

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Twentieth Legislature
State of Maine

Volume II

First Regular Session

May 18, 2001 – June 22, 2001

Second Regular Session

January 2, 2002 – March 6, 2002

Pages 890-1770

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
7th Legislative Day
Tuesday, January 22, 2002

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

Prayer by Reverend Richard A. Bamforth, Augusta (retired).

National Anthem by Megan Light, University of Southern Maine, Gorham.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Fred Holler, M.D., Portland.

The Journal of Friday, January 18, 2002 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Ban the Use of Aircraft While Hunting"

(S.P. 746) (L.D. 2078)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 351)

**STATE OF MAINE
120TH LEGISLATURE**

December 19, 2001

Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.

Governor of Maine

1 State House Station

Augusta ME 04333

Dear Governor King:

We are pleased to invite you to deliver the State of the State message at a Joint Session of the 120th Maine Legislature on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

S/Richard A. Bennett

President of the Senate

S/Michael V. Saxl

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 352)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

January 3, 2002

The Honorable Richard A. Bennett

President of the Senate

State House

Augusta Maine 04333

The Honorable Michael V. Saxl

Speaker of the House

State House

Augusta Maine 04333

Dear President Bennett and Speaker Saxl:

It is with pleasure that I accept your invitation to deliver the State of the State message at a Joint Session of the 120th Maine Legislature on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

I look forward to our work together this year on behalf of the people of this great State.

Sincerely,

S/Angus S. King, Jr.

Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 353)

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL
REGULATION
BUREAU OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
36 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0036**

January 15, 2002

The Honorable Michael V. Saxl

Speaker of the House

Maine House of Representatives

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Saxl:

In accordance with Title 9-B MRSA §217, as amended, enclosed please find a copy of the "Annual Report from the Superintendent of the Bureau of Financial Institutions to the Legislature." In addition to the annual statistical information, the Report also includes informational segments which address issues of current importance to the Legislature, the Executive Branch, and the Maine financial institution community.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding the information contained in this Report, we would be pleased to respond. This Report will also be available in electronic format on the Bureau of Financial Institution's web site at MaineBankingReg.org.

Very truly yours,

S/Howard R. Gray, Jr.

Superintendent

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.P. 749)

**STATE OF MAINE
120TH MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 17, 2002

Hon. Betheda G. Edmonds

Senate Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Labor

Hon. George H. Bunker, Jr.

House Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Labor

120th Legislature

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Edmonds and Representative Bunker:

Please be advised that Governor Angus S. King, Jr. has nominated Catherine R. Sullivan of Portland for reappointment to the Maine State Retirement System, Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5, M.R.S.A., §17102, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

S/Richard A. Bennett

President of the Senate

S/Michael V. Saxl

Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR**.

READ and **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** in concurrence.

The Following Communication: (S.P. 750)

STATE OF MAINE
120TH MAINE LEGISLATURE

January 17, 2002

Hon. Anne M. Rand

Senate Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Hon. Charles C. LaVerdiere

House Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

120th Legislature

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Rand and Representative LaVerdiere:

Please be advised that Governor Angus S. King, Jr. has nominated Michael M. Hastings of Hampden for reappointment to the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission.

Pursuant to Title 30, M.R.S.A., §6212, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

S/Richard A. Bennett

President of the Senate

S/Michael V. Saxl

Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

READ and **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

The following Bill was received, and upon the recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills was **REFERRED** to the following Committee, ordered printed and sent for concurrence:

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Bill "An Act Concerning the Disposal and Storage of Cremains"

(H.P. 1580) (L.D. 2089)

Sponsored by Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Pursuant to Joint Study Order
Committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who are Incarcerated

Speaker SAXL from the **Committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who are Incarcerated** pursuant to Joint Order 2001, H. P. 1383 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Committee to Study the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who are Incarcerated Relating to Treatment and Aftercare Planning in State Prisons"

(H.P. 1583) (L.D. 2088)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

On motion of Representative COLWELL of Gardiner, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** and later today assigned.

Pursuant to Public Law

Education Funding Reform Committee

Representative GREEN for the **Education Funding Reform Committee** pursuant to Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part SSS asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Education Funding Reform Committee"

(H.P. 1581) (L.D. 2086)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Public Law

Education Funding Reform Committee

Representative GREEN for the **Education Funding Reform Committee** pursuant to Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part SSS asks leave to report that the accompanying **RESOLUTION**, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow the Legislature to Establish Classes of Property for Purposes of Taxation and to Exempt Personal Property from Taxation if there is an Excise Tax on Certain Personal Property

(H.P. 1582) (L.D. 2087)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative RICHARD of Madison, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1579)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs report out, to the House, a bill concerning the implementation of a school funding formula based on the essential programs and services model.

