

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

***One Hundred and Tenth
Legislature***

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume I

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

December 3, 1980 to May 1, 1981

KJ PRINTING
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Tuesday, January 13, 1981

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

Prayer by the Reverend Lemar Robinson of Christ Church, Kennebunk.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Papers from the Senate

Bill "An Act to Adjust the Level of Compensation and Certain Statutory Duties of the Senate Secretary and House Clerk and their Assistant" (Emergency) (S. P. 97) (L. D. 136)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and ordered printed.

In the House, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in concurrence.

Messages and Documents

The following Communication: (S. P. 100)

State of Maine

Senate Chamber

President's Office

Augusta, Maine 04333

January 9, 1981

Honorable David R. Ault

Honorable Judy C. Kany

Chairmen on State Government

Joint Standing Committee

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Please be advised that Governor Joseph E. Brennan is nominating Robert E. Baldacci, Jr., of Bangor for appointment to the Maine Guarantee Authority.

Pursuant to Title 10 MRSA Section 751, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on State Government and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH SEWALL

President of the Senate

JOHN L. MARTIN

Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate read and referred to the Committee on State Government.

In the House, was read and referred to the Committee on State Government in concurrence.

The following Communication: (S. P. 80)

State of Maine

Senate Chamber

President's Office

Augusta, Maine 04333

January 8, 1981

Honorable Howard M. Troitzky

Honorable Laurence Connolly, Jr.

Chairmen, Joint Standing

Committee on Education

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Please be advised that Governor Joseph E. Brennan is nominating Julia L. Nault of Machias for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education.

Pursuant to Title 20 MRSA Section 51, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH SEWALL

President of the Senate

JOHN L. MARTIN

Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate read and referred to the Committee on Education in concurrence.

In the House, was read and referred to the Committee on Education in concurrence.

Petitions, Bills and Resolves**Requiring Reference**

The following Bills were received and, upon recommendation of the Committee on Refer-

ence of Bills, were referred to the following Committees:

Agriculture

Bill "An Act Concerning Domestic Animals Running at Large" (H. P. 194) (Presented by Mr. Drinkwater of Belfast)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require State Bond Issues to Include all Interest Involved" (H. P. 195) (Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Business Legislation

Bill "An Act to Update and Clarify Legislation Concerning Agencies within or Affiliated with the Department of Business Regulation" (H. P. 196) (Presented by Mr. Brannigan of Portland) (Cosponsor: Mr. Jackson of Yarmouth) (Submitted by the Department of Business Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 24)

Bill "An Act Pertaining to Used Home Warranty and Service Contracts" (H. P. 197) (Presented by Mr. Jackson of Yarmouth) (Cosponsors: Miss Aloupis of Bangor and Mrs. Martin of Van Buren) (Governor's Bill)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Education

Bill "An Act to Revise, Consolidate and Update Statutes Concerning Certain School Health Services and Practices as they Relate to Communicable Diseases" (H. P. 198) (Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland) (Submitted by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Health and Institutional Services

Bill "An Act Concerning the Habitual Use of Drugs by Podiatrists" (H. P. 199) (Presented by Ms. Benoit of South Portland)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act Relating to Eligibility for License under the Private Investigator Law" (H. P. 200) (Presented by Mr. Curtis of Waldoboro)

Bill "An Act Concerning Smoking in Public Places and at Public Meetings" (H. P. 201) (Presented by Mr. Curtis of Waldoboro) (By Request) (Later Reconsidered)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator Collins of Knox of that branch, proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to His Excellency, Joseph E. Brennan, Governor of Maine, an invitation to attend the Convention and to make such communication as he may be pleased to make.

Thereupon, the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 11:00 a.m., and the Speaker appointed Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro to convey this message to the Senate.

Subsequently, Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

On motion of Mrs. Prescott of Hampden, the House reconsidered its action of earlier in the day whereby Bill "An Act Concerning Smoking in Public Places and at Public Meetings," House Paper 201, was referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs.

On motion of the same gentlewoman, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services, ordered printed and sent up for concurrence.

