

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OF THE

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don and the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Quinn. And I do think the truck tractor should have, as the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Quinn, suggests, they should have splash guards.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jallbert, that House Amendment "D" be indefinitely postponed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cape Elizabeth, Mr. Beyer.

Mr. BEYER: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Transportation Committee I would like to clarify two points made by the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Quinn. He said in regard to III that "truck tractors while not hauling a semi-trailer." I submit to him that a bar welded on the truck, when you came to putting the trailer back on the truck you would have to remove the bar, that was one point brought out at the hearing and I submit that that probably is the case. Perhaps the gentleman is an authority on truck construction, but that was submitted to us. And in regard to number two, it is common knowledge I believe, that dump trucks while working—and it only authorizes them not to have them while in the construction area, if you will read the wording closely. And when they are backing and dumping fill it will damage the fenders and make it practically impossible to maintain them. In regard to trucks under fourteen thousand pounds, we have no great magic about the number, except that it was our opinion that trucks under that automatically had the fenders and therefore that was a proper exemption too.

But this, as you know now, straight trucks as opposed to tractors and trailers are not required to have mud flaps, and we felt that this was a proper step in the right direction for highway safety and at the same time recognize the problems of the various segments of the industry involved.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jallbert, that House Amendment "D" to Bill "An Act relating to Splash Guards for Motor Trucks", House

Paper 1010, Legislative Document 1414, be indefinitely postponed.

Will those who favor the indefinite postponement of House Amendment "D" please say aye; those opposed, no.

A viva voce vote being taken the motion did not prevail.

The SPEAKER: Is it now the pleasure of the House to adopt House Amendment "D"?

The motion prevailed and the Bill, having had its three several readings and the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading having reported no further verbal amendments were necessary, was passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendments "B" and "D" and sent up for concurrence.

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

Mr. TOTMAN: Mr. Speaker, I request under unanimous consent, out of order and under suspension of the rules that item seven now be taken up.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Totman, requests unanimous consent that item number seven under tabled and today assigned matters, Bill "An Act relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units," Senate Paper 515, Legislative Document 1478, be taken up at this time. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

For what purpose does the gentleman arise?

Mr. FULLER: I move the adoption of House Amendment "B".

The SPEAKER: The pending question on item seven, Bill "An Act relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units", Senate Paper 515, Legislative Document 1478, is the adoption of House Amendment "B". The gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller, moves that House Amendment "B" be adopted. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed and House Amendment "B" was adopted.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Gouldsboro, Mr. Tarbox.

Mr. TARBOX: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer House Amendment "A" and move its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Gouldsboro, Mr. Tarbox, offers House Amendment "A" and moves its adoption. The Clerk will read House Amendment "A."

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S. P. 515, L. D. 1478, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill by striking out in the 11th and 12th lines of that part designated "Sec. 237-E" the underlined words "and effective on September 1st", and inserting in place thereof the underlined words 'on December 1st, 1956'.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Gouldsboro, Mr. Tarbox, that House Amendment "A", which the Clerk has just read, be adopted. Is this the pleasure of the House?

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

Mr. TOTMAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to take this opportunity on this particular amendment to make a suggestion on these various amendments that are obviously going to come up. It appears to me that many members of the House have personal convictions on amendments that are necessary to this major Bill. I think to expedite the solution and resolution of this Bill, it might be well for the House to seriously consider, and if possible accept the various amendments unless there is violent opposition to one, since it is obvious that both branches of this Legislature will have to act on this Bill eventually. Now, that is a suggested course of action, it does not mean that any member may not get up and obviously oppose any amendment they feel that neither the House nor the other branch wishes to buy.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Gouldsboro, Mr. Tarbox, for the adoption of House Amendment "A". Is this the pleas-

ure of the House that House Amendment "A" should be adopted?

The motion prevailed and House Amendment "A" was adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier.

Miss CORMIER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have House Amendment "E", which I offer for your approval, and I would like to speak briefly to the amendment.

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, offers House Amendment "E" and moves its adoption. The Clerk will read the amendment.

House Amendment "E" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "E" to S. P. 515, L. D. 1478, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill in that part of "Sec. 1" designated "Sec. 237-E" by adding the following paragraph and table by inserting them between the first and second paragraphs following table II in said "Sec. 237-E".

