

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Ninth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1939

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Monday, April 17, 1939.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Pressey of Augusta.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that S. P. 361, L. D. 767, entitled "An Act Classifying Certain Fur-bearing Animals as Domestic Animals and Protecting Property Rights Therein" shall be returned from the files to the Senate for further action thereon (S. P. 683)

Comes from the Senate, the Order failing of passage.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Varney of Berwick, the Order was indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: Is it now the pleasure of the House to take up out of order the fourth item on today's calendar under Senate Papers?

From the Senate:

Report of the Committee on Pensions on the following Resolves:

S. P. 56, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ida May Tate, of Palmyra.

S. P. 93, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for William E. Webendorfer, of Pittsfield.

S. P. 111, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Martha H. Jewett, of Jay.

S. P. 112, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Vernon A. Curtis, of Hallowell.

S. P. 113, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Annie M. Freeman, of Sidney.

S. P. 155, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Herbert M. Brown, of Belfast.

S. P. 157, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Winfield S. Flye, of Montville.

S. P. 158, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Charlotte M. Armstrong, of Belfast.

S. P. 159, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for William W. Downs, of Bangor.

S. P. 160, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Frances B. Mayhew, of Searsmont.

S. P. 162, Resolve Providing for a

State Pension for Charles S. Adams, of Liberty.