Local and County Government

Bill "An Act Converting Lakeville Plantation into the Town of Lakeville" (Emergency) (H. P. 202) (Presented by Mr. Dudley of Enfield)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

State Government

Bill "An Act to Establish Statutory Compliance with Modern Technology and Procedure for Scoring Examinations" (H. P. 203) (Presented by Mr. Kane of South Portland) (Submitted by the Department of Personnel pursuant to Joint Rule 24)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Special Sentiment Calendar

In accordance with House Rule 56, the following items (Expressions of Legislative Sentiment):

In Memory Of:

Harry W. Rowe of Lewiston, Dean Emeritus of Bates College and a beloved and highly respected community servant; (H. P. 204) by Mr. Telow of Lewiston. (Cosponsor: Senator Charette of Androscoggin)

The Resolution was read.

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

Mr. TELOW: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I rise to inform you that on Tuesday, December 23, 1980, the people of Maine lost through death one of Maine's most beloved and respected citizens, Harry W. Rowe, Dean Emeritus of Bates College and a resident of Lewiston.

Dean Rowe's life and service to the State of Maine was characterized by his devotion and concern for his fellow man through incalculable acts of kindness, by his sage advice and counsel, by his fine sense of community responsibility and by dedicated and able assistance which he rendered over many years to Bates College, to its officers, faculty and students, and to the many historical and civic organizations and activities which he actively participated in, encouraged and supported. The loss of his great diligence, great courage and deep insights to the needs and aspirations of Maine people will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

By passing this Joint Order, the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 110th Legislature record our gratitude and recognition of the many lasting contributions which Dean Rowe made in advancing the values and interests of the people of Maine during his lifetime and of the deep affection and respect which we, as representatives of the people, share with all the citizens of Maine for his memory.

Thereupon, the resolution was adopted and sent up for concurrence.

Former Superior Court Judge Lewis I. Naiman of Augusta; (H. P. 205) by Ms. Lund of Augusta. (Cosponsors: Mr. Hickey of Augusta, Mr. Paradis of Augusta and Mr. Weymouth of West Gardiner)

The Resolution was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Augusta, Ms. Lund.

Ms. LUND: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I ask the members of the Maine House of Representatives to join with me to honor a former Justice of the Superior Court of Maine who died last week at the age of 66.

Lewis I. Naiman, who lived in Augusta, was born in Randolph, educated at Colby College and the New York University Law School. He gave most of his adult life to public service as Kennebec County Attorney, Municipal Judge in Hallowell, Judge of the Seventh District Court and Judge of Probate.

In 1970, Lewis Naiman, a Republican, was

nominated to the Superior Court by a Democratic Governor, Kenneth Curtis.

Public officials who worked with Judge Naiman have been unanimous in their praise for his fairness, his dedication to his work and his ability to give sound advice on a variety of matters. Fellow lawyers and personal acquaintances found him always warm and concerned about his friends and neighbors.

The State of Maine is poorer today because Lewis Naiman is no longer present. I ask when this Legislature adjourns today, it does so in honor of this great and faithful servant.

Thereupon, the Resolution was adopted and sent up for concurrence.

Recognizing:

Joseph L. Faber, of Rockland, upon attaining the high rank and distinction of Eagle Scout; (S. P. 81)

There being no objection, this item was considered passed in concurrence.

Consent Calendar

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 49, the following item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(S. P. 18) (L. D. 16) Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Relating to Engineers to Provide for a Biennial Publication of a Roster of Registered Professional Engineers" Committee on Business Legislation reporting "Ought to Pass"

No objections being noted, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar of January 14, under listing of Second Day.

Orders of the Day

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

Bill, "An Act to Revise the Law Relating to the Licensing of Private Investigators" (H. P. 185)

Tabled — January 12, 1981 by Mr. Cox of Brewer.

Pending — Motion of the same gentleman to Reconsider. Reference to Committee on Legal Affairs.

Mr. Cox of Brewer requested permission to withdraw his motion to reconsider, which was granted.

Sent up for concurrence.

(Off Record Remarks)

At this point, the House recessed until the sound of the gong.

After Recess 11:00 a.m.

The House was 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, Joseph Sewall, in the Chair.

On motion of Senator Collins of Knox, it was ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency, Governor Joseph E. Brennan, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature were in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

HUBER of Cumberland
PERKINS of Hancock
NAJARIAN of Cumberland

Representatives:

PEARSON, of Old Town
JALBERT of Lewiston
CARTER of Winslow
KELLEHER of Bangor
CHONKO of Topsham

BRENERMAN of Portland
SMITH of Mars Hill
ALOUPIIS of Bangor
DAVIS of Monmouth
LANCASTER of Kittery

Senator Huber, for the Committee, subsequently reported that the Committee had discharged the duty assigned it, and the Governor was pleased to say that he would forthwith attend the convention.

