

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Seventh
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1975

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

(Ordered Printed)
Sent up for concurrence.

Transportation

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Authorize Access from U.S. Route 1 to an Industrial Park in the Town of Woolwich (H. P. 1434) (Presented by Mr. Leonard of Woolwich)

Resolve, Authorizing a Study of Traffic Flows in the Greater Augusta Area (H. P. 1400) (Presented by Mr. Stubbs of Hallowell)

Bill "An Act Establishing the Maine Public Transit Fund Act" (H. P. 1392) (Presented by Mr. Jensen of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain Island Residents Use of the Maine State Ferry at One-Half Fare" (H. P. 1391) (Presented by Mrs. Post of Owls Head) (Cosponsors: Mr. Greenlaw of Stonington, Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville)

(Ordered Printed)
Sent up for concurrence.

Veterans and Retirement

Bill "An Act to Reform the State Retirement System" (H. P. 1395) (Presented by Mr. Theriault of Rumford) (Cosponsor: Mr. Lynch of Liverore Falls)

Bill "An Act Relating to Retirement Service of Legislative Employees" (H. P. 1430) (Presented by Mr. Bustin of Augusta)

(Ordered Printed)
Sent up for concurrence.

The following paper appearing on Supplement No. 1 was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**Ought to Pass in New Draft
New Draft Printed**

Mr. Lynch from the Committee on Education on Bill "An Act to Correct Deficiencies in the School Funding Law" (H. P. 472) (L. D. 526) reporting "Ought to Pass" in New Draft under New Title Bill "An Act to Fund Public School Education" (H. P. 1437) (L. D. 1452)

Report was read.

Mr. Lynch of Livermore Falls moved the House accept the unanimous "ought to pass" report.

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

Mr. ROLDE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I know everybody has a great deal of interest in this piece of legislation. This is a redraft of the bill that was sponsored by myself and Representative Palmer.

In terms of a timetable, I would hope that we would accept this unanimous "ought to pass" committee report today, tomorrow, because we will be going into session at five o'clock, I would open then we would table any further action and that on Wednesday we would be able to discuss any amendments that might be made to this legislation.

Thereupon, the Report was accepted, the New Draft read once and assigned for second reading tomorrow.

Orders

The SPEAKER: The Chair would ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Kelleher, to the rostrum to act as Speaker pro tem.

Thereupon, Mr. Kelleher assumed the Chair as Speaker pro tem and Speaker Martin returned to his seat on the floor of the House.

Mr. Albert of Limestone presented the following Joint Resolution and moved its adoption: (H. P. 1438)

IN MEMORIAM
Having Learned Of The Death Of
**THE HONORABLE JOSEPH E.
BINNETTE**
OF
OLD TOWN

The Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine do hereby extend their sincere heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family and friends of the deceased; and further

While duly assembled in session at the State Capitol in Augusta under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine, do herein direct that this official expression of sorrow be forthwith sent to the family of the deceased on behalf of the Legislature and the people of the State of Maine.

The Resolution was read.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Eagle Lake, Mr. Martin.

Mr. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: It is a strange feeling and a sad feeling that I choose as this opportunity to speak to the members of the legislature for the first time off the rostrum for this session. I do so, of course, with a very sad heart on the passing of a friend not only of myself but a friend of every member within this body. Every person who knew Joe Binnette mourns his death today as a loss of a friend and as a good and true and honest legislator.

Joe's service in the Maine Legislature ranks him fifth in terms of seniority among all Democrats within this body. Yet, until his untimely and unfortunate death, Joe served not only the state, but his county and the city with total vigor and complete enthusiasm, typical of freshmen legislators that we have among our body. His strength and energy were those of a hard working legislator.

Joe Binnette rose early every morning. He could be found at his desk in the legislature before everyone else arrived and usually stayed after the dinner hour, usually working on the county budget, as he was doing the day that he had his fatal attack. His record of attendance was near perfect. He was an especially strong supporter of Maine's working class, working men and working women and was recognized as a trusted voice on labor legislation. He was an expert in Maine's election laws, having served on all of its election committees since he entered this body until this session. And in the democratically controlled 102nd Legislature, Joe Binnette served as the assistant majority floor leader.

More importantly than all of this, I think, Joe Binnette gladly shared his views of experience with those of us who came here early and who were young and inexperienced. I will never forget the first session that I was here in which he pointed out to me, as he did when he was a floor leader, take your time and don't panic, your time will come. His helping hand guided many of us in the direction that we now pursue, and I think in behalf of that we will be forever grateful for his kindness and his wisdom that he used in part to all of us.

So, as we pass this Joint Resolution today, I do so and I certainly hope that we will remember the words that Joe always had in mind — take your time and your time will come.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from East Millinocket, Mr. Birt.

Mr. BIRT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would like to echo the words which have been very well covered by the good gentleman from Eagle Lake, Mr. Martin. I think he has covered much of what anybody could say about Joe Binnette. I served with Joe during all of my legislative career, and it goes back almost as many years as Joe's, but not quite. I have enjoyed him; we have had a friendly rivalry. I don't know as we ever had a real serious dispute. I think one of the last bills that Joe spoke on was one that I was interested in, and he was complimenting me at the time.

I think he made some real contributions to the State of Maine during the many years he served here. As Mr. Martin pointed out very well, he was sincere, dedicated, put a great amount of work in.

I told my wife on the way down that I thought probably one thing you could say about Joe, maybe he over-applied himself this year, but I think he did what he loved best, and that was serve the people of Maine and the Maine Legislature.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bridgewater, Mr. Finemore.

Mr. FINEMORE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I have known Joe Binnette for quite a few years. I enjoyed working with him, and I believe that this year he pushed himself a little too much. He talked with me early every morning and late every night, and he was pushing himself all the time to benefit his people back home and the people of the State of Maine.

I know we all deeply regret his passing. We are going to miss him these early mornings and evenings and at dinner in the evening.

The SPEAKER pro tem: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As a long-time acquaintance and friend of Joe's, since the mid thirties, I can recall a conversation that he had with me about five years ago in his kitchen in which he told me he enjoyed the House almost as much as I did.

Joe was an individual who, when he had something to say about anyone, would go to that individual and state his position and you knew exactly where he stood. He was a gentleman, he was a hard worker, he was dedicated, and I told his daughter on Saturday noon when she told me that the situation was very very serious, I told her that it would be a great loss to his family but it would also be a great loss to the State and all the members of this body.

Thereupon, the Joint Resolution was adopted and sent up for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, ordered sent forthwith to the Senate.

SPEAKER MARTIN: The Chair would thank the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Kelleher.

Thereupon, the Sergeant at Arms escorted Mr. Kelleher to his seat on the floor, amid the applause of the House, and Speaker Martin resumed the Chair.

**House Reports of Committees
Ought Not to Pass**

Mr. Bennett from the Committee on Judiciary on Bill "An Act Relating to the Priority of Mechanics' Liens" (H. P. 593) (L. D. 740) reporting "Ought Not to Pass"

Mr. Curran from the Committee on Natural Resources on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Set Back Standards for