

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

Friday, February 6, 1981

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

Prayer by the Reverend Albert Niles of the Bradbury Memorial Chapel, Canton.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Papers from the Senate

Bill "An Act to Reorganize the Department of Business Regulation to Insure the Independence of Regulators" (S. P. 222) (L. D. 609)

Bill "An Act Relating to Interest Rates upon Refinancing of Loans under the Maine Consumer Credit Code and Making other Clarifications of the Maine Consumer Credit Code" (S. P. 228) (L. D. 615)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Business Legislation and ordered printed.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Business Legislation in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide for Reimbursement under the Education Finance Act for Programs for Gifted and Talented Children" (S. P. 223) (L. D. 610)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Education and ordered printed.

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

Bill "An Act Relating to Reapportionment for Municipal Officers" (Emergency) (S. P. 226) (L. D. 612)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Election Laws and ordered printed.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Election Laws in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create the Charleston Correctional Center within the Department of Mental Health and Corrections" (S. P. 217) (L. D. 604)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services and ordered printed.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Status of Certain Real Estate Easements in the State" (Emergency) (S. P. 224) (L. D. 611)

Bill "An Act to Allow Reasonable Attorneys' Fees as a Remedy in Actions under the Maine Human Rights Act" (S. P. 221) (L. D. 608)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Judiciary and ordered printed.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Judiciary in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Stabilize the Maximum Weekly Benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act" (S. P. 225) (L. D. 613)

Bill "An Act to Establish a Direct Payment System under the Workers' Compensation Law" (S. P. 218) (L. D. 605)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Labor and ordered printed.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Labor in concurrence.

RESOLVE, Authorizing Jeanette Hodgdon, Administratrix of the Estate of Kenneth R. Hodgdon, to Maintain a Civil Action Against the State of Maine (S. P. 227) (L. D. 614)

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

In the House, referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Exempt the Transportation of Race Horses from Certain Regulation by the Public Utilities Commission" (S. P. 229) (L. D. 616)

Bill "An Act to Protect Consumer Rights in the Acts and Practices of Public Utilities" (S. P. 219) (L. D. 606)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Public Utilities and ordered printed.

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

Bill "An Act Concerning Walks and Handrails on Railroad Bridges" (S. P. 220) (L. D. 607)

Came from the Senate referred to the Committee on Transportation and ordered printed.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Transportation in concurrence.

Reports of Committees**Leave to Withdraw****Tabled and Assigned**

Report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reporting "Leave to Withdraw" on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Open Burning in Areas Determined as Urban Areas" (S. P. 58) (L. D. 84)

Came from the Senate with the report read and accepted.

In the House, the Report read.

On motion of Mr. Hall of Sangerville, tabled pending acceptance of the Report in concurrence and specially assigned for Tuesday, February 10.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Permit Liquor Sales on Election Day" (H. P. 505) (L. D. 556) which was referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in the House on February 2, 1981.

Came from the Senate Indefinitely Postponed in non-concurrence.

In the House: On motion of Mr. Soulas of Bangor, the House voted to recede and concur.

Petitions, Bills and Resolves**Requiring Reference**

The following Bills were received and, upon recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills, were referred to the following Committees:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act Making Appropriations from the General Fund for Teachers' Retirement and Eliminating Certain Programs Funded from the General Fund" (Emergency) (H. P. 616) (Presented by Mr. Kelleher of Bangor) (Cosponsors: Senator Trafton of Androscoggin and Senator Collins of Knox) (Governor's Bill)

Bill "An Act to Provide Compensation and Benefits Agreed to by the State and Council #74, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees for Employees in the Institutional Services Bargaining Unit" (Emergency) (H. P. 617) (Presented by Mr. Pearson of Old Town) (Cosponsor: Mr. Smith of Mars Hill) (Governor's Bill)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Business Legislation

Bill "An Act to Establish a Certification Program for Building Energy Auditors in Maine" (H. P. 618) (Presented by Mr. Brannigan of Portland) (Cosponsors: Senator Clark of Cumberland, Mr. Jackson of Yarmouth and Mr. Norton of Biddeford) (Submitted by the Office of Energy Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 24) (Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Energy and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Provide for a Solid Waste Management Subsidy Bonus for Municipalities and Counties Engaged in Resource Recovery" (H. P. 619) (Presented by Mr. Brodeur of Auburn) (Cosponsors: Mr. Jacques of Waterville, Mr. Webster of Farmington and Mr. Paradis of Old Town)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Distribution of Child Custody Reports" (H. P. 620) (Presented by Mr. Soule of Westport) (Cosponsor: Mr. Livesay of Brunswick)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Labor