Since it is the intent of the Legislature — (1) to recognize that the support of education is a partnership between the state and the administrative unit such that each partner shall share on a percentage basis increase and decreases in the total operating cost of school programs in those administrative units which the School District Commission shall determine are necessary and efficient units (2) to establish the foundation program as a minimum measure of local effort for school support; and (3) to encourage administrative units to develop and support school programs which are above the minimum, the subsidy paid annually to any administrative unit, approved by the School District Commission as a necessary and efficient unit, in which the average net operating cost in any biennium exceeds the amount of the average net foundation program allowance, its state subsidy in the next two years will be increased by adding to that unit's preliminary allotment the amount found by applying to such excess the percentages in Table III below:

## TABLE III

If difference between net foundation program and net operating cost is

\$50,000 or under
Subsidy shall be increased by
10% of difference
Between \$50,001 and \$100,000
\$5,000 plus 5% of amount over \$50,000
Over \$100,000
\$7,500 plus 2-½% of amount over \$100,000

The SPEAKER: The Chair is advised that if any member wishes additional copies of this amendment that there are some available in the Clerk's office if you want them.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier.

Miss CORMIER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I signed the "Ought to pass" Report on this very important Sinclair Bill because I feel that there are many points in the Bill that are very valuable to education in the State of Maine. However, I reserved the right with my Committee to point out some of the fallacies which I feel exist in the Bill, and to try to correct those if possible. I feel that we as legislators have the duty and the responsibility to send out of this Legislature, regardless of what the Bill may be, the very best bills that we can possibly pass. And consequently, it is in that spirit that I am presenting two amendments this morning, one of which I have already submitted and which I would like to explain very briefly.

The foundation program as found in the Sinclair Bill really sets a level at which point the State will participate in dollars and cents to the amount spent by the towns. This foundation program explicitly states that the town must spend a certain amount of dollars for the education of its youngsters, that there must be a certain pupil-teacher ratio. Those are really the important things in the foundation program. If a town is below the foundation program then the State will participate in a certain amount of money depending on what classification that town falls into in this Bill.

I believe that not only should the State participate in the poor type

programs of education but that they should also participate in the good programs in education in this State. Because the people of my town have seen fit to tax themselves very heavily in order to promote good education for the youngsters of Rumford, I don't believe that they should be penalized, I think that the State should participate in that program over and above the foundation program as well as the towns below.

Also, I feel that not only is this for Rumford, this amendment, but you must remember that the figures in this Bill are based upon the expenditures for the fiscal year of 1955. In other words, the fiscal year of 1956 and of course of '57 are not considered, have not been used in this Bill. Consequently, it is estimated that within the next two years ninety per cent of the towns in this State will have reached the foundation program. And consequently, even though your town is gaining now, you may find yourself in the same predicament that I find myself at this time that the Bill is being considered.

The Bill is supposed to help small communities, yet many of the large cities in this State who are just as able to do a good job in education as my town of Rumford, are being subsidized much more than they were under the old Bill. Other small communities that have been struggling are losing money under this new proposal unless within the next few years they spend sufficient funds to bring themselves up to the foundation program. And it is for this reason that I am proposing this amendment. It would in fact help the towns and the cities that are above the foundation program. It says that for those who are \$50,000 or under 10 per cent of the difference would be paid by the State. For those between \$50,000 and \$100,000, 5 per cent would be paid by the State. And for those over \$100,000, 2½ per cent would be paid. The estimate of this amendment is \$117,000. But I am still convinced of the principle that when the final bill, the omnibus bill, the appropriation bill comes into this House, if it is proven that we do not have those funds, I will be willing to compromise to the extent of cutting every one of these figures in half which would mean that the appropriation

would be \$59,000 roughly rather than \$117,000. I do this because I would like to see this Legislature establish the principle even though the appropriation would be minor to my town if it were cut back, nevertheless this Legislature would be establishing the principle that good education in our towns and cities, that the State would participate in those programs as well as in the poorer programs.

I believe that the education of our boys and girls should have top priority, and I believe that any investment that this Legislature makes will pay greater dividends than any other dollar that we spend anywhere else. And it is with that philosophy that I present this amendment, and I hope that you will go along with me.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, that the House adopt House Amendment "E".

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Maynard.

Mr. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I should like to support the amendment of the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, as I too feel the same way. I feel that if this amendment is not passed that this Bill will tend to become a ceiling rather than a floor, a foundation for a structure of good schools, so I support this amendment. Thank you.

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

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, I also would like to support the amendment that the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, has presented provided that we can find the money, and Miss Cormier has very graciously stated that if the money cannot be found she will cut the appropriation in half. I was trying to get the floor not to oppose Miss Cormier, but I thought maybe the amendment should be brought up in order so that we wouldn't get too confused.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, that House Amendment "E" be adopted. Is the House ready for the question?

