

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Third
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume II

May 10 to June 15, 1967

**KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

HOUSE

Wednesday, June 7, 1967

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Harold Rowley of Augusta.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Papers from the Senate

From the Senate: The following Order:

(For text of Senate Joint Order, S. P. 669, re: Education study, see Senate Record of June 6, 1967)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

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

Senate Reports of Committees Ought to Pass in New Draft

Report of the Committee on State Government on Bill "An Act Creating a State Planning Council, Planning Committees and a State Planning and Economic Analysis Office" (S. P. 437) (L. D. 1090) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 668) (L. D. 1696) under title of "An Act Creating a State Planning Office" and that it "Ought to pass"

Came from the Senate with the Report read and accepted and the New Draft passed to be engrossed.

In the House, the Report was read and accepted in concurrence, the New Draft read twice and tomorrow assigned.

Ought to Pass with Committee Amendment

Report of the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act Adopting the Uniform Arbitration Act" (S. P. 263) (L. D. 644) reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report of same Committee on Bill "An Act relating to Competence to Stand Trial and Release of Persons Found Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect" (S. P. 361) (L. D. 965) reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report of same Committee on Bill "An Act relating to Exemption

of Property from Attachment and Execution" (S. P. 538) (L. D. 1389) reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Came from the Senate with the Reports read and accepted and the Bills passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A".

In the House, Reports were read and accepted in concurrence and the Bills read twice. Committee Amendment "A" to each was read by the Clerk and adopted in concurrence, and tomorrow assigned for third reading of the Bills.

Divided Report Tabled and Assigned

Majority Report of the Committee on Judiciary reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Unjustified and Justified Abortions" (S. P. 215) (L. D. 478)

Report was signed by the following members:

Mr. HARDING of Aroostook
— of the Senate.

Messrs. DAREY
— of Livermore Falls
BERMAN of Houlton
DANTON
— of Old Orchard Beach
BRENNAN of Portland
QUINN of Bangor
— of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee on same Bill reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 667) (L. D. 1695) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. MILLS of Franklin
HILDRETH
— of Cumberland
— of the Senate.

Messrs. HEWES of Cape Elizabeth
FOSTER
— of Mechanic Falls
— of the House.

Came from the Senate with the Minority Report accepted and the Bill passed to be engrossed.

In the House: Reports were read.

(On motion of Mr. Quinn of Bangor, tabled pending acceptance of either Report and specially assigned for Friday, June 9.)

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act relating to Clothing Allowance for Employees of Public Works Department of Lewiston" (H. P. 293) (L. D. 413) on which the House accepted the Minority "Ought to pass" Report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and passed the Bill to be engrossed on June 2.

Came from the Senate with the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report accepted in non-concurrence.

In the House: On motion of Mr. Cote of Lewiston, the House voted to insist and ask for a Committee of Conference.

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act relating to Wearing Fluorescent Clothing When Hunting in Southern Zone for Two Years (H. P. 671) (L. D. 943) which was passed to be enacted in the House on June 2 and passed to be engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A" and House Amendment "B" on May 15.

Came from the Senate with Committee Amendment "A" and House Amendment "B" indefinitely postponed and the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" in non-concurrence.

In the House: On motion of Mr. Gaudreau of Lewiston, the House voted to recede and concur with the Senate.

**Non-Concurrent Matter
Tabled and Assigned**

Joint Order Recalling S. P. 371, L. D. 984, from Legislative Files (H. P. 1193) which was passed in the House on June 5.

Came from the Senate indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence.

In the House:

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, I note the absence of the gentleman from West Bath, Mr. Hennessey. I move this lie on the table until Friday.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, tabled pending further consideration and specially assigned for Friday, June 9.

Orders

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

Mr. MINKOWSKY: Mr. Speaker, does the House have in its possession L. D. 1438?

The SPEAKER: The Chair will answer in the affirmative, L. D. 1438, Bill "An Act relating to Retirement Benefits for Policemen and Firemen of the Lewiston Police and Fire Departments Under the State Retirement System."

Mr. MINKOWSKY: Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members of the House: I now move that the House reconsider its action whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed yesterday, for the purpose of adding an amendment to the effect that this bill become a referendum measure to the voters and citizens of Lewiston.

I am going to be brief and right to the point. This amendment would allow the citizens of Lewiston to decide for themselves at their next election if they want to accept 1438 or not. This, as far as I am concerned, is not a matter for the Legislature to decide but for the people of Lewiston to decide, who must foot the added expense to implement this bill. I respectfully request that the members of this body go along with me in the adoption of this amendment. I now offer House Amendment "A" to Senate Paper 568, L. D. 1438 and move its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman that the pending question is the motion to reconsider. Is it the pleasure of the House to reconsider its action of yesterday whereby the motion to indefinitely postpone was lost?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Gaudreau.

Mr. GAUDREAU: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I just want to remind the House that this was a unanimous Committee Report, there was no opposition at the hearing and I hope you vote against this motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will stand corrected. The pending question would be to reconsider our action whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed in concurrence yesterday.

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to set the record straight. I am not going to even debate the merits of the measure. It is a straight ought to pass report of the Committee. The record that I want to set straight brings me to ask a twofold question. Number one, at the hearing was the price tag of this measure discussed of something in the vicinity of \$18,000 a year? Number two, did the Mayor of Lewiston go along with this measure at the hearing?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, poses several questions through the Chair to the opposition of this bill and any member may answer who chooses.

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, my questions were to any member of the Legal Affairs Committee.

The SPEAKER: The question is directed to any member of the Legal Affairs Committee, they may answer if they choose, and the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Orrington, Mrs. Baker.

Mrs. BAKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: My records do not indicate that there was any price tag attached or discussed at the hearing on 1438. There was another bill similar to that and we asked the price and they said that it had not been determined, it would be almost impossible to estimate. In regards to whether or not the Mayor testified on 1438, I have no record of his testimony.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chelsea, Mr. Shaw.

Mr. SHAW: My records on that hearing was that the Mayor was there and he appeared in favor of the bill, and Mr. Isaacson of the Finance Committee of Lewiston I believe it was said that this would affect seven people presently and they didn't know what it would affect later on.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Minkowsky, that the House reconsider its action of yesterday whereby

this bill was passed to be engrossed in concurrence. All those in favor will vote yes and those opposed will vote no and the Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken.

92 having voted in the affirmative and 30 having voted in the negative, the motion to reconsider did prevail.

Mr. Minkowsky of Lewiston offered House Amendment "A" and moved it adoption.

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

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S. P. 568, L. D. 1438, Bill, "An Act Relating to Retirement Benefits for Policemen and Firemen of the Lewiston Police and Fire Departments Under the State Retirement System."

Amend said Bill by adding at the end the following referendum:

Referendum; effective date; certificate to Secretary of State.

This Act shall take effect 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters of the City of Lewiston at the next regular city election.

The city clerk shall prepare the required ballots on which he shall reduce the subject matter of this Act to the following question:

"Shall the Act Relating to Retirement Benefits for Policemen and Firemen of the Lewiston Police and Fire Departments Under the State Retirement System, passed by the 103rd Legislature, be accepted?" The voters shall indicate by a cross or checkmark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same.