Whereupon, Governor Joseph E. Brennan entered the Convention Hall amid prolonged applause, the audience rising.

The Governor then addressed the Convention as follows:

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Members of the 110th Legislature:

I am pleased to present to you my budget for the biennium which begins on July 1, 1981.

It is a budget that is appropriate for the 1980's.

It is a lean, tight, no-frills budget.

It proposes no tax increase.

It reflects the first extensive effort in memory to eliminate programs which have outlived their effectiveness, accomplished their purpose, or simply cannot be justified when there are more urgent priorities.

But it is also a budget that takes some strong and important initiatives.

And it continues our commitments to those in our society who have been left behind.

So there is an important emphasis on the needs of children, the elderly, the retarded — those who truly suffer the most in a troubled national economy.

And the budget reaffirms our obligation to provide the most essential services.

So we are removing our commitment to assist local communities with the cost of public education at a level that is by far the highest in the northeastern part of this nation.

It is a budget that acts responsibly to address some long-range problems which cannot be postponed or ignored any longer.

Therefore, it includes the first steps toward a financially sound Teachers' Retirement Fund, so that thousands of teachers need never worry if their pension checks will arrive.

It recommends a commitment to a safer, more secure prison.

And it proposes the beginning of a long-term solution to the financial problems of the Highway System.

It is a budget that makes important new investments for a healthier state economy and better jobs for our working people.

I submit this budget at a time of great economic difficulty and uncertainty across the nation.

Now is not the time to burden our people with higher taxes.

Many now find it impossible to provide for more than the necessities. Others have given up the dream of buying their own homes. And nearly all have had to make do with less.

If government is to be responsive and realistic, it must do the same. This budget responds to that challenge.

Our budget process has created a much more heightened awareness within the departments of the strict financial limitations under which they — and all of state government — must operate for the foreseeable future.

Today, I wish to call your attention to a few of the highlights of the budget.

The budget document and the formal budget message which you will receive contain the details in greater depth, and I urge you to give them your close attention.

Education

I begin with education because that department affects most of our families, and because more than half of our General Fund revenues go back to the people in the form of education services.

Indeed, we are proposing for the biennium that 52.3 percent of the entire General Fund

budget be committed to education, including the University, Maine Maritime Academy, the vocational technical institutes, the Teachers' Retirement Fund — as well as to local education.

Two years ago, we increased state government's share of the local cost of basic public education to 53.97 percent.

This year, we are renewing that commitment in full.

Again, this is by far the strongest commitment of any of the Northeastern states to assisting their cities and towns with the cost of education.

We are also recommending monies to expand services to help a special group of people, the pre-school handicapped children.

And we are recommending funding to make possible the continued development of our cultural bureaus — the State Museum, State Library, Arts and Humanities Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission.

This will ensure the preservation of Maine's cultural heritage and encourage the appreciation of arts and literature for all Maine people.

I am proud of Maine's extraordinary level of support for education.

And I believe all Maine people can take pride in our efforts to provide our young people with the best educational services we can afford.

Human Services

The troubled national economy hits first — and hardest — at those who have the least.

And we cannot permit our own austerity to serve as an excuse to abandon the battered child, the elderly widow, the blind worker, and all those whose struggles are eased by the help we give.

Therefore, my budget recommendations for the Department of Human Services are based on my commitment to address the most compelling social service and health needs of our citizens.

Moreover, this budget allows us to initiate new services so that we can do an even better job of responding to the needs of children, the disabled and the elderly.

The past decade has seen an increased reliance on institutional care for the elderly and others who need long-term care. This care is extremely expensive. But even more importantly, it is contrary to the best interests of many of our elderly and to my belief that we should do what we can to enable people to remain in their own homes longer with dignity.

Last year, I convened a Task Force on Long Term Care. One of their highest recommendations was strong support for programs that are designed to enable people to remain in their own homes.

Accordingly, I am recommending an appropriation of \$1.25 million to purchase homemaker services, home-based health care and other services that promote self-sufficiency. I have also recommended an appropriation of \$87,000 to support development of congregate housing for the elderly, which also helps prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

We are also strengthening our commitment to the retarded with a recommendation of \$1.3 million for the development of additional community-based homes for these citizens.

