

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

VOLUME I

1957

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

SENATE

Wednesday, April 17, 1957

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by Father Burns of Augusta.

On motion by Mr. Hall of York, Journal of yesterday read and approved.

House Papers**House Committee Reports
Leave to Withdraw**

The Committee on Judiciary on Bill, "An Act Relating to Length of Residence in Divorce Actions." (H. P. 833) (L. D. 1189) reported that the same be granted Leave to Withdraw.

The Committee on Liquor Control on Bill, "An Act Relating to Liquor Bought from the Commission by Licensees." (H. P. 613) (L. D. 860) reported that the same be granted Leave to Withdraw.

The same Committee on Bill, "An Act Permitting the Issuance of Temporary Liquor Licenses." (H. P. 973) (L. D. 1373) reported that the same be granted Leave to Withdraw.

The Committee on Taxation on Bill, "An Act Imposing Tax on Cigars and Tobacco Products." (H. P. 842) (L. D. 1196) reported that the same be granted Leave to Withdraw.

Which reports were severally read and accepted in concurrence.

Ought Not to Pass

The Committee on Judiciary on Bill, "An Act Granting Juvenile Court Jurisdiction to Trial Justices." (H. P. 773) (L. D. 1106) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill, "An Act Relating to Breaking and Entering Motor Vehicles." (H. P. 812) (L. D. 1155) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill, "An Act Relating to Appointment of Special Deputy Sheriffs." (H. P. 854) (L. D. 1217) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The Committee on Labor on Bill, "An Act Relating to Employment of Certain Persons." (H. P. 782) (L. D.

1115) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

(On motion by Mr. Hurley of Kennebec, tabled pending consideration of the ought not to pass report.)

The Committee on Liquor Control on Bill, "An Act Relating to Hours of Sale of Liquor." (H. P. 716) (L. D. 1021) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill, "An Act Relating to Renewals of Malt Beverage Licenses." (H. P. 949) (L. D. 1342) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill, "An Act Permitting Sunday Sales of Malt Liquor Not to be Consumed on Premises." (H. P. 950) (L. D. 1343) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The Committee on Public Utilities on Bill, "An Act Relating to Enforcement of Collection of Sewerage Rates by Waterville Sewerage District." (H. P. 482) (L. D. 688) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The Committee on Taxation on Bill, "An Act Assessing a Poll Tax on Females." (H. P. 242) (L. D. 335) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

The same Committee on Bill, "An Act Exempting Sales of American Flag from Sales Tax." (H. P. 402) (L. D. 532) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

Which reports were severally read and accepted in concurrence.

Ought to Pass

The Committee on Claims on "Resolve to Reimburse Town of Stetson for Aid to Carlton Johnson and Family." (H. P. 737) (L. D. 1041) reported that the same Ought to pass.

The Committee on Public Health on Bill, "An Act Relating to Boarding Homes for the Aged." (H. P. 789) (L. D. 1122) reported that the same Ought to pass.

The Committee on Public Utilities on Bill, "An Act to Incorporate Bowdoinham Water District." (H. P. 384) (L. D. 515) reported that the same Ought to pass.

The Committee on Taxation on Bill, "An Act Relating to Time of Applications for Refunds of Gasoline Tax." (H. P. 913) (L. D. 1299)

reported that the same Ought to pass

Which reports were severally read and accepted in concurrence, the bills and resolve read once and tomorrow assigned for second reading.

The Committee on Natural Resources on Bill, "An Act Relating to Portland University." (H. P. 1026) (L. D. 1458) reported that the same Ought to pass

Comes from the House, report accepted and the bill passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment A (Filing 204)

In the Senate, the report was read once, House Amendment A read and adopted in concurrence, and the bill as amended tomorrow assigned for second reading.

Ought to Pass—N.D.—New Title

The Committee on Public Utilities on Bill, "An Act Requiring Railroads to Provide Safety Measures for Those Walking Along Railroad Tracks." (H. P. 906) (L. D. 1294) reported same in New Draft (H. P. 1047) (L. D. 1489), Under a New Title: "An Act Relating to Walks and Handrails on Railroad Bridges." and that it Ought to pass

Which report was read and accepted in concurrence, the bill in New Draft read once and tomorrow assigned for second reading.

