

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-first Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE



1943

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Wednesday, January 20, 1943.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Earle of Augusta.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Papers From the Senate

The following four Bills and Resolves which were referred to the 91st Legislature by the 90th Legislature came from the Senate, and upon recommendation by the Committee on Reference of Bills were referred in concurrence to the following Committees:

Claims

Resolve in favor of Anton R. Jordan, of Osborn Plantation (S. P. 73)

Resolve in favor of Mrs. Henry B. Baker of Bar Harbor (S. P. 74)

Resolve in favor of Herbert L. Young of Lamoine (S. P. 75)

Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act relating to the Recording and Copying of Public Documents" (S. P. 76)

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of Leslie B. Johnson of North Orland (S. P. 79)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on Claims.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Claims in concurrence.

From the Senate: Bill "An Act relating to Payments to County Law Libraries" (S. P. 80)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Judiciary in concurrence.

In the Senate: Resolve granting State Pension for Charles Knowlton of Liberty.

Resolve in relation to Status of Paul J. Brown in re Teachers' Retirement Association (S. P. 82)

Resolve providing for a State Pension for William A. Kendall of Swanville (S. P. 83)

Came from the Senate, referred to the Committee on Pensions.

In the House, referred to the Committee on Pensions in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk has in his possession an additional paper

from the Senate to take up at this time.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn at the close of this week's sessions, they adjourn to meet on Tuesday morning, January 26, 1943, at 11:30 A. M. (S. P. 24)

Came from the Senate, read and passed.

In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

Bills and Resolves Requiring Reference

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

Claims

Resolve in favor of Charles T. Glover, of Pine Point (H. P. 42) (Presented by Mr. Baker of Scarborough)

Resolve in favor of Clyde Mahoney, of Norridgewock (H. P. 43) (Presented by Mr. Ela of Anson)

Resolve in favor of the town of Winterport in the case of Charles E. Reynolds (H. P. 44) (Presented by Mr. Gillies of Prospect)

Resolve to reimburse the town of Lincoln for support of John S. McNamara and family (H. P. 45) (Presented by Mr. House of Lincoln)

Resolve in favor of Helen E. Chapman, of Harrison (H. P. 46) (Presented by Mr. Pottle of Otisfield)

Sent up for concurrence.

Inland Fisheries and Game

Bill "An Act relating to Trapping in Unorganized Territory" (H. P. 47) (Presented by Mr. Boyker of Bethel)

(Ordered printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act relating to Search for Lost Persons" (H. P. 48) (Presented by Mr. McKusick of Parkman)

(Ordered printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Pensions

Resolve providing for a State Pension for Blanche K. Greenlaw, of Gardiner (H. P. 49) (Presented by Mr. Cobb of Gardiner)

Resolve providing for a State Pension for Jessie M. Grant of Pros-

pect (H. P. 50) (Presented by Mr. Gillies of Prospect)

Sent up for concurrence.

Welfare

Bill "An Act relating to the Assessment on Towns for Aid to Dependent Children" (H. P. 51) (Presented by Mr. Bubar of Weston)

(Ordered printed)

Bill "An Act amending the Old Age Assistance Law" (H. P. 52) (Presented by Mr. Bubar of Weston)

(Ordered printed)

Sent up for concurrence.

Orders

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson.

Mr. PAYSON: Mr. Speaker, I present an order and move its passage.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson, presents an order and moves its passage. The Clerk will read the order.

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that a joint committee of the House and Senate, to consist of seven members, is hereby created consisting of four members on the part of the House and three members on the part of the Senate, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, and the President of the Senate, ex officio, shall be one of the three members on the part of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, ex officio, shall be one of the four members on the part of the House.

And be it further ordered that any person authorized to make purchases of materials, supplies, equipment or of any sort for and on behalf of the Legislature shall forthwith upon making any such purchase file with the said committee herein created a detailed statement of the materials, supplies or equipment so purchased together with the cost thereof.

