

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Seventh Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1955

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
Augusta, Maine

SENATE

Tuesday, January 18, 1955

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Prayer by the Rev. Royal Brown of Gardiner.

Journal of Thursday, January 13, read and approved.

House Papers

Bill "An Act relating to Closed Season on Deer in Town of Isle au Haut, Knox County." (H. P. 6) (L. D. 5)

Bill "An Act relating to Open Season on Deer in Vinalhaven." (H. P. 7) (L. D. 6)

Bill "An Act relating to Rabbit Hunting in Oxford, Franklin and Somerset Counties." (H. P. 8) (L. D. 7)

Bill "An Act relating to Closed Time on Deer in Franklin County." (H. P. 9) (L. D. 8)

Which were severally referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game in concurrence.

"Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for Election of Members of the Executive Council." (H. P. 10) (L. D. 9)

Which was referred to the Committee on Judiciary in concurrence.

Bill "An Act relating to Membership of the Board of Trustees of the North Haven Port District." (H. P. 11) (L. D. 10)

Bill "An Act relating to Definition of 'Elevator' under Board of Elevator Rules and Regulations." (H. P. 12) (L. D. 11)

Bill "An Act Creating a State Athletic Commission and Regular Wrestling." (H. P. 13) (L. D. 12)

Bill "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Readfield School District." (H. P. 14) (L. D. 13)

Which were severally referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in concurrence.

"Resolve Changing the Name of Rattlesnake Pond to Pequawket Pond." (H. P. 15) (L. D. 14)

Which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources in concurrence.

Bill "An Act relating to Exemptions from Taxation of Veterans." (H. P. 4) (L. D. 15)

Bill "An Act Exempting Certain Materials Used by Commercial Fishermen from the Sales Tax." (H. P. 17) (L. D. 16)

Which were referred to the Committee on Taxation in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Repealing the Law Prohibiting the Use of Motor Vehicles on a Certain Road in the Town of North Haven." (H. P. 18) (L. D. 17)

Which was referred to the Committee on Transportation in concurrence.

"Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for James E. Caton of Phippsburg." (H. P. 23)

"Resolve Providing for State Pension for Gladys Leask of Bath." (H. P. 24)

"Resolve in Favor of Thelma Lamb of Bath." (H. P. 25)

"Resolve Providing for an Increase in State Pension for Jane Antworth of Bath." (H. P. 26)

"Resolve Providing for State Pension for Mrs. Delma Bragg of Bath." (H. P. 27)

Which were severally referred to the Committee on Retirement and Pensions, in concurrence.

Senate Papers

Mr. Jamieson of Aroostook presented Bill "An Act relating to Appropriation for Seed Potato Board." (S. P. 48)

Which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Mr. Woodcock of Penobscot presented Bill "An Act Repealing Separate Bids for Purchase of Institutional Supplies." (S. P. 49)

The same Senator presented Bill "An Act Exempting the State and Its Subdivisions from Fair Trade Act." (S. P. 50)

Which were referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Mr. Silsby of Hancock presented Bill "An Act relating to Fair Views at Railroad Crossings." (S. P. 47)

Which was referred to the Committee on Public Utilities and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Orders

On motion by Mr. Jamieson of Arroostook

ORDERED, the House concurring, that any Town Clerk or Board of County Commissioners may, upon written request to the document clerk, receive without charge copies of all printed bills, so that there may be available to the public during the legislative session, a complete and convenient file of all printed bills. (S. P. 51)

Which was read and passed.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Reid of Kennebec

ORDERED, that permission is hereby granted for speakers to be connected to the Senate Recording system and located in the Offices of the Speaker of the House, the Clerk of the House, the Executive Department, the Council Chamber, and the Newspaper Room, until the Senate shall otherwise order.

Which was read and passed.

On motion by Mr. Fuller of Oxford,

ORDERED, that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to control the use of the Senate Chamber when the Senate is not in session, unless the Senate shall otherwise order.

Which was read and passed.

Enactors

The Committee on Engrossed Bills reported as truly and strictly engrossed, the following Bills:

Bill "An Act Accepting from Percival Proctor Baxter the Conveyance and Deed of Gift in Trust of Two Thousand (2000) Acres in Township Six (6) Range Nine (9) W.E.L.S. Piscataquis County, State of Maine." (S. P. 40) (L. D. 29)

Bill "An Act Interpreting the Trust Deed of Percival Proctor Baxter to State of Maine January 12, 1954 (Piscataquis Registry Book 309 Page 86) and Interpreting the Phrases 'Natural Wild State' and 'Sanctuary for Wild Beasts and Birds' in Deeds from Said Baxter

to Said State of Maine." (S. P. 41) (L. D. 30)

Bill "An Act Ratifying and Confirming the Acceptance by the State of Maine Under the Following Resolves of the Governor and Executive Council of the Gifts of Land in Trust Made by Percival Proctor Baxter the Same to be Added to Baxter State Park. (S. P. 42) (L. D. 31)

Bill "An Act Amending by Mutual Consent of Percival Proctor Baxter and the State of Maine the Deed of Gift of Lands in Piscataquis County Dated January 12, 1954 of Fourteen Thousand Five (14,005) Acres of Land and Five-sixths (5/6ths) of the Public Lot in Township Six (6) Range Nine (9) W.E.L.S. Piscataquis County Recorded in Said Registry Book 309 Page 86 Made by Said Percival Proctor Baxter to the State of Maine as Trustee and Accepted by the Said State IN TRUST by the Governor and Executive Council Acting Under the Provisions of Section 15, Chapter 11 of the 1944 Revised Statutes Wherein the Governor and Executive Council Are Empowered to Accept Gifts Made to the State of Maine, and ACCEPTING the Deed of Gift of Said Land as Modified and Amended by Deed of Gift of Said Baxter Dated December 1, 1954. (S. P. 43) (L. D. 32)

The PRESIDENT: The Chair notes the presence in the Senate Chamber of Maine's first senior citizen, a distinguished gentleman who has served as President of this body and has served, with distinction, the State as Governor. The Chair would ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to accompany Ex-Governor Baxter to the rostrum.

