

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Record**

**OF THE**

**Eighty-ninth Legislature**

**OF THE**

**State of Maine**

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**SPECIAL SESSION**

**1940**

**KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT SHOP  
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

**HOUSE**

Tuesday, May 28, 1940.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. McWhorter of Augusta.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

From the Senate: The following communication:

**STATE OF MAINE****SENATE CHAMBER**

Augusta

May 28, 1940

Honorable Harvey R. Pease,  
Clerk of the House of the Eighty-ninth Legislature.

Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of Rule 3 of the Joint Rules of the 89th Legislature, I hereby transmit to you the names of the members of the Senate appointed by the President to serve on the committee created by House Paper 2254, Joint Order Relative to Committee for the Purpose of Making a Study of the Financial and Functional Activities of State Departments, on which the House concurred with the Senate and passed the Order as amended:

Senators: Tompkins of Aroostook  
Laughlin of Cumberland  
Thatcher of Penobscot  
Boucher of Androscoggin

Respectfully,

(Signed) Royden V. Brown,  
Secretary of the Senate.

Comes from the Senate, read and ordered placed on file.

In the House, read and ordered placed on file in concurrence.

**Reception of Petitions, Bills and Resolves Requiring Reference to a Committee**

Bill "An Act providing for Rebate on Title Fees" (Presented by Mr. Lambert of Lewiston)

The SPEAKER: The Chair will ask the Clerk read the Bill.

The Bill was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair rules that under the language of the Joint Order passed last Thursday this Bill cannot be admitted except by unanimous consent. Is there

any objection to the introduction of the Bill?

The Chair hears objection.

Mr. LAMBERT of Lewiston: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Does the gentleman from Lewiston (Mr. Lambert) wish to appeal from the ruling of the Chair?

Mr. LAMBERT: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate very much to oppose the ruling of the Speaker on the presentation of this Bill, but I will point out to the Speaker that this Bill absolutely pertains to the repeal of the Automobile Title Law urged by Governor Barrows, in his address here last week. It seems to me that unless this Automobile Title Law is repealed, there is absolutely no need of this Bill. On the other hand, if the Automobile Title Law is repealed, as the Governor has recommended, this Bill cannot wait until 1941, due to the fact that by the time the Legislature convenes in 1941, your registration for automobiles will be out. I therefore would like to point out these facts to the Speaker, and if he insists on his ruling, I will abide by the ruling.

The SPEAKER: The Chair understands the gentleman does not desire to take an appeal?

Mr. LAMBERT: I will just go by the ruling of the Speaker, if he cares to assume the responsibility.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is attempting to fulfill its duties as it sees them. The gentleman is perfectly at liberty to take an appeal if he does not like the ruling.

**Orders**

Mr. Dow of Norway, presented the following Order and moved its passage:

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that there be printed 500 copies of the proceedings of the Legal Affairs Committee held in the Senate Chamber this afternoon, pursuant to Joint Order (S. P. 713).

The Order received passage and was ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: Are there any further Orders?

Mr. LaFLEUR of Portland: Mr. Speaker, may I make an inquiry as to procedure? I would like to get unanimous consent to address the House before I present this Order.

The SPEAKER: If the gentleman presents an Order, his remarks in support of the Order are in order.

The gentleman from Portland, Mr. LaFleur, presents an Order and moves its passage. The gentleman may continue in order.

Mr. LaFLEUR: Ladies and gentlemen of the House: I hope you will bear with me for ten or fifteen minutes while I discuss with you some of the questions which I think will confront this House and Senate regarding defense for the State of Maine and the defense of the nation.

May I say at the outset that I do not speak as an officer of the regular army. The opinions I will express here are my own opinions which I have arrived at as the result of my experience in the last World War and in the last recent maneuvers in Texas, and whether you agree with my conclusions or not, that is your prerogative as American citizens and I have no quarrel with you. I only hope that when I conclude that you will agree with me that the thing to be done and to be done quickly is that which is best for the State of Maine and for the United States of America.

I am neither pro-British, pro-French, pro-Russian nor pro-German; I am an American, first, last and always. And with that thought in mind, I am trying to discuss this problem with you so that you may think your way clear with me and arrive at an intelligent conclusion.