This Act shall take effect for all purposes hereof upon its acceptance by a majority vote of the legal voters voting at said election; provided that the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this Act at said election equals or exceeds 20% of the total vote for all candidates for Governor in said city at the next preceding gubernatorial election.

The result of such election shall be declared by the municipal officers of the City of Lewiston and due certificate filed by the city clerk with the Secretary of State.'

House Amendment "A" was adopted, the Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A" in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

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

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire through the Chair if the House is in possession of L. D. 936?

The SPEAKER: The Chair will inform the gentleman in the affirmative.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, I now move that we reconsider our action whereby this bill was indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, now moves that the House reconsider its action whereby this Bill "An Act relating to Election of School Board of City of Old Town" was indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence. Is this the pleasure of the House?

(Cries of "No")

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Old Town, Mr. Binnette.

Mr. BINNETTE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of this House: I arise this morning in opposition to the motion to reconsider L. D. 936 presented by my good friend, the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, on the grounds that this bill was very well debated yesterday and voted on with the following results, 95 to 31. While I am on my feet I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of my constituents and myself in supporting me in the defeat of this measure and once again I thank you for your efforts, and now I plead with you urging you to please vote against reconsideration of this measure. Thank you.

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

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Old Town, Mr. Binnette says, this bill was debated yesterday at some length. It came out of Committee with three reports, Report A with five signers, Report B with three signers, and Report C with two

signers. The debate yesterday will bear out the fact that all of the debate were by persons favoring either report A or report B, but suddenly a motion was made to indefinitely postpone all of the reports. I think that at this time of the year the House perhaps thought this would be a good way of disposing of something that was of a local nature so they just went along with this without further discussion, so I think that we should consider the motions that were debated yesterday and not the indefinite postponement, and I request that a vote be taken on the reconsideration motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I thought this was quite thoroughly debated yesterday and I hope that I don't have to bore you with a lot of conversation this morning. I have stood in this House on many occasions and gone along with what I thought was home rule, and in this case in Old Town only just two years ago the people voted on a referendum as wanting this method that they now have for selecting their School Board, one from each ward and one at large, nothing wrong with that. However, the only argument is that one ward may be bigger or smaller than the other; that has nothing to do with it because some of the wards are a long ways out of town, West Old Town, Veazie — Still-water rather, these are part of Old Town. These people should have a right to say something about the schools of Old Town and the people have so set forth that in their desire by referendum and I don't think this House should come down here and try to force upon these people something that is against their wishes, and I hope that we don't have to debate this further when it was defeated yesterday by ninety some votes. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, that the House recon-

sider its action of yesterday whereby Senate Paper 352, L. D. 936 was indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence. All of those in favor of reconsideration will vote yes, those opposed will vote no and the Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken. 69 having voted in the affirmative and 50 having voted in the negative, the motion to reconsider did prevail.

The SPEAKER: The pending question now is the indefinite postponement of L. D. 936. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker, I now hope that the House will reconsider its action whereby this bill was indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The question now before the House is the indefinite postponement of this bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Limerick, Mr. Carroll.

Mr. CARROLL: In the grand month of March I arose in this House and informed this House you would be here in August. We killed this bill yesterday, got it out of the way, and you are right back reconsidering today. If you keep stalling around and keep playing around, you won't only be here until August, you will be here in December. Now I urge you all to vote as we did yesterday to indefinitely postpone this bill and let's stop this pussy-footing around.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. Beliveau.

Mr. BELIVEAU: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Very briefly, yesterday I rose to discuss briefly the history behind this bill and that there were in effect three different reports and I supported Report B and that was a compromise on my part to permit the voters of Old Town to determine for themselves what type of a school board, election or appointment they wanted. Now yesterday the motion for indefinite postponement was carried by a very substantial margin, and as a signer of Report B I wholeheartedly support the motion for indefinite postponement and I trust that we will all be consistent in our actions here

and that we will vote again today for indefinite postponement.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question? All those in favor of the indefinite postponement of Senate Paper 352, L. D. 936, "An Act relating to Election of School Board of City of Old Town" will vote yes, those opposed will vote no and the Chair will open the vote.

A vote of the House was taken. 47 having voted in the affirmative and 67 having voted in the negative, the motion to indefinitely postpone did not prevail.

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

Mr. ROSS: I move that Report A be accepted in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, now moves that Report A be accepted in concurrence.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kingman Township, Mr. Starbird.

Mr. STARBIRD: Mr. Speaker, I move this lie on the table until the next legislative day.

Mr. Ross of Bath requested a vote.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Kingman Township, Mr. Starbird, now moves that this bill be tabled until Thursday, June 8, pending the motion of the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, to accept Report A. All of those in favor of this matter being tabled will vote yes, those opposed will vote no and the Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken. 32 having voted in the affirmative and 90 having voted in the negative, the tabling motion did not prevail.

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, inadvertently, I voted in the wrong direction a minute or so ago. On this measure sometimes it is easier to fight for your neighbor than it is to fight for yourself. Now there are not six Legislators representing Old Town, there is only one. There happens to be six in my community and I have always felt that five to one or four to two would win a ball game; sometimes it doesn't.

However, in this particular situation, this particular problem, the citizens, the good citizens of Old Town have indicated that they want a status quo on this measure, and wisely so yesterday this House agreed with their thinking. Furthermore, the gentleman from Old Town must have some semblance of integrity when he repeatedly overwhelmingly is sent back by his constituents to represent Old Town, and I hold no brief for the gentleman from Old Town, Mr. Binnette, because in his tenure here his battling average opposing me far supersedes mine opposing him, so it puts me in an even better position.

Regardless of that fact, what's right is right and what's wrong is wrong, and insofar as I am concerned it makes no difference to me all things being equal in all directions how long we're here so long as we go along and do things in my opinion properly. The people in 1965 indicated a status quo on this thing. We did so yesterday. We should today. Mr. Speaker, in all sense of fairness I move the indefinite postponement of this measure and all of its accompanying papers.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I rise in support of the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston to indefinitely postpone this measure. Now I don't know if you have taken the time to look at this piece of legislation, but Report B is trying to put something down the throats of the people in Old Town which they don't desire and don't have a chance to vote in referendum. Now the compromise part of this report wasn't quite as bad because it gave the people a chance in Old Town to once again vote and accept what they now have. I think it is wrong for us to come down here for any town or city and try to put something — make them accept something that is against their wishes and we just a few minutes ago accepted a referendum for the City of Lewiston to decide an issue by referendum. As I told you before on at least two oc-

casions, the people of Old Town have already decided this issue by referendum only two years ago.

Now if this House doesn't feel like they want to indefinitely postpone this bill, then the least we should do if we decide to pass it is make sure that there is a referendum on it so that these people can have a referendum and decide what method they decide to elect the members of their school board. I would want them to do that in your town and I hope that my town would have the same privilege, and I only want to extend to others, or in other words do unto others like I expect you to do unto me, and I hope this morning that you will go along and support the motion to indefinitely postpone, and while I am on my feet, if you decide not to, you will at least have the courtesy of putting an amendment on this to the extent that the people of Old Town will once again vote on an issue that they just voted on two years ago.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will stand corrected and advise the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert that his motion to indefinitely postpone is not in order because it was just defeated 47 to 67. However, if the motion to adopt Report A fails, it will have the same effect as indefinite postponement.

