution Abatement" (S. P. 227) (L. D. 552)

Report of the Committee on Judiciary reporting same on Bill "An Act Creating the Short Form Deeds Act" (S. P. 537) (L. D. 1442)

Came from the Senate with the Reports read and accepted and the Bills passed to be engrossed.

In the House, the Reports were read and accepted in concurrence, the Bills read twice and tomorrow assigned.

Final Report of Committee

Final Report of the following Committee:

Veterans and Military Affairs.

Came from the Senate read and accepted.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Report of the Committee on Towns and Counties on Bill "An

Act relating to Pensions for Members of the Police Department and Fire Department of the City of Auburn and Their Beneficiaries" (H. P. 925) (L. D. 1357) reporting that it be referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs which Report was accepted and the Bill referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in the House on April 20.

Came from the Senate with the Report and Bill referred to the Committee on Retirements and Pensions in non-concurrence.

In the House: The House voted to recede and concur with the Senate.

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act relating to State Aid for School Construction (S. P. 63) (L. D. 107) which failed on passage to be enacted in the House on April 21.

Came from the Senate passed to be enacted in non-concurrence.

In the House:

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Madawaska, Mr. Levesque.

Mr. LEVESQUE: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: It is certainly with a great deal of interest that I get up this morning to inform you that the objections raised on this document last week, which has created a great amount of interest not only through the halls of the Legislature but through the whole area of the State of Maine, regarding school construction.

It is my feeling and understanding at this time that the resolve pertaining to school construction aid will be bonded and that these matters will be before us, and it is certainly with a great deal of satisfaction this morning that I stand here to inform the House of Representatives that we are all in complete agreement with the long term bonding and that the school construction aid will be bonded and with that this eliminates all our objections. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Richardson.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Mr. Speaker, is the question now before the

House receding and concurring or enactment?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman that is true, that we will recede and concur in passing the bill to be enacted.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Richardson.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: In support of the enactment of this L.D., I want the members of the House to know that, interestingly enough, I think our problem isn't essentially one of communications. The Republican position as we view it has not essentially changed, but we have had several discussions, so that I think now that everybody is satisfied and we all are agreed that a portion of this could be bonded and I for one am delighted that the long and arduous passage is finally coming to a close successfully.

Mr. Speaker, when the vote is taken I would request that it be taken by the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER: For the Chair to order a roll call it must have the expressed desire of one fifth of the members present. All of those desiring a roll call will vote yes; those opposed will vote no. The Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken. 137 voted in the affirmative and 1 voted in the negative.

The SPEAKER: Obviously, more than one fifth having expressed the desire for a roll call, a roll call is ordered.

This being an emergency measure, under the Constitution it requires for its enactment the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire elected membership of the House. Those in favor of its passage as an emergency measure will vote in the affirmative and those opposed in the negative. The Chair will open the vote.

Roll Call

YEA — Allen, Baker, E. B.; Baker, R.E.; Bedard, Belanger, Beliveau, Benson, Berman, Binnette, Birt, Boudreau, Bourgoin, Bradstreet, Bragdon, Brennan, Brown, Buck, Bunker, Burnham,

Carey, Carrier, Carroll, Carswell, Champagne, Clark, Conley, Cookson, Cornell, Cote, Cottrell, Crockett, Crommett, Crosby, Curran, Cushing, D'Alfonso, Danton, Dar-
 rey, Dennett, Dickinson, Drigotas, Drummond, Dudley, Dunn, Durgin, Edwards, Eustis, Evans, Ewer, Farrington, Fecteau, Foster, Fraser, Fuller, Gaudreau, Gauthier, Gill, Giroux, Hall, Hanson, B. B.; Hanson, H. L.; Hanson, P. K.; Harnois, Harriman, Hawes, Haynes, Healy, Henley, Hennessey, Hewes, Hichens, Hinds, Hodgkins, Hoover, Huber, Humphrey, Hunter, Immonen, Jalbert, Jameson, Janelle, Jewell, Keyte, Kyes, Label, Levesque, Lewin, Lewis, Lincoln, Littlefield, Lowery, Lycette, Maddox, Martin, McMann, McNally, Meisner, Miliano, Minkowsky, Mosher, Nadeau, J. F. R.; Nadeau, N. L.; Pendergast, Philbrook, Pike, Porter, Prince, Quimby, Quinn, Rackliff, Richardson, G. A.; Richardson, H. L.; Rideout, Robertson, Robinson, Rocheleau, Roy, Sahagian, Sawyer, Scott, C. F.; Scott, G. W.; Scribner, Shaw, Shute, Snow, P. J.; Snowe, P.; Soulas, Starbird, Sullivan, Susi, Tanguay, Thompson, Trask, Truman, Waltz, Watts, Wheeler, White, Wight, Williams, Wood, The Speaker.

ABSENT — Bernard, Couture, Fortier, Harvey, Kilroy, Noyes, Payson, Ross, Townsend.

Yes, 142; No, none; Absent, 9.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will announce the vote. 142 having voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, the Bill is passed to be enacted as an emergency measure. It will be signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Petitions, Bills and Resolves Requiring Reference

The following Bill, approved by a majority of the Committee on Reference of Bills for appearance on House Calendar, less than one tenth of the members present objecting, was received:

Bill "An Act Providing Appropriations for Payment of School Construction Aid to the Cities of Westbrook and South Portland" (H. P. 1124) (Presented by Mr. Hinds of South Portland)

The SPEAKER: Is it now the pleasure of the House that this Bill be referred to the Committee on Education, ordered printed and sent up for concurrence?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Hinds.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I would move that this bill be referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and I might add that I have cleared this with the chairman of the Education Committee.

Thereupon, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, ordered printed and sent up for concurrence.

Orders

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, I would ask if the House is in possession of L. D. 476?

The SPEAKER: The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. SPEAKER, I now move that we reconsider our action whereby we requested a Committee of Conference.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, now moves that the House reconsider its action whereby on yesterday it requested a Committee of Conference on Bill "An Act relating to School Entrance Age Requirements," Senate Paper 213, L. D. 476. Is it the pleasure of the House that we reconsider our action?

The motion prevailed.

Thereupon, the same gentleman withdrew his request for a Committee of Conference.

On motion of Mr. McMann of Bath, it was

ORDERED, that Mr. Ross of Bath be excused from attendance for the duration of his illness.

House Reports of Committees Ought Not to Pass

Mr. Starbird from the Committee on State Government reported "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An

Act Permitting Salvation Army to Solicit Funds within State Liquor Stores" (H. P. 1027) (L. D. 1493)

Report was read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Covered by Other Legislation

Mr. Pike from the Committee on Natural Resources on Bill "An Act relating to Coastal Marshlands" (H. P. 763) (L. D. 1110) reported "Ought not to pass", as covered by other legislation.

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Bill "An Act relating to Differential Use of Coastal Flats, Marshes, Meadows and Swamps" (H. P. 911) (L. D. 1321)

Reports were read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Ought to Pass in New Draft New Drafts Printed

Mrs. Carswell from the Committee on Health and Institutional Services on Bill "An Act relating to Authority of Warden of the Maine State Prison to Effect Rehabilitative Programming at the State Prison" (H. P. 741) (L. D. 1064) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1125) (L. D. 1598) under title of "An Act relating to Authority of Department of Mental Health and Corrections to Effect Rehabilitative and Work Release Programs" and that it "Ought to pass"

Mr. Gill from same Committee on Bill "An Act to Provide a Licensing Law for Practical Nurses" (H. P. 264) (L. D. 385) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1126) (L. D. 1599) under title of "An Act Amending the Law Regulating the Practice of Nursing" and that it "Ought to pass"

Mrs. Cornell from the Committee on State Government on Bill "An Act relating to Approval of Plans and Competitive Bids under Bureau of Public Improvements Law" (H. P. 551) (L. D. 783) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1127) (L. D. 1600) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Reports were read and accepted, the New Drafts read twice and tomorrow assigned.