Let us go back some twenty-three to twenty-five years ago when most of the men in this House were young men. We volunteered in the American army to go across onto continental Europe. There are some twenty-two Veterans in this House and I would venture to suggest that there is not one today who can tell you or I why we did go across in the last World War. I believed it was to make the world safe for democracy. We went across, some two and one-half to three million men, the best men that this country could produce. We stayed over there some two and one-half years and we returned, and what did we do? We made it possible for certain countries to win a certain war, and within two or three years thereafter they forgot that the American youth took part in that particular set-up. After we left continental

Europe, we find Spain in revolution; we find a dictator in Italy; we find a dictator in Germany; we find a dictator in Russia; and today the dictatorships have gone into the various countries of continental Europe and have left only two democracies, England and France. That war, ladies and gentlemen, at the present time has cost the taxpayers of America up to fifty billions of dollars. America could have well afforded to forget the fifty billions of dollars and, if we had learned our lesson, it would have been cheap, but we left fifty thousand of the finest American youth upon the fields of Flanders and we have rising one hundred fifty thousand lying in our hospitals sick and wounded. And I hope the time will never come when we will again send our youth beyond the shores of this country to fight any war for any nation whatsoever.

In 1921, we had a disarmament conference in Washington, to which all of the great powers of the world were invited, and we asked them, "Are you willing if we should scrap and make scrap out of our fleet?" And naturally they said, "Certainly?" Why not? They were bankrupt and had nothing of their own and they saw America suddenly coming into its own and they said, "Certainly, scrap it." And we scrapped in 1921 almost three hundred million dollars' worth of the finest fighting craft the world has ever known, and some of those vessels never left the ways. Did we learn anything? What did the other nations do? In return for our scrapping three hundred million dollars' worth of the finest naval craft, they simply scrapped pieces of paper.

You remember the American Legion, when it came back from France, advocated an adequate national defense for America, and I want to discuss what an adequate national defense means to me. But before we go into that discussion, let us examine somewhat the international situation.

Let us go to the Far East, and I will not in this discussion mention any country by name and, if any inference is drawn, it is your inference. Let us go into the East. There is a power located in the Far East which suddenly decided to expand and went into another country on an undeclared war and, fortunately

for America, they found in the country of Manchukuo that which they wished. They had determined to go farther south in the Pacific Ocean, but fortunately for us again, and unfortunately for other people, one great foreign country in Europe said hands off, and they went into Manchukuo. If you will take the country of Manchukuo and superimpose it upon the United States of America, you will find that it extends from Hudson Bay to St. Louis, to the eastern seaboard and into Colorado. And they have found there every element, every factor that goes to make for successful warfare.

What has America done in the Pacific Ocean? If you will start at Alaska, you will find the Aleutian Islands and straight down to the middle of the Pacific Ocean are certain islands which, in my opinion, are pickets in the fence. If you will take the navy of this particular power in the Far East, they are a short-radius navy, about five to six thousand miles. The American navy is a long-radius navy of between ten and fifteen thousand miles and, before this power in the East can successfully attack our shores, they must first reduce the American navy. You will recollect the discussion in the Congress of the United States as to the fortifications of certain islands. The United States has always prided itself upon the fact that we do not need additional territory, but in the Pacific, in putting these pegs into the fence, we suddenly conceived the idea of selecting certain soldiers of the United States Army and placed them on this island, and suddenly we conceived the idea that we have some of the finest harbors in the world for naval operations in the middle Pacific. A lot of you members do not appreciate the fact that when the Chief Executive of this country took the sudden cruise South six months ago, to the average individual it was a joy ride, but he went into the Pacific Ocean to discuss with Chile the placing of the last picket in that fence so that we could defend the Panama Canal against any and all enemies of this country. The Panama Canal, in my opinion, is one of the greatest possessions this country owns today.

Let us pass from the Pacific Ocean into the Atlantic Ocean. What have we done in the Atlantic Ocean? We have started on the island of Porto

Rico an airplane base second to none to defend the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal is important for the reason that this country at the present time is a one navy nation and, until we can get two navies, the Panama Canal must be operated successfully, and we are today preparing for the defense of that canal.

