

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LEGISLATIVE RECORD**

**OF THE**

***One Hundred and Tenth***

***Legislature***

**OF THE**

**STATE OF MAINE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**January 6, 1982 to April 13, 1982**

**INDEX**

**FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION**

**April 28, 1982 and April 29, 1982**

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**FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION**

**May 13, 1982**

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**SECOND CONFIRMATION SESSION**

**July 16, 1982**

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**HOUSE**

Wednesday, January 13, 1982

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

Prayer by Father Louis Berube of St. Philips Catholic Church, Auburn.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

**Papers from the Senate**

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Percent for the Art Law" (S. P. 756) (L. D. 1791)

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

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

**Petitions, Bills and Resolves****Requiring Reference**

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

**Business Legislation**

Bill "An Act to Authorize Governmental Entities to Provide Self-insurance" (H. P. 1825) (Presented by Representative Brannigan of Portland) (Cosponsor: Senator Najarian of Cumberland) (Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26)

Bill "An Act Concerning Annual Report of Filings for Profit and Nonprofit Corporations" (H. P. 1826) (Presented by Representative Berube of Lewiston) (Cosponsor: Representative Randall of East Machias) (Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

**Energy and Natural Resources**

Bill "An Act to Permit Municipalities to Adopt Contract Zoning Under the Maine Zoning Laws" (H. P. 1827) (Presented by Representative Tarbell of Bangor) (Cosponsor: Representative Aloupis of Bangor) (Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

**Health and Institutional Services**

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sunset Provision of the Family Abuse Law" (H. P. 1828) (Presented by Representative Mitchell of Vassalboro) (Cosponsors: Representatives Lund of Augusta, Hobbins of Saco and Senator Sewall of Lincoln) (Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence (Later Reconsidered).

**Legal Affairs**

Bill "An Act to Change the 30-day Notice concerning State Agency Liquor Stores" (H. P. 1829) (Presented by Representative Cox of Brewer) (Cosponsor: Representative Studley of Berwick) (Submitted by the Department of Finance and Administration pursuant to Joint Rule 24)

RESOLVE, Authorizing David Condon to Bring Suit Against the State (H. P. 1830) (Presented by Representative Crowley of Stockton Springs) (Cosponsor: Representative Carroll of Limerick) (Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26)

(Ordered Printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

**Taxation**

RESOLVE, Authorizing the State Tax Assessor to Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory (H. P. 1831) (Presented by Representative Hig-

gins of Portland) (Submitted by the Department of Finance and Administration 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) Recognizing:

Michelle Hallett, of Mars Hill, winner of the 1981 AAU Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship in Amarillo, Texas for 17 and 18-year-old girls; (H. P. 1822) by Representative Smith of Mars Hill. (Cosponsors: Senator Carpenter of Aroostook and Representative MacBride of Presque Isle)

Keith Estes, upon attaining the high rank and distinction of Eagle Scout; (H. P. 1823) by Representative Reeves of Newport.

(Cosponsor: Senator Emerson of Penobscot)

Roger Legere, of South Portland, who rescued four stranded Legislators on their journey home from Maine Maritime Academy after the State of Maine Cruise; (H. P. 1824) by Representative Dillenback of Cumberland. (Cosponsors: Representatives Lewis of Auburn, MacBride of Presque Isle and Representative Masterton of Cape Elizabeth)

There being no objections, these items were considered passed and sent up for concurrence.

At this point, the Speaker made the following changes in Committee appointments:

Representative Nelson of Portland was removed from the Committee on Aging, Retirement and Veterans and Representative Hickey of Augusta was appointed as chairman and Representative Tuttle of Sanford was assigned to this Committee.

Representative Benoit of South Portland was removed from the Committee on Election Laws and Representative Nadeau of Lewiston was appointed as chairman and Representative Paradis of Augusta was assigned to this Committee. Vacancy created by the death of Representative Boisvert of Lewiston was filled by Representative Martin of Van Buren on this Committee.

