

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

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OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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and

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JAN. 6 - JAN. 17, 1964

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The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Falmouth, Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. SMITH: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I only arise to explain my position, which may seem strange to some of you. But we have quite a number of committees before this Legislature and we have some that have come in as new committees and some that are established committees. I feel that, somewhat out of hand, they have grown and grown with the amount of money that has been needed to maintain them. This committee is one of those who has remained with a budget of around \$4,000. It has never asked for more than \$4,000. We have just passed, yesterday, I believe, the Committees for Children and Youth with a \$5,000 appropriation. We have in this paper somewhere the Committee on Aging for \$15,000 each year of the biennium, which hires two secretaries when given one between them. We have the Committee on Mentally Retarded, \$15,000 or so each year.

So it seemed to me that we ought to treat all the committees alike—somewheres near alike. Now even on these orders that we have passed, they are way out of line, one committee having five; two having fifteen; and this committee we cut out completely with money. So I refused to sign the Majority "Ought not to pass" and feel that one committee is as valuable to one group as another committee is to another; and certainly if the Committee on Aging is valuable, and the Committee on Youth is valuable, then certainly the Committee on Education is valuable.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Winterport, Mr. Easton.

Mr. EASTON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have been for several years a member of this august body, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education. My opinion as to the value of the committee is well known to a few of my friends. It is misbegotten, misguided and misled. Nevertheless, I believe that the committee as such could have valuable functions. It was originally set up by statute which set no limit as to number

of members and set no terms for the membership. The result is that they now have considerably over a hundred members of whom many no longer show up. It is controlled entirely by the Department of Education, it serves as another appendage in the propaganda machine of this department. In the morning sessions someone from the department comes down and makes a speech and gives them the orders; and in the afternoon the ringing resolutions are passed.

Despite all this, I warmly urge that this committee be continued. It could have a valuable function. Someday, hopefully in the next Legislature, corrective legislation will be introduced and this committee will serve the function for which it was originally intended; that is, a lay committee to discuss and bring before the public the educational issues of the day, from lay people thinking for themselves. This is not the case today, but there is no reason under the sun why this cannot be true in the future, and I warmly urge that this committee be continued.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Perham, Mr. Bragdon, to accept the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report. All those in favor say yes; those opposed say no.

A viva voce vote being doubted by the Chair, a division of the House was had.

Sixty having voted in the affirmative and forty-one having voted in the negative, the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report was accepted in concurrence.

Divided Report Tabled Until Later in Today's Session

Majority Report of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Legislative Reapportionment reporting "Ought not to pass" on Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Forbidding Discrimination Against Any Person Because of Race, Religion, Sex or Ancestry (S. P. 527) (L. D. 1448)

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. PORTEOUS of Cumberland
NOYES of Franklin
FARRIS of Kennebec
— of the Senate.

Messrs. DENNETT of Kittery
PEASE of Wiscasset
WATKINS of Windham
VILES of Anson
SMITH of Strong
— of the House.

Minority Report of same Committee on same Resolve reporting "Ought to pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" submitted therewith.

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. JACQUES of Androscoggin
EDMUNDS of Aroostook
— of the Senate.

Messrs. SMITH of Bar Harbor
BERMAN of Houlton
PLANTE
of Old Orchard Beach
CARTIER of Biddeford
COTTRELL of Portland
— of the House.

Came from the Senate with the Reports and Resolve indefinitely postponed.

In the House: Reports were read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wiscasset, Mr. Pease.

Mr. PEASE: Mr. Speaker, I move that we indefinitely postpone the Reports and the Resolve in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Wiscasset, Mr. Pease, moves that both Reports and Resolve be indefinitely postponed in concurrence.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Wellman.

Mr. WELLMAN: I wish to place myself on record as firmly opposed to the motion of the gentleman from Wiscasset and I wish a division.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Winthrop, Mr. Thaanum.

Mr. THAANUM: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I also would like to go on the record as opposed to the motion of the gentleman from Wiscasset, Mr. Pease. A good many of you who

served in the Armed Forces served side by side with men of all races, colors and creeds, and I am quite sure that we who served in the Armed Forces are in favor of a constitutional amendment of this kind. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Berman.

Mr. BERMAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I signed the report on this along with my colleague Mr. Smith from Bar Harbor and other gentlemen of this House, and I still stand behind my report. However, I like to be practical about this and I notice that the next item on our calendar is along similar lines, which is trying to do something on a practical basis to help out this situation. So I shall bow to the majority on this one and I hope that the next matter will be thoroughly debated.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Ewer.

Mr. EWER: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: It may be that the next item on the calendar is more practical, but I feel that in view of the record in Maine, the good relationship between races, religions and creeds—in other words, all members of the human family, that this item we are now debating should be passed. We have had a very good record here in Maine over the years and I hope that we can succeed in preserving this record. This bill with its amendment, I think will put us on record as being one of the states where we believe in good associations between all peoples, where we believe in fairness, sympathy, and living together. And for these reasons, I hope that the motion to indefinitely postpone this bill does not prevail.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Old Orchard Beach, Mr. Plante.

Mr. PLANTE: Mr. Speaker, I move that item four be tabled until later in today's session.

Thereupon, the matter was tabled until later in today's session.