Bill "An Act to Amend the University of Maine Labor Relations Act to Restrict the Areas of Required Bargaining" (H. P. 621) (Presented by Mrs. MacBride of Presque Isle)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Public Utilities

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law to Provide a Lien for Sewer Rates for the Houlton Water Company" (H. P. 622) (Presented by Mrs. Ingraham of Houlton) (Cosponsor: Mr. Smith of Island Falls)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Exempt Used Machinery from the Sales Tax" (H. P. 623) (Presented by Mr. Kane of South Portland) (Cosponsors: Mrs. Nelson of Portland and Mr. Dexter of Kingfield)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Transportation

Bill "An Act Relating to the Acquisition of Land and Building for Development of Fish Piers" (Emergency) (H. P. 624) (Presented by Mrs. Beaulieu of Portland) (Cosponsors: Mr. Brennerman of Portland, Senator Najarian of Cumberland and Senator Emerson of Penobscot) (Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 24)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Orders

On motion of Mrs. Prescott of Hampden, the following Joint Resolution: (H. P. 625) (Cosponsors: Mrs. Nelson of Portland, Mr. Baker of Portland and Mr. Paradis of Old Town) (Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 35)

Joint Resolution Memorializing the Congress of the United States to Enact Legislation Allowing the Veterans' Administration to Furnish Outpatient Medical Service to Atomic Veterans

We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and Senate of the State of Maine of the One Hundred and Tenth Legislative Session assembled, most respectfully present and petition the United States Congress, as follows:

WHEREAS, H.R. 7585, a bill to amend the United States Code, Title 38, to allow the Veterans' Administration to furnish outpatient medical services to any veteran exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons, was introduced into the second session of the 96th Congress; and

WHEREAS, under H.R. 7585, atomic veterans will be awarded an automatic 50% service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Nuclear Agency, since the start of its outreach program, has been contracted by 41,500 atomic veterans, of whom 4,040 have reported cancers, and since 1,259 have subsequently died from unknown causes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that atomic veterans may not sue for damages because of national security questions; and

WHEREAS, the cost of private medical treatment is creating a staggering financial burden for families of these veterans; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representa-

tives Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations has stated that the only victims of America's nuclear weapons testing program have been her own people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we, your Memorialists, do hereby respectfully urge that Congress immediately enact H.R. 7585; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

The Resolution was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hampden, Mrs. Prescott.

Mrs. PRESCOTT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I introduce this joint memorial this afternoon because I feel very strongly that we should pay some attention to the Maine veterans who served in our wars.

Just to give you a little bit of background, I would like to explain that the United States Department of Defense conducted atmospheric testing of over 200 nuclear weapons through the year 1962. These tests were conducted primarily in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific and in the Nevada test sites.

These nuclear devices were detonated in several ways — they were above the ground, they were below the ground, and they were at the ground levels.

The nuclear devices released radioactive elements into the air, and many of our veterans became seriously ill because of radiation. No devices to measure their radiation exposures were given to these men in Hiroshima or Nagasaki and, because of that, they were ordered to witness some of the explosions and to participate in cleanup activities. They were not given any protective equipment while they participated.

In July of 1979, then President Carter directed a task force to study the radiation related illnesses that were being reported to the federal government. The task force was asked to recommend compensation for these cases, and I don't know whether you know it or not, but veterans cannot file suit in federal court to obtain compensation.

Our own state has a dozen atomic veterans who have served our country and served our country well. These veterans have been exposed to massive amounts of radiation from these nuclear blasts, and now many of them are seriously ill from chronic disorders and some of them have even died. Their medical bills are staggering, and this resolution, I believe, shows our concern for our veterans in Maine and their families who have lived through this tragedy day after day. I think it is the least that we should do for our veterans in Maine.

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

On motion of Mr. McSweeney of Old Orchard Beach, it was

ORDERED, that Representative Barry J. Hobbins of Saco be excused February 4 and 5 due to illness.