Ought to Pass—as amended

The Committee on Claims on "Resolve to Reimburse the Town of Enfield for Certain Pauper Claims." (H. P. 155) (L. D. 203) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A (Filing 185)

The same Committee on "Resolve to Reimburse the Town of Waldoboro for Aid Extended to Leverett Carter." (H. P. 202) (L. D. 289) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A (Filing 186)

The same Committee on "Resolve in Favor of Town of Masardis, Aroostook County." (H. P. 408) (L. D. 585) reported that the same Ought to pass as amended by Committee Amendment A (Filing 183)

The same Committee on "Resolve Reimbursing Town of Bristol for

Certain Pauper Claims." (H. P. 638) (L. D. 905) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A (Filing 184)

The Committee on Legal Affairs on Bill, "An Act Relating to Sick Leave Benefits for Employees of the Department of Public Works of the City of Lewiston." (H. P. 374) (L. D. 504) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A (Filing 195)

(On motion by Mr Boucher of Androscoggin, tabled pending consideration of the ought to pass as amended report.)

The same Committee on Bill, "An Act Relating to Time of Annual Town Meeting in Town of Mechanic Falls." (H. P. 988) (L. D. 1376) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A (Filing 194)

The Committee on Public Health on Bill, "An Act Relating to Definitions of Narcotic Drugs." (H. P. 13) (L. D. 12) reported that the same Ought to pass with Committee Amendment A (Filing 193)

The Committee on Public Utilities on Bill, "An Act Amending the Charter of the Limerick Sewerage District." (H. P. 766) (L. D. 1048) reported that the same Ought to pass with Committee Amendment A (Filing 191)

Which reports were severally read and accepted in concurrence and the bills and resolves read once, Committee Amendments A were read and adopted in concurrence, and the bills and resolves as so amended were tomorrow assigned for second reading.

On motion by Mr. Farley of York the Senate resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of an off the record discussion.

By unanimous consent of the Senate, Mr. Fournier of York presented the following Joint Resolution and moved its adoption:

Joint Resolution

To the President of the United States and to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled.

Joint Resolution Memorializing the President and the Congress to Correct Governmental Policies which Create Unreasonable Competitive Disadvantages for the Cotton Textile Industry.

WE, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine in the 98th Legislative Session assembled, most respectfully present and petition The President and the Congress as follows:

WHEREAS, the Bates Manufacturing Company has announced the closing of two of its Maine plants, creating unemployment for thousands of Maine textile workers; and

WHEREAS, continued unfair foreign competition threatens the existence of the textile industry in Maine and other parts of the nation; and

WHEREAS, this threat is immediate, burdensome, and demoralizing to workers, their families and their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, these thousands of American citizens are confronted with unemployment, family displacement, and economic insecurity in a period of record high spending, high cost of living, and general prosperity; and

WHEREAS, federal policies have contributed to the crisis in the textile industry; and

WHEREAS, only the President and Congress of the United States have the power to mobilize the resources of the federal government to alleviate this problem.

Now, Be It Resolved that we, the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Maine State Legislature, do urgently request the President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower, to use the powers of his office and of the several departments of the government of the United States to effect immediate action to remedy the present situation in the textile industry and to establish a long-range program to provide for a healthy recovery and growth of the textile industry; and be it further

Resolved: That S. P. 314, "To assist the United States cotton textile industry in regaining its equitable share of the world market," and other measures designed to resolve the immediate emergency confronting the cotton textile industry

and to promote its long-range prosperity, be acted upon forthwith by the Congress; 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 President and to the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress, the membership of said Senate and House of Representatives from this State and to the presiding officers of each of the Legislatures in the New England States. (S. P. 527)

Which Resolution was received by unanimous consent, was read and adopted without reference to a joint standing committee and sent forthwith to the House.

Order

Mr. Martin of Kennebec presented the following Senate Order and moved its passage:

WHEREAS, it appears to the Senate of the 98th Legislature that the following is an important question of law and the occasion a solemn one, and

WHEREAS, there is pending before the Senate of the 98th Legislature a bill (House Paper 983, Legislative Document 1407) entitled, "An Act Relating to Industrial Development in City of Bangor," and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Legislature be informed as to the constitutionality of the proposed bill, be it therefore

ORDERED, that in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State, the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court are hereby respectfully requested to give the Senate their opinion on the following question:

Would House Paper 983, Legislative Document 1407, "An Act Relating to Industrial Development in City of Bangor," if enacted by the Legislature, be constitutional?

