

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Fifth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1931

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Thursday, March 19, 1931.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mrs. Knowlton of Augusta.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Senate Bills in First Reading

S. P. 551, L. D. 854: Resolve in favor of Mrs. Minnie Shea of Kittery.

S. P. 552, L. D. 853: An act classifying public heating companies as public utilities.

S. P. 281, L. D. 248: An act authorizing towns to raise money for repairing and building academies.

S. P. 435, L. D. 574: An act relating to certain pollution of certain inland waters.

S. P. 376, L. D. 480: An act relating to Salmon Pond Sanctuary.

S. P. 375, L. D. 479: An act to establish duck sanctuaries in Knox county.

S. P. 306, L. D. 287: An act to establish a Game Preserve in the towns of Readfield and Winthrop in Kennebec county.

S. P. 81, L. D. 93: An act classifying the bear as a game animal.

S. P. 473, L. D. 715: An act relating to city committees.

From the Senate: Bill an act providing for sentences and the imposition thereof (H. P. 1192) (L. D. 777) on which the House accepted the minority report of the committee on Legal Affairs, reporting ought not to pass.

Comes from the Senate recommended to the committee on Legal Affairs in non-concurrence.

In the House:

Mr. SARGENT of Brewer: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House adhere. When this matter came before this body the minority report of the committee was accepted. Later on reconsideration the House voted to stand by its position, and I move that the House adhere.

A viva voce vote being doubted, A division of the House was had, Seventy-nine voting in the affirmative and 41 in the negative, the motion to adhere prevailed.

From the Senate: Report of the committee on Claims reporting ought not to pass on resolve in favor of town of Shirley for support of the family of Angus A. Green, H. P. 80, which was recommended to the committee on Claims in the House February 17th.

Comes from the Senate, report accepted in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by Mr. White of Dyer Brook, tabled pending reconsideration.

From the Senate: Report of the committee on Legal Affairs reporting ought not to pass on bill an act relating to Aroostook county sleds (H. P. 601) (L. D. 161) which was recommended to the committee on Ways and Bridges in the House March 12th.

Comes from the Senate indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Ashby of Fort Fairfield, that body voted to insist on its former action whereby the bill was referred to the committee on Ways and Bridges.

From the Senate: Report of the committee on Public Health legislation inexpedient on bill an act to regulate the practice of the system, method or science of healing known as naturopathy for those desiring to practice the same and providing penalties for violation of this act (H. P. 126) (L. D. 51) on which the House substituted the bill for the report and passed the bill to be engrossed.

Comes from the Senate with the report accepted in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Webster of Buxton, tabled pending reconsideration.

From the Senate: Report of the committee on Judiciary reporting ought not to pass on bill an act to authorize the trustees of York Water District to make and enforce certain rules and regulations (H. P.

577) (L. D. 199) which was accepted in the House March 4th.

Comes from the Senate with the bill substituted for the report and passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendments A and B in non-concurrence.

In the House: Senate Amendments A and B read.

Mr. FARRIS of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, I move we reconsider our action whereby we accepted the ought not to pass report. I will say in this connection to members of the House that this has been taken care of in the Judiciary committee. It is understood by the committee that this action shall be taken and it will go along as a matter of course.

A viva voce vote was taken and the motion prevailed.

On further motion by Mr. Farris the bill was substituted for the report in concurrence with the Senate. Thereupon the bill had its two several readings, the House adopted Senate Amendments A and B in concurrence, and tomorrow assigned.

The following petitions and remonstrance were received, and, upon recommendation of the committee on Reference of Bills, were referred to the committee on Legal Affairs.

(On motion by Mr. Hussey of Augusta, these petitions and remonstrance were referred to the committee on Legal Affairs, without reading.)