We are meeting government's obligation to help those who cannot help themselves by recommending funds to expand our adult and child protective services.

We are recommending an increase of \$9 million — more than two-thirds of which will come from the federal government — to assist the 40,000 poor children who benefit from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

I am pleased to report that we have stepped up efforts to ensure that absentee parents meet their legal obligations. As a result, collections of support payments are at an all-time high level.

The Department's collections of child support payments have increased from \$900,000 in

1975 to more than \$5 million in the fiscal year which ended last June.

I am recommending \$462,000 to improve the state's adoption program. Last year, only 62 out of 2500 children in state custody were placed for adoption. We must do a better job of providing secure, permanent homes for these children.

My human services program also includes funds to offset the inflationary increases in such vital community-based social services as transportation services, nutrition and alcoholism rehabilitation. These are the so-called Title XX programs.

There is a very special recommendation to meet the increased costs of caring for those several thousand children for whom life must seem to hold so little — Those who are beaten, abused and neglected, and cannot remain in their own homes and become wards of the state.

There is also a strong commitment of \$532,000 to help our handicapped and disabled citizens achieve their goals of leading independent and productive lives.

These initiatives all strike at the same basic purpose — to try to improve the quality of life for some of our most unfortunate citizens.

These programs are not extravagant. They do address urgent needs. While they address the problems of the most vulnerable among us, all Maine citizens benefit from — and can take pride in — these services.

Mental Health and Corrections

During 1980, the state acted swiftly and decisively to reassert control over the Maine State Prison at Thomaston.

There, long-term problems had grown to the point where the state no longer really controlled the lives of the inmates.

The state was in charge in name only.

These problems did not appear overnight.

They had developed and grown over a long period of years.

And all the ingredients for a tragic explosion were present.

My budget follows up on the successful lockdown we instituted to reassert state control over the prison.

I am asking in an emergency appropriation bill for money to pay some of the unplanned costs associated with that lockdown.

I am also recommending a capital improvement program of nearly \$225,000 for fire safety and repairs.

I am recommending an appropriation of more than \$1.4 million for additional staff to improve security and working conditions at the prison.

To elevate corrections to the full status it so urgently requires, there is a recommendation to establish a separate Department of Corrections.

And, for the first time, the budget includes funding for the new minimum security facility at Charleston, which is helping to ease the pressures at Thomaston.

The budget addresses some of the other vital services performed by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections.

We are recommending program expansions and improvements at Pineland and other facilities.

We are recommending an appropriation of more than \$400,000 to help keep our less severely mentally ill and mentally retarded citizens out of institutions — where they don't need to be.

The services performed by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections receive strong emphasis in this budget, and rightly so.

To continue the long policy of neglect of our prison would have erased the progress we made their last year.

Nor could we in good conscience turn our backs on our mentally retarded and mentally ill citizens. For I believe that how we treat our prisoners and our citizens who require the care

of this Department is a measure of how humane and compassionate we are as a society.

Economic Development

The first two years of my Administration have seen a strong effort in many areas to create a healthier economic climate and to promote Maine as a good place to do business.

Economic development means jobs. So every state dollar committed wisely to economic development is a good investment in the future of Maine and in the future of our state's greatest resource — our people. We will continue this investment during the coming biennium.

I am proposing a bond issue in the amount of \$20 million for new cargo ports and \$9 million for agriculture facilities.

The cargo port projects at Searsport and Portland will greatly strengthen our export capability.

They will bring us closer to the large potential markets for our products that now exist in Europe. They complement the efforts we have made through trade missions to create an identity for Maine in the European business community.

The bond issue will also make it possible to build several central potato packing facilities. These are essential to our efforts to create a better future for that area of our economy.

There is also money in the bond issue for feed grain storage facilities, which would address one of the fundamental difficulties of our poultry producers.

Additional monies are recommended for marketing programs in agriculture and marine resources.

We are suggesting an appropriation of \$200,000 to continue our tourism promotion program.

We are recommending \$200,000 to create a revolving loan fund to benefit the six Maine counties which are not part of any of the three existing economic development districts.

These funds would receive 3-1 federal matching funds to support our program of loans to private companies for job-creating projects and expansions.

