

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Ninety-Fourth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Special Session, February 6, 1950

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
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SENATE

Tuesday, February 7, 1950.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Prayer by the Reverend Victor M. Regan of Augusta.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. Haskell of Penobscot was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. HASKELL of Penobscot: Mr. President and members of the Senate, this is a very minor matter, and if we were in a hurry, I probably would not mention it. L. D. 1625, An Act Relating to Elderly Teachers' Pensions, has a printer's error, in that page two has three paragraphs in black print wherein normally the printer prints bills in light face type except where changes are made. You might naturally think that those three paragraphs are all new law, while actually they are existing law, with the figure that is now \$600 in the first paragraph changed to \$700. The figure in the second paragraph was changed to \$600 and in Section 6D, the present law has \$400 and this changes it to \$500. As you look at the bill, just consider that it is not all new law. The only change is in the figures and had the printer followed usual procedure, it would have been printed in light face type, the \$600 crossed out and \$700 in bold face put in its place.

The PRESIDENT: At this time, the Chair would like to recognize the students and instructor from Greeley Institute in Cumberland County. We are very glad to have you here and in behalf of the Senate, I extend to you a very hearty welcome.

Mr. Sleeper of Knox was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. SLEEPER: Mr. President and members of the Senate, it appears that even two hundred years ago

the county which I represent was noted for its famous sons. Undoubtedly the greatest man that Maine has had in the past two centuries was General Henry Knox who was head of the Artillery Division of the United States Army during the Revolutionary War and his contributions in that field of armed conflict eventually contributed greatly to our victory over the British. General Henry Knox was the first Secretary of War under our first President, George Washington. General Henry Knox was the man who stood most for the development of Maine. He founded the lime burning industry in Knox County. He was the leader in the sawmill and lumber industry. He was undoubtedly Maine's greatest native son.

On July 25th of this year we are celebrating in Knox County and the State of Maine the 200th anniversary of the birth of Henry Knox and we intend to make that not only a State event but a national event of great scope and it is to be taken up by the D.A.R. and the S.A.R. In conjunction with that celebration I would like to offer a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America, a memorial to celebrate the birth of this famous man, which they will undoubtedly accept, and we would like to have a stamp issued in his name and also a coin.

I would like to send this memorial to Congress, where it will undoubtedly be treated in the affirmative, and the coin and stamp will be struck off.

So without any further taking up of your time I wish to offer this memorial to Congress, and I move it be adopted without reference to a committee, and be sent forthwith to the House. I would also like to have it read.

The Secretary read the Memorial:

**Memorial to the Congress of the
United States
State of Maine**

In the Year of our Lord One
Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty.

Memorial

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine in the Ninety-fourth legislative (Special) Session assembled, most respectfully present and petition your Honorable Body as follows:

Whereas, in view of the fact that there is being planned in the State of Maine, to be held on July 25, 1950, a celebration of national scope on the occasion of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Major General Henry Knox, friend of Washington; and

Whereas, Major General Henry Knox held the distinguished positions of Head of the Department of Artillery in the American Revolution, 1776-1783; Secretary of War in the National Government, 1785-1794; New England's greatest single industrial promoter, 1795-1806; and Proprietor of the Waldo Patent in Maine, and who built a beautiful home on the bank of the Georges River and lived in Thomaston; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That we, your Memorialists, do hereby respectfully petition and urge the Members of Congress to give early recognition to this great historic occasion with full approval and support of the events of the year, and pray the Congress of the United States through our Senators and Representatives to pass appropriate legislation authorizing the issue of a postage stamp showing the beautiful "Montpelier" with a portrait of General Henry Knox in recognition of these historic events of national importance; and, also, to pass appropriate legislation to have a coin struck to mark the occasion of his eminent military, political, and industrial service to our country; 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, by registered mail, 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 motion prevailed and the Memorial was adopted.

Sent forthwith to the House.

On motion by Mr. Haskell of Penobscot

Recessed until 2:30 this afternoon.

After Recess

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Mr. Greeley from the Committee on Ways and Bridges on bill, "An Act Providing for the Reallocation of Part of the Betterment Appropriation in Favor of State Aid Highways," (S. P. 713) (L. D. 1624) reported that the same ought to pass as amended by Committee Amendment "A".

Which report was read and accepted and the bill read once. The Secretary read Committee Amendment A. "Committee Amendment A to L. D. 1624. Amend said bill by striking out all after the enacting clause thereof and inserting in place thereof the following:

'P. & S. L. 1949, c. 208, p. 1, amended. Sub paragraph 6 of paragraph C of Section 1 of Chapter 208 of the Private and Special Laws of 1949 is hereby amended to read as follows:

'6. Betterments, state and state-aid highways 1,000,000 1,000,000.'

Which amendment was adopted and under suspension of the rules the bill as amended was given its second reading and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to House forthwith for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Haskell of Penobscot

Recessed until five o'clock this afternoon.

After Recess

The Senate was called to order by the President.

From the House

The Committee on Federal Relations on bill "An Act Relating to Payment of Benefits under Employment Security Law," (H.P. 2127) (L.D. 1627) reported that the same ought to pass.

Mr. BATCHELDER of York: Mr. President, this bill probably requires a little explanation, the one before us at the present time. At the regular session we had a bill to revise practically the whole statute. There had been a lot of amendments since the revision of the revised statutes and in so doing there were some changes made in that bill. At that time it was cut. Some people were receiving amounts of money \$500 up to \$2,000 approximately the sum of one to two dollars a week was lopped off the figure. In the original bill there was a clause which permitted the commissioner,—they had discretionary power—to make some correction on that bill. That would allow approximately that difference of one or two dollars on those payments for that particular week.

It was found that this was working somewhat of a hardship possibly on those people who come within that particular class. There was an increase added onto that bill for people who received the salary of about 25 dollars a week. There was a slight addition at that time.

This fund at the present time is in the vicinity of around 38 million dollars. It is made up principally of money contributed by the employee and also by industry which matches the fund. It is felt that this change might require a sum of probably \$800,000 additional cost for making the change on this.

It is felt that with the large amount of money which we have on hand at the present time which earns about a million in interest, at the present time it wouldn't hurt this payment and as a matter of fact, it is the employers money that is there at the present time. It is stated that this bill actually is to take effect as of April 2, which is the time the fiscal year practically changes. It wouldn't make much difference on operating costs on these particular fund; that is on changing over. I might say that industry and labor have got together on this bill and are agreed and feel it should pass.

I trust the bill will pass as reported out of committee.

The motion prevailed and the ought to pass report of the committee was accepted in concurrence and under suspension of the rules, the bill was given its two several readings and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Boucher of Androscoggin.

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.