Legal Affairs

By Mr. Clarke of Cooper: Petition signed by Geo. F. Winslow of Baring and 21 others in favor of liberalizing the Sunday Blue Laws. (H. P. 1337)

By the same gentleman: Petition signed by H. F. Jones of Fayette and 11 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1338)

By Mr. Perham of Paris: Petition signed by R. O. Smith of Intervale and others in favor of same. (H. P. 1339)

By Mr. Littlefield of Monroe: Petition signed by Albert J. Skidmore, Liberty and 21 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1340)

By Mr. Hiscock of Abbot: Petition signed by H. M. Johnson of Guilford and 27 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1341)

By Mr. Fernald of Winterport:

Petition signed by M. F. Parker of Searsport and 50 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1342)

By Mr. Graves of Mount Desert: Petition signed by W. J. Tower of Southwest Harbor and 11 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1343)

By Mr. Blaisdell of Franklin: Petition signed by Leigh Coffin of Gouldsboro and 18 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1344)

By the same gentleman: Petition signed by George A. Faulkner of Winter Harbor and 71 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1345)

By the same gentleman: Petition signed by Ernest P. Williams of Sullivan and 11 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1346)

By Mr. Thomas of Harpswell: Petition signed by Eugene L. Harmon of South Casco and 30 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1347)

By Mr. Fenlason of Anson: Petition signed by J. P. Hardy of Bingham and 22 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1348)

By the same gentleman: Petition signed by Geo. C. Miller of Bingham and 22 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1349)

By Mr. Sanborn of Baldwin: Petition signed by Fred E. Cole of Standish and 20 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1350)

By Mr. Cram of Mount Vernon: Petition signed by H. Porter Trefethen of Readfield and 6 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1351)

By Mr. Bearce of Hebron: Petition signed by A. M. Fogg of East Sumner and 6 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1352)

By Mrs. Carter of Fairfield: Petition signed by E. L. Jewell of Fairfield and 6 others in favor of same. (H. P. 1353)

By Mr. Holbrook of Vanceboro: Remonstrance signed by Fred E. Richards and 29 others against amateur Sunday sports. (H. P. 1354)

Mr. PERHAM of Paris: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, as a matter of cooperation with the Clerk of the House, that I shall not present any more petitions to be read in the calendar, this to save bother and to retain the friendship of the Speaker and the Clerk.

Reports of Committees

Mr. Cram from the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance on bill an act relating to the Maine Standard Insurance Policy of Mutual Companies. (H. P. 629)

(L. D. 165) reported that legislation thereon is inexpedient.

Mr. Burkett from the Committee on Pensions reported same on resolve providing for a State pension for Emma O. Kilby. (H. P. 757)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on resolve providing for a State pension for Addie A. Williams of Bowdoin. (H. P. 529)

Mr. Ward from same Committee reported same on resolve in favor of Everett W. Porter of Dixmont. (H. P. 857)

Mr. Graves from the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries reported same on bill an act relating to fishing for smelts in Damariscotta River. (H. P. 865) (L. D. 342)

Mr. Littlefield from the Committee on Claims reported ought not to pass on resolve in favor of the town of Thomaston to reimburse it for damages and costs for building of bridge on state road therein. (H. P. 527)

Mr. Blodgett from same committee reported same on resolve in favor of George Mawhinney, of Jonesboro. (H. P. 785)

Reports read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Bussey from the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game reported ought not to pass on resolve in favor of East Machias for the purpose of screening the intake of the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company's penstock, in the East Machias River. (H. P. 565)

(Tabled by Mr. Jack of Lisbon pending acceptance of report.)

Mr. Eaton from the committee on Inland Fisheries and Game reported ought not to pass on bill an act relative to fur-bearing animals (H. P. 23) (L. D. 34).