Which was read and passed.

Joint Order

On motion by Mr. Wyman of Washington,

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Committee on Towns and Counties be and hereby is authorized with respect to bills related to the salaries of County Officers

and Municipal Court Officers to report such bills as are in the possession of the Committee in consolidated form, with each bill so consolidated being limited to a single position classification. (S. P. 526)

Which was read and passed, and sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Low of Knox, ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn on Friday next, they adjourn to meet on April 23 in the forenoon. (S. P. 528)

Which was read and passed, and sent down for concurrence.

Senate Committee Reports Ought to Pass—as Amended

Mr. Sinclair from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on "Resolve Providing Additional Funds for the Maine State Office Building." (S. P. 511) (L. D. 1452) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A.

(On motion by Mr. Sinclair of Somerset, the resolve and accompanying papers were laid upon the table pending consideration of the report, and was especially assigned for later today.)

Mr. Hurley from the Committee on Business Legislation on Bill, "An Act Relating to Mortgage Loans by Savings Banks." (S. P. 406) (L. D. 1139) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A.

Which report was read and accepted, the bill read once, Committee Amendment A read and adopted and the bill tomorrow assigned for second reading.

Mr. Willey from the Committee on Liquor Control on recommended Bill, "An Act Relating to Persons to Whom Liquor Licenses May Not Be Issued." (S. P. 262) (L. D. 701) reported that the same Ought to pass with Committee Amendment A.

Which report was read and accepted, the bill read once, Committee Amendment A read and adopted and under suspension of the rules, the bill was read a second time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Mr. Lessard, from the Committee on Public Utilities on Bill, "An Act to Incorporate the North Yarmouth Water District." (S. P. 472) (L. D. 1351) reported that the same Ought to pass with Committee Amendment A.

Mr. Rogerson from the Committee on State Government on Bill, "An Act Prohibiting State Employees from Participating in State Politics." (S. P. 467) (L. D. 1347) reported that the same Ought to pass as Amended by Committee Amendment A.

Which reports were severally read and accepted and the bills read once. Committee Amendments A were read and adopted, and the bills and resolve as so amended were tomorrow assigned for second reading.

Majority — OTP as Amended Minority — ONTP

The Majority of the Committee on State Government on recommended Bill, "An Act Relating to the Appointment of a Temporary Deputy Commissioner." (S. P. 375) (L. D. 998) reported that the same Ought to pass with Committee Amendment A.

(Signed)

Senators:

ROGERSON of Aroostook
LESSARD of Androscoggin
PIKE of Oxford

Representatives:

WALSH of Brunswick
WADE of Auburn
ELWELL of Brooks
ROSS of Bath

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject matter, reported that the bill Ought not to pass.

(Signed)

Representatives:

BRAGDON of Perham
TOTMAN of Bangor
CHILDS of Portland

On motion by Mr. Rogerson of Aroostook, the Majority ought to pass as amended report was accepted and the bill read once. Committee Amendment A was read and adopted, and the bill as amended was tomorrow assigned for second reading.

Second Readers

The Committee on Bills in the Second Reading reported the following bills and resolve:

Bill, "An Act Relating to Amount Recovered in Actions for Injuries Causing Immediate Death." (H. P. 777) (L. D. 1110)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Record of Contents of Motor Trucks." (H. P. 958) (L. D. 1359)

(On motion by Mr. Wyman of Washington, tabled pending passage to be engrossed.)

Bill, "An Act Relating to duties of Animal Husbandry Specialist." (H. P. 963) (L. D. 1364)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Damages Done by Dogs and Wild Animals." (H. P. 979) (L. D. 1403)

"Resolve Giving Recognition to the Eastern Orthodox Church as a Major Faith in Maine." (H. P. 1046) (L. D. 1487)

Which were severally read a second time and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

House—as Amended

Bill, "An Act Relating to Time Limit for Adjusting and Paying Fire Losses." (H. P. 45) (L. D. 78)

Which was read a second time and passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment A in non-concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill, "An Act Relating to Granting Mining Rights by Forest Commissioner." (H. P. 786) (L. D. 1119)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Removal of Persons from Indian Tribal Reservations." (H. P. 799) (L. D. 1131)

Which were read a second time and passed to be engrossed as amended, in concurrence.