Ex - Governor Percival Proctor Baxter was thereupon escorted to the rostrum by the Sergeant-at-Arms, amid the applause of the Senate, the members rising.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler.

Mr. BUTLER of Franklin; Mr. President, I move the passage of these bills and would ask unanimous consent to address the Senate.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler, asks unanimous consent to address the Senate. Is there objection? The Chair

hears none and the Senator may proceed.

Mr. BUTLER: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: It is only right, I feel, as we are about to act upon this splendid gift of Ex-Governor Baxter to stop and review the events which have happened prior thereto.

This is only a part of the expression of what Ex-Governor Baxter has done for the State of Maine.

You will recall, if you will refer to the records, how, both when he was here in the Senate hall and as Governor he attempted to give to the State and to preserve for the State a part of the State in its natural beauty, realizing that we as individuals are here today and are only a memory tomorrow and that that which we feel is valuable passes quickly with the passage of time. He was unsuccessful in his efforts when he first endeavored to have the State of Maine acquire land for a park; his vision was greater than that of his contemporaries at the time, or even the State as a whole. He earnestly felt that here was something that not only the people in the State but the Nation as a whole should and must have. And after leaving the Governor's chair he did proceed to purchase land which constituted the first element of this park for which we are now going to accept, I hope, additional grants.

It was in Legislative Document 803 back on March 4, 1933 that we had the simple beginning of the beneficence of Governor Baxter. And at that time, if I am correct in my quotation: "The works of man are short-lived, monuments decay, buildings crumble and wealth vanishes, but Katahdin in its massive grandeur will forever remain the mountain of the people of Maine." That first gift was the top, the point of Katahdin, and from then on through the years he has consecutively been giving these gifts and the people of Maine, fortunately indeed, were able to accept them.

But as he has given times have changed, and he has not wanted his gifts to be a burden to the State or not to be active in the best interests of the State, and so each time as the gifts have come he has modified to a certain extent original restrictions which were close and dear to his

heart because he felt that such was right if the gift was to be a true gift to the people. And so we have in these enactments of today further modifications of the control, operation and management of the gifts which he has so kindly given to the people not only of the State of Maine but to all who come to view them from this country or from other countries. And may we in our own small measure carry in our hearts and in our legislation the benefits to the State of Maine as Ex-Governor Baxter has continuously done during his entire life.

Mr. President, I move the passage of these bills.

Thereupon a division of the Senate was had.

Twenty-eight having voted in the affirmative and none opposed, the bills were passed to be enacted.

The PRESIDENT: Governor Baxter, in consenting to be here this morning I well realize that you exacted from me the promise that I would not ask you to make comments to this Senate. I think this is the first time I have ever broken my word to a Governor, but I would ask that you give that pleasure to our Senate since you have given to us this fine gift this morning. Would you, please, Governor?

Hon. PERCIVAL P. BAXTER: Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, it is good to be here today, and naturally I am pleased that you approved of the acceptance of these measures which we all are quite sure will be for the benefit of the citizens of the State of Maine.

I want to thank the Senator from Franklin particularly, for his generous reference and his explaining to you briefly something of the track which I have followed in bringing these things about.

As I said in the House a few moments ago as I stood there, and as I stand here I say again to you, it brings back memories of the past. But the past is gone and is valuable only as it teaches us lessons for the future. Like yourselves, I am interested in today and in tomorrow and I look forward to continuing happiness and prosperity for the State of Maine, and if in some humble way I have been able to contribute to

that happiness and prosperity it will more than repay me for everything I have done.

This is a wonderful place, this state house. It is the heart and soul of the State of Maine, and from it goes out influences which affect the life and happiness of everybody.

It is wonderful to be here again after the passage of the years. Mr. President, you are most kind to allow me to say a few words and I want you to know I am happy to be here. I know that everything is going well and I shall follow the deliberations of this Body for the next few weeks and months and am sure that whatever you do will be for the best interests of our state. Now if I may sit here for a few moments and watch the proceedings, it will give me a great deal of pleasure. (Applause)

The PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Governor Baxter.

Orders of the Day

Mr. Reid of Kennebec was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate:

Mr. REID of Kennebec: Mr. President and Members of the Senate, this morning when I was going through old newspaper items on my desk, I came upon one which I thought contained an element of humor and might be appropriate to the proceedings of the last few days. I do not read this because it applies either to Democrats or Republicans, neither do I read it because it is pointed

at any one person or group of persons. It seems to me, however, that it is appropriate, and I will read it: "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it wrong and applying unsuitable remedies."

Mr. Boyker of Oxford was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate:

Mr. BOYKER of Oxford: Mr. President and Members of the Senate, to follow up Senator Reid's definition of politics, I would like to say this. As I was coming in over the week-end from my home in Oxford County, I stopped at a gas station for gas, and as the proprietor came out with my change, there was a gentleman with him. This gentleman said, "Where are you going?" I said, "I am going to Augusta - get right in." He was asking for a ride.

So as we went along, we talked about different matters, government matters, and as we neared Augusta, he said to me, "Now I don't see any doctor's kit in your car so you cannot be a doctor. You haven't told me any long stories, so you cannot be a lawyer and I am wondering just what your profession is."

"Well," I said, "I am a politician."

He replied, "That isn't a profession, that is a disorder."

On motion by Mr. Weeks of Cumberland.

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.