Mr. Authier from the committee on Judiciary reported same on bill an act to provide provisions for medical and surgical treatment of persons whose resources are insufficient to pay for same (H. P. 931) (L. D. 408)

Mr. Burkett from same committee reported same on bill an act relating to allowances for widows (H. P. 922) (L. D. 400)

Mr. Farris from same committee reported same on bill an act relating to itinerant vendors (H. P. 910) (L. D. 364)

Mr. Varney from same committee reported same on bill an act relating to aid for grandmothers of

orphan children. (H. P. 1032) (L. D. 564)

Mr. Tompkins from same committee reported same on bill an act relating to sale of realty by administrators (H. P. 932) (L. D. 409)

Reports read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Tompkins from the Committee on Judiciary reported ought not to pass on bill an act relating to parole of life prisoners (H. P. 819) (L. D. 305)

(Tabled by Mr. Bowers of Portland pending acceptance.)

On motion by Mr. Melcher of Rumford, the House voted to reconsider its action whereby it accepted the report ought not to pass on House Paper 931, L. D. 408, an act to provide provisions for medical and surgical treatment of persons whose resources are insufficient to pay for same; and on further motion by the same gentleman the report was tabled, pending acceptance.

Mr. Sargent from the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance reported ought not to pass on bill an act to amend the form of standard policy (H. P. 213) (L. D. 493).

(Tabled by Mr. Smith of Waterboro, pending acceptance of report.)

Mr. Sargent from the committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance reported ought not to pass on bill an act relating to the standard fire insurance policy (H. P. 630) (L. D. 217).

(Tabled by Mr. Smith of Waterboro pending acceptance of report).

Mr. Kent from the Committee on Pensions reported ought not to pass on resolve providing for a State pension for Fannie E. Keene of Waldoboro (H. P. 843).

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on bill an act relating to State Pension Law (H. P. 935) (L. D. 412).

Mr. Ward from same Committee reported same on resolve providing for an increase in State pension for Mary J. French of Carmel (H. P. 846).

Reports read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Peacock from the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries reported ought not to pass on bill an act relating to the destruction of fish in East Machias Waters (H. P. 764).

(Tabled by Mr. Jack of Lisbon, pending acceptance of the report.)

Mr. Webber from the Committee on Claims on resolve in favor of James M. Brown of Clinton (H. P. 788) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1355) under same title and that it ought to pass.

Mr. Burr from same Committee on resolve in favor of Hillard McGray (H. P. 78) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1360) under same title and that it ought to pass.

Mr. Webber from same Committee on resolve in favor of Henry P. Johnson (H. P. 47) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1361) under same title and that it ought to pass.

Mr. Jacobs from the Committee on County Estimates on communication from the Secretary of State transmitting county estimates of the several counties reported two resolves under the title of

Resolve for the laying of the County taxes for the year 1931 (H. P. 1356).

Resolve for the laying of the County taxes for the year 1932 (H. P. 1357) and that they ought to pass.

On motion by Mr. Jacobs of Auburn the rules were suspended and the above two resolves had their two several readings and were passed to be engrossed.

Mr. MacKinnon from the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game on resolve in favor of building and equipping a feeding station, or rearing pools for fish, in Rumford, in the county of Oxford (H. P. 194) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1358) under same title and that it ought to pass.

Mr. Bussey from same Committee on bill an act relative to bounty on bobcat, loup-cervier, and Canadian lynx (H. P. 58) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1359) under same title and that it ought to pass.

Reports read and accepted and the new drafts ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Mr. Burr from the Committee on Claims reported ought to pass on resolve to reimburse the town of Kingman for assistance to Annie B. Baker, the wife of a disabled veteran of the World War (H. P. 787).

Mr. White from same Committee reported same on resolve to reim-

burse the town of Chelsea for assistance to Walter M. Coggs, a disabled veteran of the World War (H. P. 480).

Mr. Lewis from the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries reported same on bill an act relating to fly fishing for salmon and shad in Kennebec River (H. P. 668).

Reports read and accepted and the bill and resolves ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Mr. Burkett from the Committee on Judiciary reported ought to pass on bill an act relating to identification of criminals (H. P. 209) (L. D. 119).