Ought to Pass Printed Bill Tabled and Assigned

Mr. Dennett from the Committee on State Government reported "Ought to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Functions of State Political Conventions" (H. P. 681) (L. D. 953)

Report was read.

(On motion of Mr. Dennett of Kittery, tabled pending acceptance of the Report and specially assigned for Wednesday, May 3.)

Ought to Pass with Committee Amendment

Mr. Scribner from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on Bill "An Act to Provide Funds for Construction at the Blind Children's Resource Center in Portland" (H. P. 1) (L. D. 1) reported "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was read and accepted and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 1, L. D. 1, Bill, "An Act to Provide Funds for Construction at the Blind Children's Resource Center in Portland."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the Title and inserting in place thereof the following Title: 'An Act to Provide Funds for Blind Children's Education, Inc.'

Further amend said Bill in the 3rd and 4th lines from the end (4th line in L. D. 1) by striking out the words "Resource Center in Portland" and inserting in place thereof the words 'Education, Inc.'; and by striking out in the 3rd line from the end (same in L. D. 1) the words "at the center" and inserting in place thereof the words 'for the training and instruction of blind children'

Committee Amendment "A" was adopted and the Bill assigned for third reading tomorrow.

Mrs. White from the Committee on Health and Institutional Services on Bill "An Act relating

to the Administration of the Aid to Dependent Children Program, and Authorizing Work Experience and Training for Recipients of Aid to Dependent Children" (H. P. 707) (L. D. 1002) reported "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was read and accepted and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 707, L. D. 1002, Bill, "An Act Relating to the Administration of the Aid to Dependent Children Program, and Authorizing Work Experience and Training for Recipients of Aid to Dependent Children."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of section 4.

Committee Amendment "A" was adopted and the Bill assigned for third reading tomorrow.

Passed to Be Engrossed

Bill "An Act relating to Enforcement Duties of Inland Fish and Game Wardens" (S. P. 245) (L. D. 605)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Bill "An Act relating to Line Budgets for All Counties" (S. P. 567) (L. D. 1437)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. McMann.

Mr. McMANN: Mr. Speaker, I have no objections to the budgets. I would like to ask through the Chair of Representative Jalbert if he would just give us the highlight on what it is, there is nothing in the bill itself.

The **SPEAKER**: The gentleman from Bath, Mr. McMann, poses a question through the Chair to the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, for information relative to Bill "An Act relating to Line Budgets for All Counties," who may answer if he chooses.

The Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Before I make my remarks I would certainly commend the Committee on Towns and Counties for their unanimous report concerning this bill. The bill spells out that, as exists presently in two counties, that all departments under County Government will be under the same method that we have enjoyed in the State, and it is line budgeting for personal services, all other, and capital.

It will give you and your people at home a better insight on the expenditures of County Government. It will allow you, in my belief, as has been proven in our county where we have such a program, to cut where needed without harming. It allows a \$15,000 fund for financing at the discretion of the County Commissioners. I think it is very very sound legislation. I don't want to take the time of the members in going into the explicit details of it, although I will be very happy at any time to discuss it with any member of the House.

Again I would say that the Towns and Counties Committee should be commended. I think that this is the salvation of County Government.

Thereupon, the Bill was passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Bill "An Act Increasing Payments to County Law Libraries" (S. P. 606) (L. D. 1588)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

**Third Reader
Tabled and Assigned**

Bill "An Act relating to Appropriation to Maine Institution for the Blind" (H. P. 667) (L. D. 922)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kennebunk, Mr. Crosby.

Mr. CROSBY: Mr. Speaker, I move that this be tabled until Wednesday, May 3.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Kennebunk, Mr. Crosby, moves that item 4 be tabled until Wednesday, May 3, pending passage to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Portland, Mrs. Carswell.

Mrs. CARSWELL: Mr. Speaker, because this matter has been tabled many times—

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman may not debate it.

Mrs. CARSWELL: No, I would like to request that somebody else give a shorter tabling time on this motion because this bill has been tabled many times and I would like to debate it—

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman may not debate a tabling motion. Is the House ready for the question?

Mrs. Carswell then requested a vote on the tabling motion.

The SPEAKER: A vote has been requested relative to item 4, that this be tabled until Wednesday, May 3. Those in favor of this matter being tabled will vote yes; those opposed will vote no. The Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 55 having voted in the negative, the tabling motion did prevail.

Bill "An Act relating to Incorporation of Maine Retail Gasoline Dealers Association" (H. P. 678) (L. D. 950)

Resolve Permitting Augusta Golf Company to Draw Water from Lake Cobbosseecontee (S. P. 232) (L. D. 557)

Resolve Regulating Fishing on Part of Moose River, Somerset County (S. P. 604) (L. D. 1587)

Resolve Appropriating Funds to Waban Project, Inc. for Retarded Children to Purchase Land for Summer Camp for Handicapped Children (H. P. 688) (L. D. 969)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, Bill read the third time, Resolves read the second time, all passed

to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

Amended Bills

Bill "An Act relating to Survey of Private Sewage Disposal Systems by Department of Health and Welfare" (H. P. 910) (L. D. 1320)

Resolve Appropriating Moneys for Improvements at Pleasant Point and Indian Township Reservations and the Penobscot Indian Reservation (H. P. 780) (L. D. 1142)

Resolve to Provide Funds for the Purchase of Copies of the "History of the Town of Lisbon" (H. P. 825) (L. D. 1233)

Were reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, Bill read the third time, Resolves read the second time, all passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" and sent to the Senate.

Bill "An Act relating to School Building Remodeling" (S. P. 61) (L. D. 74)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" and sent to the Senate.

Bill "An Act Requiring Constructed Public Buildings be Made Accessible to the Physically Handicapped" (H. P. 1114) (L. D. 1583)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "B" and sent to the Senate.

Engrossed in Non-Concurrence

Bill "An Act relating to Membership of State Soil and Water Conservation Committee" (S. P. 50) (L. D. 40)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, read the third time, passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

Passed to Be Enacted

An Act relating to Tuition for Pupils Attending Secondary

Schools in Other States or Countries (H. P. 1096) (L. D. 1562)

Finally Passed

Resolve to Reimburse Raymond Lammers of Augusta for Payment of Restaurant Liquor License (S. P. 518) (L. D. 1338)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, Bill passed to be enacted, Resolve finally passed, both signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day

On the part of the House, the Speaker appointed the following Conferees to the Joint Conference Committee on the disagreeing action of the two branches on Senate Paper 167, L. D. 338, Bill "An Act Increasing Compensation of Members of the Legislature":

Messrs. DENNETT of Kittery
RIDEOUT of Manchester
HARRIMAN of Hollis

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

HOUSE REPORT—Ought Not to Pass—Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act relating to Right to Vote on Approval of Final Urban Renewal Plans" (H. P. 829) (L. D. 1237)

Tabled—April 19, by Mr. Hennessey of West Bath.

Pending—Motion of Mr. Harvey of Woolwich to reconsider acceptance of Report.

On motion of Mr. Huber of Rockland, retabled pending the motion of Mr. Harvey of Woolwich to reconsider acceptance of Report and specially assigned for Wednesday, May 3.