Recently, Gen. Alexander Haig, who may soon succeed our own Ed Muskie as Secretary of State, visited Maine in his capacity as President of United Technologies.

He spoke of his corporation's new Pratt & Whitney facility at North Berwick and said "productivity there is the highest of any Pratt & Whitney operation worldwide, and the absentee rate is the lowest."

I have heard no stronger or more credible endorsement of Maine's working people.

Certainly, this reputation for reliability and dedication is our strongest selling point as we try to promote Maine in our many economic development programs.

So it is a very sound use of government money to support programs that help give them the skills they need to make our work force even more attractive to business.

Therefore, we are including funding to maintain program improvements at the vocational technical institutes.

We are urging you to provide permanent funding to help displaced homemakers, female heads of households and economically disadvantaged women qualified for better jobs. With federal grant monies, we have already made a beginning. Let's build on the progress that has been made.

This program can be one more step on the road to social justice for women.

Teachers' Retirement Fund

Two years ago, when I took office, I inherited a problem that has been developing through two decades of neglect, that of a huge and growing deficit in the Teachers' Retirement Fund.

We have studied the problem carefully. This much was clear: For decades, legislatures and governors had ignored the problem. It was

more convenient to postpone a solution for some future governor and some future legislature.

By some estimates, there was a deficit of \$122 million by mid-1979. And it has been projected that this deficit is growing at a rate of \$20 million a year.

To continue to ignore this problem would break faith with the teachers who have contributed to the Fund. So the time to face the problem is now.

I am recommending that we begin this year to fund an orderly program to reduce the deficit and pay in the funds that are needed.

I am proposing a commitment of nearly \$100 million over the biennium.

Developing this program was one of the biggest challenges in preparing this budget. It was made more difficult by the loss of federal revenue sharing — more than \$13 million a year.

To make room in the budget for this essential item, I decided that we had to eliminate some programs and reduce some costs that were of a lower priority.

Therefore, we are recommending program reductions in the amount of more than \$10 million over the biennium.

They come in addition to program reductions, including a restructuring of the Catastrophic illness program which appears in the budget of some of our departments.

The programs selected are those which, in my judgment, we can live without at a time of more pressing needs.

They include the \$3.4 million a year we spend mostly to purchase slots for Maine students at some out-of-state professional schools.

The list also includes small grants to students, saving almost \$2 million over the biennium, and subsidies to certain non-essential adult education courses that teach hobbies and personal enrichment, a savings of \$500,000.

We recommend elimination of the Division of Special Investigations, which has rarely achieved its original purpose of combatting major drug dealers, and we will save nearly \$400,000 over two years by cutting out this program.

We propose to eliminate some lower-priority public relations positions, and bookmobiles, and the post-secondary education commission, and the combined savings in these three accounts will be nearly \$1 million over the two years of this budget.

Another \$900,000 can be saved by eliminating the district foresters field services, which provide government subsidies to woodland owners without regard to need.

These and other program reductions are coupled with some new revenue measures.

These are primarily revisions in the methods of collecting some of our revenue accounts.

In submitting this portion of the budget, I am well aware that proposing the end of some programs is going to increase the public pressure on you and me. In fact, I was told that in recent years the only things that were eliminated were those dealing with the suggestion box and fingerprinting kids in the third grade. We are going to take on a little tougher opposition this time.

I know that each program has its advocates and constituents. But these are the 1980's, and we cannot be guided by the priorities and the needs of the 1960's and 1970's.

We cannot allow the size of our budget to grow indefinitely each time government proposes to address problems, face up to new responsibilities or correct old mistakes.

We are committed to reducing or eliminating lower priority programs to ensure a responsible, balanced budget without a tax increase.

Highway Funding

The maintenance of good roads and bridges is essential to both the safety of the public and a strong economy.

I am proposing a bond issue of \$12.8 million to continue the necessary program of road and

bridge improvements.

Those of you who served in the last session surely recall the difficult work it took to achieve consensus on the Highway budget.

The problem is simple in nature: as gas prices go up and people buy less, dedicated revenues from the gas tax go down.

And, at the same time, the costs of maintaining our highways are especially vulnerable to inflationary price increases.

Almost every state is confronting the same problem.

To reduce expenses, the number of employees has been cut back. Last month, there were less than 2400 employees in the Department, compared to more than 3700 in July of 1972.