S. P. 166, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Annie E. Dolan, of Augusta.

S. P. 167, Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Jessamine L. Benson, of Sidney.

S. P. 169, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for James Brown, of Athens.

S. P. 170, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for George Ricker, of Cornville.

S. P. 171, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Alice Hilton, of Skowhegan.

S. P. 190, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for William H. Durham, of Belfast.

S. P. 191, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Charles F. Knowlton, of Liberty.

S. P. 192, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Horace Ripley, of Searsmont.

S. P. 193, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Eva O. Tibbetts, of Belfast.

S. P. 224, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Hallie W. Stone, of Portland.

S. P. 268, Resolve in Favor of Sadie E. Ballard, of Sangerville.

S. P. 292, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Roland Cleveland, of Athens.

S. P. 329, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Mary Kane, of Bangor.

S. P. 513, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Charles Dowling Kidder, of Otisfield.

H. P. 12, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Blanche Donovan, of Augusta.

H. P. 13, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Mary I. Ruth, of Augusta.

H. P. 14, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Maud Bolduc, of Augusta.

H. P. 30, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Margaret K. Cavanaugh, of Howland.

H. P. 31, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Fred E. Ames, of Kenduskeag.

H. P. 77, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for John W. Chase, of Fairfield.

H. P. 78, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Perley T. Giles, of Dedham.

H. P. 79, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Robert E. Craig, of Dedham.

H. P. 83, Resolve Relating to a State Pension for Nora K. Peters, of Ellsworth.

H. P. 84, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Carrie E. Bresnahan, of Ellsworth.

H. P. 85, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Clarence Tripp, of Ripley.

H. P. 87, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for William H. Rankin, of Winterport.

H. P. 127, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Irene Stilwell, of Brewer.

H. P. 128, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for George Carlisle, of Bangor.

H. P. 129, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Fred W. Wingate, of Troy.

H. P. 130, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Percy C. Jakins, of Winslow.

H. P. 131, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Charita White Simpson of Vassalboro.

H. P. 133, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Eliza J. Washburn, of Dover-Foxcroft.

H. P. 134, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Laura Cary, of Howland.

H. P. 137, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Bateman C. Wentworth, of China.

H. P. 256, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for William S. Gardner, of Canaan.

H. P. 287, Resolve providing for an Increase in State Pension for Herbert L. Hardin, of Knox.

H. P. 288, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Effie E. Downer, of Palermo.

H. P. 289, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Edward H. Austin, of Rome.

H. P. 290, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Arthur W. Hunt, of Burnham.

H. P. 292, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Grover C. Craig, of Carmel.

H. P. 293, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Alberta B. Sheldon, of Carmel.

H. P. 294, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Charles L. Adams, of Vassalboro.

H. P. 295, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ethel M. Prime, of Vassalboro.

H. P. 296, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Reed W. Lowell, of Stockton Springs.

H. P. 395, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Joseph E. Wing, of Thorndike.

H. P. 395, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Roscoe Leroy Curtis, of Monroe.

H. P. 396, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Leroy M. Stevenson, of Dixmont.

H. P. 397, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Etta Cilley, of Newburgh.

H. P. 398, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Florence L. Collins, of Carmel.

H. P. 399, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Everett F. Philbrook, of Carmel.

H. P. 401, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Hiram Norton, of Farmington.

H. P. 402, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Mary Wall, of Dresden.

H. P. 403, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Charles Stuart Little, of Westport.

H. P. 434, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Almon L. McDunnah, of Knox.

H. P. 435, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Bertha L. Freeman, of Hermon.

H. P. 436, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Mae Chandler Ward, of Portland.

H. P. 437, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Hattie F. Merry, of Waldoboro.

H. P. 439, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Charles E. Walsh, of Jefferson.

H. P. 443, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Fred E. White of Bath.

H. P. 444, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Glendon Hardison, of Franklin.

H. P. 445, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Edith M. Cole, of Sumner.

H. P. 447, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Cora Vesta Gaynor, of Gardiner.

H. P. 448, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Edward B. Leighton, of Gardiner.

H. P. 533, Resolve in Favor of Harland B. Webber, of Cumberland.

H. P. 569, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Albert Rollins, of Troy.

H. P. 570, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Lyle G. Foss, of Milo.

H. P. 571, Resolve Providing for

a State Pension for John S. Philbrick, of Orneville.