As we pass on, what have we learned of the present-day situation? It may be well for me to point out to you that at the Munich conference between Chamberlain and Hitler there was a rendezvous in the country of Columbia of a lot of German pilots. It is not generally known, but the southern airlines were all officered at that time by a majority of German officers, reserve officers and mechanics. At the time of the Munich conference they all congregated in Columbia prepared to attack our Panama Canal. That is information perhaps that surprises you members.

In the last World War it is a fact that the French Army was almost on the verge of mutiny. They had been fighting for four long years until this country came into the war.

Now what can we do for defense of this country? I have been a reserve officer for ten years. I served two years in the last World War and, on April 28, 1940, for the first time, I was permitted to enjoy the privilege of seeing for the first time the modern maneuvers of modern warfare. The great game of war, and I say this kindly and sadly, is to kill the other fellow before you get killed. The only way you can learn that art is to drill with that which the Government gives you. In 1917 we started our reserve officers camp and we made officers in ninety days. Ladies and gentlemen, you cannot make an officer intelligent to lead your boy and my boy in modern warfare in ninety days; neither can you make a soldier in ninety days. I think the time is coming in this country and the time is now here that the entire youth of this country must and shall have some sort of military training so that he can at least give a good account of himself and have a chance to come back. Unless the State of Maine and your national government is prepared to foot the bill to give the reserve officers and the officers of the regular army that intelligence, that something, into the minds and into the breasts, so that they can lead our

boys successfully, you are going to leave a great many of them where we left them in 1917.

The regular army of the United States of America today is about 239,000 men, of which there are about 70,000 within the continental limits of the United States. Out of that, we have only four or five divisions that are equipped with this so-called motorized set-up and the mechanized set-up now used by certain foreign powers. I remember well in 1917 when the President of the present Senate of this State was a World War aviator, and he will tell you the same thing, that he went over the front many a time with absolutely nothing in that craft with which to defend himself.

One of the gentlemen of the Military Affairs Committee told me this morning that in the World War he trained men with wooden guns. It is a fine thing, ladies and gentlemen, to train men with wooden guns. I know from my own experience that a lot of our boys never saw a gun until they were at the front. God help a man when he is at the front, in the hour of need, not knowing that with which he is working.

Now what can we do? Very few people appreciate the fact that the National Guard of this country is your regular army. We have a regular army of 239,000, augmented by the National Guard of each state in this Union, which is approximately 250,000 to 300,000 boys. That is your regular army. We have less than 500,000. And outside of the regular army, and outside of these divisions with which I was connected during the past six weeks, they have absolutely nothing with which to work.

It was my privilege to go to Georgia last month and join the First Division, which is a motorized division. Perhaps I can suggest some answers to the questions in your minds as to the difference between the warfare of the World War and the present modern warfare. We traveled some 600 miles, 22,000 men, in motors, in three days. The last day we traveled 260 miles and fought all night. In the old war days, if a man could travel fifteen or twenty miles on his feet, he was too tired to give an account of himself, but, in this modern warfare, you have got to travel fast and strike, and strike and strike all day and all night, hoping to God that you may come through.

I hope that when I arrive at the conclusion of my remarks and

when the Order is presented, and when these various Bills are put up to you for consideration, that you will not consider the cost. I hope you will not become hysterical, and that you will treat it intelligently and try to see your way clear to accomplish this.

It is rather interesting to note that our breakfasts on these maneuvers averaged half past two in the morning, and our dinner at seven or eight o'clock at night. If any of you ladies and gentlemen of the House would like a sample of the so-called war ration, I have a sample in my desk which will give you some suggestion of what a soldier has to put up with. After you have eaten of that, perhaps you will believe with me the boys who are willing to volunteer for your defense are entitled to something pretty good.

There are three possible ways of invasion in this country: First, through Maine, down through the industrial heart of this country. And I do not believe that I am divulging any plans when I suggest to you, and with due deference, to my friends from Aroostook, that the Kennebec River may well be the first line of defence, and all the counties above the Kennebec River may well be "No Man's Land," and from there down into the White Mountains, Portsmouth and the Connecticut River.

The other avenue of approach is from the southern part of the country, through Mexico.

The thing that worries me in this country are these so-called "isms." There is only one "ism," and that is "Americanism," that we ought to worry about.