But Maine still compares favorably with states of similar size and climate in the quality of the maintenance of roads and bridges.

We have been able to survive the biennium under our traditional method of funding through dedicated sources.

We are recommending a budget for Fiscal 1982 that is \$3 million less than the budget for Fiscal 1980.

But by June of 1982, it won't be possible to fund a responsible program through the same system that has been in place for many years.

So this budget includes a proposal to do something different during the second year of the biennium.

I am recommending that, beginning 18 months from now, we reduce the demands on the dedicated revenues from the gas tax.

Specifically, I am recommending that we no longer provide funding from gas tax revenues to pay a portion of the budgets of the State Police and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

These will be transferred to the General Fund.

Only by doing this can we propose a budget that includes a level of funding sufficient for the responsible and safe maintenance of our transportation system.

Commissioner Campbell has submitted one of the most creative recommendations within this year's budget.

He has recommended a significant streamlining of the programs through which the state has assisted local governments.

The state aid, town road improvement and snow removal reimbursement programs will be eliminated.

We propose to replace them with a single local road assistance program.

In other words, we are eliminating categorical grants in favor of a simpler block grant program.

This will be more equitable. It will give local officials more flexibility and autonomy in deciding how best to use their money. It will decrease red tape for both state and local officials.

The Highway Fund budget reaffirms our commitment to fulfill our obligations to those who drive our roads.

It is a responsible budget in terms of both finances and public safety.

Moreover, it begins the restructuring of a traditional means of funding in a manner more appropriate to the days of expensive gasoline and declining revenues.

There are two recommendations in regard to public safety which I will call to your attention because manpower levels in the state police are very low, increased protections for our citizens is ensured by a recommendation to fund 20 authorized but vacant trooper positions.

We are also recommending an appropriation to establish an environmental health unit to enable the state to respond more effectively to human health hazards of our own creation.

Conclusion

Time does not permit a complete recitation of everything in this budget that is worthy of your attention.

Before concluding, I would like to cite briefly

some of the other highlights of the budget.

We are proposing a bond issue to retrofit state government buildings that would make the state a leader by example in taking the necessary energy conservation steps.

Elsewhere in the budget, you will find a recommendation to assist with the excellent federal program that enables the elderly and other low income homeowners to winterize their homes.

We are also asking for funds to complete our extensive program of acquiring land for the permanent recreation use of Maine people and visitors. Much of the parkland to be acquired with these funds would be in Kennebec, Penobscot and Aroostook Counties.

I am proud of the work that has been done on this budget. It meets the most basic and essential needs of the people of Maine in such fundamental areas as public safety, education, human needs and economic development. I believe that it demonstrates conclusively that government in the 1980's is capable of drawing a distinction between the existing programs which are needed and those which are merely desirable.

It responsibly addresses such major problems as Teachers' Retirement and the State Prison which have been left unattended for years and which cannot be ignored any longer.

It might have been easier to take a meat axe approach by demanding across-the-board percentage cuts.

But that would not have been fair or responsible.

We might have tried to shift our burdens to local officials.

But that would only have created problems for them.

For we did not want to duplicate the model of the federal government, which made our problems worse by eliminating revenue sharing.

Nor could we follow the federal government's example in the way they've handled the social security deficit.

We did not raise taxes or postpone a real solution to the Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Instead, we faced up to the problem.

This is the budget for the 1980's.

It reflects today's needs and priorities — not those of other years.

I have sought to develop a budget that meets what I believe those priorities are:

- Elimination of frills.
- Protection of the public's health and safety.
- Better services for human needs and education.
- Improvement of our business climate and job market.
- Programs to make Maine a better place to live.
- And responsible use of taxpayer dollars, without new taxes.

At the conclusion of the Governor's address, the Governor withdrew amid prolonged applause, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the chair declared the same dissolved and the Senate retired to its chamber amid applause of the House, the members rising.

In the House

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

Orders

On motion of Mr. Michael of Auburn, the following Joint Order: (H. P. 206)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Finance Officer be authorized and directed to pay each member of the Legislature, prior to January 30, 1981, a \$200 allowance for constituent services as authorized in Title 3, Section 2 of the Maine Revised Statutes.

The Order was read and passed and sent up for concurrence.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Ms. Lund of Augusta, Adjourned to ten o'clock tomorrow morning in memory of Judge Lewis I. Naiman.