And be it further ordered that the Chairman of each joint standing committee of the Legislature which shall have any expenditure during this legislative session on account of any clerks, stenographers, messengers or other employees shall before filing a final report of said committee file with the committee herein created a statement showing the number of public hearings held by said joint standing committee, the number of executive sessions, the name of any employee and the amount of compensation recommended by said joint standing com-

mittee to be paid to said employee.

And be it further ordered that the committee herein created shall compile in an orderly fashion all of the expenditures so reported to it and at the adjournment of the Legislature shall cause an inventory to be made of all materials, supplies and equipment which are on hand at the time of said adjournment and said committee shall report by a written report to be filed with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate its list of all the purchases made in behalf of the Legislature and its list of expenditures for clerk hire and other employees engaged on behalf of the Legislature and its inventory of materials, supplies and equipment, which said report shall be a public record and said committee shall be reimbursed for its necessary expenses in carrying out the provisions of this order and shall have the authority to engage such assistants as may be necessary for the purposes herein set forth (H. P. 53)

Mr. PAYSON: Mr. Speaker, some forty years ago, when I was a boy down in South Hope—don't try to stop me if you have heard this one, because you can't—and if you are interested in the location of South Hope, I may say that Camden is one of our better suburbs and Rockland is considered a good residential section of South Hope (Laughter)—forty years ago, when I was a boy down there, we didn't have any telephones, we didn't have any automobiles, we didn't have any radios—we didn't even have newspapers, because nobody had money enough to buy a newspaper down there. The only way we found for really knowing what was going on in the world was when we went down to Rockland and brought back the news.

In a certain section of South Hope, down on the farm there, there was Sylvane Ripley—not one of the most intelligent citizens, but he was all right,—a good, hardworking fellow. One day Sylvane was working there on the farm, and a salesman came around and said, "Mr. Ripley, I want to sell you a book." "A book?" said Ripley, "What do I need a book for? I have got a book." The salesman said: "This is a book that should be in every house. This is the Bible." Sylvane said: "The Bible, what is that?" And the salesman replied: "The Bible teaches the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ." And Sylvane said: "Jesus Christ, is he dead? Jake was in

Rockland yesterday and he didn't hear anything about it." (Laughter)

This order was introduced for the purpose of giving the Legislature some definite information about its own affairs. I think we are somewhat in the situation of Sylvane. We do not know what is being done for us and on our behalf here.

William Howard Taft was a great President of the United States and he attended to his duties in the Executive Department when he was President, and when he was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States he attended to his duties as Chief Justice. There are many other men of the same physique as William Howard Taft who do not confine their duties to their own business so strictly as William Howard Taft did.

A similar order, or an order pertaining to the same proposition as this one here, has been introduced in this Legislature and defeated already. It was lobbied against by employees of this Legislature and by the would-be committee clerks who had hoped to work for this Legislature. I would like to call this matter to your attention because I think you should be informed regarding it. One employee of this Legislature said to the man who introduced the other order that up to this time that man deserved well of this State, but on introduction of that order that he had blasted all his chances for a political future. The same employee I believe, referred to the work of the Legislative Research Committee as as big a bunch of twaddle as ever came out of the Legislature, and to the attorney of the Legislative Research Committee as a pipsqueak. I would like to have the members of this House know about these things, and as far as I am concerned, if I am lobbied by any employee of this Legislature, or any committee clerk of this Legislature, I am going to come in here and tell you about it, and tell you the name of the man who did it, and tell you what he advised, so that you can go to him and get the full benefit of his opinion and his advice if you want it.