Mr. Sargent from the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance reported same on bill an act relating to insurance agents and brokers (H. P. 631) (L. D. 539).

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on bill an act relating to life insurance policies (H. P. 123) (L. D. 50).

Reports read and accepted and the bills having already been printed were read twice under suspension of the rules and tomorrow assigned.

First Reading of Printed Bills and Resolves

H. P. 619, L. D. 874: An act repealing the prohibition on exhibition of prize fight pictures.

Mr. GRAY of South Portland: Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be tabled.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion to table failed of passage and the bill received its second reading.

(H. P. 941) (L. D. 875) An act relating to University of Maine

(H. P. 1332) (L. D. 876) An act to provide for an audit of the books and accounts of institutions receiving assistance from the State.

(H. P. 160) (L. D. 877) Resolve in favor of the Block House at Fort Kent

(H. P. 461) (L. D. 878) Resolve appropriating money to restore the early records in the office of the Register of Deeds for York County

(H. P. 628) (L. D. 879) Resolve to preserve the early vital records of the city of Westbrook

(H. P. 1266) (L. D. 880) Resolve for the purchase of Bibliography of Maine Imprints

(H. P. 1333) (L. D. 881) Resolve in favor of L. C. Hathaway

(H. P. 1334) (L. D. 882) Resolve authorizing the Forest Commissioner to convey a certain lot of land to H. M. Lincoln

(H. P. 1335) (L. D. 883) Resolve in favor of William H. Soucia

Passed to be Engrossed

(S. P. 117) (L. D. 115) An act relating to increase in the capital stock of railroad corporations

(S. P. 118) (L. D. 114) An act having reference to the authorization and approval of issues of stocks, bonds and notes by public utilities

(S. P. 224) (L. D. 845) An act relative to digging clams in the town of Kennebunk

(S. P. 278) (L. D. 249) An act to provide for continuous revision of the Statutes and legislative assistance

(Tabled by Mr. Blaisdell of Franklin, pending third reading, and specially assigned for tomorrow morning.)

(S. P. 354) (L. D. 377) An act authorizing the establishment of a Federal Fish Hatchery in Maine

(S. P. 425) (L. D. 531) An act relating to closing of accounts of public utilities

(S. P. 441) (L. D. 580) An act relating to procedure before Public Utilities Commission

(S. P. 527) (L. D. 846) An act relating to fees for registration of trailers

(S. P. 546) (L. D. 847) An act with reference to the meaning of the word 'distributor' as applied to distributors of gasoline

(H. P. 921) (L. D. 860) An act relating to the Attorney-General

(H. P. 1006) (L. D. 543) An act repealing obsolete appropriation law

(H. P. 1264) (L. D. 805) An act to authorize the construction of a wharf in Long Lake at Naples.

(H. P. 1274) (L. D. 861) An act relating to ice fishing in Mousam Pond, situated in the towns of Shapleigh and Acton, in York County

(H. P. 1277) (L. D. 830) An act to increase the salary of the Judge of the Municipal Court of the city of Biddeford

(H. P. 1301) (L. D. 862) An act establishing the Natanis Game Preserve in the town of Vassalboro in the county of Kennebec

(H. P. 1302) (L. D. 863) An act

relative to the issuing of hunting licenses

(H. P. 1303) (L. D. 864) An act to incorporate The Lubec Cemetery Corporation

(H. P. 1304) (L. D. 865) An act relating to pauper settlements

H. P. 1305, L. D. 866: An act to incorporate the Berwick Cemetery Association.

S. P. 212, L. D. 808: Resolve for the purchase of the history of York, Maine.

Mr. Carleton of Portland offered House Amendment A and moved its adoption, as follows:

House Amendment A to Senate Paper 212.

Amend said resolve by striking out the word "fifty" in the second line and the words "one thousand" in the sixth line, and substituting in place thereof after the word "purchase" in the first line, the word "twenty-five," and after the words "sum of" in the sixth line the words "five hundred."