READ and **PASSED**.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Change of Committee

Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Continue Funding for the Maine Microenterprise Initiative Fund"

(S.P. 186) (L.D. 658)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Economic Development Capacity"

(S.P. 337) (L.D. 1144)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

Report of the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Transfer Funds From the Service Retirement Benefit Reserve to the Maine State Retirement System in Order to Fund the Change in Retirement Eligibility Requirements for Game Wardens and Marine Patrol Officers" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 683) (L.D. 1885)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Report of the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Retired Teacher Health Insurance Contribution Fund"

(S.P. 708) (L.D. 1910)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Report of the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Require Tax-exempt Corporations to File Copies of Federal Internal Revenue Service Form 990 with the Secretary of State"

(S.P. 702) (L.D. 1904)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Representative KANE from the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Repatriation of Native American Remains"

(H.P. 1443) (L.D. 1940)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(S.P. 704) (L.D. 1906) Bill "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Corinna Sewer District" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

There being no objections, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar tomorrow under the listing of Second Day.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Second Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the Second Day:

(H.P. 1216) (L.D. 1657) Bill "An Act to Improve Emergency Medical Services by Expanding the Pool of Qualified Emergency Medical Services Personnel"

(H.P. 1400) (L.D. 1839) Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation to Lease a Certain Parcel of Land to the Federal Aviation Administration

(H.P. 1408) (L.D. 1846) Bill "An Act to Ensure Victim Safety"

(H.P. 1459) (L.D. 1956) Bill "An Act to Clarify Rule-making Authority for the Office of the State Fire Marshal"

No objections having been noted at the end of the Second Legislative Day, the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Clarify the Law Enforcement Authority of Capitol Security Personnel

(H.P. 1573) (L.D. 2079)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 112 voted in favor of the same and 8 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment yesterday, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act Regarding Workers' Compensation and Liability Immunity Coverage for Emergency Management Forces" (H.P. 1578) (L.D. 2084) (Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** suggested) TABLED - January 18, 2002 (Till Later Today) by Representative COLWELL of Gardiner. PENDING - **REFERENCE**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Sharing of Information to Facilitate Interstate Cooperation Between Toll Agencies"

(H.P. 1402) (L.D. 1841)

Signed:

Senators:

- SAVAGE of Knox
- O'GARA of Cumberland
- GAGNON of Kennebec

Representatives:

- MARLEY of Portland
- McNEIL of Rockland
- COLLINS of Wells
- WHEELER of Eliot
- WHEELER of Bridgewater
- FISHER of Brewer
- BOUFFARD of Lewiston
- PARADIS of Frenchville
- BUNKER of Kossuth Township

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

- McKENNEY of Cumberland

READ.

On motion of Representative FISHER of Brewer, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE** and was assigned for **SECOND READING** Friday, January 25, 2002.

On motion of Representative TUTTLE of Sanford, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby Bill "An Act Regarding Workers' Compensation and Liability Immunity Coverage for Emergency Management Forces"

(H.P. 1578) (L.D. 2084)

Was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**.

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** and later today assigned.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Norton who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **NORTON**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Had I been present for the vote on Supplement 1, Item 10-1, I would have voted yea.

The House recessed until the Sound of the Bell.

(After Recess)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator Michaud of Penobscot of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 6:30 in the evening for the purpose of extending to His Excellency, Governor Angus S. King, Jr., an invitation to attend the Convention and to make such communication as pleased him.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 6:30 in the evening and the Speaker appointed Representative COLWELL of Gardiner to convey this message to the Senate.

Subsequently, Representative COLWELL of Gardiner reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

IN CONVENTION

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Richard A. Bennett, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On a motion of the President Pro Tem Michaud of Penobscot, it was

ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable First Lady Mary Herman inviting her to attend the Joint Convention of the two branches of the Legislature now assembled in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to Governor, Angus S. King, Jr., an invitation to make such communication as pleases him.

The Order was Read and Passed.

The Chair will appoint the following:

- The Sen. from Washington, Senator Shorey
- The Sen. from Cumberland, Senator Bromley
- The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator Youngblood
- The Rep. from Brunswick, Rep. Richardson
- The Rep. from Dixfield, Rep. Bryant
- The Rep. from Camden, Rep. Dorr
- The Rep. from Skowhegan, Rep. Hatch

The Rep. from Fort Kent, Rep. Michaud
 The Rep. from Orono, Rep. Thomas
 The Rep. from Scarborough, Rep. Clough
 The Rep. from Kennebunk, Rep. Murphy
 The Rep. from Hampden, Rep. Duprey
 The Rep. from Baileyville, Rep. Morrison

Subsequently, the Senator from Washington, Senator Shorey, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and we are pleased to report that the First Lady, Mary Herman, will attend forthwith.

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery, the First Lady of the State of Maine, Mary Herman. The Chair also recognized in the House Gallery the Honorable members of the Judiciary: Justice Robert Clifford – Maine Supreme Court Justice, Justice Susan Calkins – Maine Supreme Court Justice, Justice Paul Rudman – Maine Supreme Court Justice, Justice Howard Dana – Maine Supreme Court Justice, Justice Donald Alexander – Maine Supreme Court Justice and James "Ted" Glessner – State Court Administrator. Also in the House Gallery, the Constitutional Officers of the State of Maine: Dan Gwadosky – Secretary of State, G. Steven Rowe – Attorney General, Linda Pistner – Chief Deputy Attorney General and Dale McCormick – State Treasurer. Also in the House Gallery, the State Auditor of Maine, Gail Chase, and husband, Stevan Gressitt. Also in the House Gallery members of the Governor's Cabinet and staff: Val Landry - Commissioner of Labor, Janet Waldron - Commissioner of Administrative & Financial Services, Bob Spear - Commissioner of Agriculture, Evan Richert - Director of State Planning Office, Mike Kelly - Commissioner of Public Safety, Lee Perry - Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Joseph Tinkham - Defense, Veterans & Emergency Management, John Melrose - Commissioner of Transportation, Lynn Duby - Commissioner of Behavioral and Developmental Services, Duke Albanese - Commissioner of Education, Martha Kirkpatrick - Commissioner of Environmental Protection, Charlie Spies - CEO of the Finance Authority of Maine, Ron Lovagilo - Commissioner of Conservation, Kevin Concannon – Commissioner of Human Services, Mike Finnegan – Director of the Maine State Housing Authority, Catherine Longley – Commissioner of Professional & Financial Regulation, Marty Magnusson – Commissioner of Corrections, Don McDowell – Interim Chancellor of the University of Maine System and Jack Nicholaus – Director of the Bureau of the Budget. Also in the House Gallery, Angus III and Catharine King, John Herman, Robbie Lipman and Eric Wright, Gail Lowe, Sam Zaitlin, Barry and Karen Mills, John and Dean Patterson, Jim and Susan Dowe, Warren and Brammy Cook and Celeste Viger. Also in the House Gallery, Marilyn Hutchinson, Rose Smith, Penny Vaillancourt, Cathy Williams, Sean Findlen, Marc Fairbrother, Karen Linscott, Jim Doyle, Wayne Doulgas, Christopher Parr, Colleen Eugley and Jeremy Payne.