H. P. 573, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Alice Bradbury, of Hermon.

H. P. 575, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Helen H. Curtis, of Athens.

H. P. 576, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Agnes M. Nichols, of Hallowell.

H. P. 651, Resolve Relating to the State Pension of Malcolm Abbott, of Knox.

H. P. 652, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Frank E. Hannan, of Searsmont.

H. P. 653, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for James H. Johnson, of Stockholm.

H. P. 654, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Nellie Olivia Martz, of Appleton.

H. P. 655, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Alphonso Rodrigue, of Augusta.

H. P. 656, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Benjamin H. Noyes, of Augusta.

H. P. 658, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Sadie B. Studley, of Windsor.

H. P. 659, Resolve in Favor of John E. Parker, of China, for State Pension.

H. P. 661, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Dwight Lovell Tasker, of Gardiner.

H. P. 663, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Joseph H. Carleton, of Dresden.

H. P. 664, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Edward E. Spear, of West Gardiner.

H. P. 666, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Timothy Harrington, of Manchester.

H. P. 694, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ernest G. Light, of Bangor.

H. P. 788, Resolve Relating to a State Pension for Ernest E. Bowen, of Morrill.

H. P. 791, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Daisy Lane, of Sherman.

H. P. 794, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Abbie M. Flagg.

H. P. 795, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Mrs. Mildred White, of Belfast.

H. P. 798, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Annie S. Patterson, of Castine.

H. P. 799, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Elber R. Jackson, of Jefferson.

H. P. 800, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Jessie S. Crocker, of Pittston.

H. P. 801, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for James O. Plummer, of Randolph.

H. P. 802, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ethelyn Stewart, of Clinton.

H. P. 803, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Josie H. Eldridge, of Topsham.

H. P. 804, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Alice Belanger, of West Bath.

H. P. 805, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Neville N. Faulkner, of Houlton.

H. P. 806, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Edward N. Conley, of Monmouth.

H. P. 807, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ada M. Woodsum, of Litchfield.

H. P. 809, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ruby S. Sprague, of Dexter.

H. P. 811, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Maggie McGeorge, of Lubec.

H. P. 812, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for E. A. Rounds, of Mechanic Falls.

H. P. 814, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for John Bartlett, of Auburn.

H. P. 815, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Everett E. Trask, of Nobleboro.

H. P. 837, Resolve Providing for an Increase in the State Pension of Perlie R. Gray, of Belfast.

H. P. 841, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ira S. Stuart, of Windsor.

H. P. 842, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Frances S. Lamont, of Pittston.

H. P. 1085, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Frank C. Haskell, of Pownal.

H. P. 1087, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Lucy M. Judkins, of Norridgewock.

H. P. 1088, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Lettie C. White, of Thorndike.

H. P. 1090, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Grace R. Cheeseman, of Webster.

H. P. 1091, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Benjamin Harrison Dyer, of Charleston.

H. P. 1092, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Sarah Webster Couillard, of West Bath.

H. P. 1093, Resolve Providing for a Special Pension for Andrew S. Morrill, of Bath.

H. P. 1096, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Elmer L. Bonney, of Auburn.

H. P. 1098, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Josephine M. Storer, of Westbrook.

H. P. 1190, Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Tom Greer, of Belmont.

H. P. 1191, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for George D. Garland, of Peru.

H. P. 1338, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Adelbert Churchill, of Minot.

H. P. 1337, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ethelyn Trufant, of Auburn.

H. P. 1450, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Elizabeth McNaughton, of Bangor.

H. P. 1451, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Winn H. McIntire, of Plymouth.

H. P. 1521, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Alice I. Thornton, of Sherman.

H. P. 1523, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for H. Rudolph Cyr, of Van Buren.

H. P. 1525, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ralph Crabtree, of Mariaville.

H. P. 1527, Resolve Providing for a State Pension for Ralph E. Bryant, of Bristol.

reporting same in a Consolidated Resolve under title of "Resolve providing Pensions for Certain Soldiers and Sailors and Dependents" (S. P. 670) (L. D. 1176) and that it "Ought to pass"

In the House, on motion by Mr. Jewett of Ripley, the report was accepted in concurrence, and the Resolve was given its first reading and tomorrow assigned.

From the Senate: Majority Report of the Committee on Judiciary on Memorial to the Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States, Requesting Federal Prosecution of Certain Persons (S. P. 442) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 682) and that it "Ought to be adopted."

Report was signed by the following members:

Miss Laughlin of Cumberland
Messrs. Hill of Cumberland

—of the Senate.

Weatherbee of Lincoln
Thorne of Madison
Varney of Berwick
Bird of Rockland
Hinckley of So. Portland
Fellows of Augusta

—of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee reporting "Ought not to be adopted" on same Memorial.

Report was signed by the following member:

Mr. McGlauffin of Portland

—of the House.

Comes from the Senate Report read and accepted and the Memorial adopted.

In the House:

Mr. McGLAUFFIN of Portland: Mr. Speaker, this Memorial has not yet been printed. I move that both reports lie on the table until tomorrow morning.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. McGlauffin, moves that the two reports of the Committee on Judiciary on this Memorial, together with the new draft and the Memorial, lie on the table pending acceptance of either report and be specially assigned for tomorrow morning. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed and the two reports, together with the new draft, were so tabled.

From the Senate: Majority Report of the Committee on Salaries and Fees reporting "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to the State Police" (S. P. 437) (L. D. 976)

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. Lewis of Lincoln

—of the Senate.

McGillicuddy of Houlton
Ford of Saco
Fernald of Levant
Douglass of Gorham
Churchill of Brewer
Downs of Rome

—of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee on same Bill reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 625) (L. D. 1177) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. Spear of Cumberland

Harkins of Androscoggin

—of the Senate.

Comes from the Senate with the Minority Report read and accepted and the bill passed to be engrossed.

In the House:

Mr. VARNEY of Berwick: Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance of the minority report "Ought to pass in new draft."

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Berwick, Mr. Varney, moves that the House accept the minority report of the Committee on Salaries and Fees reporting "Ought to pass in new draft" on Bill "An Act relating to the State Police."

Mr. DOUGLASS of Gorham: Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill lie on the table.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Gorham, Mr. Douglass, moves that the two reports of the Committee on Salaries and Fees, and the accompanying bill and new draft, lie on the table pending the motion of the gentleman from Berwick, Mr. Varney, that the House accept the minority report. Is this the pleasure of the House? All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Gorham, Mr. Douglass, that the two reports lie on the table will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed, and the two reports were so tabled.

Senate Bills And Resolve In First Reading

Resolve in favor of the Maine Division of the Women's Field Army of the American Society for Control of Cancer (S. P. 344) (L. D. 785); in new draft (S. P. 665) (L. D. 1171) under same title.

Bill "An Act relating to the Commitment of the Insane; Penalty for False Testimony" (S. P. 300) (L. D. 929); in new draft (S. P. 667) (L. D. 1173) under same title.

Bill "An Act relating to the Making of Certain Reports by State Officers" (S. P. 376) (L. D. 794)

Senate Bill Tabled

From the Senate: Report of the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act relating to Alimony" (S. P. 366) (L. D. 802) reporting same in a new draft (S. P. 668) (L. D. 1174) under same title and that it "Ought to pass."

Comes from the Senate, report read and accepted and the bill passed to be engrossed.

In the House, report read and accepted in concurrence, and on mo-

tion by Mr. Cowan of Portland, the bill was tabled pending first reading and specially assigned for tomorrow morning.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Final Reports

From the Senate: Final Report of the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance.

Final Report of the Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries.

Come from the Senate, read and accepted.