Will those who favor the adoption of House Amendment "E" please say aye; those opposed, no.

A viva voce vote being taken House Amendment "E" was adopted.

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

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, I present House Amendment "C" and move its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller, presents House Amendment "C" and moves its adoption.

The Clerk will read House Amendment "C".

House Amendment "C" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" to S. P. 515, L. D. 1478, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 111-E" of Section 1-B by striking out all of the last underlined sentence and inserting in place thereof the following underlined sentence: 'If this minimum size district cannot be attained without transporting high school pupils an unreasonable distance, generally considered to be over 20 miles, or if other local conditions justify a decision to the effect that a smaller district would be for the best educational interest of the pupils involved, smaller districts may be approved by the Commission.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 237-D" of section 1 by adding at the end the following underlined paragraph:

'It is the intent of the Legislature that Table I of this section should be revised each biennium to reflect changes in the educational expenditures of towns. On or before October 1st of each year prior to the convening of the Legislature, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Education to make recommendations to the Governor for such revision which may be used as the basis for budget needs and recommendation for state school subsidies for appropriation by the subsequent session of the Legislature.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 111-F" of section 1-B by striking out all of the

first 2 paragraphs and inserting in place thereof the following:

'The inhabitants of and the territory within 2 or more municipalities may form a school administrative district which shall be a body politic and corporate, if previously approved by the School District Commission, by proceeding as follows: The School Committees and selectmen of the interested municipalities may meet for the purpose of determining a fair and equitable number of school directors to be elected by and to represent each participating municipality. When a decision on this representation can be reached by a 2/3 majority vote of those present, the municipal officers in each of the several municipalities may call a meeting of the inhabitants of their respective municipalities in the manner provided by law for the calling of town meetings, and such meetings shall vote to favor or oppose similar articles in the following form:

Article : To see if the municipality will vote to join with the municipalities of (naming them) to form a school administrative district.

Article : To see if the municipality will vote to approve the allocation of representation among the municipalities on the Board of School Directors as recommended by the school committees and boards of selectmen and listed as follows.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of that part designated "Sec. 111-H" of section 1-B and inserting in place thereof the following underlined section:

'Sec. 111-H. School directors. All the affairs of said district shall be managed by a Board of School Directors which shall consist of not less than 5 nor more than 12 members, the exact number to be determined by the municipal officers as provided for in section 111-F. Representation on the Board of School Directors shall be in accordance with the vote in the second Article of section 111-F if approved by each participating municipality.

If at any time after a school administrative district has been formed, conditions appear to warrant a change in the number of school directors, petitions may be

filed with the School District Commission or State Department of Education requesting such changes and the Commission or Department is authorized to make such changes when in their judgment the petitions represent the wishes of a majority of the voters and the proposed change will improve the conduct of the affairs of the administrative district.'

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 111-I" of section 1-B by striking out all of the 1st underlined sentence and inserting in place thereof the following underlined sentence: 'When a school administrative district has been formed, elections shall be called within 60 days by the selectmen or city government in the several municipalities for the purpose of selecting the approved number of school directors from each municipality by the legal voters of that municipality.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of section 5 of said Bill.

Further amend said Bill by renumbering the sections of said Bill to read consecutively.

House Amendment "C" was adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mexico, Mr. Thackeray.

Mr. THACKERAY: Mr. Speaker, I offer House Amendment "D" and moves its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Mexico, Mr. Thackeray, offers House Amendment "D" and moves its adoption. The Clerk will read House Amendment "D".

House Amendment "D" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AEMNDMENT "D" to S. P. 515, L. D. 1478, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 237-D" of Section 1 by striking out the underlined figure "300" in the last line and inserting in place thereof the underlined figure '200'.

Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 111-E" of section 1-B by striking out all of the 2nd underlined sentence.

House Amendment "D" was adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier.

Miss CORMIER: Mr. Speaker, this sounds like Campbell Soup, I now offer House Amendment "F" and move its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, now offers House Amendment "F" and moves its adoption.

The Clerk will read House Amendment "F".