Now this order does just one thing: It gives no power or authority to any committee whatsoever. This committee will simply collect all the information concerning money spent on the part of this Legislature. It will show you what is left after you have spent your money—or the State's money—and

gone home, and will tell the public the whole story about it. Now if any committee wants to hire a clerk, and that committee has two public hearings and one executive session, as I have known committees to do that I have sat on, and they decide to pay their clerk seventy-five dollars for the session, or twenty-five dollars for each meeting of the committee, they can do it perfectly well, and the name of the committee and the name of the committee clerk will be published, and then the public will know how we take care of our employees here in this Legislature, in order that there can be no question and no fast stuff pulled.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to move that the Clerk be directed to reproduce and distribute this order, and that the order lie on the table until tomorrow morning pending passage.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Payson, moves that the Clerk of the House be authorized to reproduce and distribute this order, and that the order lie on the table until tomorrow pending passage. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the order was tabled pending passage.

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

From the Senate: Resolve Expressing the Appreciation of the State for the Gifts of Lands to the State by Hon. Percival Proctor Baxter. (S. P. 109)

Came from the Senate, given its two several readings under suspension of the rules and passed to be engrossed without reference to a committee.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Savage of Skowhegan, the Resolve was given its two several readings under suspension of the rules and passed to be engrossed without reference to a committee in concurrence.

Orders of the Day

THE SPEAKER: The Clerk has in his possession an additional paper from the Senate. Is there objection to taking it up at this time under suspension of the rules? The Chair hears no objection.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the room on the ground floor formerly occupied by the Industrial Accident Commission be assigned for the permanent use of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (S. P. 108)

Came from the Senate read and passed.

In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: Is there anything further to come up at this time under Orders of the Day? The Chair would like to officially note that he has in his possession a gavel made and presented to him by the Clerk of the House.

Yesterday there was placed on the desk of each member a copy of the 1943 Register, and in connection with this Register definite instructions as to the necessity of looking it over and making any necessary corrections, and conferring with the Clerk in the event that any error is discovered as the Register relates to each member. The Chair will remind you that tonight is the absolute closing time for those corrections, and they must be in the hands of the Clerk at that time so the Chair asks the cooperation of each member in that respect.

The SPEAKER: The Chair notes this morning the presence of the gentleman from Calais, Mr. Murchie, and we are advised that over the weekend he celebrated his Golden Wedding Anniversary. On behalf of this House we would like to extend our felicitations and just congratulate him for the fine record of public service that he has to his credit and trust that we and the State may continue to enjoy the abilities that he has so capably demonstrated on many occasions. (Applause)

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Calais, Mr. Murchie.

Mr. MURCHIE: Mr. Speaker, I thank you, of course, very much for the recognition, and I am just trying to think of some old or antiquated story that might apply to my situation. The whole thing is a terrible exposure you see—the thought that children and grandchildren can gang up on you and bring before the world a man who has attained a certain age, when

you are trying to keep ten or fifteen years under it. I am just trying to think of something that might possibly go around here as a yarn, that would indicate my thought of what I would like to say.

I guess I will simply say that I am very grateful to you, indeed, under the circumstances. I thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair might state at this time that he was in conversation with the Revisor of the Statutes, and he advises the Chair that there have been drawn some over two hundred bills and resolves and that the greater part of them are still in his office. He takes the position, and properly, that having drawn the bills in compliance with the requests of the members of the House, he has performed his duty, and it is up to each member to see that that bill is finally dropped in the hopper. So the Chair is just calling the attention of the members to that fact and asking them to just go to the office of the Revisor of Statutes and see that any bills are on their way, and at once, because that is the only way they can finally get on their way to the committee hearings. He has them and many of them are written.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the members that in accordance with the Joint Order passed this morning the House will reconvene next week at 11:30 Tuesday forenoon. The members of the House will understand that the volume of business actually transacted at that forenoon session may be of little consequence but the sole purpose of that earlier hour of opening is in order that committees may make their plans this week and place the advertising for the holding of important committee hearings on Tuesday afternoon. The Speaker trusts that the committees will recognize that fact and utilize Tuesday afternoon to the fullest extent.

If there is no further business to come before the House, the Clerk will read the notices.

On motion by Mr. Hemphill of Mechanic Falls,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.