The appointment of Representative Prescott of Hampden has been rescinded and Representative Nelson of Portland was appointed as chairperson on the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Representative Boyce of Auburn was removed from this Committee and Representative Webster of Farmington was assigned.

Representative Hayden of Durham has resigned from the Committee on Labor. Representative Damren of Belgrade was replaced by Representative Jackson of Harrison on this Committee.

Vacancy created by the death of Representative Boisvert of Lewiston was filled by Representative Connolly of Portland on the Committee on Public Utilities. Vacancy created by the death of Representative McKean of Limestone was filled by Representative Benoit of South Portland on this Committee.

Representative Lisnik of Presque Isle was replaced by Representative Boyce of Auburn on the Committee on State Government. Vacancy created by the death of Representative Boisvert of Lewiston was filled by Representative Gwadosky of Fairfield on this Committee.

Vacancy created by the death of Representative McKean of Limestone is filled by Representative Lisnik of Presque Isle on the Committee on Transportation.

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

Representative Mitchell of Vassalboro was charged with and conveyed a message to the Senate announcing that the House concurred in the proposition for a Joint Convention.

On motion of Mr. Hobbins of Saco, the House reconsidered its action of earlier in the day whereby Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sunset Provision of the Family Abuse Law," House Paper 1828, was referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services.

On motion of the same gentleman, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Judiciary, ordered printed and sent up for concurrence.

**House at Ease**

Called to order by the Speaker.

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

**In Convention**

The President of the Senate, 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 are in Convention assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and extend to him an invitation to attend the Convention and present such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed:

Senators:

COLLINS of Knox  
CONLEY of Cumberland  
McBREARITY of Aroostook

Representatives:

NADEAU of Lewiston  
PARADIS of Augusta  
DIAMOND of Bangor  
ROBERTS of Buxton  
MARTIN of Van Buren  
WENTWORTH of Wells  
HANSON of Kennebunkport  
BORDEAUX of Mt. Desert  
CAHILL of Woolwich  
WEYMOUTH of Gardiner

Subsequently, Senator Collins for the Committee reported that the Committee had attended to the duty assigned to 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, Honorable Members of the 110th Maine Legislature:

The year just concluded was a time of turmoil for this nation and for the world. A great world leader was assassinated. A President just taking the reins of office was almost murdered, and so was a dynamic Pope who has captured the affection of people of all faiths.

We saw our relations with some close allies weakened by world events.

We watched in joy as the Polish people made strides toward freedom. But the joy turned to sorrow as freedom was once again trampled beneath the boots of tyranny.

Inflation showed signs of abating. But this meant little to the large numbers of people who found themselves out of work as the unemployment rate marched steadily upward.

And larger numbers of people watched nervously as Congress began to dismantle many programs designed over the years to help people.

It was a year of anxiety.

We in Maine shared in the nation's moments of grief and concern.

We too worried about interest rates, unemployment and housing.

But it was a better year for Maine than for

most other states.

Our unemployment rate remained well below the national average as thousands of jobs were created.

Death on the highways declined sharply for the year.

And death by fire dropped to the lowest total since Maine started keeping records.

Per capita income rose.

It was a good year for tourism.

All in all it was a good year for Maine.

I have tried to fulfill my responsibilities with an eye toward what Maine is today, what it has been in the past, and what we want it to be in the future.

Therefore, in the program I present to you in this, the 150th anniversary year of this Capitol, you will find what I believe to be legislation offered in this spirit.

Requests to help people help themselves.

Today, I will address a wide range of budget and program issues. But time will not permit discussion of all our initiatives.

#### **Housing**

Few industries have suffered more by our prolonged national economic problems than housing.

Construction is down. That means fewer jobs.

At today's interest rates more than 80 percent of Maine people cannot afford a loan for a new, single-family home.

And that undercuts something rather fundamental in our society, the right to private ownership of a home and some land — a traditional part of the American dream.

For those looking for an apartment, things are no better.

Over 18,000 elderly people and lower income families are on waiting lists for assisted housing.

Add in these other factors:

— The age groups that most need housing, the elderly and young adults, are the very age groups that are growing the fastest.