House Reports of Committees Leave to Withdraw

Mrs. Nelson from the Committee on Aging, Retirement and Veterans on Bill "An Act Concerning Information Provided to Veterans by the Bureau of Vital Statistics" (H. P. 161) (L. D. 188) reporting "Leave to Withdraw"

Report was read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Consent Calendar First Day

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

(H. P. 199) (L. D. 244) Bill "An Act Concerning Habitual Use of Drugs by Podiatrists" Committee on Health and Institutional Services reporting "Ought to Pass"

No objections being noted, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar of February 9, under listing of Second Day.

Consent Calendar Second Day

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

(H. P. 131) (L. D. 158) Bill "An Act Concerning Identification and Testing of Equine Infectious Anemia on Horses"

(H. P. 52) (L. D. 66) Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Guaranty Association Act to Increase Liability of Association Member Companies"

(H. P. 98) (L. D. 128) Bill "An Act to Increase the Licensing Fees for Chiropractors" (C. "A" H-4)

(H. P. 96) (L. D. 126) Bill "An Act to Remove the Sunset Provision on the Regulation of Business Between Motion Picture Distributors and Exhibitors" (C. "A" H-5)

No objections having been noted at the end of the Second Legislative Day, the House Papers were passed to be engrossed and sent up for concurrence.

Passed to be Engrossed

Bill "An Act to Allow the Exclusion of Covered Persons under a Personal Automobile Policy" (H. P. 586) (L. D. 601)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading, read the second time, passed to be engrossed and sent up for concurrence.

Passed to Be Engrossed Amended Bill

Bill, "An Act to Allow the Exclusion of Covered Persons under a Personal Automobile Policy" (H. P. 586) (L. D. 601)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading, read the second time, passed to be engrossed and sent up for concurrence.

RESOLVE, Designating the Scenic Overlook on Interstate 95 in T1-R6 WELS as the "The Albert J. 'Allie' Cole Memorial Scenic Overlook" (S. P. 82) (L. D. 179)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading and read the second time.

Mr. McHenry of Madawaska offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" (H-6) was read by the Clerk and adopted.

The Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended in non-concurrence, and sent up for concurrence.

Passed to Be Enacted Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Statutes to Allow the Secretary of State to Enter into the Nonresident Violator Compact (H. P. 66) (L. D. 96)

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. 137 voted in favor of same and one against, and accordingly the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Passed to Be Enacted

An Act to Amend the Maine Pesticide Control Act of 1975 to Fund Research Relating to Public Health (S. P. 21) (L. D. 19) (C. "A" S-4)

An Act to Amend the Operation Provisions of the Maine State Museum to Permit the Award of Stipend Support for Students Engaged in Nongeneral Fund Supported Archaeological and Conservation Projects (H. P. 20) (L. D. 13)

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.

An Act Redesignating the Bureau of Resource Development as the Bureau of Social Services, and the Bureau of Social Welfare as the Bureau of Income Maintenance (H. P. 64) (L. D. 95)

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Livermore Falls, Mr. Brown.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: My purpose in having this item set aside is to, first of all, request that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays. The purpose of that is to permit everybody to look once again at the title of this item and to recognize and realize that we are changing the name of a bureau, we are changing it to read "The Bureau of Income Maintenance."

When this bill was first discussed in the House some days ago, it was discussed rather eloquently by one of my good friends. I thought he made some very excellent points, and I just think that when the vote is made, that those voting should realize just exactly what we are voting to do.

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. All those in favor of a roll call vote will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

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 on passage to be enacted. All those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL

YEA—Baker, Beaulieu, Benoit, Berube, Boisvert, Boyce, Brannigan, Brennerman, Brodeur, Brown, A.; Carrier, Chonko, Clark, Connolly, Cox, Crowley, Davies, Diamond, G. W.; Diamond, J. N.; Erwin, Fitzgerald, Fowlie, Gowen, Gwadosky, Hall, Hayden, Hickey, Higgins, Hobbins, Holloway, Jacques, Joyce, Kane, Kany, Kilcoyne, LaPlante, Laverriere, Lisnik, Locke, Lund, MacBride, MacEachern, Macomber, Mahany, Manning, Martin, H. C.; Masterton, Matthews, McGowan, McHenry, McKean, McSweeney, Michaud, Mitchell, E.H.; Mitchell, J.; Moholland, Nadeau, Nelson, M.; Norton, Paradis, P.; Pearson, Perry, Post, Pouliot, Prescott, Racine, Reeves, P.; Richard, Ridley, Roberts, Rolde, Smith, C. B.; Soulas, Soule, Swazey, Theriault, Tuttle, Twitchell, The Speaker.

