

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

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OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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feel that it is necessary and I move that the minority ought not to pass report be accepted.

Mr. FARLEY of York; Mr. President and members of the Senate: I heartily concur with the Senator from Sebec, Senator Parker. The citizens of Biddeford and a great many of the city government and businessmen in Saco are opposed to this bridge for the reason they are looking forward to a program that will be of benefit to the citizens of Biddeford and Saco. I will vote along with the gentleman from Sebec, Senator Parker.

The PRESIDENT: The question before the Senate is on the motion of the Senator from Sebec, Senator Parker, that the minority "Ought not to pass" report of the committee be accepted. Is this the pleasure of the Senate?

The motion prevailed and the minority "Ought not to pass" report of the committee was accepted in non-concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

The President laid before the Senate, bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units." (S. P. 515) (L. D. 1478) tabled earlier in today's session by the Senator from Knox, Senator Low pending passage to be engrossed.

Mr. LOW of Knox; Mr. President and members of the Senate: We have before us now L. D. 1478, which is a new draft of L. D. 1089. I would like briefly to tell you what the changes in the new draft consist of.

In the first place it provides for towns that receive many tuition pupils and other towns that have considerable federal impact. Both of these classes of towns were hurt by the formula which has been referred to as a "gross to gross" and "net to net." Frankly a mistake was made, I believe, and a gross figure was used instead of a net figure to develop a percentage. That obviously is unfair and has been changed so that now a net figure is used against a net figure, which takes care of the troubles in the towns which are enumerated. The new draft makes available to the larger cities, which cannot be expected to form a district, cities like

Portland, Bangor and Lewiston, the same percentage of building aid as they would receive under the new formula.

When we considered the total possible cost of buildings in the State we included all the buildings, not just the buildings of towns that might form districts. Therefore it seems reasonable and within the capacity of the State to give such towns as Lewiston, Bangor and Portland the same percentage of aid in school building as they will receive under the general formula.

The new draft provides for a public hearing on all annual school budgets. That was meant to be included in the original bill and somehow it didn't get in. Of course it should be in. It establishes a possible procedure for accepting federal aid for school building if it ever materializes. And, lastly, it makes it easier and distinctly possible for any of the existing school districts to join in an administrative district.

This legislature has been flooded in the last few weeks by propaganda which complains specifically about two points. The first is that the school district board can dictate where any child shall be boarded for educational purposes. This has been the law for at least forty years in the same form it is in there now. Of course it has been changed so that the district board handles the matter instead of the town board. That has been part of our law for a long, long time, and there is no change in this bill.

Furthermore, complaint has been made that if taxes are not paid the sheriff can come in and seize your properties. As far as I know, that has been in the law for a hundred years, ever since we formed counties in the State of Maine. There is nothing new in this bill in that respect.

I am one of those who is perfectly willing to have reasonable criticisms; but when in an open meeting the sponsors of this bill, of whom I am one, are accused of rank socialism, of insincerity, of bordering on communistic thinking, when a pamphlet is published which says we are doing an unchristian thing, gentlemen, then I have to get up and express my contempt for such tactics.

I believe this is a bill which will provide better education for Maine children, but, even so, I recognize that no bill could be possibly conceived which would suit every town, so, wisely, I think, all the provisions of this bill are permissive. No town must join a district if it does not want to. We simply provide a method for doing so, because we believe that through these reorganized districts we will help fundamentally and in a great measure education in Maine.

Mr. President, there is at least one technical change in this bill, and therefore I have to ask that it be tabled until tomorrow for the purpose of making that change.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Knox, Senator Low, moves that the bill and accompanying papers be laid on the table pending passage to be engrossed. Is this the pleasure of the Senate?

The motion prevailed and the bill and accompanying papers were so tabled.

Mr. Dow of Lincoln was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. DOW: Mr. President and members of the Senate: I agree with the remarks made by the Senator from Knox, Senator Low. It has been my experience to know that individuals who continually oppose state or federal aid to education are for the most part the same people who are always striving to obstruct appropriations for and the progress of education at the local level. If decisions for the progress of education were left wholly to those who are always crying "Wolf" I am afraid we would have no educational system at all.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair at this time notes in the gallery a group of youngsters from Norridgewock along with my good friend, Mr. Hatfield. On behalf of the Senate we welcome you all here and dedicate ourselves to making this a pleasant and productive day for your observation of State government. Thank you very much for coming down and visiting us. (Applause)

Mr. CARPENTER of Somerset: Mr. President, I would like to inquire if L. D. 63 is in the possession of the Senate?

The PRESIDENT: The Chair will state that L. D. 63 is in possession of the Senate having been recalled from the engrossing department by joint order. The Chair would also note that L. D. 64 is in possession of the Senate having been recalled by the same joint order.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Carpenter of Somerset, the rules were suspended and the Senate voted to reconsider its action whereby it passed to be engrossed bill "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Moose River," (H. P. 61) (L. D. 63) and the same Senator presented Senate Amendment A to Committee Amendment A to the bill, and moved its adoption.

Which amendment was adopted in non-concurrence, without reading, and the bill as amended was passed to be engrossed in non-concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Carpenter of Somerset, the rules were suspended and the Senate voted to reconsider its action whereby it passed to be engrossed bill, "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Jackman" (H. P. 60) (L. D. 64) and the same Senator presented Senate Amendment A to Committee Amendment A to the bill, and moved its adoption.

Which amendment was adopted in non-concurrence, without reading, and the bill as amended was passed to be engrossed in non-concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

Mr. PARKER of Piscataquis was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. PARKER: Mr. President and members of the Senate, tomorrow evening at seven o'clock, in the Hall of the House, there will be held a joint session of the House and Senate to discuss the highway program. We hope we will have attendance there of every member of the Senate regardless of party. This is a non partisan meeting the purpose of which is to acquaint every member of the legislature with the highway program that we will be able to formulate under the revenue that is with us as of now, and whether or not we shall propose to have additional revenue for the federal inter-