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, after the motion for indefinite postponement made was lost, there was a motion made to table and that was defeated. Consequently, the motion to accept the Report A brings about my motion to indefinitely postpone the whole bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman and the Chair so rules, that indefinite postponement was lost 47 to 67. However, if Report A is defeated, it has the same effect as indefinite postponement.

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

Mr. JALBERT: I will not question the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is the motion of the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, that the House accept Report A.

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

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move indefinite postponement of Report A.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman that the motion is not in order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I endorsed doing away with the bill altogether. However, that motion didn't stand so I ask you to vote against accepting Report A because that doesn't have a referendum. That's the part that tries to say you must do it without referendum. So if we must have the bill I think we must give the people a chance to decide for themselves, so we will have to vote against this motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is the motion of the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, that the House accept Report A on Senate Paper 352, L. D. 936, Bill "An Act relating to Election of School Board of City of Old Town. All those in favor of accepting Report A "Ought to pass" will vote yes; those opposed will vote no, and the Chair will open the vote.

A vote of the House was taken.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 54 in the negative, Report A "Ought to pass" was accepted in concurrence, the Bill read twice and tomorrow assigned for third reading.

On motion of Mr. Sahagian of Belgrade, it was

ORDERED, that Pamela Peters, Stephen Champlin and Kathy Welch of the Mt. Vernon Elementary School be appointed to serve as Honorary Pages for today.

On motion of Mr. Hinds of South Portland, it was

ORDERED, that Glenn Phinney of New Brighton, Minnesota be appointed to serve as Honorary Page for today.

House Reports of Committees Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act to Increase Cigarette Tax Two Cents"

(H. P. 122) (L. D. 148) reporting "Ought not to pass", as covered by other legislation.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. WYMAN of Washington
YOUNG of Hancock
— of the Senate.

Messrs. ROSS of Bath
HANSON of Gardiner
ROBINSON of Carmel
SUSI of Pittsfield
— of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought to pass" on same Bill.

Report was signed by the following members:

Mr. FARLEY of York
— of the Senate.

Messrs. COTTRELL of Portland
DRIGOTAS of Auburn
HARRIMAN of Hollis
— of the House.

Reports were read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Cottrell.

Mr. COTTRELL: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: As a signer of the Minority Report I just want to remind you that in bringing this bill out in this way as covered by other legislation refers I believe to the budget bill and tax bill which we were discussing yesterday in which the cigarette tax in that respect is going to come out with a one percent increase as I understand it. I don't think there is any use of my opposing the report of the committee here, but I do want to suggest that as I understand it, the cigarette tax bill is being reduced to 1c and is being brought out in another form.

Thereupon, the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Divided Report Tabled and Assigned

Majority Report of the Committee on Taxation reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act Exempting Gas for Cooking and Heating in Homes from Sales Tax" (H. P. 813) (L. D. 1189)

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. WYMAN of Washington

FARLEY of York
— of the Senate.
Messrs. HANSON of Gardiner
ROBINSON of Carmel
DRIGOTAS of Auburn
HARRIMAN of Hollis
COTTRELL of Portland
— of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought to pass" on same Bill.

Report was signed by the following members:

Mr. YOUNG of Hancock
— of the Senate.
Messrs. ROSS of Bath
SUSI of Pittsfield
— of the House.

(On motion of Mr. Susi of Pittsfield, tabled pending acceptance of either Report and specially assigned for Friday, June 9.)

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act relating to Excise Tax on Motor Vehicles" (H. P. 1037) (L. D. 1506), which was recommitted, reporting same in a new draft (H. P. 1194) (L. D. 1697) under same title and that it "Ought to pass."

Report was signed by the following members:

Mr. WYMAN of Washington
— of the Senate.
Messrs. COTTRELL of Portland
SUSI of Pittsfield
HANSON of Gardiner
ROBINSON of Carmel
DRIGOTAS of Auburn
ROSS of Bath
HARRIMAN of Hollis
— of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought not to pass" on same Bill.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. YOUNG of Hancock
FARLEY of York
— of the Senate.

Reports were read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Lewin.

Mr. LEWIN: Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance of the Majority "Ought to pass" Report and I would speak to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Lewin, moves the acceptance of the Majority Report.

Mr. Lycette of Houlton requested a division.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Lewin.

Mr. LEWIN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

As you know, the Cities and Towns throughout Maine are searching for additional sources of revenue to stabilize the ever increasing burden of the property tax.

It so happens, however, that at this session of the Legislature we have been considering the following tax Bills which, if enacted, could result in revenue losses to the Maine Communities. I might give a few examples: L. D. 224—exempting boats and motors from taxation; L. D. 407—exempting TV sets from taxation. This Bill alone would cost one city over \$20,000.

Then we have L. D.'s all pertaining to exemptions for persons over 65; exempting farm machinery from taxation; a tax exemption for charitable and benevolent institutions; exempting persons over 65 from paying poll taxes, and another one exempting Paraplegic veterans from real estate taxation.

With all the Bills mentioned being considered, I believe that consideration should be given to the vehicle excise tax.

Just what does the vehicle excise tax mean to our many Maine Communities? It furnishes a revenue vitally important to each and everyone of them. If there were no excise taxes on vehicles today, no doubt there would be a personal property tax on them. A property tax is not a graduated tax. Each year the tax remains the same although the item may be getting older. But the vehicle excise tax is gradually lowered each year. L. D. 1697 simply calls for a one mill increase across the board. Now just what does this mean? To a person buying a \$3,000 car, and I am quoting the factory price, it means that he will pay \$3.00 more or \$1.00 per thousand. You

have a paper showing sample rates which was distributed this morning. To pick two cars at random, one belonging to a Mr. O'Connell, a Ford showing a factory list price of \$2535. My car, although I paid \$3500 or a little over for it, the factory list price is \$2852 and that is where we figure the tax. A car normally travels an average of one hour a day while a truck of necessity travels several hours a day through our towns and cities. I wanted to bring this point up.

Now what do the people want in our respective communities? The answer is "Services". Our streets need constant repair, being subject, as they are today to heavy traffic including that of trucks of all types. In winter you all know of the cost of snow removal to keep our vehicles rolling, as well as the requirement of salt to melt the snow and sand to prevent the accidents, just to name a few. This all costs money. I might say being a member of the City Council in Augusta, that in 1966 Augusta paid nearly \$100,000 for snow removal alone. We all know if we are to have services we must have money for them. Excise taxes have not been changed in many years, however the cost of services is continually increasing. I would call your attention to the fact that we were sent to this legislature to represent our communities and they look to us for assistance. I feel that this is one area where we can assist them. This is not a plea for Augusta, this is a plea for all communities in our great State. May I simply state one example. If this L. D. receives favorable consideration, a community having 1300 persons paying excise taxes will get an extra \$20,000.

I believe that L. D. 1697 is fair, is feasible and is timely to help the many Maine Communities. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Lewin, moves that the House accept the Majority "Ought to pass" Report in New Draft. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, the New Draft read twice and tomorrow assigned.

