

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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fame and to tell those who are less informed than some others are of the things that we are trying to do up here.

Mr. MacDONALD of Oxford: Mr. President, I will say that the Senator from Sagadahoc should get an alarm clock so that he can wake up at the proper time. (Laughter)

Mr. FARLEY of York: Mr. President and members of the Senate: While reading here, I was listening to the debate back and forth, and it seems to me that no one wants to have any changes in the State of Maine. I just wonder where the Republican Party of the State of Maine is going to fit into this new program from national headquarters in trying to get back into political life. As you know, they are now starting a political campaign and trying to do something. I think that is one of the things they are trying to do here: get Maine back into the fold of the Republican Party.

Mr. PIERCE of Hancock: Mr. President, I was one of the members of the Citizens Survey Committee two years ago and this last term. The statement was made in the debate on the previous question that the Governor would be too busy at the start of his term of office with his budget and his message to properly appoint these suggested officials. I have before me the report of the Citizens Committee refuting that point. The recommendation of the committee was: "The appointments should be for a duration of four years, but the appointments should be staggered during the term of each Governor so that there would not be a complete change of top-level administrative posts throughout the state coincident with the arrival of each new chief executive." I merely want to inject that into the record, in view of some of the previous statements by senators.

The PRESIDENT: The pending question is on the motion of Senator Hillman of Penobscot, to accept the Majority ought not to pass report; and a division has been requested.

A division of the Senate was had.

Sixteen having voted in the affirmative and fourteen opposed, the motion prevailed.

On motion by Mr. Lessard of Androscoggin, the Senate voted to take from the table the 12th tabled item, being House Reports from the Committee on State Government: Majority report, ought not to pass; Minority report, ought to pass; on "Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Eliminate the Office of Treasurer of State." (H. P. 883) (L. D. 1257) tabled by that Senator on April 22 pending motion by Senator Hillman of Penobscot to Indefinitely postpone.

Mr. LESSARD of Androscoggin: Mr. President and members of the Senate: Here is a little different one: this is doing away with the office completely. We do not ask to have this one appointed by the Governor, we are asking to do away with it.

Here again we have a very fine State Treasurer, here again we have a very, very fine and friendly and capable man who occupies this position. I do not want to be forced to debate on that issue, because I will disagree with anyone who says that he isn't. Everybody knows and loves Frank Carpenter, and I count him among my best friends, of course.

However, I would like to refer back to the debate the other day on the executive council, which was very ably carried on by the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Rogerson. I think that some of the reasoning that he advanced in his debate would apply to this very same bill before us today. I think Senator Rogerson said — I cannot quote him verbatim — but I think that what he said was along the line that this change which is being proposed by this bill is a change which the legislature itself has brought about by the creation of a department, by assigning to it all of the duties that were formerly carried out by the State Treasurer's department. These duties have been assigned to other departments, and, as a result, the State Treasurer is now really something in name only. I think just recently the Governor's Council took away one of his duties when they proposed to change the depository for certain state bonds, so that now practically all of the duties of the State Treasurer are

carried on by other departments of government, and this has been effected by this legislature — not specifically this one but other legislatures that have preceded it.

I am sure that if our good friend Frank Carpenter, for some reason or other announced that he was retiring or leaving his job there would be no question in the mind of this legislature that the office of State Treasurer should be done away with. I think every single survey that we have had in the past, our own state government survey, outside surveys and recommendations from people who should know and do know, have indicated that the office of State Treasurer should be done away with.

Here is a chance to practice economy, not too much, but nevertheless it is economy, because surely the duties of the State Treasurer can be carried on very well in our finance department, our controller's department, without carrying on this state office and perhaps the office force that he has. Again, as I say, I do not like to put anyone out of a job, and I surely would not want to put Frank Carpenter out of a job, but there is a principle involved. As I said before, we have effected this change ourselves because we have year after year, session after session, taken away the duties of that office. So I say that this bill ought to pass, and I am, of course against the motion to indefinitely postpone. When the vote is taken I request a division.

Mr. ROSS of Sagadahoc: Mr. President and members of the Senate: Now they not only do not want to take a chance of electing Republicans, they want to eliminate the Republicans.

Treasurers certainly do have duties, whether it is the Treasurer of State or the treasurer of a corporation. I will admit that in certain corporations the same man may serve in dual capacities, and I will admit that that might be possible, but there again I am not in favor, in our State government, of too centralized controls. But when you say that the treasurer has no duties whatsoever, if you will hearken back to the debate this morning on the bridge issue and the discussion of bonds, it was brought to the at-

tention of this Senate that our treasurer has just been down to New York City where he has been negotiating for the sale of highway bonds. Now that is just one of the things he has to do, of course, but if all of the bond issues which are suggested by some people to come before this legislature are ever approved, I will guarantee our treasurer is going to be flitting back and forth from Augusta to New York every week.