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

HOUSE REPORT—Ought to Pass in New Draft—Committee on State Government on Bill "An Act Establishing Procedures for State Medical Examiners and Creating the Office of Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Maine"

(H. P. 245) (L. D. 353)—New Draft (H. P. 1116) (L. D. 1586)

Tabled—April 19, by Mr. Soulas of Bangor.

Pending—Acceptance.

Report was read and accepted and the New Draft read twice.

Mr. Soulas of Bangor offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 1116, L. D. 1586, Bill, "An Act Establishing Procedures for State Medical Examiners and Creating the Office of Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Maine."

Amend said Bill in section 2 by striking out all of the 3rd underlined sentence of that part designated "§ 3022" and inserting in place thereof the following underlined sentence: **'The Chief Medical Examiner shall possess a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy, be licensed to practice in the State of Maine and be certified in the specialty of forensic pathology by either the American Board of Pathology or the American Osteopathic Board of Pathology.'**

House Amendment "A" was adopted and the Bill assigned for third reading tomorrow.

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

Bill "An Act Authorizing the Leasing of Air Rights by Municipalities" (H. P. 1113) (L. D. 1582)

Tabled—April 19, by Mr. Hewes of Cape Elizabeth.

Pending—Passage to be engrossed.

Mr. Conley of Portland offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 1113, L. D. 1582, Bill, "An Act Authorizing the Leasing of Air Rights by Municipalities."

Amend said Bill in section 2 by striking out all of that part designated "§4995" (same in L. D. 1582)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Orrington, Mrs. Baker.

Mrs. BAKER: Mr. Speaker, I would request that the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Conley, give us an explanation of this amendment.

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman from Orrington, Mrs. Baker, poses a question through the Chair to the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Conley, who may answer if he chooses.

The Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: This amendment, what it does, it deletes from the bill Section 4995 which includes a section on billboards. Now it is the feeling of the Maine advertising industry that billboards in most municipalities are governed by local ordinances or zoning boards and it is the feeling that by putting this in the bill itself it is discriminatory and therefore they would like to have it deleted. It is my feeling also, and I concur with them, that certainly in my area I know that our city has zoning boards and therefore it would present no problem whatsoever.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is the adoption of House Amendment "A".

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Orrington, Mrs. Baker.

Mrs. BAKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: If this would give an opportunity for the leasing of air rights for high rise billboards, I would be opposed to it, and I believe it might work that way in some municipalities. Therefore I would ask for a division on the motion.

The SPEAKER: Does the gentleman make a motion relative to the adoption of House Amendment "A"?

Mrs. BAKER: I move that House Amendment "A" be indefinitely postponed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would just like to state that this bill that was presented to the Legal Affairs Committee was a draft

done by an out-of-state concern. I believe it was done in Boston and this particular section of the Bill was never fully discussed within the Legal Affairs Committee. In fact this section was brought to the attention of many of us only after the hearing had been closed. I have no personal feelings on the paragraph itself or the chapter, but I do believe that it is somewhat discriminatory when the drafting of the bill would just come out and state throwing one section relating to the billboards.

I again feel that each local municipality would have the option of either letting these things be put up or not, so I feel that it is no detriment to any municipality. Certainly I know that the two areas that are vitally interested in this piece of legislation, namely Bangor and again Portland, do have zoning laws. So I see where there can be no hardship imposed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. McMann.

Mr. McMANN: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a parliamentary question?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may pose his question.

Mr. McMANN: Would a motion to put this off a week, would that take precedence over —

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may make a tabling motion.

Mr. McMANN: I make a motion that we table it one week from today.

Thereupon, tabled pending the motion of Mrs. Baker of Orrington to indefinitely postpone House Amendment "A" and specially assigned for Wednesday, May 3.

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

HOUSE REPORT—Ought Not to Pass—Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill "An Act to Require Fencing of Unightly Public Dumps" (H. P. 679) (L. D. 951)

Tabled—April 19, by Mr. Lowery of Brunswick.

Pending—Acceptance.

On motion of Mr. Lowery of Brunswick, the "Ought not to pass" Report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

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

HOUSE REPORT—Ought Not to Pass—Committee on Retirements and Pensions on Resolve Increasing Pension for Leeman Grant of Milbridge (H. P. 115) (L. D. 142)

Tabled—April 20, by Mrs. White of Guilford.

Pending—Acceptance.

On motion of Mrs. White of Guilford, recommitted to the Committee on Retirements and Pensions and sent up for concurrence.

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

Bill “An Act to Permit the Use of Candles in Religious or Fraternal Services” (H. P. 525) (L. D. 756) (Committee Amendment “A”) (H-186)

Tabled—April 20, by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

Pending—Passage to be engrossed.

Thereupon, the Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment “A” and sent to the Senate.

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

Bill “An Act relating to Constitution of Police Department of City of Lewiston” (S. P. 487) (L. D. 1343) (In Senate, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment “A”) (S-67)

Tabled—April 20, by Mr. Tanguay of Lewiston.

Pending—Passage to be engrossed in concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Gaudreau of Lewiston, retabled pending passage to be engrossed in concurrence and specially assigned for Thursday, May 4.

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

HOUSE MAJORITY REPORT (9) — Ought Not to Pass — Committee on State Government on

Bill “An Act Providing Additional Funds for Education by Sweep-stake Races” (H. P. 384) (L. D. 531) — MINORITY REPORT (1) — Ought to Pass.

Tabled — April 21, by Mr. Binnette of Old Town.

Pending — Motion of Mr. Dennett of Kittery to accept Majority Report.

On motion of Mr. Dennett of Kittery, retabled pending acceptance of the Majority Report and specially assigned for tomorrow.

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

HOUSE MAJORITY REPORT (8) — Ought to Pass in New Draft under new Title “An Act relating to Weight Violations of Trucks” (H. P. 1122) (L. D. 1594) — Committee on Transportation — MINORITY REPORT (2) “Ought Not to Pass” on Bill “An Act relating to Penalty for Weight Violations of Trucks” (H. P. 865) (L. D. 1278)

Tabled — April 21, by Mr. Pendergast of Kennebunkport.

Pending — Motion of Mr. Crosby of Kennebunk to accept Majority Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast.

Mr. PENDERGAST: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As a signer of the Minority “Ought not to pass” Report, I would like to explain my position.

This redraft, L. D. 1594, started out as two individual bills: One to allow a 2000 pound tolerance over and above the present 73,280 pound road limit. Another bill to reduce the fines for overloads. Why these two should be combined, I have no idea, because two separate and very different principles are involved. However, since they have been combined, I feel it necessary to explain to you my reasons for opposing both propositions.

The Tolerance Bill, as originally proposed, would allow an extra 2000 pounds above the road limit of 73,280. This present road limit is the maximum allowable under the Federal Highway Act relating to the Interstate Highway System.

By this Federal Highway Act, the State of Maine would jeopardize its right to receive the 90% Federal funds because the Bureau of Public Roads had said that this is the standard to which the Interstate Highway System is constructed.

Our Committee received a memorandum from the State Highway Commission to this effect, whereupon the trucking industry offered an amendment excluding the Interstate Highway System from this tolerance provision.

Now let's look at this proposition. I can't imagine anything more illogical than the proposition that any load in excess of 73,280 pounds is too much for the heavily engineered Interstate system, but should be perfectly O.K. for our smaller, narrower, older and more lightly constructed State, State Aid, and Town roads. This just doesn't make good common sense. The Federal Government apparently realizes that tolerances are apt to be abused and that serious damage will result. They took steps to protect their investment by forbidding such tolerances, but we are being asked to let the bars down on roads we build with our own money. It should be borne in mind that there presently is a tolerance of 2000 pounds on weight violations in this State, but it does not apply to weights in excess of the Federal road limits.