House Amendment "F" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "F" to S. P. 515, L. D. 1478, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the amending clause of section 1-B and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 1-B. R. S., c. 41, §§ 111-A — 111-F, additional, Chapter 41 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 6 new sections to be numbered 111-A to 111-F, inclusive, to read as follows:'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of those parts designated "Sec. 111-F" to "Sec. 111-P", inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 111-F. School administrative districts. Two or more towns shall become a school administrative district when they have adopted a plan for a school program in accordance with the provisions of section 33 or with the provisions of sections 112 to 121, inclusive, and have secured approval of such plan from the School District Commission. Such approval shall be based on the criteria established in section 111-E.'

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier.

Miss CORMIER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: This amendment is rather a revolutionary one, but I think it is a sound and sensible one. What it would do really, if you have the Bill before you, it would eliminate all of Section 111-F, beginning on Page 8 and entitled Organization of School Administrative Districts, cut out all of 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and Page 13 as far as Section VIII. Now, that is the section that sets up the administrative

districts. This amendment which I am offering says in fact that any group of towns who would like to consolidate, and after all the crux of this Bill is consolidation, and it is a theory that I definitely believe in, I think it is for the good of the State of Maine, now it says that if a group of towns wish to consolidate, that by mutual agreement they can decide how they want to consolidate, how they want to finance their school, and how they wish to govern their district, with the approval of the commission which will be set up under this Bill.

Now, I am a very strong believer in home rule, and I feel that if any group of towns wish to consolidate, that they should have the right to determine themselves how they should finance their school and how they should govern it, and it would be under the approval, subject to the approval of this commission. If the commission feels that what they have come up with is not feasible it would simply say to the towns "Go back and try again." It would leave the control of these districts within the towns involved. After all if five or six of us wanted to form a corporation to expand our business, it would be up to us to decide how we wish to do it, how we were going to finance it and how we were going to govern it. And I think that that authority still should rest within the hands of the towns involved. I see no fallacy in saying that by mutual agreement the towns should have this right.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, that the House adopt House Amendment "F".

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bowdoinham, Mr. Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. Speaker, in going over this Sinclair Bill with the folks down in my area, I find that this amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, is the very thing that would satisfy them. In fact, I feel that if we adopt this amendment and it was submitted to the people, that at least ninety per cent of the people in the rural area would vote for the Sinclair Bill. I think it is a fine thing and it clarifies this



thing and makes it worth while, and I trust that it is adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier.

Miss CORMIER: I would just like to say this which I neglected to say. That this is exactly how the law now reads today under the School Union Law and under the School District Law. Therefore, we would merely be using the law as it exists today, as the vehicle for consolidation.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is the motion of the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, that the House adopt House Amendment "F". Is the House ready for the question?

Will all those who favor the adoption of House Amendment "F" please say aye; those opposed, no.

A viva voce vote being taken the motion prevailed and House Amendment "F" was adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell.

Mr. ELWELL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I now present House Amendment "G" and move its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell, now offers House Amendment "G" and moves its adoption.

The Clerk will read House Amendment "G".

House Amendment "G" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "G" to S. P. 515, L. D. 1478, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill in that part designated "Sec. 111-D" of section 1-B by adding at the end of subsection VI, a new paragraph, as follows:

**'Whenever a majority vote in each of the municipalities involved is not obtained but a majority of the municipalities involved has approved the establishment of a school administrative district, the Commission is empowered to authorize the creation of the district to be composed of those municipalities in which a majority vote has been obtained.'**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell.

Mr. ELWELL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to say that this amendment has the approval of the sponsor of the Bill as well as the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Education. It does not project any new principle into the Bill, but merely spells out the Bill's intent to the commission, thereby preventing the possibility of a stalemate which might develop in any community of towns and thereby prevent the very consolidation that we are trying to accomplish.

I might point out that it has been my experience in my own community to be chairman of a steering committee which is trying to promote consolidation, has been trying to promote it for two years. We have ten towns involved, and if one or two of the towns were to vote against this when it was presented to them at a town meeting it would prevent the whole administrative district from going ahead, and they would have to go back, regroup and start in over again. It might run into a lengthy affair, and I think if the commission were allowed, or rather given a mandate to go ahead in such an instance where a majority of the towns were to vote for this proposal, always leaving the door open for the other towns to come in later, that it would expedite the consolidation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell, that the House adopt House Amendment "G".

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller.