On a motion by Senator Small of Sagadahoc, it was ORDERED that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, and extend to him an invitation to attend the Joint Convention of the two branches of the Legislature now assembled in the Hall of the House for the purpose of making such communication as pleases him.

The Order was Read and Passed.
 The Chair will appoint the following:
 The Sen. from Hancock, Senator Goldthwait

The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator Cathcart
 The Sen. from Somerset, Senator Mills
 The Rep. from Livermore, Rep. Berry
 The Rep. from Lewiston, Rep. Mailhot
 The Rep. from Fairfield, Rep. Tessier
 The Rep. from Portland, Rep. Brannigan
 The Rep. from Harpswell, Rep. Etnier
 The Rep. from Greenville, Rep. Jones
 The Rep. from Acton, Rep. Nass
 The Rep. from Norway, Rep. Winsor
 The Rep. from Caribou, Rep. Belanger
 The Rep. from Bucksport, Rep. Rosen

Subsequently, Senator Goldthwait of Hancock, for the Committee, reported that the committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and are pleased to report that the Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, will attend forthwith.

The Chair is pleased to welcome the Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine accompanied by the Honorable Leigh Ingalls Saufley, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

The Chair is pleased to recognize behind the glass the Governor's staff, Kay Rand, Dave Wilby, Sue Bell and Greg Nadeau. The Chair is also pleased to recognize Captain David Bouffard, the Governor's Herald.

Governor Angus S. King, Jr., then addressed the Convention.

Governor **KING**: Before I begin the official part of my remarks, I have a quick announcement to make. I want to resolve a question that has been troubling the people of New England and the people of Maine for the last several days. As Governor of the State of Maine, I can now say definitively, it was an incomplete pass.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Madam Chief Justice, members of the 120th Legislature, and citizens of Maine. Before I begin let's remember that one of the members of the 120th Legislature, Senator Joel Abromson, is not with us tonight. Shalom, Joel, we already miss you. We will miss you forever.

We come together tonight in this historic room to enact a ritual of democracy, a ritual that is being played out in the next few weeks in statehouses across America, as well as in our Nation's Capital. It is a moment for us to reflect upon our times, to take stock of our accomplishments, to take the measure of our challenges.

Much of what I offer tonight will be in the here and now, but our eyes must also be on the future -- not just next year, but a dozen years from now, as we contemplate a Maine of opportunity and widespread prosperity, a Maine of health and vitality, a Maine of community and character.

My first duty tonight is to report--quite literally -- on the state of the state, and, under the circumstances, it's good. I won't minimize the difficulty of our times, but we've certainly seen worse -- and many of our neighbors across the country are seeing worse right now. While other states are stalling, some even going in reverse, Maine, to go back to a phrase that is now seven years old, Maine is still on the move.

As we approach the issues I will discuss tonight, we must hold to the one central, immutable and enduring principle that governs both individuals and societies: that the future is ours to make. By our actions and choices over the past few years, we

have already done a lot to set ourselves a course to this prosperous, healthy, and civil Maine. As we navigate rougher waters, our Maine vessel is sound and seaworthy; if our people are strong and united, we will not only ride out the squall that we are in, because nothing is permanent, but we will reach the destination stronger and all the better for the journey.

Seven years of collaborative effort has brought us to a place where we are, in an economic sense, less vulnerable and more resilient. These accomplishments are the buffer against today's challenges, and our springboard past those of tomorrow.

First, we have a straightforward state budget. The fiscal gimmicks are gone: no GPA pushes, no shutdown days, no furlough days, no temporary surcharge on the income tax, and no temporary increase in the sales tax. By the way, we proved it was temporary. And it took a lot of work by everybody in this room to make this happen.

In terms of employment, we're doing pretty well -- and considerably better than much of the rest of the country. Yes, we've certainly had layoffs and boy do I hate to see those notices and there will undoubtedly be more before this downturn is over, but our unemployment rate is still close to 4 percent, while the national average is approaching 6 percent. Over the last seven years we have added more than 75,000 new jobs -- net of any losses, an amazing 225 new jobs a week, week in and week out for seven years.

And over the last several years we have reversed course in an important respect, one that hasn't gotten much attention, today more people are moving into Maine than moving away. In fact, during the first year of this new century, nearly 9,000 more people moved here than left us. This is a sign of the underlying strength of our economy and of the natural attractions of Maine. It is especially encouraging in view of the fact that New England as a whole saw net out-migration. And over the last year Maine was in the top half of the fastest growing states in the country. That is good news and somewhat surprising. That is new news. Maine is still moving, and in this case they're moving in.