— More than two-thirds of our housing stock is more than 40 years old.

— Between 40,000 and 50,000 units in Maine are considered substandard. Clearly, Maine's housing problems are critical.

I recommend an appropriation of \$4.25 million for a housing program.

That will be used with Maine State Housing Authority bond funds to provide about \$50 million of new housing mortgage and improvement loans.

It will stimulate new construction.

It will provide mortgage money for buyers.

It will make money available for home improvement and energy loans.

And it will make it possible to improve, upgrade and expand the existing rental market.

With your support and approval, this program will provide several hundred jobs in the sagging home construction industry.

It will generate several million dollars in added sales, income and property taxes.

This program will not solve our housing problems.

We don't have the resources available to use to do that now.

But it is a major effort to stimulate our housing market and it states our commitment to decent, affordable housing for all Maine people.

#### **Economic Development**

Perhaps Maine's greatest accomplishments in the last year occurred in the area of economic development.

That is an area that has been the foremost priority of this Administration, and, with your support and that of Maine voters, we have made progress.

The favorable trends of recent years continued.

There was more significant business growth, including both companies choosing to place new plants in our state and Maine firms an-

nouncing expansions.

The result has been a net increase of thousands of jobs in the past few years, and an unemployment rate at year's end of 6.4 percent compared to the national rate of approximately 8 percent.

And we were informed by the Commerce Department that our per capita income has climbed from 49th to 38th in the nation.

Much of this result has come about because of your concern for Maine.

You have passed important measures to improve Maine's business climate and assist our native industries.

You sent the Bath Iron Works proposal out to the voters with a virtually unanimous endorsement.

And the bond issue they passed will not only provide for that historic improvement to the Portland waterfront but it will also mean a major cargo port at Searsport — and jobs; improvements in the quality of marketing of Maine potatoes — and jobs; and, possibly, enhanced support for the poultry industry — and jobs.

In the same spirit in which we have collaborated on building a healthier state economy, today I place before you additional proposals to strengthen the economy and create jobs.

One such proposal would broaden Maine's interstate banking law to permit interstate ownership of banking institutions.

I can foresee many benefits from this approach.

— There could, first of all, finally be the ability within Maine's banking community to serve fully the financial needs of even our largest businesses.

— There could be more capital available for small and medium sized companies.

— And there could be more money available for mortgages.

This bill is consistent with our policy of encouraging greater competition in the marketplace.

A second major economic development proposal is my request that you authorize state government to administer the federal Community Development Block Grant Program.

This program serves very useful purposes within our state.

It will make about \$10 million available to our cities and towns.

Structured to give local governments flexibility in designing their own programs, it stimulates the revitalization of deteriorated areas, it addresses local problems, and creates jobs.

My economic development program also includes a measure to encourage the use of Bangor's airport as a location for international air traffic.

I am recommending an exemption from the 2-cent per gallon excise tax on aviation fuel used in international flights.

Working cooperatively with the private sector, the Department of Marine Resources has launched a program to assist with the marketing of Maine groundfish.

Because of my commitment to assisting Maine's native, resource-based industries, I am recommending funding of \$93,000 to expand and to continue the important work of that Department.

#### **Energy and Utility Regulation**

Energy remains one of the great continuing concerns of the State of Maine.

It encompasses a host of issues and problems — from our dependence on imported oil, to the public uncertainty about nuclear power and the special needs of a state with long, cold winters, to the abundance of our native energy resource potential.

During 1981, Maine's Office of Energy Resources produced a strong energy plan for Maine — the first comprehensive energy plan for several years.

Nineteen eighty-one also saw the creation of a Public Advocate to represent the consumers

before the Public Utilities Commission and the elimination of the minimum charge on residential electric bills.

This year I am recommending a program for energy and utility regulation that includes these initiatives:

— A bill to assist energy planning and the PUC by requiring the preparation of an energy demand forecast.

— Legislation granting the PUC the authority to approve in advance out-of-state investments by Maine electric utilities.

— A measure to prevent utilities from filing a rate hike request while another is pending.

— And a bill to set the terms of PUC members at six years.