Passed to Be Engrossed Amended Bills

Bill "An Act relating to Foreclosure of Bonds for Deeds and Contracts for Sale of Real Estate" (S. P. 336) (L. D. 869)

Bill "An Act Creating the Maine Higher Education Development Authority" (S. P. 495) (L. D. 1257)

Bill "An Act relating to Dividends and Stock Held by Unknown Stockholders" (S. P. 503) (L. D. 1218)

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

Bill "An Act Providing a Bond Issue in the Amount of Fifty-nine Thousand Dollars for Constructing a Day School in Central Maine for the Mentally Retarded" (S. P. 466) (L. D. 1158)

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.

Passed to Be Enacted Bond Issue

An Act to Authorize the Reconstruction and Elimination of Hazardous Locations on Portions of State Route 6 (H. P. 404) (L. D. 570)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Perham, Mr. Bragdon.

Mr. BRAGDON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Frankly, I don't know exactly what I am going to say. I don't think that I wish, really, to speak against. I see I am getting my messages, perhaps I had better read them afterwards. I don't feel that I want to speak against this particular project, this particular bond issue which we have before us, I looked up but I didn't find out whether it's 4 million or 4½ but it really doesn't matter, it's one or the other.

The point that I would like to speak to is when is this House going to get into the area of fiscal responsibility. We have gone along passing bond issue after bond issue and having a good idea of some that are likely to come later, we can well end up in the area of \$70 million of bond issues that we are proposing or have passed or probably will pass to put out to the people.

To back up a little on this road proposition, I regret, personally, that we did not give more serious consideration to the passage of a cent on the gas tax and help pay for our road construction deals more or less on a pay as you go basis. That way we could have eliminated possibly our \$16 million bond issue, or most of it, and been on a good, sound financial basis. This way, if we pass this one, as we have the others, we are submitting to the people in excess of \$24 million for road construction in this coming biennium. And this on top of others that I can see coming up unless we do something to stop this wagon in its tracks, before we get out of here the people are going to be faced with an area of \$70 million of bond issues where we presently only have, after all these years, something like 80, so we are almost doubling our bonded indebtedness if we persist in this course that we are taking.

Now, this matter is up for final enactment. I think this is all that I wish to convey to this House and I don't know yet how I shall vote myself.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kingman Township, Mr. Starbird.

Mr. STARBIRD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I can appreciate the concern of Mr. Bragdon of Perham, over the numerous bond issues we have this year. I can also see where probably the most of them are probably quite necessary to those who have originally sponsored or backed them. In this particular case, we have a road which now runs across the entire breadth of the State of Maine from Vanceboro on the Canadian line to New Brunswick in the East to Jackman

and north following along 201 to the border of Quebec.

It is a road that in my area from Vanceboro through to Lincoln, for the most part is quite undeveloped. From Lincoln to Lee over the last eight or ten years, it has been reconstructed and is in fairly good shape, but from Lee on to Vanceboro I would like, I would truly like to have some of you people take a trip over it sometime. It is a series of roller coasters, upside down corkscrews, hairbreadth turns, a very scenic area but also very dangerous.

There are other areas over in the western end of the State that are almost as bad, if not worse, but I haven't traversed the entire length of the road although I intend to do so sometime, but on those areas in the central and western area of the State that I have traversed, there are many stretches that are the same. As you well know, I worked on our interim committee concerning corridor highways across the State, and we came to the conclusion that we should rebuild the entire length of Route 6 and that it would come to the cost of about \$23 million, some odd hundred thousand dollars.

We recommended that this be issued. However, it was not. Instead, we have this bond issue which the Highway Committee has been kind enough through a redraft to raise from the original eight hundred and some odd thousand, to three million and I feel it is a very moderate figure and I do not feel that it is excessive in view of the condition of this road and I very earnestly beg you to enact this measure today.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Nadeau.

Mr. NADEAU: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: After hearing Mr. Bragdon which I have a good deal of respect for figures, I would like to move that Item 1 be indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lincoln, Mr. Porter.

Mr. PORTER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I don't

like bond issues either and you will remember awhile ago I spoke in favor of the gas tax. However, the international committee which has been working for this corridor road has visited with the Highway Commissioners several times and we have been informed that there is absolutely no money for construction of this route. We have tried and tried again to try to get the money out of the highway funds, but we were unsuccessful.

Then we came to the conclusion that the only way we could get this fixed up would be by a bond issue. We don't like bond issues, but we don't like that road, either, so I certainly hope that you will favor this road.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am reluctant also, to speak of this piece of road since I have been so ineffective here in my recent conversation before you. However, as a member of the Highway Committee that heard this bill, it was very well attended by many people some of whom would have liked to have extended it to \$23 million and we reported out the modest amount of \$3 million. I would like to make this well known \$3 million, the gentleman from Perham, Mr. Bragdon, thought it was 4½, but it is 3 million and we figure it's a modest amount and it had the unanimous Report of our Committee on Highways.

Now let me further say that we didn't report this out without giving some consideration to the bond issue, the total bond issue for highway bonds, the State of Maine has now outstanding. Now let me say that one of the first considerations we took into consideration was the fact that during the next few years we are retiring quite a few, some 16 or 17½ million, in that neighborhood I — it seems to me to strike me as being about 17½ million will retire in the next three years.

Now for this reason, this extra 3 million wouldn't hurt. Now let me say a word in relation to what we pointed out to our Committee.

Maine, if you can visualize the State of Maine runs way up into Canada with a big hump point when you start speaking about Madawaska, etc., it runs way up into Canada. At the present time the Canadians can cut across Maine saving them some three hundred miles of travel. We, on the Committee, thought that this was a good investment because if we would make this road just passable, so that these Canadians could cross it, we would get a lot of money back in gas tax.

Let me show you how this works. Canada has going from Fredericton to Quebec City, Trans-Canada, which is a beautiful highway like our Interstate, but it goes up around the hump in Maine into Fredericton. By coming from Fredericton across Route 6 they save approximately three hundred miles and that means several hours of travel. Now, we can foresee a tremendous amount of money being spent in gasoline and products that they buy en route, along this route, so that this \$3 million would be paid back to us many times if we just make this road passable.

Now you mind we are not trying to make this road a super highway, we're not trying to make this road even what I consider a first class road, we are trying to make it passable because, as Mr. Starbird has told you, there are actually places where the corduroy is coming up through, and it does have long stretches that are good, from Milo to Guilford is good, we have quite a good stretch from Guilford to Greenville that is good, but we have a bad place in Rockwood on that end, and we have some bad places on the end over right where the Canadians enter, and it was pointed out to the Committee that many have crossed at Vanceboro, Maine, entered Maine and returned back to the crossing place and said, I had to turn back, I'm going another route.

So many of them come and cross at Vanceboro at the present time and the road being so bad right where they enter that they then turn back and we feel as though the State of Maine can't afford to have our tourists turn back when,

with such a small amount of money, can make it passable so they can actually cross Maine.

I do hope that this bill will receive passage and I know that the rest of the Highway Committee does.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Berman.