Senate

Bill, "An Act Relating to the Importation of Liquors Used in Manufacture." (S. P. 180) (L. D. 459)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Compensation Under Workmen's Compensation Act for Loss of Distal Phalanx of Thumb, Finger or Toe." (S. P. 465) (L. D. 1346)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Leave of Absence from Work for Certain Employees While in Temporary Mil-

itary Training." (S. P. 488) (L. D. 1396)

Which were severally read a second time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate—as Amended

Bill, "An Act Relating to the Department of Finance and Administration." (S. P. 221) (L. D. 576)

Which was read a second time and passed to be engrossed, as amended.

Sent down for concurrence.

Enactors

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

Bill, "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Moose River." (H. P. 61) (L. D. 63)

Bill, "An Act to Incorporate the town of Jackman." (H. P. 60) (L. D. 64)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Membership of Certain Teachers in State Retirement System." (H. P. 483) (L. D. 673)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Appointment of Indian Constables." (H. P. 558) (L. D. 785)

Bill, "An Act Relating to the Maine Unitarian Association." (H. P. 657) (L. D. 938)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Number of Councillors and Members of Superintending School Committee in Town of Fort Fairfield." (H. P. 1038) (L. D. 1469)

Bill, "An Act Relating to Indian Voting." (H. P. 1039) (L. D. 1470)

"Resolve in Favor of Mrs. Elwood Gerry of North Yarmouth." (H. P. 928) (L. D. 1316)

(On motion by Mr. Sinclair of Somerset, the resolve was laid upon the Special Appropriations Table pending final passage.)

"Resolve in Favor of Henry E. Littlefield of Belfast." (H. P. 1011) (L. D. 1471)

"Resolve in Favor of Sidney Bragdon of New Gloucester for Damage by Escapees from Pownal State School." (H. P. 204) (L. D. 1472)

(On motion by Mr. Sinclair of Somerset, the resolve was laid upon the Special Appropriations Table pending final passage.)

"Resolve in Favor of Town of Sebec for Aid Furnished State Paupers." (S. P. 415) (L. D. 1148)

(On motion by Mr. Sinclair of Somerset, the resolve was laid upon the Special Appropriations Table pending final passage.)

Which bills were severally passed to be enacted and the resolves finally passed.

Orders of the Day

The President laid before the Senate, the first tabled and especially assigned matter being Senate Report from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, ought to pass as amended by Committee Amendment A, on "Resolve Providing Additional Funds for the Maine State Office Building." (S. P. 511) (L. D. 1452) tabled earlier in today's session by the Senator from Somerset, Senator Sinclair, pending consideration of the report.

Mr. SINCLAIR of Somerset: Mr. President and members of the Senate: Before acting on this bill I thought it would be well if I explained a little more about this bill than you might read in the title and particularly in the amendment.

This bill does call for \$295,000 and it does have an emergency clause attached to it. I would like to point out particularly that in the title it says, "Resolve Providing Additional Funds for Maine State Office Building." The amendment has changed it, because this particular amount of money is being requested for the completion of repairs and remodeling of the State Capitol offices, due to lack of funds from the previous appropriation, which read: "To complete certain items in the State Office Building and the remodeling of State Capitol offices," etc. We now find that we owe the contractor a considerable amount of money for work that has been committed here in this building. There is additional work contemplated which involves the Highway-Health building. There is further work contemplated in this building in repairs and remodeling, such things as heating, electricity, ventilating and so forth, and we feel that definitely should be continued at this particular time. Most of the money called for in this particular bill is for work that has been committed.

I also call your attention to the fact that the amendment does delete the word "building." I do not want any misunderstanding in regard to the purpose of this resolve, because it will complete certain items in this building but it definitely will not mean completing all the repairs that might be anticipated in this building, because there are some who feel that additional work should be done. I merely wanted to call your attention to the amount of money that is involved, what it is for, and the need for immediate action if it is going to receive a passage. Bids have been received already on the Highway-Health building which must be made rather soon if we are going to do that work on this particular building, so I move the passage of this bill.