NAY — Aloupis, Armstrong, Austin, Bell, Bordeaux, Brown, D.; Brown, K. L.; Cahill, Callahan, Carter, Conary, Connors, Cunningham, Curtis, Damren, Davis, Day, Dexter, Dillenback, Drinkwater, Foster, Gavett, Hanson, Higgins, L. M.; Hutchings, Ingraham, Jackson, Jordan, Kiesman, Lancaster, Leighton, Lewis, Livesay, Masterman, McCollister, McPherson, Michael, Murphy, Nelson, A.; O'Rourke, Paradis, E.; Paul, Perkins, Peterson, Randall, Reeves, J.; Salsbury, Sherburne, Small, Smith, C. W.; Stevenson, Stover, Strout, Studley, Tarbell, Telow, Treadwell, Walker, Webster, Wentworth, Weymouth.

ABSENT — Carroll, Dudley, Gillis, Huber, Hunter, Jalbert, Kelleher, Ketover, Martin, A.; Thompson, Vose.

Yes, 79; No, 61; Absent, 11.

The SPEAKER: Seventy-nine having voted in the affirmative and sixty-one in the negative, with eleven being absent, the Bill is passed to be enacted.

Signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

An Act to Change the Name of Roadside Meanagerie to Wildlife Exhibit under the

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws (H.P. 59) (L.D. 103)

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.

Enactor Recommitted

An Act Relating to Permits and Inspection for Electrical Installation in Commercial Buildings under the Electrician Law (H. P. 392) (L. D. 378)

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

On motion of Mr. Brannigan of Portland, the Bill was recommitted to the Committee on Business Legislation in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

The following papers appearing on Supplement No. 1 were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

Leave to Withdraw

Mr. Higgins from the Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act to Provide that the Amount of Federal Excise Tax on the Sale of Tires not be included in Calculating the State Sales Tax" (H. P. 120) (L. D. 151) reporting "Leave to Withdraw"

Report was read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Ought to Pass Amended Bill

Mr. Higgins from the Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act to Increase the Standard Interest Provision for the Tax Law from 9% to 12% Per Year" (H. P. 82) (L. D. 77) reporting "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-7)

Report was read and accepted and the Bill read once. Committee Amendment "A" (H-7) was read by the Clerk and adopted and the Bill assigned for second reading the next legislative day.

Consent Calendar First Day

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

(H. P. 87) (L. D. 80) Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Requiring a Taxable Year of April to April for Real Estate Taxes which are Prorated between Seller and Purchaser of Real Estate" Committee on Taxation reporting "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-8)

No objections being noted, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar of February 9, under listing of Second Day.

The following paper appearing on Supplement No. 2 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

Special Sentiment Calendar

In accordance with House Rule 56, the following item (Expression of Legislative Sentiment):

Recognizing:

The Town of Greenville, Maine, which has joined towns of the same name from across the Nation in plans to honor the 150th year of its founding; (H. P. 627) by Mr. Masterman of Milo.

The Order was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Milo, Mr. Masterman.

Mr. MASTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: On February 6, 1836, the Town of Greenville was set off and incorporated under Chapter 16 of the Private and Special Laws of 1836. I have in my possession a copy of that Act.

State of Maine, in the Year of Our Lord 1836, An Act to Incorporate the Town of Greenville.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of

Representatives in Legislature assembled that Haskell Plantation, so called, in the County of Somerset, with the inhabitants thereof be and the same hereby is incorporated into a town by the name of Greenville, vested with all the powers and subject to all the duties of other incorporated towns.

In the House of Representatives, February 3, 1836, this Bill having had its several readings, passed to be enacted, Jonah Silly, Speaker of the House.

In the Senate, on February 6, 145 years ago today, this Bill having had two separate readings, passed to be enacted, Josiah Pierce, President.