Mr. BERMAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This morning I arise to support this legislative document 570 presented by my good friend from Milo, Mr. Trask, which has been very capably endorsed by my good friend, the gentlewoman from Guilford, Mrs. White and my good friend, the gentleman from Lincoln, Mr. Porter.

I have had occasion within the past two weeks to travel in the eastern part of Penobscot County and the western part of Washington County over this very highway. And I was frankly amazed that in this area of hard working relatively poor people on a corridor road that such a poor highway should exist. This is an area, ladies and gentlemen, that has been long neglected by the people of the State of Maine, eastern Penobscot County and western Washington County. The amount on this bond issue, frankly, is very reasonable, the potential in this area is tremendous and I do hope that the House will go along with this bond issue and vote against the motion for indefinite postponement.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Freeport, Mr. Crockett.

Mr. CROCKETT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As House Chairman of this Committee, we went through this bill very thorough, we had a good attendance and everybody was certainly in agreement with the condition of the road. You have heard it explained here, the condition, and there is no exaggeration at all, but the gospel truth they have told you. Now, this would be a great asset to the State of Maine if we put this bill through for the benefit of the traveling public and the people of the State of Maine.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Solon, Mr. Hanson.

Mr. HANSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This Route 6 serves a considerable area in my district and I know this to be very important to these people. I would therefore wholeheartedly support for the reconstruction and improvement of this corridor highway.

I would like to point out another factor, however, this would benefit other areas of the State. I happen to live in Solon which is on Route 201 and over the last several years, the traffic from Canada south on 201 has increased tremendously. There are periods of time when you see nothing but Canadian cars and sometimes as many as a hundred in a row during the summer months and they are heading south, down to the beaches. Well, now, of course, they do use Route 201 and this brings them down towards Old Orchard and down to Bath and Brunswick area, that way. However, if this Route 6 were developed it would not be a much greater distance bearing east on Route 6 to the areas in Bucksport and Washington County, down along the beaches there, and I would feel that this Route 6 would benefit these areas, too, in the traffic, the movement of the Canadian people south during the summer months.

Another important factor is the development of several large recreational areas in northern Somerset, and of course in Franklin County we have the Enchanted Mountain Ski Area in Jackman, the Sugarloaf area, the proposed Flagstaff and the proposed Bigelow area, and Route 6, a lateral highway from the east is at a good position to service these areas. They can take off at Abbot Village on Route 16 and go over toward Kingfield, Sugarloaf, Flagstaff area, and of course Route 6 going north up to Rockwood to Jackman will service the Enchanted Mountain Ski area, and there is a great potential in the Bangor area for the ski areas. I would further concur with the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley, in that several por-

tions of this road are in very very good condition. I travel quite frequently the road from Guilford to Greenville and this is a very fine highway; however, between Rockwood and Jackman the road is very very bad, in many areas it is actually dirt road and they have undertaken some construction, but if we could fill in these bad sections and make them serviceable, why we would have a very good highway which would service the northern part of the state, and I feel it would be very beneficial both to the State and to my district. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guilford, Mrs. White.

Mrs. WHITE: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This is a bill of which I have had a tremendous interest for some two and a half years. First, as a member of the Corridor Road Committee and since last year special session as a member of the Feasibility Study Committee. I hope you have read this Committee's report and agree with us that the enactment of this bill and the subsequent reconstruction of parts of Route 6 will be of great economic value to the central part of our State.

When we come down here as legislators, I am sure we all want to do something tangibly good for our own areas. This is the thing that I have felt would be of great help to my area, but I am grateful that I don't have to be completely selfish because, as you know, it will help three other counties in the state, Washington, Penobscot and Somerset.

This is some 209 miles long, there are some 45,000 people living along Route 6, and I feel that it is surely going to be of economic value to a large area of the State. I hope very much that you will support us in our efforts to improve our area and when the vote is taken, Mr. Speaker, I ask that it be a roll call.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Glenburn, Mr. Cookson.

Mr. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I too rise in support of this L. D. 517.

This highway would not only solve as a tremendous short cut for commercial transportation from New Brunswick Province through Quebec and points west along the Saint Lawrence but does pass through some of the finest recreational areas in the State of Maine or anywhere else in the country. And this would do a tremendous thing for the State of Maine to get this in shape and I strongly urge the passage of this L. D.

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

Mr. PENDERGAST: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to make the following comment. I wonder if the members of the House realize how many referendum questions we will be asking Mr. Voter to vote on in November of this year? My guess it will be over ten. I think the voter will make short work out of most of these and vote, no. I recall the voters voted down two out of three in June of 1966. I think this bill has merit but I think I am going to vote against this item for this reason.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Nadeau.

Mr. NADEAU: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I understand that this is also one of those deals that is going on that we didn't bother getting Federal funds for. I now withdraw my motion and hope that you will vote no knowing that they need two-thirds to enact it, I hope you will vote no.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to point just one or two small items, I very seldom get up more than once. First of all the gentleman from Kennebunkport, Mr. Pendergast, I note that he is quite interested in the highway bond issue and he wasn't concerned then—the airport, I am sorry, he didn't have too much concern about bond issues then. Let me further point out that this highway bond issue there is only going to be two before the people in the next elec-

tion, and that is this Route 6 proposition and a bridge in Lewiston. Those are the only two highway bond issues before the people in the next election. Now, the bond issues that Mr. Pendergast is speaking about are going to be on the next general election. Now this particular bond issue, along with the Lewiston Bridge, are not going to be on the next general election, they are going to be on the next election, which is a primary election, and these big bond issues for airports and education and so forth, most of them are going to be on the next general election.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Waldoboro, Mr. Waltz.

Mr. WALTZ: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: First, I certainly wish to endorse and concur and coincide with the thinking as expressed by Mr. Bragdon of Perham. I firmly believe in this pay as you go on a deal. I also concur with the expressions made by the other members of the House except in one instance. This road, or rather this bond issue of \$3 million is to build a road through an extremely picturesque and to a certain extent undeveloped part of the State of Maine. I know of nowhere, where in my belief we could spend money to better advantage. This may seem somewhat amusing to you members of the House, but in executive session when this bill was discussed in the Highway Committee, the only disagreement in the Committee was as to the amount of money that they should approve. It varied from the amount that was asked for in the original bill of eight hundred-odd thousand dollars up to an amount of, I think around 23 or 25 million, and I don't think that any member of the committee disagreed with the maximum amount. However, we did feel that it was unwise to authorize or approve a bond issue which might cause the public to back away from. Consequently we went along with the \$3 million.

I'd like to point out to the members of the House, and I think most of you will agree with me that I am, shall I say, somewhat conservative and economically

minded. I call your attention to the objection that I raised some few days ago to the Highway Allocation Fund, and also that I signed the Minority Report of one in opposition to the \$16 million 600 hundred-odd thousand for highway bonds. I sincerely believe, I sincerely urge every member of this House to vote in approval of this particular item that is before us today.

The SPEAKER: The Chair understands that the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Nadeau, requests permission to withdraw his motion to indefinitely postpone. Is this the pleasure of the House? It's a vote.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Nadeau.