The only time the 2000 pound tolerance does not apply, is when the load is in excess of 73,280 pounds. This is important. The present law simply says that tolerance and registered gross vehicle weight shall not exceed 73,280 pounds. This certainly seems to me to be a very liberal and logical ceiling on weights. For example, if a truck registered for 60,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, he could unintentionally haul 62,000 pounds without violating the law, but the 101st session of the Legislature said that in no event could anyone legally exceed the limit as prescribed by the Federal Highway Act on any of our Maine roads. That is why it should remain, and I hope you will support me on this contention.

Further, this so-called dual standard, whereby tolerances will be allowed on some roads and not on others, are useless from an enforcement point of view. Let's assume that a truck pulls onto the Kittery scales with 74,000 pounds of gross weight. If he arrived there via Route number 1, he is legal; but if he came down Route 95, he violated the law. What does the officer do? He doesn't know where he came from. The practical result will be that the Federal Highway Act has been circumvented. If any of you have any doubt about this enforcement problem, I suggest you contact the State Police. They readily admit that they cannot enforce a dual weight standard.

Another thing that really bothers me about this proposition is that it allows, in effect, 2000 pounds more of payload without any increase in license fee, and to make a bad matter worse the trucks want their overload fine reduced in the bargain, which brings me to the second phase of this two-headed monster.

Some years ago, by agreement of all parties concerned, a schedule of over-weight fines was adopted. They were rigid, mandatory fines which everyone agreed would work as a deterrent to deliberate overloading, thus resulting in less highway damage. The problem, now it seems, is that it is working too effectively.

At the last session, the 102nd Legislature removed the mandatory section so that the courts could suspend all or part of the penalty in hardship cases, or where the Court found that the overweight was caused inadvertently through collection of ice and snow, or the taking on of moisture in an uncovered load. This philosophy I believe in, and it can be done in the Court's discretion today regardless of the size load involved.

This Bill seeks to reduce the fine structure so that in some cases it could become more profitable to overload and then take the chance of being caught.

Granted, the existing fines may be severe if imposed by the Courts

to the fullest extent, but let's look at the law to see to what extent.

The proponents will argue that fines as high as \$350 may be imposed. That's true, but only when the weight exceeds the road limits by over 10,000 pounds. Now, ladies and gentlemen, that's five tons. Do you think for one minute this can be anything but deliberate overloading? I don't. This isn't the area where we would expect the overload to be inadvertent. We're talking about an intentional flaunting of our highway laws. However, if you can conceive of an excuse for such an overload, the Court can suspend all or part of the \$350 fine.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House — I think this redraft is unreasonable and unworkable. I move that it be indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast, now moves that both reports and bill be indefinitely postponed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Van Buren, Mr. Lebel.

Mr. LEBEL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This bill we took down the fine because before the way the fine was set, if a trucker was stopped and overloaded, he had to pay the fine no matter if he was guilty or not. This way, the way we did set it up, if he is overloaded he'd get a chance to go to Court and to fight his case, and he'll pay the fine — if it's intentional he'll have to pay the fine just the same. As far as the 63,280 pounds, if it's intentional he'll still have to pay the fine. He's not supposed to overload over 63,280, so he'll have to pay the fine if it's intentional. As far as being overloaded two thousand pounds he won't do it too often, but let's say that a truck that hauls fifteen cords of wood, if he's allowed to haul fifteen cords of wood and the wood is dry, and if it's loaded by crane and he happens to take his load of wood out the bottom of the cord, it might weigh a little more — it doesn't take much for two thousand pounds if the wood is dry, or wet, so that the driver can't judge the load himself. So, if he was loaded with say eight thousand pounds

he had to pay a \$300 fine without no exception. This way, he'll have a chance to go to Court and fight his case, so I do hope that this bill goes through. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast.

Mr. PENDERGAST: Mr. Speaker, I request a division.

The SPEAKER: A vote has been requested on the motion to indefinitely postpone both reports and bill. Is the House ready for the question?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fort Kent, Mr. Bourgoin.

Mr. BOURGOIN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: These two bills were combined for one purpose and they had a very good hearing in the Committee, and came out of committee with the report "Ought to pass" 8 to 2, and I hope that the House will not indefinitely postpone this bill as it is very much needed for the truckers and gives them a chance to go to Court instead of having mandatory penalties. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kittery, Mr. Dennett:

Mr. DENNETT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I rise to concur with the gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast, and I think he did a beautiful job on describing the contents of this bill to the Members of this House. I feel very strongly this bill, in itself, is a comedy of errors. It is very ambiguous, particularly the point where it is legal to come down the State highways which the people of the State of Maine pay for practically in its entirety, and yet they cannot come down the federally supported roads, or particularly this section known as Route 95, as they exceed any tolerances that might be granted on that road. So consequently you have a choice, apparently, of these huge trucks literally destroying the State highways, and of course the federal system is untouched because they are not allowed to use it.

I don't think the question before the House today is actually

anything to do too much with the payment of fines. I think, rather, it is the abuse of our state-controlled roads, and I certainly hope the motion to indefinitely postpone will prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mars Hill, Mr. Dickinson.

Mr. DICKINSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I regret that I haven't heard all the discussion on this matter. However, I do want to go on record as concurring with the gentleman, Mr. Pendergast.

It is my understanding that the trucking interests, through their spokesmen, agreed when the weight limit was increased that they would not request any tolerance above that, and I for one think that a trade is a trade, and I am very disturbed now that they come back for this tolerance limit.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kennebunk, Mr. Crosby.

Mr. CROSBY: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: This is another one of those bills that came out of our Committee with a Majority "Ought to pass" Report. At this present time I'm beginning to get a little bit of an inferiority complex.

We, as has been stated before, this bill received a very fair hearing. I cannot go along with some of the statements that have been made, that this is allowing something extra. Our interpretation of this bill was simply that under the present statute, if somebody is picked up for being overloaded, he has no appeal, he cannot go to Court, he is simply sent a bill for the amount of fines and he returns that to the Court. Under this bill, there are extenuating circumstances where a truck could, unintentionally, be overloaded. If this driver or operator of the truck has an opportunity to go to court and explain why he is overloaded—it might be heavy slush, a couple tons of ice or snow that has accumulated in their travels, he can go to Court, present his case to the Judge, and then the Judge

has the right to determine whether or not this was intentional, and also does not have to go by the book as to the amount of fine which is to be assessed. He can use his own discretion, and I certainly think that our judges are capable of fulfilling this duty, and I sincerely hope that the motion to indefinitely postpone does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would interrupt for a moment and announce that I recognize in the rear of the Hall of the House a former Governor of the State of Maine, a former President of the Senate, and the Chair would ask the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the former Governor to the rostrum to be recognized.

Thereupon, former Governor Robert N. Haskell of Bangor was escorted to the rostrum.

The SPEAKER: Former Governor Robert N. Haskell of Bangor. It's a pleasure to see you here this morning, sir, and to observe this distinguished group at work. (Applause)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sidney, Mr. Drummond.

Mr. DRUMMOND: Mr. Speaker, I make the motion we lay this bill on the table until next Wednesday.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Sidney, Mr. Drummond, moves that Item 9, L. D. 1594 be tabled until Wednesday, May 3, pending the motion of the gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast, to indefinitely postpone.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast.

Mr. PENDERGAST: I request a division on the tabling motion.

The SPEAKER: A vote has been requested on the tabling motion. All those in favor of this matter being tabled until Wednesday, May 3, will vote yes and those opposed will vote no. The Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken. 67 having voted in the affirmative and 73 having voted in the

negative, the tabling motion did not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Eagle Lake, Mr. Martin.