House Amendment A was adopted and the resolve as amended had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

S. P. 325, L. D. 809: Resolve for the purchase of one hundred copies of the "History of the town of Cushing."

Mr. Carleton of Portland offered House Amendment A and moved its adoption, as follows:

House Amendment A to S. P. 325. Amend said resolve by striking out in the first line the words "one hundred" and in the sixth line the words "eight hundred" and substituting after the word "purchase" in the first line the words "fifty," and after the words "sum of" in the sixth line the words "four hundred."

Thereupon amendment A was adopted and the resolve as amended had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

S. P. 513, L. D. 810: Resolve for the purchase of one hundred copies of "Pioneers on Maine Rivers."

Mr. Carleton of Portland offered House Amendment A and moved its adoption, as follows:

House Amendment A to S. P. 513.

Amend said resolve by striking out the words "one hundred" in the first line and the words "five hundred" in the sixth line and substituting in place thereof after the word "purchase" in the first line, the word "fifty," and after the word

"of" in the sixth line, the words "two hundred and fifty."

Thereupon amendment A was adopted and the resolve as amended had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed. S. P. 530, L. D. 811: Resolve for the purchase of "Maine Legislature 1820-1931."

Mr. Carleton of Portland offered House Amendment A and moved its adoption, as follows:

House Amendment A to S. P. 503.

Amend said resolve by striking out the words "three hundred" in the first line, and the words "six hundred seventy-five" in the last line and substituting after the word "of" in the last line, the words "five hundred."

Thereupon amendment A was adopted and the resolve as amended had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

H. P. 48, L. D. 867: Resolve in favor of Harry W. Hill of Limerick.

Mr. Blodgett of Bucksport offered House Amendment A and moved its adoption as follows:

House Amendment A to H. P. 48, L. D. 867, resolve in favor of Harry W. Hill of Limerick.

Amend said resolve by adding to the end thereof "to be paid from funds of the Highway Department."

On motion by Mr. Angell of Saco, the amendment was tabled pending adoption.

(H. P. No. 1295) (L. D. No. 868) Resolve in favor of Howard F. Dollard, compensating him for damages.

(H. P. No. 1296) (L. D. No. 869) Resolve in favor of Elwyn Hous-ton, of Wells.

(H. P. No. 1297) (L. D. No. 870) Resolve in favor of Maurice E. Gould, of Sherman Mills.

(H. P. No. 1298) (L. D. No. 871) Resolve in favor of Horace Kelly.

Orders of the Day

Mrs. Day of Gorham was granted special leave by the House to take from the table the 14th unassigned matter, majority report ought to pass in new draft and minority report ought not to pass of the committee on Taxation on bill an act for the taxation of billboards and the regulation and control of outdoor advertising, new draft H. P. 1336, L. D. 873, tabled by that member March 18, pending acceptance of either report.

Mrs. DAY: Mr. Speaker, I move to accept the majority report, and that when the vote is taken it be taken by the yea and nay.

As human beings began in the early days of civilization to group themselves into communities, first for mutual protection, then for companionship and progress, it was found that there must be certain laws and restrictions in order to ensure the freedom and safety of the individual.

(At this point, a message was received from the Senate, transmitted through its Secretary, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature forthwith in the hall of the House for the purpose of listening to an address by Ralph O'Neill, National Commander of the American Legion.

The SPEAKER: The House hears the message.

On motion by Mr. Farris of Augusta, the House voted to concur, and that the Clerk be charged with a message to the Senate to that effect.

Subsequently the Clerk reported that he had conveyed the message with which he was charged, and he was discharged with the thanks of the House.

Recess.

The House was called to order at 11.25 A. M. and the Senate came in and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

President Martin in the Chair.