Finally, I am including within my budget recommendation a request that we make up some of the lost federal funding for the energy office, because I believe that office has done a superb job.

#### **Milk**

The issue of whether to continue retail price fixing of milk — an issue on which some of us disagreed last year — remains with us into the new year.

In my judgment, the recent order of the Milk Commission in no way diminishes the injustice of government fixing the price of this basic food.

The bill I introduced in 1979 will be before you again this session as an initiative brought in by Senator Dutremble.

I strongly urge you to pass it.

#### **Collective Bargaining**

It is time to review the traditional policy of collective bargaining behind closed doors.

It is my view that the public's right-to-know goes beyond the right to know the results of negotiations.

It's time the public also knew how the decisions to spend their tax dollars are made.

I believe open negotiations will lead to more responsible negotiations. Therefore, I am submitting sunshine legislation which will open state collective bargaining sessions to the public.

#### **Budget**

In most years of short sessions, preparation of a budget bill has been a relatively simple matter.

Little needs to be done beyond determining which ideas to recommend for funding and ensuring that adequate resources are available.

This year's budget has been complicated by the actions of the Congress initiated by the White House.

Not only have Congress and the federal bureaucracy rewritten many of the rules, but they are constantly changing these rules in the middle of the game.

State governments all over the nation are trying to make up for monies that were committed — if not spent — only to find that Washington has reneged on its commitment to give the states the money.

And the process has been further complicated by the fact that information has been hard to come by.

So effective and timely planning have been very difficult.

Other economic factors such as inflation and high interest rates have also had to enter into the decision-making process.

Fortunately, we ended the last fiscal year with a healthy surplus.

That surplus, combined with other revenue measures, enables us to recommend a General Fund budget of \$41.2 million.

It also ensures that we will continue to meet our other obligations such as setting aside funds for collective bargaining.

Some of our effort has had to go into making up for reduced federal funding.

We could not continue in full every program that has been reduced.

Nor could we match every dollar cut with a dollar of our own.

Nor should we.

But we have made an effort to make up for cuts which we could not in good conscience ignore.

For a need does not go away simply because Washington has turned its back.

Some programs, such as the Work Incentive Program, will be continued on a reduced basis.

Some departments dependent on federal funding will remain open but with fewer people and reduced services.

But our advance planning, our target budgeting, the reduction of lower priority programs last year, and the expansion of our economy make possible a greater effort to meet the needs created by federal cuts than many other states can afford.

#### Indexation

In some circles the concept of full tax indexing is being promoted as a solution to the burdens of inflation in Maine.

But we in Maine have an old tradition of sitting back, observing trends and reaching our own conclusions.

Rather than embrace these trends, untested, we tend to make sure they work first.

For that reason, indexation has been the subject of a long and careful review by my Administration.

The inevitable conclusion we have reached is that in no state where it has been tried has tax indexing produced the promised results.

In Minnesota indexing was directly responsible for a revenue shortfall of over \$1 billion.

A shortfall of \$1 billion in a state with a budget of \$9 billion caused a long and bitter legislative battle resulting in severe cuts in expenditures and a substantial increase in the sales tax.

Large revenue losses also occurred in California, Arizona, Wisconsin and Colorado, and have been followed by a wide variety of measures to water down and limit the indexation measure originally passed.

In short, the experience of other states teaches us that prudence is the best course in this matter.

Secondly, there remains uncertainty over the national economy.

We still don't know what will be the full effects on state revenues of the Reagan administration's budget and tax cuts.

All but the rosiest forecasts indicate that slow growth and high inflation will remain with us in the near future.

This is precisely the combination of circumstances that proved so disastrous in Minnesota.

Finally, indexation will not solve all the problems of inflation.

On the contrary, it amounts to an admission of defeat.

It says in effect, "We can't end inflation, so let's adjust to it on a permanent basis."

That attitude has brought us the higher energy costs, higher cost of living, higher production costs and other price pass-throughs that are largely responsible for today's inflation.

To index the income tax is simply to take one more step in the futile effort to avoid facing up to inflation. Rather, it must be addressed — directly — by all of us who hold positions of responsibility for public and private expenditures.

Therefore, I am proposing legislation which limits indexing to the standard deduction and addresses a serious inequity in the tax laws.

For those taxpayers who itemize deductions, the value of those deductions rises as medical costs, interest rates, property taxes and the prices of other deductible items increase.

But the value of the standard deduction has been fixed since 1977.

Since that time, home ownership costs have risen nearly 60 percent, medical costs nearly 50 percent, and the consumer price index about 55 percent.

Therefore, the real value of the standard deduction has fallen by at least 50 percent since it

was last changed.

My legislation will eliminate this inequity by providing for annual adjustments of the value of the standard deduction by an amount equal to the percentage increase in the national personal consumption expenditures index.

This will cost about \$1 million annually.

#### Highway Funding

Last year, working together, we were able to enact a responsible and fully-funded highway program.

This year, however, as a result of the American Trucking Association's suit against part of that funding package, we face an unanticipated shortfall.

Therefore, I am recommending a \$7.9 million appropriation from the General Fund to meet that shortfall.

To me, it makes sense to turn to a fund that has a surplus to meet the needs of a fund that has an unanticipated deficit.

#### Educational and Cultural Services

Maine has maintained a share of the cost of local education that represents one of the strongest commitments to education by any state in the entire Northeast.

Despite the pressing demands on our resources, I am recommending an increase in local leeway. Any I am proposing an additional \$500,000 appropriation for the University of Maine. I will also be proposing a \$75,000 for the Maine Maritime Academy as we continue our commitment to building an outstanding system of higher education for future generations.

#### Corrections

The establishment of the Maine Department of Corrections last year was the latest in a series of improvements we have undertaken on behalf of our present system.

Beginning with the lockdown at Thomaston in 1980 and continuing through the acquisition of additional facilities to ease crowded conditions, we have made substantial progress in dealing with our prisons.

To reduce expensive overtime at the prison and the correctional center, we are asking for additional positions — 26 at the prison and 12 at the correctional center.

We are also asking for 11 new positions at Charleston, which will permit the housing of 33 more inmates there.

Our total corrections recommendation is \$2.6 million.

#### Maine Health and Mental Retardation

Last year, because of the efforts of this Legislature and my Administration, the federal court agreed that Maine has fulfilled its commitment under the terms of the Pineland Consent Decree.

We can be proud of what we have accomplished at the Pineland Center, for Maine truly does provide an outstanding program of residential care for its retarded citizens.

But more needs to be done.

Therefore, I am recommending an appropriation of up to \$1.2 million for community-based services. This will provide for five additional group homes for our retarded citizens.

We are asking for \$779,000 for remodeling the Pooler Pavilion and making other improvements at the Bangor Mental Health Institute in fulfillment of my continued commitment to a strong mental health facility serving northern Maine.

#### Human Services

Among the highest obligations of state government is that of assisting our most vulnerable citizens, to offer hope, to ease suffering, to provide shelter where we can, and protection where we must.

In the past, Maine's Legislature has shown deep compassion for the needy among us.

And over the past three years you and I have shared a concern for that most tragic and innocent victim of life's cruelty — the abused and neglected child.

Today, child welfare services in Maine are better organized, better funded and better able

to meet this growing problem.

We can be pleased by our progress. But we cannot be satisfied.

Several Maine children died this past year at the hands of members of their own families. And their deaths remind us once again that too many children still live in dangerous environments.

In the six-year period of 1976 through 1981, there were 23 children in Maine who were the victims of homicide. And at least three dozen other children are known to have committed suicide.

Many of these tragedies might have been prevented if society had been able to intervene earlier in their troubled young lives.

For that somber reason, I am submitting to you a package that will further upgrade our ability to protect our vulnerable children.

It includes the following:

— Support for the development of 17 additional chapters of parents anonymous, a self-help group of abusive and potentially abusive parents.

— The program also seeks to stimulate the formation of community-based child abuse councils in areas of the state where they do not now exist and to strengthen those already at work.

— And it seeks funding for an additional 18 child welfare workers for the Department of Human Services.

The total cost of this package is \$412,000.

It would be added to what is essentially a good network of services now in place. But it may well mean the critical difference in our capability to aid children who are presently not getting help.

In addition to this commitment to children who live in danger, I am asking you to make a renewed commitment to those children who live in poverty.

More than 35,000 children in 17,000 households now benefit from Maine's Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

Today, I am recommending what in effect would be a 7 percent increase in benefits for these children.

An appropriation of \$1.2 million will generate some \$3 million in federal funding.

Last year, at your regular session, you made additional resources available for those citizens who are not able to function independently enough to remain in their own homes.

But again, more needs to be done.

Therefore, I am requesting support for an additional 120 new boarding home and adult foster home beds.

I am also recommending a 6 percent increase for boarding home reimbursement.

These recommendations are consistent with the efforts this Administration has made to upgrade the quality of long-term care available for our dependent adult population, a population which for many years was somewhat forgotten. Together, they mean a substantial improvement in our boarding and foster home program for adults.

At the special session in September, you approved funding to continue some of our vital Title XX programs which support such valuable services as meals on wheels, homemaker services and day care.

I am asking that this session you continue your support for these valuable programs, because they are truly productive ways by which we can support the dignity and independence of many of our citizens.

I would like to address briefly one last topic under the human services category.

All of us are aware of the rapidly increasing cost of hospital care.

Seven months ago, I asked our Health Facilities Cost Review Board to examine the present system of financing hospital care in this State. They submitted their report to me two weeks ago.

They found the system of financing hospital

care lacks incentives to control costs.

They also found that voluntary efforts of hospitals to contain their costs have not worked.

The Board made recommendations for several major changes in the way hospitals are paid.

I believe these recommendations deserve serious consideration.

I am now preparing a response to them. And I will submit it to you for your consideration in a timely manner.

In addition to these initiatives and recommendations of my Administration, you will, of course, be offering your own ideas, and establishing your own priorities.

That is the process and it is one that has worked well over the years.

I am aware, for example, that many of you have expressed concerns over the future of administrative funding of the Food Stamp Program.

In this area, as in all others, we will work cooperatively with you in a spirit of compromise as we fulfill our constitutional obligations on behalf of the people of Maine.

Every action of government involves a choice.

We can choose to act — or to do nothing.

We can choose what seems best among several alternatives.

And we can choose to lead, to use government's authority to make things happen, instead of sitting on the sidelines.

You and I have chosen to act together, and to lead.

We acted together when the Congress dragged its feet on helping the poor and the elderly with winter fuel emergency funds.

We acted together when we heard Bath Iron Works was considering expanding in another state.

We acted together to address the needless deaths caused by drunk drivers.

We acted together with target budgeting to eliminate unnecessary government programs.

And we acted together to begin the revitalization of the potato and fishing industries.

When the situation demands, we must not be afraid to act to get our economy moving, to prevent human suffering.

Now are we to say to the housing industry: "Sink or Swim?"

Are we to say to those who can't buy homes: "Forget about your dreams?"

Are we to say to the welfare mother who wants a job and a measure of human dignity: "You're on your own?"

Are we to tell the innocent victim of child abuse: "It's a tough world, kid?"

We cannot.

We must not.

We will not.

For government without priorities is simply a set of rules.

And government without compassion is just a tax collector.

And if government won't use its influence to try to help people better their lives, if government can't use its influence to help improve the economy, if government refuses to protect those who cannot protect themselves, then what has government become?

And if government won't make those choices, what have we become?

In our desire to reduce spending, to be responsible with the taxpayers' money, and to adjust to the times, let us not forget why we are here:

And that is to try to make life a little better for our children in need, for our aged parents, for our working men and women, and all those who share with us the privilege of living in this special place we call Maine.

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

assembled having been accomplished, the Chairman declared the same dissolved and the Senate retired to its Chambers amid applause of the House, the members rising.

#### **In the House**

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

#### **(Off Record Remarks)**

On motion of Mr. Rolde of York,  
Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.