The next avenue of attack in this country is on the western coast, and I may say in this connection the State of California has appropriated \$225,000,000 for State defense, preferring not to wait for the National government.

The next avenue of approach is through Alaska.

Now you say to me: "What do you fear?" I ask you the question: "Who do you fear?" I fear everyone. I fear the coalition of governments. If this second World War continues three to five years, you will find bankrupt nations, nations bankrupt physically, financially and morally. And where can they look except to this country to pay the bill, as we did in in the last war? I

hope the citizens of this State, the mothers and the voters, will see to it that they give to the army, that they give to our men that with which to make it so damned expensive for them that they will hesitate and hesitate again before they will attack this country.

You ask me: "Will this country be attacked?" I simply point out to you that two or three years ago, or less than that, the President of the United States enunciated the doctrine that no possession in the western hemisphere shall be placed upon the table to be gambled away. That might well mean Canada, Bermuda, and the other possessions. He says we shall defend the western hemisphere, and, in order to do that, we have got to have the wherewithal to fight modern warfare.

I hope you members will not get it in your minds that I am a militarist. I am a civilian in ordinary life who has seen what the last World War has brought to the flower of the country, and I pray to God that never again will we engage in another. But, as you see the handwriting on the wall, as you judge the future by the yardstick of the past, you must admit that we were taken for a bunch of jokers in 1921, and we have been a bunch of jokers until the present day. In the case of these foreign countries of Europe, they are ruined today because they did not see the handwriting on the wall.

You may ask what will this cost you. It is going to cost you a lot of money, a lot of money. It is going to cost you 20 to 40 per cent over normal times. But we are paying the bill for treating the army and the navy of this country as we have in the past.

In the last Congressional Record it was pointed out that the American Navy was less than it was in 1918. And if it should be so unfortunate for us that the Navy of another power should come into the possession of the power of which I have spoken, you might well look to your fences for the future.

What can we do in this State? The National government is prepared to equip the National Guard with the implements of modern warfare. As General Foche said at the Versailles Treaty twenty years ago: As he came out of that chamber, someone said to him: "General Foche, you have done a wonderful thing, you will go down in history

as one of the greatest men that have ever lived. We will have a lasting peace." General Foche said, "Not a lasting peace, about twenty years." It has been twenty-three years.

General Bliss, of our general staff, was asked how long the World War would last. He said the World War would last one hundred years. And I say to you we may be fighting for the next eighty years. If America is worth anything at all it is worth every dollar that we have. And it is a surprising thing to me that when we ask you for your sons you volunteer your sons, but when we ask you for your dollars you say: "How much interest are we going to get on the dollar?" I think that is a fair statement.

You are going to have certain bills presented to you from the National Guard of the State. Remember, ladies and gentlemen of the House, your National Guard is your regular army. I hope you will not be niggardly with them and that you will give them all the money they ask, because, if you do not, the handwriting is on the wall, if you do not give it to the boys, if you do not have an adequate national defense.

And what is adequate national defense? My only answer to adequate national defense is this: A navy and an army second to none, who will make it too expensive for the other fellow or a combination of the other fellows that might seek to take that which you and I have. That is adequate national defense, and we can get that defense by intelligent cooperation, by planning ahead. The Federal government has a plan, the Adjutant General of this State has a plan, and, when it is presented to this House, let us vote for it if it costs millions and millions of dollars. My theory in life is millions for defense and not one cent for tribute. I am only asking you ladies and gentlemen of the House to give to the boys who will eventually defend this country that with which to work and a chance to come back. And with that prayer in my heart and that determination in my soul and in your heart and in your soul, may we pledge ourselves again to the only "ism" I know: America, first, last and always, whether right or wrong. (Applause)

The gentleman from Portland, Mr. LaFleur, then presented the

following Order and moved its passage:

**ORDERED**, the Senate concurring, that the Adjutant General be directed to investigate and report forthwith on the possibility and advisability of establishing in Maine a State or Home Guard or such other means of military defense as he may recommend.

The Order received passage and was ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

Papers from the Senate, out of order and under suspension of the rules.