Mr. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: The original L.D. was presented by me to solve what I thought at the present time is a very unfair situation. The Committee on Transportation incorporated it with another bill, one introduced by the gentleman from Fort Kent, Mr. Bourgoin, which dealt with what they thought was the same topic.

My bill would revise the section and the schedule, the section of the law which deals with the schedule of fines and costs which must be imposed by the Court. We in Maine I think have always felt that the Judge be given the right to judge. At the present time the judge has no such discretion. The present law in my opinion is a revenue measure which produces fines, or can produce fines of up to \$500. I certainly cannot see how a single individual can afford this.

The new bill would lower this amount to not over \$200, and would include the cost of Court.

I contend that the present fine schedule is out of step with the other fines in Maine. I need not remind the members of the House that this bill was an 8 to 2 report "Ought to pass" by the Transportation Committee. I certainly hope that we go along with the recommendations of the Committee, and I would further point out that it is not always as simple as the gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast, would have us believe in determining what the weights are on a particular truck. I would point out in one case for example the transportation of lumber. If anyone in this House can tell me how much a cord of lumber weighs during the different times of the year, I would be more than happy to buy him a steak feed.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Kenne-

bunkport, Mr. Pendergast, that this Bill "An Act relating to Weight Violations of Trucks," House Paper 1122, L. D. 1594, and Reports be indefinitely postponed. All those in favor of indefinite postponement will vote yes, those opposed will vote no. The Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 71 having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon the Majority "Ought to pass" Report was accepted, the New Draft read twice and assigned for third reading tomorrow.

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

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of State and Providing for the Issuance of Bonds Not Exceeding, at Any One Time Issued and Outstanding, Twenty-Five Million Dollars for Loans to Private Colleges for Construction and Expansion of Facilities (S. P. 60) (L. D. 73)

Tabled—April 21, by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

Pending—Final passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lubec, Mr. Pike.

Mr. PIKE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I can't help but feel that this bill and its companion, the next one on the calendar, that they are both ill-considered legislation. I will try to tell you why.

From the point of view of the State, we have obligations and commitments and responsibilities to our public colleges, our elementary and high schools, our vocational institutes, and the University of Maine, which is mostly public, which to my mind we have not yet completely fulfilled. It seems to me that until we have fulfilled our obligations and responsibilities to those institutions which we have already taken on the responsibility for, that we should not extend the credit of the State to private institutions.

The next point I have in mind is that the State is put in the position of endorsing a note. Now as a man who sat on the Boards of a private college for some twenty-seven or twenty-eight years, I never remember a time when that institution was in the position to pay back loans out of income. Now there are two areas where income can be provided and is provided, three really, and perhaps four. One is from dormitories; the second one is from dining halls; the third one is from tuition, and the fourth one is from donations and bequests. On the first two, we know pretty well the narrow margin that is available from board and room charges at prices that our folks can pay. The third one, most of our private colleges do not make a profit on their tuition, there would be nothing left out of that to pay the bills. The fourth one, the matter of gifts and bequests, is sort of an uncertain thing, none of the colleges feel that they get enough.

The point it seems to me is from the State that we are very likely to find, like when you endorse somebody's ninety day note, it doesn't cost you anything when you do it, but when the due date comes, we may find, and probably will find, that some of these outfits are not in any position to pay.

Another point from the State, we are being confronted with a lot of bond issues. I don't think we have seen the whole picture yet, but I don't believe that the State should further advance its credit more or less blindly, because if we do, and we do it in such large sums, our credit will decrease and it may be that we won't have very good credit. From the point of view of the private institutions, I think it is also a bad practice because sooner or later there are going to be jams where it is going to be inconvenient or impossible for these institutions to pay off, and when that happens, or before, this legislature or some other legislature will probably put on restrictions which will compromise the privacy of the colleges

and put them to some extent in its public institutions. I don't really think that we ought to mix the two up. This was a row when the State was set up originally in 1820. Colby and Bowdoin were already going and they were eager for funds and they tried to get some money from the State and they set up the thing then that private and public institutions should be separate and that the private institutions should be supported privately and the public institutions should be supported at least in part publicly. I do not believe we should change that practice, and I would move that this bill be indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Lubec, Mr. Pike, moves that this bill be indefinitely postponed.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, the Resolve was tabled pending the motion of Mr. Pike of Lubec to indefinitely postpone, and specially assigned for Thursday, April 27.

House at Ease

Called to order by the Speaker.

At this point, the Senate entered the Hall of the House 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 Albair of Aroostook, it was

ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor of Maine, and inform him that the two branches of the legislature are in convention assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives and extend to him an invitation to attend the Convention with the Honorable ROBERT M. CROCKER of Augusta, Maine, 20 years Associated Press State House correspondent, and his guests, and then address to the Convention such remarks

as they may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

ALBAIR of Aroostook
ROSS of Piscataquis
DUQUETTE of York

Representatives:

BENSON
of Southwest Harbor
HUMPHREY of Augusta
BRAGDON of Perham
HUBER of Rockland
SHUTE of Farmington
BRENNAN of Portland
JALBERT of Lewiston

Senator Albair, for the Committee, subsequently reported that the Committee had attended to the duty assigned to it, and that the Governor was pleased to say that he would forthwith attend the Convention with his distinguished guest, the Honorable Robert M. Crocker of Augusta, Maine.

Convention at Ease

Called to order by Chairman Campbell.

Thereupon, the Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor of Maine, announced and escorted by Major General E. W. Heywood, Adjutant General, and accompanied by the Honorable Robert M. Crocker and family, and attended by Honorable Joseph T. Edgar, Secretary of State, and Members of the Executive Council, distinguished guests, entered the Hall of the House amid prolonged applause, the audience rising.

The CHAIRMAN: The Honorable Joseph T. Edgar, Secretary of State, will now make Proclamation.

PROCLAMATION State of Maine

WHEREAS, ROBERT M. CROCKER is acknowledged to be one of Maine's experts in the field of legislative procedures, issues and progress; and

WHEREAS, such outstanding knowledge and experience began while serving as a Page in the Maine House of Representatives in 1939; and

WHEREAS, ROBERT M. CROCKER has further attained a unique niche in Maine journalism by acquiring the title, Dean of State House Reporters; and

WHEREAS, ROBERT M. CROCKER has earned the respect of those in the fields of government, the legislature and politics because of the high standard of fair and objective reporting that he has consistently performed; and

WHEREAS, the year 1967 marks the twentieth year of such continuous high quality of journalism by ROBERT M. CROCKER as State House Correspondent for the Associated Press;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 26, as

ROBERT M. CROCKER DAY in the State of Maine, and urge the people to pay public tribute to the esteem which they hold for the aforementioned attributes and earned high reputation, and, that Robert M. Crocker Day also be observed in like tribute to all of Maine's news media for its unequalled high quality of honest, objective journalism as personified by their State House Dean.

Given at the office of the Governor at Augusta and sealed with the Great Seal of the State of Maine, this Twenty-first day of April, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the One Hundred and Ninety-first.

By the Governor,
s/ KENNETH M. CURTIS

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Too often people withhold the praise and honor that is due outstanding and deserving citizens until the culmination of their careers by retirement or death.

Who wants to wait until Bob Crocker is turned out to pasture to give him a gold watch? Let's recognize him now for his outstanding accomplishments in his chosen field of journalism while he is able to contemplate even more responsible assignments than those that he has filled with such

distinction and while he has before him many years of useful service.