Mr. NADEAU: Mr. Speaker, could I ask any member of this Committee to tell me why they go on building and spending when we know there are no federal funds?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Sanford, Mr. Nadeau, poses a question through the Chair to any member of the Highway Committee who may answer.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker—well, first let me steer this man straight. There are federal funds available; this is a federal-aid secondary road, and federal-aid primary. Some of it is federal-aid secondary and some of it is federal-aid primary and all the money we spend is matched by the Federal Government.

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

Mrs. CARSWELL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have traveled this section several times coming in from Canada, and it will be a shame if we don't open the door to the Canadians to come into this area.

Now Enchanted Mountain is going to be, in the final analysis, it's going to be both a summer and winter resort. They have great plans for that, and I do hope that the House of Representatives will think of the economy of the State of Maine and open this door

so that we can bring more Canadians and their money into our State.

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of Article 9 of the Constitution, a two thirds affirmative vote of the House is necessary for its final enactment. The yeas and nays have been requested. For the Chair to order a roll call it must have the expressed desire of one fifth of the members present and voting. All of those desiring a roll call will vote yes, those opposed will vote no, and the Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken, and more than one fifth of the members present having expressed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is the enactment of House Paper 404, L. D. 570, An Act to Authorize the Reconstruction and Elimination of Hazardous Locations on Portions of State Route 6, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two thirds affirmative vote of the House is necessary for its enactment. All those in favor of this bill being enacted will vote yes, those opposed will vote no, and the Chair opens the vote.

ROLL CALL

YEA — Allen, Baker, E. B.; Baker, R. E.; Belanger, Beliveau, Benson, Berman, Bernard, Binnette, Birt, Boudreau, Bourgoin, Brennan, Brown, Buck, Bunker, Burnham, Carey, Carrier, Carroll, Caswell, Champagne, Clark, Conley, Cookson, Cornell, Cote, Cottrell, Crockett, Crommett, Curran, Cushing, D'Alfonso, Darey, Dennett, Drigotas, Drummond, Dudley, Edwards, Evans, Ewer, Farrington, Fecteau, Fortier, Fraser, Fuller, Gaudreau, Gauthier, Giroux, Hall, Hanson, B. B.; Hanson, H. L.; Hanson, P. K.; Harnois, Harvey, Hawes, Haynes, Healy, Henley, Hichens, Hoover, Humphrey, Hunter, Immonen, Jalbert, Jameson, Jannelle, Keyte, Kilroy, Kyes, Lebel, Levesque, Lewin, Lewis, Lincoln, Littlefield, Maddox, Martin, McMann, McNally, Meisner, Miliano, Minkowsky, Mosher, Nad-

eau, N. L.; Philbrook, Pike, Porter, Prince, Rackliff, Richardson, G. A.; Richardson, H. L.; Rideout, Robertson, Robinson, Ross, Sahagian, Sawyer, Scott, C. F.; Scott, G. W.; Scribner, Shaw, Snow, P. J.; Soulas, Starbird, Sullivan, Susi, Thompson, Townsend, Trask, Truman, Waltz, Watts, Wheeler, White, Wight, Williams, Wood.

NAY — Durgin, Eustis, Gill, Harriman, Hewes, Hinds, Huber, Jewell, Nadeau, J. F. R.; Pendergast, Snowe, P.

ABSENT — Bedard, Bradstreet, Bragdon, Couture, Crosby, Danton, Dickinson, Dunn, Foster, Hennessey, Hodgkins, Lycette, Noyes, Payson, Quimby, Quinn, Rocheleau, Roy, Shute, Tanguay.

Yes, 118, No, 11; Absent, 20.

The SPEAKER: One hundred and eighteen having voted in the affirmative and eleven in the negative, one hundred and eighteen being more than two thirds, the Bill is passed to be enacted, it will be signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bond Issue

An Act to Authorize Construction of Self-Liquidating Student Housing and Dining Facilities for the State Colleges and Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute and Eastern Maine Vocational Technical Institute and the Issuance of Not Exceeding \$6,-712,000 Bonds of the State of Maine for the Financing Thereof (H. P. 1160) (L. D. 1659)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution a two-thirds vote of the House being necessary, a total was taken. 118 voted in favor of same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Allocate Moneys for the Administrative Expenses of the State Liquor Commission for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30,

1968 and June 30, 1969 (H. P. 82) (L. D. 112)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken, 116 voted in favor of same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure Tabled and Assigned

An Act Continuing Governor's Advisory Council on the Status of Women (H. P. 766) (L. D. 1113)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken, 95 voted in favor of same and 21 against.

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

Mr. RICHARDSON: I request this be tabled until the next legislative day.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman that he may consider requesting a roll call.

Mr. Benson of Southwest Harbor requested a roll call.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Southwest Harbor requests a roll call. For the Chair to order a roll call it must have the expressed desire of one fifth of the members present and voting. All of those in favor of a roll call will vote yes and those opposed will vote no.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland, tabled pending the ordering of a roll call and specially assigned for tomorrow.

Emergency Measure Tabled and Assigned

An Act Appropriating Moneys for the Continuing Activities of the Committee on Aging (H. P. 866) (L. D. 1279)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and

strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure and a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 98 voted in favor of same and 17 against.

Mr. Richardson of Cumberland requested a roll call.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been requested. For the Chair to order a roll call it must have the expressed desire of one fifth of the members present and voting. Those desiring a roll call will vote yes, those opposed will vote no and the Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken, and more than one fifth of the members present having expressed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

(On motion of Mr. Benson of Southwest Harbor, tabled pending passage to be enacted and specially assigned for Thursday, June 8.)

Passed to Be Enacted

An Act relating to Appointment of the Deputy Secretary of State (S. P. 142) (L. D. 270)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

An Act to Permit State Employees and Teachers to Insure Spouse and Children Under the Group Life Insurance Program (S. P. 257) (L. D. 637)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Scribner.

Mr. SCRIBNER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I move that the rules be suspended for the purpose of reconsideration and I will speak to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Scribner, moves that the rules be suspended which is not debatable. Is it the pleasure of the House that the rules be suspended?

The motion prevailed.

Mr. SCRIBNER: Mr. Speaker, I move we reconsider our action

of June 1 whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland Mr. Scribner now moves the House reconsider its action of June 1 whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed. The gentleman may speak to that motion.

Mr. SCRIBNER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As a member of this House and as a member of the Appropriations Committee I am greatly concerned by some of the features — the implications in this type of legislation. I am greatly concerned when the gentlewoman from Portland, Mrs. Carswell, reports to this body as she did last week there was a twenty-six percent turnover in state employees overall. I am greatly concerned with the article in the Portland Sunday Telegram, last Sunday, regarding Pineland. Dr. Bowman reported forty-six percent turnover last year in the employees in his institution.

I think that we're all aware that hundreds of our young teaching college graduates leave the state every year, yet the Appropriations Committee is asked to act on hundreds of thousands of dollars already added to our million dollar appropriations for expansion of the teaching college — or the state colleges that trains most of our teachers. I am concerned about the shortage of firemen, policemen and other municipal employees that many of our local governments are experiencing at this present time. The point I am trying to make is that all these people are eligible for group insurance under these programs and I feel that we can solve some of our problems through pay raises, but I think there is a time and a place to take a look at the fringe benefits. I don't believe that the fringe benefits we offer such as group insurance have been serving the needs of the state in general.