In the House, read and accepted in concurrence.

From the Senate: Bill "An Act Repealing the Law relating to the Board of Barber Examiners" (H. P. 1198) (L. D. 474) on which the House accepted the Majority Report of the Committee on Public Health, reporting "Ought to pass."

Comes from the Senate with the Minority Report of the Committee, reporting "Ought not to pass" accepted in non-concurrence.

In the House:

Mr. MILLER of Bath: Mr. Speaker I move we recede and concur.

Mr. PRATT of Turner: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House insist on its former action and ask for a Committee of Conference.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bath, Mr. Miller, moves that the House recede from its former action whereby it accepted the majority report "Ought to pass" and concur with the Senate in the acceptance of the minority report "Ought not to pass."

The gentleman from Turner, Mr. Pratt, moves that the House insist and ask for a Committee of Conference. The motion to recede and concur takes precedence over the motion to insist. The question, therefore, is on the motion of the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Miller, that the House recede from its former action whereby it accepted the majority report "Ought to pass" and concur with the Senate in the acceptance of the minority report "Ought not to pass." All those in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Miller, will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion did not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The question now

before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Turner, Mr. Pratt, that the House insist and ask for a Committee of Conference. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will appoint the following members on the Committee: The gentleman from Turner, Mr. Pratt, the gentleman from Rockland, Mr. Sleeper, and the gentleman from Dayton, Mr. Ramsdell.

From the Senate: Bill "An Act Regulating the Operation of Motor Vehicles" (H. P. 2058) (L. D. 1094) which was indefinitely postponed in the House on April 12th in non-concurrence.

Comes from the Senate with that body voting to insist on its former action whereby the bill was passed to be engrossed and asking for a Committee of Conference and with the following Conferees appointed on its part:

The Senator from Washington, Senator Beckett, the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Thatcher, and the Senator from Knox, Senator Elliot.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Grua of Livermore Falls, the House voted to join in the Committee of Conference, and the following members were appointed on the part of the House: The gentleman from Livermore Falls, Mr. Grua, the gentleman from Dresden, Mr. Stilphen, and the gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Williams.

Reports of Committees Ought Not to Pass

Mr. Cowan from the Committee on Banks and Banking reported "Ought not to pass" on Bill "An Act relating to Interest on Loans" (H. P. 853) (L. D. 304)

Mr. Weatherbee from the Committee on Judiciary reported same on Bill "An Act relating to Candidacies" (H. P. 1587) (L. D. 689)

Mr. Thompson from the Committee on Library reported same on Resolve for the Purchase of "One Hundred Copies of 'History of Oxford County'" (H. P. 284)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Resolve for the Purchase of One Hundred Copies of the "History of Greene" (H. P. 1671)

Reports were read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Ought To Pass

Miss Fowles from the Committee on Library reported "Ought to pass" on Resolve for the Purchase of A History of Education in Maine (H. P. 511)

Report was read and accepted and the Resolve ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Passed to Be Engrossed

Bill "An Act Assenting to the Provisions of the Act of Congress entitled 'An Act to Provide that the United States shall aid the States in Wildlife-restoration projects, and for other purposes'" (H. P. 1590) (L. D. 909)

Bill "An Act to Provide for Tax Equalization" (H. P. 2237) (L. D. 1188)

Resolve in favor of Robert E. Wright of Rock City, Delmar, New York (H. P. 2236) (L. D. 1187)

Sent up for concurrence.

Orders of the Day

The Chair lays before the House the first tabled and unassigned matter, Bill "An Act Relating to Advertising Liquor, Malt Liquor, Wines and Spirits" (H. P. 2166) (L. D. 1135), tabled on April 14th by Mr. Mills of Farmington, pending passage to be engrossed in concurrence; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Thereupon, Mr. Mills offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" to H. P. 2166, L. D. 1135) Bill, "An Act Relating to Advertising Liquor, Malt Liquor, Wines and Spirits."

Amend said Bill by inserting in the eleventh line after the word "any" the word "other."

Thereupon, House Amendment "A" was adopted, and the bill as amended by House Amendment "A" was passed to be engrossed in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is expecting an additional communication from the Senate, and the House may be at ease.

House at Ease

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

At this point a message was received from the Senate, through its Secretary, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the

Legislature to be held forthwith in the hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of extending to His Excellency, Governor Barrows, an invitation to attend the Convention and make such communication as he may be pleased to make.