And not only jobs and population are up; both personal and family household incomes are on the rise, with the latest figures showing our real median family incomes increasing by 5.1 percent, which was the fourth highest rate of increase in the country. That is fantastic news. The fourth highest rate of family income growth in the country. That's Maine on the move in the right direction; our challenge is to keep it going.

Our work to increase incomes while at the same time steadily reducing taxes is starting to pay off. Again, according to the latest figures, the tax burden in Maine, which we hear so much about, has actually declined by 9 percent in the last four years. That is not bad.

And here's a major new tax cut that not everyone knows about. Because we had the foresight to build up and restructure the unemployment fund during the late nineties when times were good, the unemployment tax -- which hits every employer in Maine, large and small -- just this month, January 1, 2002, went down by an average of almost 30 percent across the board, a savings of \$45 million a year which goes right to the bottom line of the Maine economy.

While other states have struggled with energy restructuring, we've gotten it right and now have the most competitive electricity market in the nation. In most categories electricity prices are coming down. For example, in Bangor Hydro territory, residential, commercial, and industrial rates are all headed down, by between 12 and 20 percent. Lower prices statewide mean that Maine ratepayers will save more than \$200 million this year on their electric bills. It couldn't come at a better time.

We have also literally been building the foundation for future prosperity and better public service. In the mid-nineties, we faced a massive infrastructure debt in schools, prisons, roads, bridges and public buildings. And make no mistake about it, this was debt -- just as sure as our bonds -- debt that had been building up over 40 years and simply had to be paid. It came due in the last five years and we stepped up and paid it.

What's happened in the rebuilding of this state's infrastructure over the past five years -- with the support of this Legislature and its predecessors -- is nothing short of amazing and is a critical component of our ability to meet the challenges of the new century. Here's a partial list:

Bridges -- We have cut the backlog in half since 1995. The Casco Bay, Merrymeeting, Don Carter, Penobscot, Hancock-Sullivan and Sagadahoc, the engineering marvel that spans the Kennebec at Bath that has eliminated, not reduced, but eliminated one of the worst traffic jams in Maine, are now all in service, with Fairfield-Benton under construction and the Augusta third bridge commencing this year.

On the roadside, with strong support from this Legislature and the voters of Maine, we are now delivering the strongest road reconstruction program in twenty years. This year we finish -- four years early, by the way -- the complete entire reconstruction of Route 9, the famous airline, from Brewer to Calais, the vital link to Downeast Maine and the Maritimes. I never knew exactly why it was called it the airline, but I think it was because you were airborne a good deal of the time when you were headed out that way. Vincent Tamarro in Baileyville has found that his fuel trucks are saving an hour and ten minutes on a round trip to the Bucksport terminal. That is real saving. A half hour saved on a one-way trip between Brewer and Calais. Down east is still east, but it's no longer so far down. That is a significant accomplishment.

And none of this happened by accident; it took dedication, creativity, and leadership on the part of the DOT project development team. By the way, the DOT project development team that is in charge of all these projects -- here is a nice little fact, in the last seven years, that team is 21 smaller, but delivering 57 percent more projects. It seems to me that that is the way we ought to make government work for the people of Maine.

And don't forget our newest piece of transportation infrastructure, the fabulous Downeaster, the first passenger train serving Maine for almost forty years. Portland to Boston, if you haven't tried it, you are missing a treat -- no Boston traffic, no hassle with parking, and kids go for half price. If I sound like a salesman here, I am -- if we don't use it, we'll lose it. It is a great asset to the State of Maine.

Corrections -- we, those of us in this room, including especially the members of the Criminal Justice Committee, recent past and present -- have done nothing less than completely reinvent the corrections system in this state in the space of four years, starting with a new state prison at Warren. If you haven't seen it, get there before the prisoners do and check it out. We don't want to lose any of you inadvertently. We finally replaced the prison in Thomaston that had seen an incredible 178 years of service. And the new facility will be so much more efficient to run than the old one that even with vastly expanded programs in substance abuse, education, and mental health services -- it will save the taxpayers almost \$20 a day per inmate or about \$6.5 million dollars a year.

This is one that I feel pretty strongly about. Then come two entirely new youth centers -- one in Charleston and one in South Portland, with first-class facilities, new programming, and incredibly dedicated staffs. I made a rash promise four years ago

during some pretty dark days at the Maine Youth Center: that we would turn it around and we would build -- not only out of bricks and mortar, but from a new attitude -- a model youth corrections system, one that will break the heartbreaking cycle of recidivism. Although we've still got a ways to go, I'm proud to report that as of tonight, we're closing in on that goal.

And again, this didn't happen by accident; it took dedication, creativity, and leadership. There is a person here without whom this simply could not and would not have happened. I want to recognize one of the great people that I have ever had the privilege to work with, Marty Magnusson, Director of Corrections. He is a rock, that guy.

Another department that has seen dark days is Mental Health, now BDS, the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services; the progress here has been no less striking than in Corrections.

We have finally put together a true community-based mental health system, with quality resources available in every region of the state. This takes but a moment to say, but it has taken years to build. And, after years of lawsuits and tragedies, a decline in spirit as well as space, AMHI is finally being replaced after 160 years, and in a matter of days, we will be filing our notice of compliance with the consent decree, a giant step toward the lifting of AMHI's decade of court supervision. A lot of work has gone into that and it is a real accomplishment.