Senator Southard of Kennebec then presented the following order and moved its passage:

Ordered, that a committee be appointed to wait upon Ralph T. O'Neill, National Commander of the American Legion, 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; also

Ordered, that the same committee wait upon the Honorable William Tudor Gardiner, Governor, and extend to him an invitation to attend the convention.

The order received passage.

The Chairman of the Convention then appointed as such committee:

Senators Southard of Kennebec, Crosby of Penobscot and Slocum of Cumberland; and on the part of the House, Representatives Smith of Bangor, Graves of Mount Desert, Clement of Durham, Morin of Brunswick, Worthen of Corinth, Angell of Saco and Hussey of Augusta.

Subsequently Senator Southard of Kennebec, Chairman of the Committee, reported that the committee had performed the duty with which it was charged, and that Commander O'Neill and Governor William Tudor Gardiner will immediately attend the Joint Convention.

Thereupon Governor Gardiner and suite entered the hall, accompanied by Commander O'Neill, amid the applause of the convention, the members rising.

Governor GARDINER: Members of the Eighty-fifth Legislature: It is a great pleasure to welcome to Maine any distinguished citizen of the United States. It is a great pleasure on behalf of the Ex-Service Men who served in the World War to welcome to the State a representative of that great organization, and it is an honor to present to your Convention here assembled Commander O'Neill, representative of those who served in the World War in our forces. (Applause, the Convention rising).

Commander O'NEILL: Governor Gardiner, members of the Legislature of the State of Maine, and friends: I indeed appreciate very much, Governor, those words of welcome. I have been highly honored by the courtesies and the kindnesses shown me ever since I have been in your State. The welcome I have received in the State of Maine is in keeping with what I know of the people who came from Maine out to the central west. Thousands of your former citizens now live in the central west, many of them in my home state of Kansas. They are neighborly, generous people, our best citizens, and we look to them for inspiration and for patriotic ideals.

The organization that I represent is an intensely patriotic organization, particularly so at this time when so many false creeds and doctrines are being scattered through the country, trying to tear down

or in an effort, at least, to tear down our American institutions, and without discrediting any other part of the country I can say that we of the middle west look to New England to guide us and direct us in those things and those ideals which make for better and greater Americans.

Here in Maine, in a country rich in historical lore, where your history runs back before the days of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts, your record in politics, in war, in history, in poetry is a guiding star to the other states. You should be well proud of your record in war, back from the time before the Revolutionary War, then through that great war when you furnished so generously of your manhood—I understand one-tenth of Washington's forces at Valley Forge came from the state of Maine—then down through the Civil War, when your Generals served with such distinction, and down through the World War, when you can all be proud of the services of the sons of Maine.

We of the west look upon Maine as one of the playgrounds of the country, and, further, we look upon you as the political barometer. One of our first lessons in politics "As Maine goes, so goes the Nation."—a benediction, I think, to that duty which we all owe to our Government.

I am glad, indeed, to have the privilege of representing the American Legion in the Department of Maine. This week we are observing the twelfth anniversary of our organization. It was just twelve years ago when a group of men gathered together in Paris and organized the American Legion. It is a sociological fact that men who have common experiences together in times of danger organize into groups when the occasion permits; so that it was inevitable that there should be an Ex-Service Men's organization composed of the Veterans of the World War; it was inevitable that there should be one great, outstanding Ex-Service Men's organization, and that organization became the American Legion. Why? Because our founders had the foresight to see the need of a great peace-time army that would carry on for their country

in times of peace, the same as they did in time of war.

The first concern of the American Legion has always been the care of our disabled comrades. Every year since we were first organized, in 1919, that has been our principal concern. There are thousands upon thousands of men in the country today who are still fighting the World War. Those of us who came back sound in body have a duty to those men, and that is our primary duty as an organization. We also believe that we should aid in any way we can those comrades of ours who are in financial distress, and, for a moment, I wish to tell you of the position of the American Legion on the adjusted compensation loan bill. I want to do this because our position has been misrepresented and misunderstood.