On motion by Mr. Varney of Berwick, it was voted to concur with the Senate in the proposal for a Joint Convention, and the Clerk was charged with and conveyed a message to the Senate informing that body that the House concurred in the above proposition for a Joint Convention.

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

In Convention

The President of the Senate in the Chair.

On motion by Senator Laughlin of Cumberland, it was

ORDERED, that a committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chairman appointed as members of such committee: Senators Laughlin of Cumberland, Hill of Cumberland, Burns of Aroostook; Representatives Weatherbee of Lincoln, Varney of Berwick, Bird of Rockland, Dorsey of Fort Fairfield, Thorne of Madison, Hinckley of South Portland, Payson of Portland.

Senator Laughlin subsequently reported that the committee had discharged the duty assigned it, and that the Governor was pleased to say that he would attend the Convention forthwith.

Thereupon, Governor Barrows, attended by the Executive Council, entered the hall of the House, the audience rising and applauding.

The **CHAIRMAN**: I present His Excellency, Governor Barrows.

GOVERNOR BARROWS: Mr. President, and Members of the Eighty-Ninth Legislature: It is a pleasure to greet you today—the 57th Legislative Day of your present session, and I do not propose to intrude unduly upon your time this afternoon.

It would seem appropriate to mention that we assembled here January 4th last, each determined to consider only such measures as were designed to promote the pub-

lic peace, health, and safety of our people.

Realizing now, as then, that it is only the duty of the Executive to recommend for your consideration such measures as seem expedient under prevailing conditions, my appearance here at this time is only for that purpose.

Before proceeding further, however, I wish to commend most emphatically the efforts of the members of this Legislature.

Each one of us was elected to our respective positions by the citizens of this State last September, on the promise to the people that new taxes would not be enacted to add to the already overburdened taxpayer. Apparently that declaration met with favor and it is further apparent that you have now progressed to a point in your deliberations where every citizen must admit you have adhered to your pre-election promise.

On the other hand, we have been confronted with emphatic, but undoubtedly sincere, demand to expand activities already established and which we are likewise committed to within the limitations of our resources.

To maintain our existence, keeping expenditures within our income, has been an individual problem, to many of us at least, that is not at all new. But to find the acceptable solution this year as far as the State is concerned has seemed for a long time insurmountable without substantial new revenue—another way of saying new taxes.

I believe you think as I do—that our people will not subscribe to new taxes.

Referring to my first message to you on January 5, 1939, the receding revenue situation was alluded to and the statement made: "That it is increasingly necessary to adhere to the provisions of our respective Party platforms—render all possible service to our people within the limit of our present resources." Each succeeding day of this session appears to bear out that prediction.

Last week the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs rendered to you their initial report which followed various reports of your Economy Committee, so-called. I trust you have not failed to analyze the report filed last week by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee to better appreciate how painstakingly it was prepared and how effective it is. It

may not be amiss to point out that the total appropriations approved by the Committee for the biennium, exclusive of Old Age Assistance and Highways, was \$20,930,280. This amount represents a figure of \$880,000 under the current appropriations for the years 1938-1939. It represents a reduction from the amount requested by the various departments and institutions of \$2,175,000, and lastly, it represents a reduction from the original budget estimates of over \$400,000.

Undoubtedly this achievement will be met with acclaim by the citizens of this State and may I not be the first to compliment you and say: "Thank you for your untiring efforts!"

In passing, it will interest you to know that for the second year in succession this administration has not found it necessary to negotiate any part of our temporary borrowing capacity in anticipation of taxes.

Faced, as we are, with almost certain increased direct taxation from the Federal Government during the present session of Congress or the transfer of activities to the states which will result in the same thing, our course, as I see it, is to continue to practice the strictest economy.

Notwithstanding our work thus far we recognize our "job" is not yet completed.

We of the majority party are pledged to this declaration: "We subscribe to Old Age Assistance as now lawfully established and pledge its further development as rapidly as circumstances warrant." I interpret that to mean our citizens desire to continue this worthy activity on a "pay-as-you-go" basis—expand it if possible but not by imposing new taxes. I further believe the efforts to date of this Legislature truly reflect this impression.

Referring again to the report of the Appropriations Committee, you will note that after sufficiently providing for all our departments and institutions there is available the sum of \$962,762 the first year and \$780,862 the second year, or \$1,743,624 for the biennium that you may allot exclusively for payment of Old Age Assistance. Necessary estimated amounts for administrative costs and burial expense have been included as has additional progress been made in educational equalization.