Since the vote was taken on this last week I have discussed the group insurance program at length with Mr. Walter, who is the Executive Secretary of the Retirement System. At the time the vote seemed to indicate, in the debate

and the vote that most of the members of this House felt that the funds that were paid for this group insurance was made by payroll deductions, these employees paid all of it themselves regardless of what category of employees they were and that the Legislature should not have any interest in that. They know quite well how to spend their own money. But I'd like to point out to the members of this House that there are 15,500 teachers in the State of Maine that are eligible for this group insurance. In order to reject the insurance when they are hired they have to sign a card saying that they reject it. 9,245 of these teachers have seen fit to do so — that is the majority of these teachers — if this is such a worthwhile benefit that everyone claims I fail to see where it's serving its purpose. There are many thousands of state employees and municipal employees and employees of water and sewer districts that have done the same thing. I fail to see where these benefits are serving some of the purposes which we desire which are to reduce this turnover and alleviate some of the problems that our local governments are having hiring teachers, firemen and policemen. I think the motives behind the bill and the purposes of it — I don't object to it, but I feel that we're going in the wrong direction when I understand that the expanded coverage will be administered in the same way as the other.

I'm going to offer an amendment which does not change any of the technical items of the bill but it does direct the Board of Trustees to consider these various problems whenever they administer rules and regulations regarding these insurance plans, retirement plans, in order to see that the general purposes of the state which we as legislators should be concerned about are taken into their deliberations.

I think this points up an important fact which I think sometimes we neglect to take into consideration. We've all heard the expression "pass the buck." I think it has an interesting history.

The "pass the buck" goes back as an old seafarer's story which I'd like to relate to you briefly here. The buck is an item which was invented by I believe some chief engineer on a ship one time to solve his own little problem. The officers on a ship eat together at a large table. For many years on most ships the captain was served first, then they went around the table, the stewards did, the chief engineer sat at the other end of the table, and he customarily was served last. Well after a few years of this I can see where the chief engineer might become concerned. I've served on a number of different ships — 25 or 30 different ocean-going ships and we always had a buck, and the buck was usually a broken off piece of a pump or a piece of a propeller made out of bronze. It was shined to a high polish and at each meal it was placed in front of one of the officers of the ship. At the next meal it was moved up to the next officer; whoever had the buck in front of him was served first. This served to illustrate that everyone had their fair chance at being served first.

Well I think the — and I say this only half in jest — that I would like to see this House place a nice bronze plaque in front of our distinguished Clerk here with a few words on it, and the Sergeant-at-Arms could probably shine it up every day, and it would have just a few brief words on it saying — "the buck stops here." Well I think it is time that this Legislature in some of these areas at least take a step in the right direction and show some of the people that we are concerned with these problems and that we are going to do what we can to alleviate some of these pressing problems. If we do not do this, I am sure that the newspaper reports are going to become more glaring in the future, we're going to have the reports every year from the presidents of our state colleges — higher percentages of the teaching college graduates are leaving the state — our municipalities are going to have increasingly difficult problems hiring firemen, policemen and the

State Bureau of Personnel is going to have more difficulty recruiting people to fill this excessively high turnover that we are experiencing.

The amendment which I propose is very brief. I would like to read it to you at this time: It is the intent and meaning of this chapter that the Board of Trustees should give due consideration to the effect that retirement insurance and other benefit programs have upon the employee recruiting programs of the state, the attraction of recent college graduates into the teaching profession in Maine, and the development of stronger employee recruiting programs by municipalities for which it shall adopt rules and regulations which will further these objectives and develop and recommend legislation when necessary. The biennial report required by section 1031, subsection 9, shall include a summary of the progress made by the Board in furtherance of these objectives. I believe this points up the three most pressing problems that we are faced with, our trained personnel, and am quite sure that we cannot solve all our problems by merely enacting pay raises whenever we have the funds available. I think we've got to take a strong look at these fringe benefits programs which the employees themselves have shown that the majority of them can reject this by signing a card that they reject it, and hope that some day that if the Board of Trustees takes this guidance into effect on their deliberations in the various benefit plans that some day maybe they will come up with some better plans that they can offer to the employees of the State.

I move that we reconsider our action whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Scribner, now moves the House reconsider its action whereby it passed this bill to be engrossed on June 1. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Winthrop, Mrs. Baker.

Mrs. BAKER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I rise to

oppose the reconsideration measure of this bill and ask for a division on the question. I think many of the arguments brought out by the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Scribner, as you can see show quite a lot that does not have anything to do with this bill whatsoever, it just appears to me as though it's a way to strike at something that is not even pertinent to the bill under question, and I would hope we wouldn't destroy the very good intent of this bill which is only permissive and as he brought out in one of his statements, many of the teachers have not taken it, so you can see that it doesn't mean they have to, and it should be left I feel up to the State employees and the teachers to decide and this is just a little bit for them to have for the families when they have such a limited income, and we know, if you have looked at the snoop book which you have that some of them do have a very, very meager income, and cannot afford any other insurance for the spouse and children.

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

Mr. DENNETT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I rise in support of the gentlewoman from Winthrop, Mrs. Baker.

I fail to see just what actually is intended by this amendment. Apparently it is a declaration of intent, but it goes so far beyond the scope of this bill, it doesn't seem to be reasonable at this time. I certainly would hope that this House would not vote to reconsider this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Manchester, Mr. Rideout.

Mr. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I feel that in the body of the bill the quotation—The board of trustees in consultation with the Advisory Council on Group Insurance shall by regulation prescribe the conditions of eligibility for this additional insurance—covers the matter as this bill is concerned quite adequately, and the amendment does nothing for it, so I would support Mrs. Baker on this.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Gill.

Mr. GILL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the reconsideration motion on this. If I did not know the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Scribner, as well as I do, I would feel this was simply an amendment to clutter up the bill during the periods of re-engrossment et cetera, and give someone the opportunity to kill the entire bill, but as I say, I do not feel Mr. Scribner is a gentleman of this caliber, but however I do oppose the reconsideration motion.

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

Mrs. CARSWELL: Mr. Speaker, I'll be very brief, I just wanted to bring out one point. Turnover in our institutions has been mentioned and an outline of the turnover at Stevens Training Center has been passed out to some members of the House, so I do hope that those who have received this paper with the dates and the names of people who have resigned and so forth, I hope that they will just consider the fact that it's not just happening at Stevens Training Center. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Robertson.

Mr. ROBERTSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I think you recall when this bill came up last week that I spoke in favor of it. I am still in favor of the passage of this legislation which I think is beneficial not only to State but to municipal employees as well.

I don't think it is the intent of the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Scribner, to add an amendment on here that is inappropriate; I think I am aware of the intent of this amendment and in so doing I don't think that we as a Legislature are assuming responsibilities that don't rightly belong to the Legislature.

I think the intent of the bill is to insure the rights and privileges that are granted to employees elsewhere in industry and business the same opportunity—that they will have the same opportunity working for the State of Maine. I think we realize that because of the turnover in personnel whether they're

teachers or State employees that they by receiving these rights might stay a little longer in State employment if they have the same benefits that they can receive elsewhere.