As residents of that community approach the 150th anniversary of that historic event, they have united other communities of the same name across the nation to join in an extraordinary celebration. Never before in the history of this town have so many people been enthusiastically giving their time and energies for such a thoroughly unselfish purpose. Many are committed to give every available moment for weeks and months to promote this great historical celebration in tribute to the past and to proclaim the town of Greenville of today and to envision a fine community of the future. This enthusiasm and imagination and labor shall not go unnoticed and citizens of this state and of all the states of this great nation are invited to share the joys of countless events and developments leading to this special sesquicentennial celebration.

Thereupon, the Order received passage and was sent up for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

House at Ease

Called to order by the Speaker.

The following paper appearing on Supplement No. 4 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

On motion of Mrs. Post of Owl's Head, the following Joint Resolution: (H. P. 628) (Co-sponsors: Mr. Carter of Winslow, Mr. Hanson of Kennebunkport and Mr. Fowlie of Rockland) (Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 35)

Joint Resolution Memorializing the Honorable Ronald W. Reagan, President of the United States and the United States Senate to Refuse to Ratify the United States/Canadian East Coast Fisheries Treaty

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Maine in the One Hundred and Tenth Legislative Session now assembled, most respectfully present and petition President Ronald W. Reagan and the United States Senate, as follows:

WHEREAS, the boundary between the United States and Canada over the Georges Bank is still in dispute; and

WHEREAS, the territory in dispute is a very productive fishing area, of vital interest to Maine fishermen; and

WHEREAS, in order to reach agreement to arbitrate the boundary dispute, the United States and Canada signed a comprehensive East Coast Fisheries Treaty; and

WHEREAS, as signed, the treaty would require management of every commercially valuable fisheries species in the Gulf of Maine with little biological justification; and

WHEREAS, this management would lead to extensive over-regulation of Maine's fishing industry during a critical period in its development; and

WHEREAS, the treaty has serious adverse consequences for Maine fishermen's interests in certain fisheries, while it ignores their legitimate interest in others; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the treaty are permanent and this permanence aggravates

the serious adverse impact to Maine fishermen and ignores the need for flexibility in responding to changing biological and economic circumstances; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the Honorable Ronald W. Reagan, President of the United States, withdraw the United States/Canadian East Coast Fisheries Treaty in its present form from consideration by the United States Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted forthwith by the Secretary of State to President Ronald W. Reagan and to the Members of the United States Senate from the State of Maine.

The Joint Resolution was read and adopted and sent up for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

The following Senate paper appearing on Supplement No. 3 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

Special Sentiment Calendar

In accordance with House Rule 56, the following item (Expression of Legislative Sentiment)

In Memory of:

The Honorable Ella T. Grasso, former Governor of the State of Connecticut; (S. P. 245)

The Resolution was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Saco, Mr. Hobbins.

Mr. HOBBS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: On February 5, 1981, the state of Connecticut lost one of its most devoted citizens, and on that same date the United States lost one of its most prominent citizens.

Ella Grasso died on that date. Ella Grasso was the first woman in her own right to be elected in American history for the office of Governor. She was an individual who never lost an election.

She was first elected in 1952 as a candidate to the Legislature in the state of Connecticut. She served the people of Connecticut as Secretary of State, in the United States Congress, and as Governor of that state. She was a hard worker, known for her frugality, who was a force in Connecticut politics for over 30 years. She ended her second term of office in mid-term because of liver cancer, which she was afflicted with. In announcing her resignation on December 31st, Governor Grasso said, "I make this decision with a heavy heart but with full appreciation that the people's business must continue at the highest level." On that date she added, "All of my life has been one of dedication to working with people."

These words echoed her sentiments in 1974 in announcing her bid to become the Governor of Connecticut when she said that she had always been guided by one thing, guided by only one principle, to work for people and to serve them will all of her heart, mind and spirit.

She believed when she ran for Governor in 1974 that she had something to prove — she had something to prove, that a woman could be a credible Governor. Her campaigns and her term as Governor leave no doubt. Ella Grasso was a good Governor, a fine American and she will be truly missed.

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

On motion of Mr. Reeves of Newport,

Adjourned until Monday, February 9, at ten o'clock in the morning.