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, all of the amendments thus far have been amendments that we have had over the week end, we have had a chance to study them and we have had a chance to discuss them with our constituents, and I think every member of the Education Committee knew about them and approved them for the most part. Now, these new amendments we don't know anything about, and I think that we can amend this to death. We have worked very hard to try and make

this Bill better. Some of these other amendments may be good, but we just don't know. And I think that any amendments that anyone wishes to put on the Bill from now on they should do it two years from now and not now. It was sort of understood that when the Bill was tabled that it would give us a chance, and I believe that you, Mr. Speaker, mentioned that anyone that had amendments should have them reproduced so that the members would have them over the week end and take them home and discuss them with their constituents. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move for the indefinite postponement of House Amendment "G".

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller, for the indefinite postponement of House Amendment "G".

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

Mr. PLANTE: Mr. Speaker, if I stand to be corrected by Mr. Fuller, I would appreciate it if he would, it was my understanding that this was committed the 26th of April along with the others, that is House Amendment "G". And do I interpret your comments to mean all those after House Amendment "G" or do they include House Amendment "G"?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Old Orchard Beach, Mr. Plante, has addressed a question through the Chair to the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller, who may answer if he chooses.

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I got the question of the gentleman.

The SPEAKER: Would the gentleman from Old Orchard Beach repeat his question.

Mr. PLANTE: Did your statement refer to this particular amendment, House Amendment "G", or did it refer to all those following House Amendment "G"? It was my understanding that this was submitted April 26 along with some of the others.

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, if this was presented April 26, this is the first time that I have seen it, just about five minutes ago, I don't

know about the other members of the Education Committee.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell.

Mr. ELWELL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to say that this amendment was on your desks on Friday afternoon. I did intend to speak relative to the amendment at that time only to remind you that it was there. The House adjourned I thought a little prematurely, and I didn't get a chance to remind the members of the particular amendment.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller, that House Amendment "G" be indefinitely postponed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rumford, Miss Cormier.

Miss CORMIER: Mr. Speaker, I dislike very much to disagree with my good friend, the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller, but I think it is quite possible that some of these legislators, going home this week end and talking it over with their constituents, might come in with an amendment this morning, and I would hate to see any amendment barred. I think that all amendments should be presented here and discussed, and I think that after it leaves here and goes to the other body it leaves us ample time to discuss and look over these amendments. I don't think anyone should be barred from presenting any amendment regardless of when it was on our desks.

The SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fryeburg, Mr. LaCasce.

Mr. LACASCE: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: It seems to me that the amendment of the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell, simply spells out something that we expected to be done by the commission. He has spelled it out and I think it is worthwhile. I don't think that we should indefinitely postpone it.

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

Mr. FULLER: Mr. Speaker, now that I know that this was on my

desk last Friday, I didn't realize that it was, I didn't see it, but if it was and I am sure that it was, I will withdraw my motion.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Fuller, withdraws his motion for indefinite postponement of House Amendment "G".

The question now before the House is the motion of the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell, that the House adopt House Amendment "G".

Will all those who favor the adoption of House Amendment "G" please say aye; those opposed, no.

A viva voce vote being taken the motion prevailed and House Amendment "G" was adopted.

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

Mr. FARMER: Mr. Speaker, I had an amendment to offer here, but as House Amendment "F" has eliminated the sections that I was going to amend, I wonder if it would still be in order to offer my amendment in the event that something happens to House Amendment "F" before this Bill is through?

The SPEAKER: The Chair is advised that if the gentleman's amendment amends a section which has been struck out of the Bill by another amendment, the gentleman's amendment is not in order at this time.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Call.

Mr. CALL: Mr. Speaker, where does the Bill now stand? Has it had its first and second or fourth and fifth readings?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman from Cumberland that the Bill has had its three readings and is at the stage just prior to engrossment.

The Chair recognizes the same gentleman. Would the gentleman use the other microphone, the Chair is advised that that one is not working.

Mr. CALL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: You all remember, this Bill came in from the other branch without any consideration, without any debate, it was put over here for the sole purpose for us to iron the bugs out of it.

Recently I said that my constituents at home, my superintendent of schools is highly in favor of the Bill. Now it appears that the Bill has got most of the bugs ironed out of it by these amendments. You gentlemen who have further amendments that you would like to add to it, or reconsider some of the amendments or correct them, I now move that it be sent to that illustrious body on the other end of the building where they can iron out some bugs and then send it back to us.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is advised that the motion as stated by the gentleman from Cumberland, Mr. Call, is not in order at this time.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Mr. Hancock.

Mr. HANCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I offer House Amendment "I" and move its adoption.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from York, Mr. Hancock, offers House Amendment "I" and moves its adoption.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

House Amendment "I" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "I" to S. P. 515, L. D. 1478, Bill, "An Act Relating to Educational Aid and Reorganization of School Administrative Units."