I think the amendment which Mr. Scribner has spoken about relative to this bill is to protect the rights and privileges further by enacting legislation that will be protective in nature and guarantee the most benefits for the least cost.

I think it was brought out at the last time this bill was before us that there seemed to be an excessive cost as far as the insurance of our employees was concerned. We are wondering how much deeper that might go in many other fields and categories regarding similar benefits for State employees.

If I am reading this correctly, my interpretation of this amendment is to guarantee a little further protection beyond what this bill guarantees, to assure that when insurance is procured for employees or other benefits are procured that there will be a careful study and that they will receive adequate protection at a more reasonable cost. Certainly we don't want to grant to employees of the State benefits that are going to be more costly under a blanket coverage than they would be under an individual coverage with an individual insurance company, and I'm afraid that's almost what we're doing in this case. For that reason I am in favor of one hundred percent of the bill, but I can see no harm from the amendment which is proposed and it could be beneficial.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. SULLIVAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I agree with Representative Robertson one hundred percent. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question? The pending question is the motion of the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Scribner, that the House reconsider its action of June 1 whereby L. D. 637 was passed to be engrossed.

The Chair will order a vote. All those in favor of reconsideration will vote yes, those opposed will vote no, and the Chair opens the vote.

A vote of the House was taken.

39 having voted in the affirmative and 77 having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

An Act relating to Appeals from Juvenile Court Proceedings (S. P. 319) (L. D. 842)

An Act relating to Emergency Admittance of Paupers to Hospitals (S. P. 659) (L. D. 1676)

An Act Providing Funds for Rebuilding the Dam on Ebeeme Lake in Piscataquis County (S. P. 661) (L. D. 1679)

An Act Placing State Highway Department Employees on the Merit Service Step System (S. P. 662) (L. D. 1680)

An Act relating to Wages Paid for Benefits and Eligibility Under Employment Security Law (H. P. 515) (L. D. 728)

An Act relating to Minimum Wages for Firemen (H. P. 516) (L. D. 729)

An Act relating to Joint Accounts in Banks and Loan and Building Associations (H. P. 1001) (L. D. 1463)

An Act relating to Powers of Administrative Hearing Commissioner Concerning Minors Under the Liquor Laws (H. P. 1159) (L. D. 1656)

An Act relating to Realty Subdivisions and Dilapidated Buildings in Municipalities (H. P. 1162). (L. D. 1663)

An Act Revising the Drug, Narcotic and Pharmacy Laws (H. P. 1176) (L. D. 1674)

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

Enactor Tabled and Assigned

An Act relating to Additional Appeals Under Liquor Laws (H. P. 1185) (L. D. 1685)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

(On motion of Mr. Hichens of Eliot, tabled pending passage to be enacted and specially assigned for Friday, June 9.)

Orders of the Day

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

HOUSE REPORT—Ought Not to Pass—Committee on Towns and Counties on Bill “An Act Authorizing Androscoggin County to Raise Money for the Reconstruction and Renovation of its County Buildings” (H. P. 1151) (L. D. 1643)

Tabled—June 5, by Mr. Gaudreau of Lewiston.

Pending—Acceptance.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Bernard.

Mr. **BERNARD**: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: In accepting the committee report I'd like to state for the record that the Androscoggin County delegation was in full accord with the merits of this bill. Thank you.

Thereupon, the “Ought not to pass” Report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

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

HOUSE REPORT—Ought to Pass as amended by Committee Amendment “A” (H-396)—Committee on Towns and Counties on Bill “An Act relating to Hours of County Offices of Androscoggin County” (H. P. 1045) (L. D. 1517)

Tabled—June 5, by Mr. Snowe of Auburn.

Pending—Acceptance.

Report was accepted and the Bill read twice.

Committee Amendment “A” was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to H. P. 1045, L. D. 1517, Bill, “An Act Relating to Hours of County Offices of Androscoggin County.”

Amend said Bill by striking out the period at the end and inserting in place thereof the following

underlined punctuation and words: **‘, judge of probate and county attorney.’**

Committee Amendment “A” was adopted.

Mr. Snowe of Auburn offered House Amendment “A” and moved its adoption.

House Amendment “A” was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT “A” to H. P. 1045, L. D. 1517, Bill, “An Act Relating to Hours of County Offices of Androscoggin County.”

Amend said Bill by inserting before the enacting clause the following:

‘Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, there is a vital need to maintain adequate hours for the orderly transaction of county business; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Androscoggin County that uniform office hours be established for its county offices; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Further amend said Bill by inserting at the end the following:

‘Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.’

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

Mr. **JALBERT**: Mr. Speaker. Up until yesterday, I had no feelings in the matter concerning this amendment. I contacted some of the attorneys in the County and I contacted some of the people involved in our building. This is my measure and I certainly am wholeheartedly in favor of it and I can see nothing wrong with the amendment other than the fact that at the present time it is my understanding that this calls for an emergency to the bill and at the present time the vacation programs

have been set up so that if this went into effect, it would go into effect upon the Governor's signature without the amendment, which calls for the emergency, it would go into effect 90 days after the session adjourns.

I am wholeheartedly for the bill and speaking as the Chairman of the Androscoggin County delegation made up of members of both parties, we voted for this bill unanimously. The amendment, however, has not been taken up, and as I said I have no feelings about it until I contacted people and people contacted me and for that reason, and that I am certainly for the bill. I, however, move indefinite postponement of the amendment.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Snowe.

Mr. SNOWE: This would have been a Committee Amendment. I merely put it in as a House Amendment to save our Committee Clerk the trouble. I had talked to Mr. Jalbert and he was in favor of it. I understand his reason for being opposed to it now and I would go along with the motion to indefinitely postpone.

Thereupon, House Amendment "A" was indefinitely postponed and the Bill assigned for third reading tomorrow.

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

Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of the State and Providing for the Issuance of Bonds Not Exceeding One Million Dollars for Loans for Maine Students in Higher Education (S. P. 618) (L. D. 1616)

Tabled—June 5, by Mr. Richardson of Stonington.

Pending—Final Passage.

On motion of Mr. Shute of Farmington, retabled pending final passage and specially assigned for Friday, June 9.

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

Bill "An Act to Revise the Laws Relating to Authority for Granting Degrees and to Approval of Degree-Granting Institutions" (S. P. 637) (L. D. 1641) (In House, enacted) (In Senate, passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-168)

Tabled—June 5, by Mr. Robertson of Brewer.

Pending—Further consideration.

The House voted to recede and concur with the Senate.

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

Bill "An Act relating to Use of Dealer Registration Plates (H. P. 124) (L. D. 150) (In House, indefinitely postponed) (In Senate, passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A" (H-75) and Senate Amendment "A" (S-228) in non-concurrence)

Tabled—June 6, by Mrs. Lincoln of Bethel.

Pending—Further consideration.

On motion of Mrs. Lincoln of Bethel, retabled pending further consideration and specially assigned for tomorrow.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Mr. Richardson of Cumberland,

Adjournment until nine-thirty o'clock tomorrow morning.