From the Senate: Bill "An Act Providing for Improvement in Military Preparedness" (S. P. 730)

Bill "An Act Providing for an Air Unit in the National Guard" (S. P. 731)

Come from the Senate, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

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

From the Senate: The following Order:

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that the Committee created by H. P. 2254, Joint Order relative to Committee for the Purpose of Making a Study of the Financial and Functional Activities of State Departments, be, and hereby is, authorized to examine witnesses under oath or affirmation and any member of the committee may administer the necessary oaths (S. P. 732)

Comes from the Senate, read and passed.

In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. McGlaulin of Portland, it was

**ORDERED**, that Mr. Peakes of Milo, be excused from attendance because of his attendance at a funeral.

Mr. **HOWES** of Charleston: Mr. Speaker, under suspension of the rules I wish to present a Memorial, and I would like to ask permission to address the House.

The **SPEAKER**: The gentleman from Charleston, Mr. Howes, out of order and under suspension of the rules, presents a Memorial and

moves its adoption. The Clerk will read the Memorial.

Memorial to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America assembled petitioning for the adoption of an adequate agricultural and tariff policy in furtherance of the welfare of the State of Maine.

**WHEREAS**, Maine is primarily an agricultural state and the prosperity of its farms being vital to the prosperity of the state as a whole;

**AND WHEREAS**, reciprocal trade agreements with foreign nations have been entered into by the government of the United States under the authority granted to the President by Congress that have conceded tariff reductions on imports of agricultural products produced in Maine;

**AND WHEREAS**, such concessions in tariff reductions have resulted in an influx of agricultural products in competition with such products produced in Maine;

**AND WHEREAS**, thousands of Maine farmers and their families as well as a substantial portion of business interests in Maine depend for their livelihood on the production and favorable marketing of agricultural products and must rely upon reasonable protection of their home markets by the adoption of favorable foreign trade policies and tariffs to retain such markets;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eighty-ninth Legislature of Maine in special session assembled, respectfully petition and urge the Congress of the United States to take immediate steps to establish and maintain an agricultural and tariff policy that will best safeguard the State of Maine and its people.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the proper officers and committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the President of the United States and to each of the Representatives and Senators, representing the State of Maine in the United States Congress.

The **SPEAKER**: The question is on the adoption of the Memorial. All those in favor of the adoption of the Memorial will say aye; those opposed no.



A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed and the Memorial was adopted.

Mr. HOWES: Mr. Speaker, I would like permission to address the House.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Charleston, Mr. Howes, asks unanimous consent to address the House. Is there objection? The Chair hears no objection and the gentleman may proceed.

Mr. HOWES: Mr. Speaker, I feel as if I am called down here to represent the farmers of the State of Maine. I would not feel right in going home without putting in something of this kind. The State of Maine as a whole is an agricultural State. The farmers have not got any money in the banks and the farmers cannot pay their taxes. I would like at this time to read you just a few things, if there is no objection, that are coming into our State. This was taken from the Congressional Record of April 4th.

"Reports from the Department of Commerce show that under the trade treaties we have imported, in 1939, vegetables valued at \$18,000,000." I will not carry out the figures. "We have imported 93,859,000 pounds of potatoes. We have imported dairy products worth \$14,000,000. We have imported poultry and egg products worth \$1,800,000. We have imported meat products worth over \$27,000,000; raw tomatoes, 48,000,000 pounds. We have imported \$47,000,000 worth of hides."

I just want to tell you a thing that has happened in my town within a month. Up in my town we raise

a lot of hens and everything else. and anybody who knows anything about farming knows that people who keep poultry have not broken even this year. I think it was three weeks ago last Saturday that 120,000 eggs were shipped into my town, where most everyone keeps hens, but the W. P. A. The W. P. A. got the eggs, and the farmers paid the freight to get them up there. If any of you members think it is a joke, just let me tell you that I have visited five different town meetings this year, and I know they have over \$200,000 of unpaid taxes.

The town in which I live has \$19,000 of bonded debt. You members may think it is a joke, but I am going to tell you that sooner or later this State is going to find itself in terrible difficulty, because there is nothing on earth the farmers can do. Many of the farmers are losing their homes and you all know it. Some of them are going to tenant farming, the same as they have in Russia. We are down here to represent the people of Maine and the people of Maine as a whole are an agricultural people.

#### Orders of the Day

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

On motion by Mr. Varney of Berwick,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, Eastern Standard Time.