This bill has erroneously been called the Bonus. I do not know why. The present act of Congress does not give the veteran anything more than he already had. There was no appropriation made by Congress. It should not and will not cost the Government a single dime.

In 1924, as you will recall, Congress passed the adjusted compensation bill. That bill said the Government of the United States owed the veterans adjusted compensation. The reason for that legislation was that they paid compensation to every other employee of the Government. They paid compensation to every interest and every industry that had been drafted into service during the World War, and that compensation was adjusted after the World War.

Now the American Legion did not sponsor that original legislation. We did not sponsor the legislation that was just passed. I think we can assume that after the act of 1924 Congress admitted there was a certain debt to every man in the Service. Now one year ago a question arose in Congress as to how and when these certificates should be paid. The question came up at our Convention in Boston. We took no action. Why? Because, in my opinion, our first duty is to our disabled comrades, but the demand grew. It came from the drought area; it came from the cities where

men were thrown out of industrial employment. Men of the World War were starving. The American Legion, however, took no action until Congress asked us to state our position. We called a meeting of the National Executive Committee together and said "Our first concern is for the disabled; we will not sponsor any legislation that will interfere with that program. However, the Legion believes in the adjusted compensation bill and believes in the retirement of the certificates, but we will not endorse any bill. We will leave it to you to say whether or not you can help Veterans in distress, and at the same time not pass any legislation that would be at all injurious to the financial structure of our country."

Congress was most conservative. They cast aside every bill pending before Congress, calling for retirement of the adjusted compensation, and they passed the adjusted compensation loan bill, a new bill prepared by the committee. This bill, in effect, provides that a Veteran can borrow his own money at 4 1-2 per cent interest. Every year Congress has appropriated \$112,000,000 to pay off the adjusted compensation certificates. That is the reserve fund, so-called, which now amounts to near \$800,000,000 without the appropriation for this year.

The bill provides that a Veteran can borrow from that fund or from the War Risk Insurance Fund. This money that the Veterans can borrow belongs to the Veterans; it does not belong to the Government of the United States, and, as I said a few moments ago, no appropriation was necessary or will be necessary. If the Government sees fit to float bonds or new securities, it will do so only because it can float those securities at a lesser rate of interest than they can dispose of the bonds that are now in the Veterans' Reserve Fund.

Let me call your attention to the fact that one week after this bill was signed \$1,400,000,000 of securities were sold and over-subscribed by \$2,000,000,000 at rates of interest from 1 3-4 to 3 3-8 per cent.

Now the American Legion has never asked our Government to do anything that would interfere with the financial structure of our country, and we made it particularly clear at this session of Congress that we were not doing so now.

As soon as this bill was passed we asked the officers of every Post of our ten thousand Posts to request the Ex-Service Men not to borrow unless it was absolutely necessary. Those requests have been, for the large part, complied with. Of course in every community you will find men who will take advantage of the situation, and probably not spend their money to the best advantage. These same men, when they get that money a few years later, would spend it in the same way, but I want to say this, that the American Legion resents the accusation that have come from certain quarters that we are trying to take advantage of our members, our organization, and impose upon our Government. The members of our organization are just as patriotic today, just as willing to make any sacrifice for their country as they were twelve years ago. We have a generous Government. Congress has treated every request we have made for legislation with consideration. It has been necessary for us to appeal, sometimes, not only to Congress but to the State Legislatures, and the State Legislatures, as I know you have in this State, have been most liberal, and the members of the American Legion appreciate your generosity and your sympathy.

Now in closing, for a few moments I want to tell you about one other program of the American Legion, and that is our interest in national defense.