Mr. HILLMAN of Penobscot: Mr. President and members of the Senate: I am not going to read this this four-page speech; I will just read part of it, briefly.

We all know our system of government — which has given the United States the highest living standards in the world — is based upon checks and balances. I will defer reading the rest and go onto the next page.

Since the organization of the State of Maine one of the chief functions of the Treasury Department has been the receipt and custody of all money of the state. The cash receipts ten years ago, in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1948, amounted to \$84,502.83. Since that time the receipts have steadily increased until, the last fiscal year, which ended June 30, 1958, they amounted to \$193,332,455.46. During the same year the checks mailed from the Treasury Department amounted to \$190,556,276.56.

Then as to the bond issues, which the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Ross, has mentioned, the treasurer handles all those. In addition to those he has control of State deposits in banks; assessment and collection of the Forestry District tax, distribution of the bank stock tax, telephone tax and railroad tax to towns, distribution of money received from activity in the National Forest areas, distribution of payroll checks to departments and institutions, transfer of unemployment benefit funds from the local bank to the trust fund in Washington, D.C., assessment of the State tax. The treasurer serves on a number of boards, such as the Maine State Retirement System and Investment Committee of the system, Lands reserved for public uses, and is the investment officer, also the Econ-

omic Advisory Committee of which he is the secretary.

Mr. LESSARD of Androscoggin: Mr. President, if I remember correctly, when we had this bill before the committee the evidence presented there was that most of these items, not this Economic Advisor, whatever that is, or Investment Counsellor, but in regard to checks, I remember the evidence came in there that it did not go through the treasurer's office. He did have his signature on the machines but the checks actually went through some other department. Perhaps he did distribute the checks, I don't know about that, but if I remember the evidence presented before the committee there was very little for him to do. As I understand it, one of the representatives who appeared before the committee had made quite a study of it, and it was very surprising to me when I did hear all of this evidence as to how little he did do. There are other committees who have studied this thing, professionals as well as the Citizens Committee, they must have found some facts because they too have recommended that the office of treasurer be eliminated.

Mr. HILLMAN of Penobscot: Mr. President and members of the Senate: Since the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Lessard, brought the matter up, the man who presented this proposal to the committee was the Representative from Madawaska, Mr. Rowe. He said so many nice things about the treasurer and how hard-working the treasurer was that I didn't know whether he was a proponent, but he had many nice things to say about the treasurer. I only bring that out for this reason: he was the only proponent of this bill and there were many opponents.

The PRESIDENT: The pending question is on the motion of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Hillman, that L. D. 1257 and both reports be indefinitely postponed in concurrence; a division has been requested.

A division of the Senate was had.

Nineteen having voted in the affirmative and eleven opposed, the motion prevailed.

Mr. DOW of Lincoln: Mr. President, I would like to inquire if H. P. 801 is in possession of the Senate?

The PRESIDENT: The Chair would state that it is, having been held at the request of the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Dow.

Mr. DOW of Lincoln: Mr. President, may I ask the President to read the title of that bill?

The President read the title of the bill as follows:

"Joint Resolution Relative to Creation of a Favorable Business Climate in Maine".

Mr. DOW of Lincoln: Mr. President and members of the Senate: Yesterday I think some of us were a little confused, at least I was, when this resolution calling for a favorable business climate was brought up following another bill that had to do with memorializing the Congress of the United States. This is not a memorializing resolution, and, in giving it afterthought and consideration, I am afraid that we might have acted without thoroughly realizing that by turning down this resolution we might be damaging ourselves and the efforts of DED. It may be true that this resolution may not be very consequential, but to turn it down I feel might hurt us. Imagine what the reaction might be of industrial interests outside the state if they read in a paper an item or learned that the State of Maine is not in favor of creating a favorable business climate for outside industry to come to Maine. This, in my mind, is what we did yesterday. Therefore, Mr. President, I move that we reconsider our action of yesterday whereby we indefinitely postponed this resolve, and I will say that I was one who voted in the majority.

Mr. BRIGGS of Aroostook: Mr. President and members of the Senate: I am sorry that some of us apparently misunderstood what we were doing yesterday when we put to sleep that dreamy little resolution, called whatever it was. I put it away in the "circular file" and now I even haven't got it to refer to. It was something about improving on the climate.

Now ever since I have been coming down here to the legislature there have been people requesting