And how about this--tonight, I'm announcing that a partnership has been signed with Dartmouth Medical School that will make AMHI a teaching hospital, which will improve our ability to recruit psychiatrists, nurses and other clinical staff and give us access to the resources of one of the country's leading medical schools. From the site of tragedy to a first-rate teaching hospital: this is an incredible accomplishment. This transformation simply would not have happened without a dedicated staff and a wonderful leader, Lynn DUBY.

And what about the building we're in? Talk about an unpaid bill, it has been transformed over the past three years from an embarrassment -- there's no other word for it -- to a place worthy of the great people of this state. Did you ever think about the fact that this building was built in 1836 in a poor state with people that were farmers and fishermen and foresters and for years the building wasn't even kept painted. We have turned it into something that we can be proud of and the people of the state can be proud of when they come.

On top of all this, we've reclaimed the historic buildings at Oak Grove-Coburn as a new Criminal Justice Academy, completely renovated the State Office Building, and embarked upon by far the largest capital investment in K-12 school facilities in the state's history. One person more than anyone else has contributed to the success of these projects and that's Janet Waldron, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. She is a tiger.

We have also launched higher ed learning centers in Millinocket, Houlton, Dover-Foxcroft, Bath, and Oxford Hills and developed a community college system, this time without bricks and mortar, which right now is providing a pathway to prosperity to more than 1,000 of our citizens. And last year alone, 100,000 people used the services of our twenty-three new one-stop Career Centers that have replaced a hodgepodge of eighty different job-training programs that were really ineffective.

There is another piece of infrastructure that we've been building, too, and this one is our ticket to the next phase of economic life in Maine. It is a brand new capacity for research and development -- R & D -- that will lead to the production and marketing of products in biomedicine, marine technologies,

shipbuilding, advanced wood materials, sensors, software, foods, and products and services that today we can hardly imagine.

In fact, state investments in research and development have gone from a total of \$2 million in 1994 to an astounding \$32 million this year. Is that a lot of money for a small state? Absolutely, but already it is paying dividends. The University of Maine last year crossed the \$50 million threshold in research activity for the first time in its history, thanks in part to the seed money we have given, research labs and industries from Caribou to Franklin to Eliot are creating jobs based upon this initiative and thereby securing the future of Maine.

Maine has also experienced progress in the health and strength of our people. We've gone from one of the highest to one of the lowest teen pregnancy rates in the country, have achieved the highest childhood immunization rate ever recorded in the country, driven youth smoking down 36 percent since we began our attack on this plague almost exactly four years ago, reduced the number of families dependent on welfare by half, achieved one of the highest rates of children with health insurance in the country, and the nation's highest rate of high school graduation. And we're going to keep moving on all of these.

We've taken on the challenge of prescription drugs, big time, one of the nation's biggest health care problems. While everybody else has been talking about this, we've created the Healthy Maine Prescriptions Program, one of the most effective discount initiatives in the country -- 108,000 Maine people are now benefiting from 25 percent discounts at every single drug store in the state. We've successfully implemented the practice of prior authorization -- promoting sound and effective prescribing practices in the 4 million prescriptions Maine Medicaid pays for each year. Last year, we paid for 400,000 additional prescriptions and saved \$15 million because of prior authorization.

Our financial commitment to education is substantial, which everyone in this room knows, is yielding some of the best results in the nation. Our public school system is consistently in the top five in America by every measure -- leading with performance on national exams in reading, writing, math, science; leading in personalizing education with one of the smallest class sizes in the country; leading in efficiency with one of the highest proportion of dollars spent that actually go right to the classroom. That is a good one, more dollars into the classroom. My budget maintains our commitment to education and I am delighted we are united on this issue.

The state of the state is not all good; our nation faces the scourge of terrorism and a weaker economy. It is to these areas that we now must turn our attention.

First, homeland security. Let's pause momentarily to reflect on the tragedies of September 11th and all that has transpired since. Our fellow citizens, our government, our brave public servants -- police, fire, EMTs, military service men and women, airline employees, -- we mourn their losses and say a deep and prayerful "thank you" for their courage and selflessness.

To ensure that we are better prepared to defend against another attack on our homeland, I will first be joining with Attorney General Rowe in offering a package of initiatives to strengthen our security laws. Second, I will be proposing a \$10 million bond issue to enhance state and local preparedness. Our national defense team now includes the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines and the Waterville PD, local front line troops. If we are going to ask our towns and cities to join in fighting this war, we must see that they have the resources to do so, both from here and from Washington.

It is not just our homeland, but in our private homes that we must be secure. Let's support the unanimous recommendation of the Commission to Study Domestic Violence and give the courts the authority to prohibit the possession of firearms by those subject to temporary protection from abuse orders. This isn't gun control. It's common sense.

Although we have made critical investments in the State's infrastructure, but everybody in this room and in Maine knows, our service center communities also face a challenge maintaining their aging infrastructure upon which we rely for our most basic needs as well as for economic development. Seventy percent of Maine's jobs are based in service centers. It is critical to our economic vitality that we help our service center communities help themselves by enacting a carefully shaped bill for a limited local option sales tax -- one that is narrowly limited in amount and duration and laser-beamed, that is a verb that I just invented, at capital investments with regional economic benefit. I resisted this idea. I'm the last person to suggest we should raise taxes, but the alternative here is local debt, supported by local property taxes. If narrowly limited, and this bill is, this is an idea whose time has come.