Amend said Bill in that part of section 1 designated "Sec. 237-H" by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following underlined sentence:

'Said apportionment shall apply similarly to payments made on contracts awarded subsequent to the effective date of this act in single municipality administrative units approved by the Commissioner.'

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Mr. Hancock.

Mr. HANCOCK: Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would first like to say that I second the remarks of the gentleman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, wholeheartedly. And I wholeheartedly endorse her amendments.

Now, I have a letter on my desk from my school board to oppose the Bill. I don't want to do that. I agree with the basic principles of the Bill, but I do think that some towns who are not too affected by

this particular Bill should be given some consideration.

This particular amendment, you will notice under Section 237-H, that particular section calls for school construction aid for those towns who do form a district, and also for those towns with 700 pupils in their high school. Now, it seems to me we are discriminating, at least against those intermediate sized towns who have no desire to form a particular district, who are above the minimum of this foundation program, and it would be only fair that they receive aid for construction as well as a large high school. I don't quite get the point of the 700 pupils but it is in the Bill.

My particular school has built a new high school in the past five years, they have built a new elementary school in one part of town, and we know that we are going to have to build or add to an elementary school in another part of town. And this simply states a single municipality administrative unit, if approved by the commissioner, could receive such construction aid. It simply, at least in my mind, is in all fairness to those particular towns who do not have to join other towns in an administrative district and are not large enough to meet the requirements under this particular system. I move its adoption.

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

Mr. TOTMAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would simply like to confirm what I feel that any member of the House who has an amendment, you have the right to present it this morning, that this Bill should go to the other branch to indicate what the feeling in this House is. I regret that the Chairman, the House Chairman on Education feels that we have had enough amendments. I think it will help the Bill to have all these amendments brought out in the open, and therefore I hope that the amendment does pass, and I believe this is the last one I have seen on my desk, I hope then the Bill will receive its final third reading.

The SPEAKER: The motion before the House is the motion of the gentleman from York, Mr. Hancock,

that the House adopt House Amendment "I".

Will all those who favor the adoption of House Amendment "I" please say aye; those opposed, no.

A viva voce vote being taken the motion prevailed and House Amendment "I" was adopted.

The SPEAKER: Are there further amendments to be offered?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Friendship, Mr. Winchenpaw.

Mr. WINCHENPAW: Mr. Speaker, I haven't any amendment at this time, but the amendment of the gentlewoman from Rumford, Miss Cormier, has brought up a question to my mind about quite a sum of money. And I had been thinking of putting in an amendment, but I thought that someone else would do it. And I would like to suggest to Miss Cormier, that she can get \$60,000 right out of those first two pages by doing away with this commission they are setting up, and letting the State Board of Education and the Department of Education run this thing.

The SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion on the Bill?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Childs.

Mr. CHILDS: Mr. Speaker, rather than reconsider an amendment which has already been adopted, I would request unanimous consent to ask a question through the Chair of the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell, in regard to House Amendment "G".

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. CHILDS: I would just like to know what the thinking is on House Amendment "G", which states that if a majority vote in a municipality is not obtained then the majority of the municipalities involved has approved the establishment, the Commission is empowered to authorize the creation of a district.

Now, what would happen to a municipality where a majority vote is not obtained, would they also be in the district?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Childs, has addressed a question through the Chair to the gentleman from Brooks, Mr. Elwell, who may answer if he so chooses.

Mr. ELWELL: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: The answer to the question is definitely no. And further if I might point out for clarification, that the purpose of the amendment was that these towns who did not wish to join would not prevent the other towns from forming a district. It merely would be a technical barrier that would be set up.

The SPEAKER: Is there further discussion at this time?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chelsea, Mr. Allen.

Mr. ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, since this Bill has been amended so much, I am wondering if it would be possible to have the Bill reprinted as amended before it is passed to be enacted?

The SPEAKER: The Chair is advised that the House may order reprints of the Bill by House order.

But it is also suggested to the Chair that it might be better to wait until the Senate has taken whatever action it plans to take on the Bill as submitted to it by the House.

Is there further discussion at the time?

Thereupon, the Bill, having had its three several readings and the Committee on Bills in the Third Reading having reported no further verbal amendments necessary, was passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" and House Amendments "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G" and "I" in non-concurrence and sent up for concurrence.

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On motion of Mr. Totman of Bangor,

Adjourned until nine-thirty o'clock tomorrow morning.