The motion prevailed and the ought to pass as amended report was accepted and the resolve read once; Committee Amendment A was adopted without reading and under suspension of the rules, the resolve was read a second time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair notes in the gallery a group of girl scouts from Bridgton with their leader, Mrs. Weeman. On behalf of the Senate we welcome you here to our session. Everyone of us will do everything we can to make your day an enjoyable and successful one. We thank you very much for coming.

On motion by Mr. Parker of Piscataquis, the Senate voted to take from the table "Resolve Regulating Fishing for White Perch in Certain Counties" (S. P. 198) (L. D. 543) tabled by that Senator on April 16 pending final passage; and on further motion by the same Senator, the resolve was finally passed.

On motion by Mr. Pike of Oxford, the Senate voted to take from the table bill, "An Act Relating to Group Life Insurance," (H. P. 1033) (L. D. 1448) tabled by that Senator on April 11 pending passage to be enacted; and on further motion by the same Senator, the bill was passed to be enacted.

On motion by Mr. Ferguson of Oxford, the Senate voted to take from the table House Reports from the Committee on Liquor; Majority report ought not to pass; Minority report ought to pass, on bill, "An Act Relating to Merchandise Maintained by Retail Store Licensees" (H. P. 478) (L. D. 670) tabled by that Senator on April 11 pending motion by the Senator from Hancock, Senator Willey, that the Senate accept the ought not to pass report.

Mr. FERGUSON of Oxford: Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Hancock, Senator Willey.

Mr. Willey of Hancock moved the pending question.

The motion prevailed and the ought not to pass report was accepted in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Davis of Cumberland, the Senate voted to take from the table House Report from the Committee on Business Legislation reporting Leave to Withdraw on bill, "An Act Relating to Group Life Insurance for Certain Municipal Employee Associations" (H. P. 653) (L. D. 934) tabled by that Senator on April 12 pending consideration of the report, and on further motion by the same Senator the report was accepted in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Butler of Franklin, the Senate voted to take from the table bill, "An Act Repealing the Merit Award Board," (S. P. 24) (L. D. 1259) tabled by that Senator on April 2 pending passage to be enacted.

Mr. BUTLER of Franklin: Mr. President and members of the Senate: In tabling this bill which is now up for enactment we are really having to reconsider our philosophy of government. This Merit Award was supposed to be an incentive to people who are really making their livelihood and making it a profession in serving the State of Maine. This Merit Award Board has only recently been put on the books for the purpose of giving State employees the same incentive from the State angle as private industry gives to its employees in presenting to management suggestions which will make it possible for management to better perform its function in pri-

vate enterprise. But in State Government we have a little different problem. We have first the problem of providing the funds, then we have the principle behind that problem of backing it up as we have here in this measure.

At the present time I have been given to understand there are no funds, there have been no funds available, and therefore people felt that this board should be repealed. If we repeal this we are repealing an incentive. Today we have witnessed the reports of committees which are preparing a different philosophy, and we have bills before us which are giving a different philosophy. I still feel that this bill had merit in the first instance, and the mere fact that we have not seen fit to give the necessary funds to back it up is no reason why the bill has lost any of its merits in the first instance. I therefore move indefinite postponement.

Mr. ROGERSON of Aroostook: Mr. President and members of the Senate: In order to express the feeling of the State Government Committee which considered this matter, I might say that our function was not to determine the desirability of having the Merit Award Board; it was only to determine whether or not this board, without any means for putting it into effect, should be kept in the law, and the feeling of the State Government Committee was that it should not be.

The PRESIDENT: The question before the Senate is on the motion of the Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler, that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

A viva voce vote being had, the chair was in doubt.

A division of the Senate was had.

Twelve having voted in the affirmative and nineteen opposed, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Rogerson of Aroostook, the bill was passed to be enacted.

On motion by Mr. Butler of Franklin, the Senate voted to take from the table "Resolve Directing Boxing Commission to Change Decision on Rocky Marciano Case," (H. P. 765) (L. D. 1047) tabled by that Senator on April 9 pending passage to be engrossed as amended; and on fur-

ther motion by the same Senator, the resolve was passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Butler of Franklin, the Senate voted to take from the table bill, "An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles Emerging from Alley, Driveway or Building," (H. P. 633) (L. D. 748) tabled by that Senator on April 11 pending passage to be enacted.