We of the American Legion have been called a "militaristic organization," yet we are the greatest peace-loving organization the world has ever known. The men who saw service in France, who crossed the Marne under withering machine gun fire, who went over the top at St. Mihiel Hill, or went from shell hole to shell hole in the Argonne, know what war means. They have seen it stripped of the glamour of the parade grounds and have seen the true realities of suffering and of death. But as much as we are opposed to war, we are also for preparedness, because we know what it means not to be prepared. We know what it cost our Government and our people in lives and money. Thousands upon thousands of the men of our states, this state, my state, and every other state in this Union, were shot down by enemy fire before they ever learned to load their own guns.

Now in our program for preparedness—and let me say we do not believe there is any short cut to peace—we believe that peace can only be obtained by the gradual education of mankind into a spirit of understanding, sympathy, and brotherly love—but in our various endeavors to carry on in the plans that we have for world peace we have run across a group of people known as pacifists. They can be classified into three classes, first the Reds from the Steppes of Russia, second the uninformed, you might say, who are only dangerous because so many listen to the blusterings of the Reds, and their numbers increase the ranks of the pacifists. But the only dangerous class is that class of our citizens, some of whom are in Congress, who place the dollar above human life. They point out what it costs in dollars and cents to have an Army and a Navy. They forget if we are not prepared, it will not only cost money, but it will cost the lives of our sons. They say that over night a million men can spring to arms in this country, but what good is it if you have no arms to spring to?

In 1920 Congress passed the first national defense act that really had a chance of being of any real benefit to this country, the only real defense act we have ever really known. By the continuous sniping away at appropriations every year, we now only have a skeleton of the army provided by that act.

Now as to the Navy—and I know, up here, or down here, I guess it is, in the State of Maine, you are particularly interested in national defense from the standpoint of the Navy—and I want to take this occasion to compliment your Senator, Senator Hale, for his interest and the manner in which he has always kept this particular program before the Senate of the United States. In 1919 and 1920 this country had the greatest Navy in the world. We had a conference in Washington. As a result of that conference we decided that the greatest fleet of battleships we or any country ever had should be done away with. That fleet was sunk. A few years later we had a conference in Geneva, but when our Navy went down, so did our prestige, and in the meantime the other countries had been building up in other types of vessels not

prohibited by the Treaty. Then we had a conference last year, the Washington Conference. We did not get many of the things that the American Legion hoped we would get by that Treaty, but, in the meantime, between the Geneva Treaty and the Washington Conference, we had been building up our cruiser program, and then the other countries saw that there was a possibility of our again gaining some equality with them, and they listened to what we said in London. Our prestige had gone up. But now this last session of Congress has refused to make the appropriations necessary to bring our Navy up to the building program provided for by the War Department, which will give us strength of parity with other countries at the time of the next conference. I do not know what their idea is.

Many of them say a big Navy brings on war. Bring about peace by an example. If a man and his family was stranded on a desert island with no police force, no way of protecting himself, but he was peaceful and most all his neighbors were peaceful, but there were one or two families on that island that had in their hearts greed and avarice, and those families coveted the lives and property, perhaps, of the peace-loving citizen, what a fine citizen, what a fine head of a family would he be if he threw away his gun and left his property and his family at the mercy of his covetous neighbors! But that is what the pacifist advocates.

Now the American Legion is for adequate defense, first, because we

believe it is necessary, at least at this time, to preserve those American institutions it was our great privilege to inherit; secondly, so that we can have sufficient prestige to lead the way in movements for world peace. We do not advocate the biggest army in the world or the biggest navy. We advocate an army and navy equal, however, to that of every other country, and we believe it is our duty and the duty of every citizen to make this country conscious of the need for national defense, and to demand of Congress that a permanent naval and military policy be established and adhered to, so that we can leave to our sons and their sons the great free American institution it has been our privilege to inherit. Thank you. (Great applause, the Convention rising.)

At the conclusion of the address, Commander O'Neill, accompanied by the Governor and suite, retired, amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chairman declared the same dissolved, and the Senate retired to the Senate Chamber, amid applause, the audience rising.

IN THE HOUSE

(Speaker Merrill in the Chair)

On motion by Mr. Burkett, of Portland,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning.