

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OF THE

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The Chair recognizes the the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley, who still has the floor.

Mr. DUDLEY: Yes, I would like to ask my colleagues in this House then to vote against enactment.

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

Mr. WHITSON: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: As I said, I recognize the problem of traffic in parking lots and I would hope that someone would make a motion to table this bill so that an amendment could be drafted.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Lee of Albion, tabled pending passage to be enacted and specially assigned for Thursday, May 27.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Skowhegan, Mr. Dam.

Mr. DAM: Mr. Speaker, I would inquire if House Paper 402, L. D. 515 is in the possession of the House?

The SPEAKER: The answer is in the affirmative. Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of the State for Guaranteed Loans for Housing for Indians, House Paper 402, L. D. 515 is in the possession of the House, which failed of final passage in the House yesterday.

Mr. DAM: Mr. Speaker, I move we reconsider our action of yesterday whereby this Resolution failed of final passage.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Skowhegan, Mr. Dam, moves the House reconsider its action of yesterday whereby this Bill failed of passage.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Livermore Falls, Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: The past few months that I have been in this Legislature, I have been exposed for the first time to the problems of the Indians on the reservations in this state, and also of the difficulties the state has in fulfilling its obligations to these people.

I was surprised yesterday afternoon at the action that the House took in failing to pass this con-

stitutional amendment and passing it on to the people for their decision.

Prior to this action we heard a rather lengthy discussion on foster homes and strong criticism of a state agency for failing to fulfill its obligations to the Indians. We have also acted on other legislation. We have tried to assist the Indian youths in providing money for them to leave the reservation and to board elsewhere because living conditions on the reservation were not conducive to good study habits and the children were not able to avail themselves with the educational opportunities that were afforded to them.

We have also acted on legislation to provide additional scholarships for Indians. We have acted on other measures. And I believe the reason that we have done so has been an attempt to allow the Indians to break out of the life style in which they have been hemmed in, willingly or unwillingly.

We heard criticism yesterday directed against the bill because the state already provides biennially millions of dollars to support the Indians on the reservations. This, I think, is one of the strongest arguments in favor of the bill that we killed yesterday. Any dole, any welfare legislation is a most self-defeating measure. You kill the incentive, you kill the spirit of the people to which you are attempting to assist.

It was also mentioned that \$5,000 is appropriated for every Indian. If you look at the welfare programs in this nation, I think you would strongly question whether there is \$5,000 available to every Indian. So much of every welfare legislation is diluted and skimmed off so that the amount of money available to the individual is grossly less than that of the appropriation amount.

I strongly feel that if this state is to ever reduce its biennial appropriations of millions of dollars, you are going to have to some way or another help these Indians, and primarily the young Indians, to break away from the life style in which they are more or less hemmed in at the present time.

The document we defeated yesterday is a step in that direction. It does provide, if the people are willing to accept it, about \$1 million to assist the Indians on the reservations to provide good housing for themselves. And I wonder, ladies and gentlemen, if there is any assistance that could be directed towards these people that would provide any greater incentive.

I think the history of this country has proven that when you provide the ability to have private ownership, you generate in many ways a spirit and a willingness to break out of the background in which people are hemmed in.

Now I would be foolish to tell you that this bill will not cost the state money. Any lending operation does have its losses. And I would quote statistics from outside this state where the losses to the banks a year ago were twelve cents per hundred dollars are now twenty-seven cents per hundred dollars. Now when you are talking cents, this sounds like a very insignificant sum; but when you consider that the loans made are gauged in millions of dollars, then it is a significant sum. And I say that the state would undoubtedly have to fulfill its obligation in some degree for some Indians. But I think the advantages that would accrue over a period of time would be well worth the money, and I think it is one of the few ways that you can proceed to eventually reduce this biennial appropriation of millions of dollars.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I am opposed to reconsidering this measure. I was in this House when we had a discussion on the sugar beet industry which we endorsed with state credit, and I have heard others. But in most cases we in the State of Maine turned out as losers. I was also here in this House when we built some houses for these people that was in question, and I was able to visit these houses a few years later and find that the cupboards had been burned, all the inside finish had

been burned for kindling wood, and that these houses, when they were three years old, looked like they had been built for a hundred years. I don't believe this type of person you can help.