We will also have an opportunity this session to put before the voters a bond issue to accelerate our economic recovery. The \$36 million bond issue I will propose will replenish the Economic Recovery Loan Fund and the Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund, both successful programs administered by FAME, redevelop the abandoned naval facility at Schoodic Point, create the Maine Rural Development Authority to boost hard-hit rural economies, and capitalize the Municipal Investment Trust Fund. Now is the time to make investments such as these in Maine and its people.

Even if we do all of this and more, there are more fundamental challenges facing us and our successors. It's to three of these issues -- the looming crisis in health care, the building of a stronger statewide economy, the maintenance of the essential nature of Maine -- that I would like to turn.

All of these, in one way or another, relate to health -- the health and vitality of our economy, the health of our Maine sense of community -- and our personal health.

The underlying message here is the same -- these are tough challenges -- complicated and fraught with the potential for political conflict -- but the key to their resolution lies in our hands. Nothing is written in the stars here; nobody in Boston or Washington is going to give us the answers.

The first of these overarching issues is the incredible recent escalation in the cost of health care, an issue that, barring another terrorist attack, will come to dominate the politics of this state and this country for the better part of the next decade. There is no more complex, difficult, or important issue before us.

We must look at all components of the problem -- quality care, cost, access -- if we are to make any headway toward solving this emerging crisis. And what we can do right now is take a clear look at the problem and try to identify some guidelines for the coming debate.

First, we need better information. The Blue Ribbon Commission that reported to us this time last year made an important beginning, but we still need a better understanding of what is driving the costs and where ours may depart from the rest of the country. That is one thing we really have to worry about. How much of the problem is the cost of prescription drugs? How do our hospital charges compare with those in other states and as between each other? What savings can be had by simplified administration? The new Health Care Performance Council can help provide some answers to these and other questions, so we

can base our policy prescriptions on facts instead of emotion and anecdote.

Second, there is no simple answer to this problem and anyone who suggests as much is kidding themselves as well as the public. During the debate on the Single-Payor bill last year, I received e-mails urging me to support "free health care." Well, not much is free these days and "free" health care--paid for by taxes and rationing of services -- could well turn out to be the most expensive option of all. If we're going to consider some form of single-payor system -- which I think would be almost impossible for us to implement in isolation from the rest of the country -- let's face the costs as well as tout the benefits.

Third, we're all paying the current health care costs, whether we know it or not. One of the realities of the present system is that we're mostly shielded from the costs because someone else -- Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance -- is paying the bill. And in most cases, we don't even see the premium bills, which is a second layer of insulation from the true costs. But the money for these premiums is coming out of our hides one way or another because premium increases are eating up whatever resources might be available for raises or other benefits.

I had an employer in my office not long ago in agony because he couldn't carry his health insurance costs any longer. He was in a real emotional state. Family coverage for his administrative assistant had gone from \$600 a month a couple of years ago to \$1,033 today. That's over \$12,000 a year just for health insurance, or \$6 an hour for an employee earning \$10 an hour in wages. This is absolutely unsustainable.

Fourth, we have to become better consumers. Another of the unintended consequences of the present system is that most of the consumers of the service -- that's us -- are pretty much indifferent to the price. Who can tell you the room rate in their local hospital? The cost of setting a broken arm? An MRI in Bangor, Augusta, or Boston? Who cares, as long as someone else is paying? I think we ought to make this information public and available. I think it is kind of ridiculous that you can get the price of a new Ford in about 10 seconds and you couldn't find the price of a broken arm if your life depended on it and it might.

As I mentioned, we are paying. But until we start paying attention, until we start asking questions, the costs will continue to rise just as surely as the tides in Penobscot Bay. Questions like -- Is there a generic drug that will work as well? Does the hospital a few miles down the road have equivalent quality and better rates? We have to ask those questions.

Fifth and finally, we have to take control of this issue in our own lives. Unlike most others engaged in this debate, I don't think it's really all about who pays or whether we have private insurance or a government program. I really don't think that is the issue. The simple fact is that no matter what the payment mechanism, a huge part of health care costs today -- which we've all paying, don't forget -- are avoidable and until we get a handle on this, we're not going to make much progress.

We're in the middle of a slow-motion chronic disease epidemic in this country and four diseases -- cardio-vascular, cancer, chronic lung disease, and diabetes -- cause three-quarters of the premature deaths in Maine each year.

What do these diseases have in common? They all relate, in whole or in part, to how we treat ourselves. Sure, sometimes they're unavoidable; when I was 29, I had cancer for reasons they never figured out. I understand that. I am not blaming people for their diseases. I mentioned this once and I got an e-mail that says, my mother is in the hospital and you are blaming her for being sick. I am not saying that, but I am saying that a big, big portion of these diseases are preventable if you treat yourself properly. Reliable estimates tell us that 50 percent of

these diseases are preventable with good nutrition, a little exercise, and no cigarettes. This isn't rocket science.

The savings? About a billion dollars a year, just here in Maine. That's more than the entire proceeds of the income tax; almost twice the sales tax; enough to build an east-west highway every year; or just leave a \$1,000 a year in the pockets of every man, woman, and child in the state. You get the idea-it's a lot of money and right now, we're leaving it on the table, and unfortunately, it's often the operating table.

And this is just the economics; the personal benefits in terms of healthier and longer lives are, as they say in the ad, priceless.