Mr. BUTLER of Franklin: Mr. President and members of the Senate: This bill is ready for enactment. I feel that it absolutely does nothing which is not already on the statute books except to confuse the issue. If any automobile is coming from a private way into a public highway it must of necessity give precedence to cars on that highway. The bill as it came out required that everyone must blow his horn. Now it has been amended so that is not necessary. As it now stands, anyone coming out, regardless of the direction of traffic or people on the sidewalk, there is an obligation that that person coming from a place of safety into a public way stop. For that reason, I move the indefinite postponement of the measure as it is already covered by other legislation.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler, moves that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. COLE of Waldo: Mr. President and members of the Senate: I will agree with the Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler, that this is not a too important bill, but it had its public hearing and was supported very strongly by the enforcement officials of the State, and I still feel that it will be beneficial if the bill is passed, so I oppose the motion of the Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler.

The PRESIDENT: The question before the Senate is on the motion of the Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

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

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Cole of Waldo, the bill was passed to be enacted.

On motion by Mr. Butler of Franklin, the Senate voted to take from the table bill, "An Act to Exclude Town of Cooper, Washington County, from Maine Forestry District," (H. P. 821) (L. D. 1164) tabled by that Senator on April 12 pending passage to be engrossed; and on further motion by the same Senator, the bill was passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Butler of Franklin, the Senate voted to take from the table bill, "An Act Relating to Taxation Exemption of Certain Property of Veterans," (H. P. 97) (L. D. 127) tabled by that Senator on April 16 pending passage to be enacted.

Mr. BUTLER of Franklin: Mr. President and members of the Senate: I stand in trepidation to ask for indefinite postponement in view of my success in trying to stall legislation which I felt was detrimental or added nothing.

The particular bill under consideration is extending the exemption of property of veterans. I realize that if anyone rises to say anything against the veteran they are immediately labeled "anti-veteran."

This is not really against the veteran: it is giving exemption to veterans on property which has been in the possession of and taxed to the wife. I am just wondering how this is going to affect, as it is going to affect, every municipality in the State of Maine, as many men keep their property in their wife's name; and when they come to get this property that is in their wife's name transferred into their own name it is going to create an additional burden of non-taxable property in the municipalities.

Having called that to the attention of everybody, I now move the question. I am not asking for an indefinite postponement.

Mr. LOW of Knox: Mr. President and members of the Senate: Everybody who was in the Legislature before 1953 will remember the acrimonious debates which were held on this subject of veterans' taxation. It culminated in Governor Payne vetoing one of the bills in 1951.

This bill as written has satisfied most everybody, both in the towns

and in the veterans' organizations. It had a provision in it that the property must be in the name of the veteran himself and that the wife could not transfer her property to him for the purpose of obtaining the exemption. However, it is the habit of many men to hold their property in their wives' names and it did not seem reasonable to exclude those veterans who had followed that old and established principle from the benefits of the bill. That is the reason for the amendment which is up for enactment today. It may, to be sure, increase somewhat the claims towns will get from veterans. However, as you know, if the claims of a town exceed three per cent of the entire levy then the State picks up seventy per cent of the excess. When that was first passed the opinion was that it might run into a very large sum of money indeed, and many people so stated. However, the first year after that law was passed the total claims of the towns were only about \$2000, and I believe in this biennium they total about \$12,000. These claims are now coming to a peak as these veterans become 62 years old, and the next two sessions of the legislature will have the highest claims; but as time goes on these veterans will be dying

off very rapidly and the towns will no longer have to give the exemption.

The whole thing seems to be fair. It does not seem right that a man whose wife has property in her name should not be able to pass it along to the husband so as to get the exemption. I move the passage of the bill.

The PRESIDENT: The question before the Senate is on the motion of the Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler, that the bill be passed to be enacted.

The motion prevailed and the bill was passed to be enacted.

On motion by Mr. Butler of Franklin, the Senate voted to take from the table the 50th tabled and unsigned matter, Bill, "An Act to Revise the Laws Relating to Registration of Accountants," (S. P. 243) (L. D. 644) tabled by that Senator on April 16th pending passage to be engrossed; and on further motion by the same Senator the bill was passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Farley of York,
Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.