My people need help. We need to back their credit and they will build some better homes, but I don't think the state is able to do this.

Now let me tell you another thing. I don't know of any bank that would loan money because these people, in most of this Indian land, they can't prove ownership. In other words, it has been handed down from generation to generation. There is no such thing as a deed. Nobody knows — most people don't even know where their lot is.

Now as far as being hemmed in, these people are not hemmed in. They can come up and live in my town or your town or in the City of Old Town or any other place. They are not hemmed in, only by their own choice. And for this and many other reasons that I won't bore you with this morning, I hope that we don't reconsider.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Livermore Falls, Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Whether you realize it or not, you are subsidizing homes for low income people. Under the 235 program you are subsidizing the construction of very substantial homes for people whose income is so low that they could not otherwise undertake any home construction. You are financing homes for low income people. This is the only way in which the Indians can be assured of some degree of assistance.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brunswick, Mr. Morrell.

Mr. MORRELL: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: After listening to Mr. Lynch, I would like to make a comment that I don't think I have heard a talk on the House floor with which I was in any more agreement. I think what he says makes sense. I think that whatever losses might be incurred in terms

of dollars would be more than offset by savings or earnings in terms of people. And I think that is why we are here, and that is what it is all about. And I would hope that you would support reconsideration.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Bangor, Mrs. Doyle.

Mrs. DOYLE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I support the move to reconsider L. D. 515. To correct the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley, we did not build homes for the Indians. We created the reservation system which is a poor system and which has been in existence for 300 years. We are not going to change the system overnight, but I think there is a time when we should begin to try and change it.

As I stated yesterday, we did not build these homes. Seventeen homes were built at the Dana Point Reservation in 1957 and eleven at the Pleasant Point Reservation in 1959 with Indian trust fund money, not state money, and under the direction and supervision of the Department of Health and Welfare. These homes do not meet minimal standards of fire and safety regulations of the same department.

Most Indians in the United States are under federal jurisdiction, and the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs does guarantee such loans for housing. Do Maine Indians deserve any less?

I would also like to remind or enlighten the members of this chamber that Maine Indians were the last citizens of the United States to receive the full franchise to vote.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley.

Mr. DUDLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have a question I would like to pose through the Chair, if I may, in relation to 235 loans. Many of my people have tried to get a 235 loan and they are not available any place that I can find and in this city they are not available. And I don't know of a banker in the State of Maine that will take a 235 loan. It was indicated in this House a few minutes ago that

this was available for the people that I represent. It is available in writing, but not when you go to get one. And if this man knows where you can get one I would like to know, because I know a lot of people that would like to get a 235 loan.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will order a vote. The pending question is on the motion of the gentleman from Skowhegan, Mr. Dam, that the House reconsider its action of yesterday whereby this Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Pledging Credit of the State for Guaranteed Loans for Housing for Indians, House Paper 402, L. D. 515, failed of passage. All in favor of reconsideration will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken. 63 having voted in the affirmative and 67 having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

House Report of Committee Ought to Pass in New Draft New Draft Printed

Mr. Curtis from the Committee on Veterans and Retirement on Resolve Providing Minimum Retirement Benefits for Certain Teachers (H. P. 925) (L. D. 1277) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1361) (L. D. 1776) under same title and that it "Ought to pass"

Report was read and accepted, the New Draft read once, and tomorrow assigned.

Third Reader Reconsidered

Bill "An Act relating to Legislative Counsel or Agents" (S. P. 13) (L. D. 41)

Was reported by the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading and read the third time.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would like to remind the House that we are not in position to pass for engrossment this bill. The House yesterday accepted Report "C." This was the original bill. We indefinitely postponed that in