What better proof can we ask for that he lives by the rules and is a credit to his profession than that this occasion has the enthusiastic support of all those representing the news media throughout the State of Maine?

What motivates a man like Bob Crocker to achieve the success that is his? Not the least of these has been his desire to merit the love and respect of his wife, and set a good example for their children.

It is now the pleasure of the Chair to introduce to you the members of Bob Crocker's family who are able to be here today and share the honor which we are bestowing upon him.

Will each of you folks please rise as your names are called, and after all are introduced, the Chair will request the Convention to welcome you by rising.

First, Bob's good wife, Dorothy Crocker, their son, Steven, who apparently intends to follow in the footsteps of his father as he is now serving the Daily Kennebec Journal, their daughter, Janet, a senior at Cushing Academy, Bob's oldest fan, his mother, Mrs. Ralph Crocker of Auburn, and his sister-in-law and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. James Leach of Shrewsbury, Mass.

(Prolonged Applause, the Audience rising)

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair now calls upon the Honorable David J. Kennedy, Speaker of the House, to make such remarks as he may wish.

SPEAKER KENNEDY: Your Excellency Governor Curtis, Senator Campbell, President Reynolds, Bob Crocker, members of the Crocker family, members of the Honorable Senate, members of the House and honored guests. This is a unique day in the annals of Maine Legislatures. Insofar as I have been able to ascertain, this morning marks the first time that the Maine Legislature has paid tribute in a joint Session to someone other than its own members, or an elected official.

All of us, I am sure, recognize the merit of this occasion. It is not often that we who serve the public have the opportunity to pay tribute to a member of a profession which is so closely aligned to those goals that we hope to accomplish — the news media of our State.

During my years here at the State House, I have come to know, both personally and professionally, our honored guest this morning. His service to the people of Maine could be described as even more important than that which all of us hope that we are performing in an able fashion.

To keep the people of Maine completely informed of the doings of their Legislature and their Government is in itself both an awesome and responsible task.

It is a task which our honored guest this morning has fulfilled in a most objective and fair manner.

These two words well may describe the standing in which our guest is held by the Legislature and the people of Maine — objective and fair.

He has been objective for more than 20 years in his handling of news of the week-in, week-out doings of the Legislature and our Government. He has been fair in the manner in which he has kept all of us informed on the political doings within our State.

I know that our guest has been the confidant of not only legislative leadership, but those who have run our Ship of State. This confidence never has been broken. I am sure that it will continue.

On behalf of the members of the House of Representatives — past and present — I wish to extend the heartiest of congratulations to Bob Crocker for not only his personal attributes, but for the manner in which he has always represented journalism in the State of Maine.

Today, we wish Bob every success in the future. We know that his ideals not only will continue to hold him in high esteem, but that these ideals will also be of inestimable value to the entire news media of Maine.

Best of luck, Bob. Our tribute to you today truly is sincere, and

You richly deserve it all. (Applause)

The CHAIRMAN: As our honored guest is an alumnus of Bates College, it is particularly fitting that we have as another speaker today, the President of Bates College, Dr. Thomas Hedley Reynolds.

Dr. REYNOLDS: Governor Curtis, distinguished members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine, Mr. Crocker, and members of your family: It is indeed an honor for a newcomer to the State of Maine like myself, to be asked to address you today. Though a newcomer, I am not a stranger to Maine, having paddled its lakes and rivers as a young man, and more recently sailed its magnificent coasts. But perhaps more importantly, I do not feel a stranger, because I come from Vermont, where our prospective was much the same. We too had a Democratic Governor and most of his friends were Republicans — they had to be, there aren't as many of the other kind over there either. (laughter)

We gather here today to honor Robert Merrow Crocker, who was born in Auburn fifty years ago, and was a graduate in 1938 of Bates College. As President of that College, I have been asked to say a few words. There is not much about this man that I can tell you that you don't already know.

Since 1947 Bob has been on the AP staff as main State House correspondent. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Wire Service Guild, and in 1963 was made President of that organization. He has also found time to be Moderator of his Church in Augusta.

Perhaps in view of all of these achievements, and the ones which have already been paid tribute to here today, it is not inappropriate for the President of his College to speak briefly of education in the State.

It has become obvious in this session in particular that you gentlemen are recognizing the tremendous implications of putting Maine up front in the educational advances of our times. The long hours and the hard work which you put on the subject of educa-

tion will, I have no doubt, bear fruit. I would only urge you on and remind you also that your responsibility extends to the private sector of education as well as the public. The private colleges, which educated Bob Crocker, represent an important tradition, not only in Maine, but in the Nation. These strong, hard liberal arts colleges have been turning out important leaders in our society since the days when the very first of them were spun off from Harvard. Their educational work I think needs no defending, but it might be appropriate to remind you that in addition to their value in educating all of our young people, they are very important in the whole light of the Maine community.

Do you know, for example, that just among Bates, Bowdoin and Colby approximately 2700 students from out of state residences spend approximately \$3,000 annually in our State for a total of over \$7,000,000? This in itself indicates the substantial size of education in the State of Maine as an export industry. Unlike some industries, it neither depletes or pollutes. On the contrary, the more we have, the more we grow.

I would not specially plead for the private sector of our educational economy over the public. We need today all of the education that we can get, private and public, for all of our young people. But in helping the public sector, do not forget that we in private education have often led the way and provided the community with education when the public purse strings were closed. Now that the public purse strings are open, and I am glad that they are, I hope that the support of public education will be done in a manner which enhances the vigorous growth of our private institutions.

Bob Crocker, who is a graduate of one of these institutions, is the kind of an alumnus who would do any kind of a college proud. We are very glad that he graduated from one of the colleges in the State of Maine. Thank you. (Applause)

The CHAIRMAN: It is now my privilege to present to you his

Excellency, the Governor of Maine, Kenneth M. Curtis.

(Applause, the Audience rising)

Governor Curtis then addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished members of the 103rd Legislature, Bob Crocker, Dr. Reynolds and the members of the Crocker family: It is indeed a privilege for me to have the opportunity to join with the members of this Legislature in taking a short pause in our activity to pay tribute to Bob Crocker. I am sure this is a most significant day for Bob Crocker, but it is also an important one for this body and for all of us gathered here today.

For more years than many may care to count, we have read the morning accounts of yesterday's events and got a first impression of what people think we are doing. Bob Crocker is a man that has been responsible for this impression, and because he has been doing it for so long, he has developed an uncanny eye towards public impressions and public service. It was Walter Lippmann, one of America's foremost journalists that best described to me what this responsibility Bob Crocker holds on his shoulders each day. Lippmann wrote: The duty of the newsman is to bring light to the hidden facts, to set them in relation with each other, and make a picture of reality on which men can act. That, Bob Crocker has done, and none of us can deny this. He symbolizes those men of the Press who have given Maine citizens a light so they can act on governmental matters with some confidence when they enter their polling places. Bob Crocker is also one of the few men that I have become acquainted with who has an extremely high boiling point. It takes a great deal to get him disturbed. I have never known him to be outright mad about anything. The only time I ever saw him come close to his boiling point was once when I had found that my office had let another news service score something like a sixty second scoop on his. Today, Bob, I want you to know that I have made up for that. I have

given your news service an advance of this release. (Applause)

Seriously, and for just another moment, today is a tribute to Bob and his twenty years of news writing from the Capitol, and in the larger sense it gives us all a good opportunity to salute Bob's colleagues as well. The members of the Maine Press have always borne the mantle of responsible journalism with style and with pride.

I want to congratulate Bob Crocker today for his contribution to the spirit of honest reporting, and I want to include all of the members of the Maine Press in that. Thank you very much. (Prolonged Applause, the audience rising)

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair will now call on the Secretary of the Senate to read to the Convention some messages of congratulation.

