

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

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Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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Index

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and maybe I could shed a little of that education on to you.

I was not aware of this particular procedure. I am aware of it now, and being a freshman legislator, I took it as a backdoor approach to get a bill through. In other words, I was of the impression that the bill had been dead and was dead, and I had forgotten about it, and now all of a sudden at the last minute the bill is very much alive. And I also realize that during the waning hours of week, and during the winding down of the legislature in the last few days everything was going under the hammer, everything was moving fast and furious, that this bill could very easily get through without realizing it. So I apologize to the gentleman from Millinocket if I have in any way said anything derogatory in his favor.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Brown.

Mr. BROWN: Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may pose his question.

Mr. BROWN: It is my understanding that anything on that Special Appropriations Table has been enacted in this body and awaits final disposition in the other body.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would respond that I thought as Representative Talbot just indicated, that there wasn't anything on the Appropriations Table that had not been finally enacted in here, and I am surprised to learn this morning after seven years in the legislature that matters are put on the Appropriations Table before they are enacted here. That was my understanding.

Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House: As long as I have been here and when I first was here, there were two appropriations — when I first got here, there was no such thing as an Appropriations Table. When we discontinued the House Appropriations Table — I have never heard of a bill not being enacted in this House. I have heard at times that

the supplemental bills, for instance, or the — the supplemental bill or the budget bill. We used to have only one budget then, was once enacted in the Senate and then brought back in here for enactment. I never have heard that any money bill was elsewhere but enacted in this House, then tabled in the other branch before. This absolutely is news to me.

While I am on my feet, may I ask an inquiry, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may pose his question.

Mr. JALBERT: It is Friday, it is ten minutes to ten, it is near the closing date. What I would like to ask from the leadership is this: We have, according to a supplemental that I just happened to look at, an emergency on — an enactor on a constitutional amendment and an emergency on a supplemental act. Would the leadership tell us, do they intend to table these? Do they intend to run them this morning? Do we intend to go home somewhere around the noon area, and when do we come back to finalize things next week, if I may ask?

(Off Record Remarks)

Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House: I wish Mr. Simpson would stay in his seat for a moment, because he would have to answer these questions. Does that include the legislative reform and the emergency bill on the supplemental act, or does that not include those bills?

(Off Record Remarks)

Mrs. Berry of Madison was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mrs. BERRY: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House: Perhaps I shouldn't be talking at this time, but I am very upset that this homestead bill was put on the table under the thoughts of many of us that it would come back

when we were considering the property tax relief, I believe that we have been sold down the drain. I believe that the citizens of the state have been sold down the drain. I believe that they will soon realize the tactics that have been pushed through on the committee here, those who are trying to feather their nests and put feathers in their cap for reasons that we all understand. I have talked to many people, and they haven't had — here in this House haven't had the correspondence or the calls from the people back home on these bills. From my town, I have nothing. I understand and — I saw a copy of a letter from the superintendent of schools in our town to the committee. I didn't get a copy of it — and, by the way, the superintendent's name is Bither.

I think that probably the news media have been conned in or something. I have just read the Daily Kennebec paper which says, "The legislature enacts a compromise of property tax relief." I am sure this isn't property tax relief.

I am sure a few years from now we are all going to see what this really does, and I am rather hoping that we can say I told you so.

On motion of Mrs. White of Guilford, it was

ORDERED, that Brian Trask of Milo be appointed Honorary Page for today.

House Reports of Committees Ought to Pass Printed Bills

Mr. Ross from the Committee on Election Laws on Bill "An Act Relating to Contributions and Expenditures to Influence Direct Initiative or Referendum Legislation." (H. P. 1630) (L. D. 2045) reporting "Ought to pass" pursuant to Joint Order (H. P. 1583).

The Report was read and accepted, the Bill read once and assigned for second reading later in the day.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair requests the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort to the rostrum the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross, for the purpose of presiding as Speaker pro tem.

Thereupon, Mr. Ross assumed the Chair as Speaker pro tem and Speaker Hewes retired to his seat on the floor of the House.

(Off Record Remarks)

Mrs. Baker from the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act Licensing Certain Games of Chance" (H. P. 1631) (L. D. 2046) reporting "Ought to pass" pursuant to House Order (1591).

The Report was read and accepted, the Bill read once and under suspension of the rules, the Bill was read a second time, passed to be engrossed and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, sent forthwith.

Orders of the Day Joint Order

Mr. McKernan of Bangor presented the following Joint Order and moved its passage:

WHEREAS, the continued existence of the Maine Milk Commission as established by Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 603, is being challenged; and

WHEREAS, it is questionable whether harm will result should the Commission's price supports be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, there is no adequate proof among other charges, that the current price of milk to Maine consumers is just and equitable now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Research Committee is authorized and directed to examine the function and purpose of the Maine Milk Commission in the light of all facts surrounding the marketing and distributing of milk to determine whether or not the Commission is fulfilling its obligations under the law and should be permitted to continue in its present form, and more specifically the committee is directed to determine:

Why milk is shipped from Maine to Boston and sold at the rate as Boston milk, if that is the case, in view of the fact the schedule for rates should apply in prices in either direction;

Why prices out of state such as New Hampshire are as low as