Our paramount problem then is to devise a plan to carry on the pay-

ment of Old Age Assistance that is not in conflict with our platform. You should plainly realize that \$1,743,624, the total estimated available cash in the treasury for the next biennium for that purpose, would merely provide Assistance for 7,000 of our aged and deserving people. I do not feel that such a curtailment would be satisfactory to any one. Hence, some additional funds are necessary to be allotted to enable adoption of a program that corresponds with our promises, without new taxation. You may call it a compromise program if you will, but it should be a reasonably satisfactory program for the ensuing two years.

As our Old Age Assistance program is expanded there is no reason to believe that it will not substantially decrease the burdens which cities and towns in many instances might otherwise be required to assume. Therefore, in view of that fact, I would ask that the cities, towns and plantations be willing to assume a proportionate share, one quarter of the Assistance paid.

Furthermore, it can be accomplished without cities, towns and plantations being assessed any additional taxes because I realize full well the tremendous burden they now carry.

To consummate this plan I suggest the following procedure:

Apportion from the General Highway Fund \$800,000 per year for the next two years. The amount so apportioned to be expended in the towns for highway purposes under the direction of the State Highway Commission. This money could be used by the towns in matching State funds such as State Aid Construction, maintenance of State and State Aid Highways, bridge construction and snow removal.

In the event the amount so received by a city, town or plantation, is in excess of their needs for any of the above mentioned activities, the surplus may be used for other local highway purposes under the direction of the State Highway Commission. Such amounts as would be received by a city, town or plantation, and used for highway purposes under the direction of the State Highway Commission, would not be a diversion of highway funds as defined under the Hayden-Cartwright law. And, furthermore, this proposal can be consummated without the necessity of increasing either the State

tax or local taxes for the next two years and result in a program that should provide for approximately 14,000 cases, if conservative estimates of receipts are maintained.

To determine under this plan how the allocation is arrived at, it is necessary to divide the amount of \$800,000 by the total valuation of the State, exclusive of wild lands as established by the State Tax Assessor, or \$617,196,246. For quick compilation, to determine that amount for your town multiply the State valuation of your town by .0013 (1 3/10 mills). The result will be the amount your town will be asked to contribute and the same amount will be received for local highway purposes. Thus the various local highway programs will in no way be curtailed and it will not be necessary to disturb our State highway laws.

The charge that bonds are proposed to be sold to finance Old Age Assistance cannot be substantiated by this plan. It is not true because bond money can only be used on the State Highway System under existing laws. It does, of course, decrease State Highway construction to the extent of \$800,000, but in my opinion the total program will not be curtailed to any such figure because present highway receipts will apparently run greatly in excess of original estimates. In other words, I do not feel that the net difference of the size or amount of highway construction program of the State will be in any greater ratio than every other department has been asked to assume during this period.

Reduced to its simplest terms it merely seeks to establish for the next two years a joint cooperative effort between municipalities and the State. I believe the plan is worthy of your favorable consideration and adoption because it will not cripple certain State services or necessary functions in any way; it will not curtail local highway work; it will not create local unemployment and will not create any necessity for increased taxes nor require either of us to nullify our promise to the people of Maine.

In conclusion, Mr. President and Mr. Speaker, I recognize the determination of the members of this Legislature to expedite their deliberations. In addition, it is my continued desire to assist education and render Old Age Assistance as

far as possible within our present resources without additional taxes. To that end, I have caused to be prepared the necessary bill to consummate the program I have discussed. It will be made available to either of you at once if you request it, or if my plan meets with the response of the members of your respective branches. (Applause)

At the conclusion of the address the Governor and Council withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

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

In the House

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

Mr. Stilphen of Dresden, out of order and under suspension of the rules, presented the following order and moved its passage:

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Committee on Ways and Bridges be authorized and empowered to originate and report bills and resolves which, in the judgment of that committee, may be necessary or advisable to carry out the recommendation of the Budget Message or effect a reduction in State expenditures.

This Order shall not be interpreted to hinder or impede the authority previously given to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by a similar Order.

The Order received passage and on further motion by Mr. Stilphen, was sent to the Senate forthwith.

The SPEAKER: Is there any further business to come before the House under Orders of the Day? If not, the Clerk will read the notices.

The Chair will call the attention of the members to the proposed bill which has been distributed and is on the members' desks, and which the Chair understands will probably be introduced in one branch or the other tomorrow morning.

On motion by Mr. Dorsey of Fort Fairfield,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.