“United States Senate
April 10, 1967

Peter M. Damborg
General Chairman
Bob Crocker Day
Augusta, Maine

Dear Peter:

I am most appreciative of your kind invitation for Tuesday April 26th but regret that Senate business prevents my being absent from Washington at that time.

I wish a most successful and happy event for Bob Crocker.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Chase Smith
United States Senator”

“United States Senate
April 12, 1967

Mr. Robert M. Crocker,
Bureau Chief, Associated Press
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Bob:

Good performance deserves recognition, and you have earned “Bob Crocker Day.”

Twenty years of accurate, perceptive reporting of the State's most important business is a meaningful achievement, and I congratulate you for it.

As the eyes and the ears of the Maine public in the State House, you have admirably served the

public interest. This, to me, is the highest calling a man can pursue.

As one who daily relies on your copy, I wish you continued success, and I wish my schedule permitted me to take part in the ceremonies honoring you on April 26.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,
Edmund S. Muskie
United States Senator"

“CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
April 14, 1967

Mr. Peter M. Damborg
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Pete:

I want to thank you for extending an invitation to me to attend the “Bob Crocker Day” observance on April 26 in Augusta.

Unfortunately, my schedule will not permit me to return to the State of Maine on that date. Therefore, I have asked by field representative, Mr. Jerome G. Plante, to accept the invitation in my behalf and to represent me on this occasion.

Bob Crocker, the worthy “dean” of the Maine State House news delegation, has served the news media of Maine with distinction and honor. I know his presence will be missed in the State House corridors and fourth-floor newsrooms.

Please extend to Bob my heartiest best wishes as he embarks on a new career. I know the competence and integrity he has displayed as a news correspondent will serve him well in the future.

Sincerely yours,
Peter N. Kyros
Member of Congress”

“JOHN H. REED
Fort Fairfield, Maine
April 24, 1967

Mr. Peter M. Damborg
187 State Street
Augusta, Maine

Dear Peter:

Since I am leaving for Washington soon, I regret very much that

my schedule will not permit me to attend “Bob Crocker Day” on April 26.

This is a much deserved special event for a very special person. In my opinion there never was a finer or fairer newsman than Bob Crocker. It was a pleasure for me as Chairman of the National Governors Conference to invite Bob to appear with a panel of the nations most prominent news reporters. As usual Bob did a superb job.

Credit should be given where credit is due and Bob Crocker is truly a tremendous credit to his profession.

Please give Bob my very best wishes for continued success and happiness.

Sincerely,
John H. Reed”

April 26, 1967
“Hon. Robert M. Crocker
State House
Augusta, Maine
Dear ‘Bob’:

It is one of the easiest things that I have ever done in my life, to write and extend the best wishes of Ella and yours truly on this, the day when many many friends and admirers will be paying you a wonderful and greatly deserved tribute.

This could not happen to a more wonderful, down to earth, friendly and capable individual who has dedicated his life to handling the news in a straightforward, unbiased and able manner, all of which has endeared you to your fellow newsmen, as a leader in your field.

In addition, Bob, no person in either public or private life, could ever say other than, that you are the fairest, finest and most helpful newsman they have ever known.

Who am I to speak of you this way, well, we have spent some very close and wonderful years together during my years of public service, and no person ever shared my confidence, or maintained that confidence as did you over those years. I sought your advice and counsel at many times and you responded exactly as you always have over the years, with candor,

complete honesty and exactly as you saw the problem posed.

Ella and I were always so proud and happy to have you as one of the Blaine House family while we were in Augusta and our high esteem of you has never dimmed. We shall always think of you as a close and fine friend.

It makes me feel very badly not to be with your host of friends today, to pay a word of tribute to you in person, but, conditions of health just do not permit this right now, and I am sure you understand.

I do know that you will have a very wonderful day, and that it will be one that will be long remembered by you and your family. It is an honor that is richly deserved and Ella and I are so happy for you.

Please know we send our best with every good wish for the future.

Your old friend,

Sincerely,

Frederick G. Payne"

"Office of the
U. S. Commissioner General
Montreal, P. Q., Canada
April 11, 1967

Dear Bob:

I wish it were possible for me to be in Augusta on the day set aside to honor you. Since official duties here in Montreal prevent my attendance, I want you to know that I join with your many friends in extending warm personal greetings.

As one who has been very close to the political scene in Maine over the last two decades, I know that you have done an outstanding job in reporting news with clarity and objectivity.

I hope that the future will bring you every happiness.

Sincerely,

Stanley R. Tupper
Ambassador"

April 24, 1967

"Mr. Peter Damborg,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Peter:

I wrote you recently in answer to your invitation to the "Bob

Crocker Day" ceremonies that I hoped to be there. I sincerely did but now circumstances are such that I cannot. I regret it more than I can say.

I have such a high regard for Bob that I cannot let the occasion pass without a few words of tribute which I hope you will convey for me.

Although it is 20 years since Bob was assigned to Augusta it seems it was only yesterday.

As you know, I brought Bob into AP first as a temporary employee for legislative coverage on loan from the Lewiston Journal. He was one of the two-man temporary staff, the other being the illustrious Dwight Sargent of New York Herald Tribune and Nieman Foundation fame. Bob and Dwight gave us one of the best temporary staffs we ever had at the "Hub of Hell."

Then, later while he was with the Worcester Gazette, I was happy to hire him back as a regular member of the Portland AP staff. When our devoted friend "Doc" Arnold succumbed to the lure of Bangor News gold and independence I sent Bob to the State House. He was an immediate success, as I knew he would be.

In the succeeding years, while I directed AP affairs in Portland and later, before retirement, served as New England news editor for AP in Boston I always found a glow of satisfaction in Bob's work at Augusta.

Always the competent and trustworthy newsman, he is a credit to a profession which demands much of those who follow it. And above all, he is a gentleman of the first order. Would that I could have had just a small share of his splendid personality!

When Maine's legislators and other friends of Bob are paying deserved tribute to him I shall be there in spirit, at least. Give him my sincerest best regards and the same to his lovely wife.

Sincerely,

Francis R. Murphy"

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair wishes to introduce to the Convention at this time, Mr. Peter M.

Damborg, who is the Chairman of the General Committee of Bob Crocker Day, and I'll ask Mr. Damborg to escort Mrs. Crocker to the podium in order that we may make a presentation to her in recognition of our esteem.

The Clerk of the House will present a bouquet of flowers.

Whereupon, Mrs. Dorothy Crocker was presented a bouquet of red roses by the Clerk of the House, Mrs. Bertha W. Johnson, amid prolonged applause.

Mr. DAMBORG: Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Governor, distinguished Members of the House and Senate, Honored Guests:

Not much more needs to be said, but there are a few tangible things that we would like to present to Bob and Dot.

First off, I think Bob might like for his den the proclamation which the Governor has issued publicly and which has been read today, and I would ask the Governor at this point to present to Robert Merrow Crocker, the proclamation.

Whereupon, his Excellency, Governor Kenneth M. Curtis presented to the Honorable Robert M. Crocker a duly Attested Copy of the Proclamation amid applause.

Mr. DAMBORG: Bob, you've heard a few of the letters read that have come in, and there are even more that I understand came in on the late mail. We've put these together in an album for you and we know that you'll enjoy looking at these and your family will in the years to come.

Whereupon, Mr. Peter M. Damborg, presented to the Honorable Robert M. Crocker, an Album.

Mr. DAMBORG: One other little gift to sort of color this occasion is present in the Hall of the House and in the Well. I think I'll have to leave the microphone to make the presentation. I would ask both Bob and Mrs. Crocker to come with me as we present something to them which is really a real small token of the esteem that is obvious here today—that all of us hold for him and his family.

Whereupon, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Crocker were presented

with a Console Television Set, amid prolonged applause.

The CHAIRMAN: It seems only fitting and proper now that Bob should dance for his dinner! (Applause)

Bob, we'd be very pleased to hear such remarks as you might like to make.

Mr. CROCKER: Governor Curtis, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Reynolds, everyone who has combined to do me this great honor, this is really too much.

On the way in here Governor Curtis remarked, I suppose because of my blue serge suit, that I looked more like a Governor than he did! I can tell him right now that if governors feel like this when they stand up here, he doesn't have to fear any competition from me.

In some respects this experience is like being an observer at one's own funeral. I never expected to hear such kind remarks about me. It's different in two important respects, however, — my family and friends look much happier than I hope they would under those circumstances, and of course at a funeral, the guest of honor is not encouraged to respond!

The last time I was permitted to address the members in this hall I was twenty-one years old and had just been given a fountain pen, as a gracious token at the completion of a session as a page of the House.

I may enlarge somewhat on my speech at that time, but what I said then really sums up and concentrates essentially all what I can say now, at this incredible outpouring of friendship.

What I said then was "Thank you." And what I say now is "Thank you." And I hope that in some way I can convey to you, and to others who couldn't be here but who sent such warm greetings, some indication of how deeply grateful I am.

I want to express this not just for myself.

After all, about the most I can claim as an individual is that I stayed in one place for going on 20 years while others, more adventurous, perhaps, and more

gifted, stayed a while and then moved on; that by staying I have become a familiar figure to many of you and your predecessors; that I come to work most every day, and try to do a conscientious job, and familiarize myself with the people, places and events about which I write.

In other words, with the usual individual variations, I have done the same as any other professional newsman.

And so I must conclude that this heartwarming event honors me but also it honors the men and women doing the same kind of job in Maine and elsewhere. I reach this conclusion gladly, because if this were for me alone it would appear that this Legislature had made a bad mistake—and surely we don't want that on the record.

I should like to tell you about all the fine newsmen I know, but even those who are assigned here now in various news jobs would be too many to enumerate.

I can very easily list, however, the men who have preceded me as the Associated Press correspondent here.

Our Augusta office was opened on a full-time basis in 1929 by Walter "Bud" Martin, who is now an information writer for the Department of Economic Development. In the early '30's, he left and was succeeded by Bill Paxton, who before the war became State Aeronautics director for a while. His successor, who spent 12 years with AP before I came along, is known to all of you—Lorin "Doc" Arnold, whom the Legislature honored like this four years ago, when he was the political writer for the Bangor Daily News.

I couldn't begin to list all the people who have come and gone in the past two decades, even those on the AP staff. But I do want to mention those who have been in charge of the Maine AP service since I have been on the staff, because they have played an important, even if usually remote, part in the coverage we provide, as the basic State House news service for all the Maine

daily newspapers and many broadcasting stations.

These men are Frank Murphy, now retired, and who wrote a gracious letter; Earl Aronson, now chief of bureau in Albany; and Bill Langzettel, our correspondent in Portland for the past 10 years.

And with your permission I would like to mention the people who work with me now, presenting them as good workmen in their own right but more as representatives of the many others who preceded them: Bill Johnson who works mostly in the Senate; Jim Wilman, our broadcast wire editor; and Mrs. Jacqueline Gallant, our teletypesetter operator.

My first contact with the Legislature, as I have said, goes back much more than 20 years — nearly 30, in fact, to the 89th, in 1939. I had my introduction to it from Harvey Pease. Perhaps I should say my baptism of fire. With Bertha Johnson or even Jerry Plante as Clerk of the House, the pages nowadays don't know what it was to live under the lash. It did me good, and in the process I formed a friendship with Harvey which continues to this moment.

There is just one man who was a member that year who is a member now, and contrary to what some of you may think it isn't Louis Jalbert. It is Harold Bragdon, now one of your senior statesmen but then as much of a neophyte as I was — well, perhaps not quite, for I am sure that at that time I would have qualified easily as Mr. Jalbert's nominee for the title of "Youngest Man in the World."

Others still on hand in other capacities were here then, however. Senator Peter Mills was then a young representative. So was Sam Slosberg, who is now your Research Director. Regis Strout and Louise Adams Tripp were in the House office. Harold Schnurle was a member of the Executive Council. And Mac Noyes was a representative getting his early training to be a champion lobbyist.

Two years later I was back getting my first taste of legislative reporting as an Associated Press newsman, on leave from my new job as a reporter for the Lewiston

Journal. I no longer felt the sting of Harvey Pease's lash. I didn't need it. Frank Murphy was then Maine AP bureau chief and he had a lash of his own.

Various things intervened but in 1947 Frank brought me back into the AP and since the fall of that year I have labored here under the dome, watching with interest, often with fascination, sometimes with exasperation, the comings and goings of governors, legislators, councilors and the heads and employes of departments.

It came as a decided shock to me the other day, when I was reminiscing, to realize that my tenure here spans at least part of the administrations of all our living former governors except Governor Baxter.

The Legislature has honored me and my wife before. When our daughter was born in 1949, Representative Ed Muskie introduced an order which the House adopted naming her Janet Elaine. And ten years later on her birthday she sat up here with Speaker Joe Edgar as an honorary page for the day.

If you are hoping that this is going to be a detailed reminiscence of the past fifth of a century, you are going to be keenly disappointed. Perhaps that's not what you are thinking.

Anyway, there are only two more things I want to mention:

The first is to try to sum up a newsman's function. You would find some disagreement on that even in the news industry, but at least in the field of government reporting I think it is basically to interpret, on a continuing and connected basis, what all the branches and agencies — the executive, the legislature and the courts and their many subdivisions — are doing for, and sometimes to, the people. That's the core of it, as I see it, although the frothy feature and the flash-in-the-pan sensation have their places, too.

The product should be informed and accurate, of course, and literate without being ponderous. It should be readable without being trivial. And if possible it should be entertaining, although

other media are better equipped to carry out that function than is the newspaper. In other words, at this or any level of government it is a task of some significance and a job worth doing.

The second thing I would like to say is this:

While I have been on this job, it has been my privilege to observe on both public and private occasions some of the most earnest, and honest, and gifted people any state could ask.

The national recognition even now being given our United States senators and some of our former governors and congressmen supports this view.

The past 20 years has produced some exciting changes in Maine — in its schools through the Sinclair Act; in its attack on economic problems through such innovations as the Development Credit Corporation, the Industrial and Recreational Building Authorities and in other ways; in its jurisprudence through the District Court and adoption of the "Durham Rule." The process continues, as in the growing ferment to advance higher education, and to safeguard the wildlands for posterity.

Many of these things would have been hard to bring about and of little impact on the public I think without the news media to catch the public's attention. Some of them might possibly have failed.

And so if you can think of the news media as sharing your responsibility with God's help to work for the enlightenment and the best interests of all the people, and if you can think of me in a sense as representing the continuing concern which newsmen rightly have with public officials and events, then I can feel that I have done an adequate job.

And, in that spirit I am proud and happy to accept this wonderful tribute which you have expressed.

I thank you all, deeply. (Prolonged Applause, the audience rising)

The CHAIRMAN: The Convention will agree, I am sure, that this is a fitting point to bring to

an end this very memorable and pleasant ceremony.

At this point, the Governor, his distinguished guest and his suite withdrew, amid 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.

On motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland,
Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.