I could bury you in figures here -- cancer rates, heart disease, the phenomenal growth of diabetes -- but just let me leave you with one -- in the period from 1985 to 2000, obesity among children nationally increased 100 percent. That's a medical time bomb -- related directly to poor nutrition and a lack of exercise -- among kids, mind you -- that is set to go off just when the wheels start coming off us baby-boomers. When we are going to be demanding the services, these kids are going to come into the disease age. It's a health care and economic perfect storm and right now all we're doing is rearranging the political deck chairs.

The second long-term issue I want to discuss is the health of Maine's economy. Over the last several years, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development Steve Levesque and I have made a series of regional economic tours (we were in Somerset County just last week) -- no publicity, no big entourage, just quiet visits with large and small Maine businesses and their workers. We've seen some of the businesses that actually created the 75,000 new jobs I talked about a few minutes ago, great examples of determination and grit, of businesses swimming against the tide, of real dedication to employees and community. But we've also seen how hard it is on a day-to-day basis to compete, to keep your head above water in an increasingly tough business environment.

By and large, our businesses are making it, but it's close; and this is the message -- its close, its fragile; it's close because the central economic reality of our times -- the globalization of the economy -- carries with it great opportunity, but also great peril. Great opportunity because markets around the nation and the world are open to us for the first time, an antidote to the disadvantage dealt us by our geography; but great peril as well because the competition is so intense, competition coming from corners of the globe we'd barely heard of a dozen or so years ago.

In China, they really do work for 50 cents an hour, so anything we do by hand is at risk. And let me tell you about government support of business. In Maine, we have provided the business equipment tax reimbursement program to level the playing field with other states that had the sense to repeal personal property taxes on machinery and equipment years ago. Unfortunately funding this program is often contentious with lots of grumbling about corporate welfare and the like. I've already started to hear it this session. Meanwhile, places like China and the Czech Republic are directly underwriting a substantial part of the capital cost of new factories and taking aim at some of our most important and best paying jobs, like paper, computer chips and software.

Or, to bring this competition a little closer to home, let me read you an excerpt from a letter to a Maine business from John Engler, the Governor of Michigan. After describing their Renaissance zone program, the letter said if the business moved to Michigan, it "would be exempt from all state and local taxes for fifteen years." That's right, no taxes for fifteen years, no property tax, no personal property tax, no school tax, no income tax on the workers, no corporate tax on the business. Zilch, zero, zip. The

good thing is my friend who got the letter from Governor Engler was in the lobster business and he wasn't going to move to Michigan. That gives you a taste of what we are up against.

And we're wringing our hands about the business equipment program? Give me a break; we can argue forever the niceties of government support of business, but sooner or later, we have to face the reality of the world we live in -- and decide whether we want to have a diverse economy, which includes manufacturing or whether we want to be a one-season Bermuda. I don't think we want to do that.

In short, the economic growth we have enjoyed is tremendous but it is fragile and can be derailed by misguided state policy. The policies and accomplishments I've talked about matter -- infrastructure investments, tax cuts and credits, education, R&D -- but it's not just about having the right policies for a few years. This is something we learned from Ireland. It is about consistency and predictability as well. Anyone who makes a significant investment, whether in their own small business or in a major new factory, looks at the potential for success and the risk of failure. One risk no one likes to take in this life is that the rules are going to change in the middle of the game.

The threat is not that some future Legislature and Governor will pass a single bill that, at one stroke, puts us out of business. It's the death by a thousand cuts we have to fear: little steps -- all well-meaning, none a big deal in themselves -- which, when added together, cripple our ability to compete.

We must resist changes that will increase workers' comp costs, we must continue to work to decrease Maine's tax burden, and we must never return to the days when we taxed investments in the productivity of our own workers.

This isn't about business; it's about jobs, jobs that form the basis of everything else. The surpluses we enjoyed a few years ago -- surpluses which allowed us to expand health care for kids, build schools, invest in infrastructure and R & D -- didn't come out of the sky -- they came from the earnings of those 75,000 new jobs, from the growth in the stock market, and from the profits of our businesses. It's all connected and it all starts with a good job.

The outline of how to make this happen is clear: we must maintain our commitment to education at all levels (yes, including technology in the classroom), never abandon our commitment to growing R & D investments, and government must continue to be a partner and not an adversary in the creation and maintenance of jobs.

Yes, we can and we must regulate -- to protect the environment, our workers, and our families and, alas, we must also tax -- to support our schools, maintain our infrastructure, and provide health care and necessary services to the most vulnerable of our citizens. But we have to be smart about it and in each case where regulation or taxes are proposed, ask the consequences, weigh the costs-in terms of the competitiveness of our businesses and their workers -- as well as the benefits.

I honestly believe that we are at a historic tipping point and that we have it within our power to build one of the strongest economies in the country -- given our natural and human resources -- but doing so will require that think long and hard about the burdens we place on job creation, and keep a careful eye on the competition. It's not north vs. south, labor vs. management, rural vs. urban. It's Team Maine vs. the world, and we can and will win.

But finally, winning won't be worth the price if we don't hold on to the qualities that bind us to this special place and to each other. And it's to this challenge of sustaining the essence of Maine in the midst of economic change that I'd like to turn.

Losing that essence can be as simple as more traffic or the loss of a favorite view or as subtle as a diminished sense of

community, but once it's gone, we'll know it and there's no getting it back.

Some of this is inevitable and has already happened. Many of our towns now bear little resemblance to the quaint New England villages they were as recently as 20 years ago. So do we give up? Is this a tide that cannot or should not be resisted? If we really value this place -- and we should for there are few left like it anywhere -- the answer has to be no; we will embrace growth and its benefits, but we will be conscious of its pitfalls and smart about its direction and nature.

Here's a stunning fact. The amount of land put into development in Maine in the two decades between 1970 and 1990 was equal to the total amount of land developed in the prior 150-year history of the state. And at current rates we will double the amount again by 2010.

This doesn't mean that we stop growth; in fact, this issue isn't even particularly about growth itself. Especially in the traditional rural regions of our state, our task is to stimulate growth, not stymie it. But the issue has everything to do with how we grow. If we spread out aimlessly like a jug of spilled water, we lose. Instead of landscapes, we get junkscapes. We have to pay attention to incremental effects and try to direct growth to the places in town where it makes sense -- like downtown. When we have the choice, let's put public buildings downtown as well, as we have with the new DHS and court buildings in Lewiston.

We must also redouble our efforts to sustain our coastal and agricultural communities, to enhance our outdoor sporting heritage, to advance sustainable forestry, to promote industrial processes that protect the environment and to ensure that the next generation will be able to enjoy the lakes, ponds, streams, and mountains that make Maine so special.

But there's a lot more to this than land; it's the intangible quality of civility between neighbors, it's community itself. It's that package of values that developed when we were a state of a few thousand hearty souls perched on the edge of a vast continent, and cooperative action and fair dealing were more necessities than niceties. It's saying good morning and meaning it; it's letting the other guy in at the intersection (don't try this one in Boston), it's coffee instead of abuse for the line crews during the ice storm, it's even finding the governor pumping his own gas into a Harley.

It's the collection of attitudes and values that defines that increasingly rare but increasingly important commodity called community, and it's something we have up here that's very special, very valuable, and very fragile; we have to hang on to it for dear life.

As intangible as community and values are, we can and must take real, tangible steps to cultivate them. For example, right now all Maine schools are engaged in an initiative to instill responsibility and respect in students and staff, nurturing the character, and not just the minds, of our kids. And it goes even further than making our schools safer and more caring. Just as the students of today must be prepared to face the demands of tomorrow's economy, so too they must be equipped to face the demands of tomorrow's democracy. School and college campuses are rediscovering their role in citizenship education, including through a great idea called service learning -- an approach that weaves academic study with real-world problem-solving through community service. We can all join in as mentors, partners and supporters.

And, community is all about our extraordinary people. For example, in Chesterville, Representative Berry says it is near East Jay, there is a group of teenagers who are junior firefighters; they've been doing this volunteer work for three years. When the trucks return from a fire scene, these teens clean the equipment, dry the hoses, sanitize the air packs and get the trucks ready to

roll for the next call. They conduct fire safety programs with elementary students during Fire Prevention Week, meet with middle school students to talk about career opportunities in the fire service and help other volunteer organizations with projects and fundraising. Some of these students are completing courses to become fully certified firefighters in municipal or volunteer departments. These teenagers represent the very best of the spirit of Maine, the essence of the Maine community. Please join me as we recognize them here tonight. They are what it's all about.

And there's one more person I want to recognize tonight -- a guy who's never held public office, who's never sought public office, who's never sought public recognition, but who has been one of the most influential citizens of Maine of his generation.

Born in Aroostook County, raised in Bath, the first member of his family to go to college, Buzz Fitzgerald rose to be one of the best lawyers in the state. I should know, he waxed me more than once -- and then became President of Bath Iron Works, where his father had worked as a ship fitter some 40 years before. He's been a wonderful friend and mentor to a Governor, Judges, Senators, business leaders, and hundreds if not thousands of ordinary Maine people -- always offering counsel of integrity and common sense. He's what we used to call a pillar of the community, and for my money, no one better epitomizes the spirit of Maine than Buzz Fitzgerald.

And so, I'm inventing a new award tonight -- they say that the Governor has a lot of power. I have learned that the Governor can only do two things without consulting the Legislature -- pardon criminals and set the herring quota in the Gulf of Maine. Tonight I am adding a third, creating what I hope to be a new tradition. I am giving to Buzz Fitzgerald, the Governor's Award for Extraordinary Public Service -- and presenting it to one of Maine's great sons. There is no one in the State of Maine that deserves it more. I love you, you know. You are a great man.

So this is a vision of Maine's future -- widespread opportunity and prosperity, vibrant, livable communities -- real communities in the truest sense of the word and healthy people. It is a vision that is within our grasp, but grasp it we must, for it will not fall into our hands. If there is anything I deeply believe, it is that each of us has within us the power to move and shape the world, to define the future, to determine who and what we will be, as individuals and as a society.

We are truly blessed to live in this place at this time; whatever our problems and challenges, whatever our differences, whatever lies before us, I would not trade places with another living soul on this earth.

As I have mentioned tonight, we face many challenges, including an unprecedented threat to our safety and security from abroad, a looming health care crisis and a slower economy. But we should take comfort and confidence from the knowledge that this state and this country have faced great difficulties before and come through stronger than ever. In 1849, as the clouds of a terrible war gathered, a Maine poet used the powerful image of the launching of a great ship to exhort and encourage us as we face the tumultuous seas of an uncertain future. Longfellow's words are just as meaningful and inspiring today:

"Sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O UNION, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,

Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, are all with thee!
God bless America and the great State of Maine. Good night.

The Governor then withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled, having been accomplished, I now declare the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its Chamber amid the applause of the House, the audience rising.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

On motion of Representative ETNIER of Harpswell, the House adjourned at 8:10 p.m., until noon, Friday, January 25, 2002.