

# 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

Thereupon the Joint Order received passage and was sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro presented the following Joint Resolution and moved its adoption: (H. P. 1589) (Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Committee on Reference of Bills pursuant to Joint Rule 10)

#### STATE OF MAINE

Joint Resolution Requesting the Public Utilities Commission to Consider Granting Compensatory Rate Increases to the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company and to the Central Maine Power Company to Reflect the Sudden Increase in Operating Expenses Caused by the Enactment of L. D. 1452

WHEREAS, L. D. 1452, as amended, has been enacted into law by the 107th Legislature; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the enactment of L. D. 1452, the Town of Wiscasset will be faced with a substantial property tax increase; and

WHEREAS, Maine Yankee Atomic Power and Central Maine Power Company pay well in excess of 90 Percent of Wiscasset property taxes; and

WHEREAS, due to the sharp increase in property taxes without any corresponding increase in revenues, enactment of L. D. 1452 creates a sudden and unexpected economic emergency for those electric utilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the 107th Legislature, hereby request that the Public Utilities Commission give immediate consideration to the granting of compensatory rate increases to the affected Maine electric utilities in amounts to reflect the large, sudden and unbudgeted increase in their operating expenses caused by the enactment of L. D. 1452.

The Resolution was read.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Farley.

Mr. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have this same joint order, is this supposedly supposed to be a signature on this joint order?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the gentleman that the Joint Resolution in the possession of the Clerk, the original does have the Joint Order and it is signed.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Waterville, Mr. Carey.

Mr. CAREY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would ask a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may pose his inquiry.

Mr. CAREY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I noticed that in the body of the resolution it says that the legislature has enacted into law, and I would ask if in fact the legislature has at this point enacted into law L. D. 1452?

The SPEAKER: The Chair is under the impression that the other body has in fact enacted it as well.

The Chair recognizes the same gentleman.

Mr. CAREY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would then ask if being under the impression is equal to in fact being notified that the thing had become law? Therefore this may be tabled until later in today's session.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Buxton, Mr. Berry.

Mr. BERRY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: A point of inquiry. I would be interested to know whose name does appear on the order.

The SPEAKER: The order was presented by the gentleman from Nobleboro, Mr. Palmer.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Farley.

Mr. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Again a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may pose his inquiry.

Mr. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House: Is not our copy of this Joint Resolution supposed to conform to the one presented to the Clerk? I have a copy here with no signature at all.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the gentleman that is not required. The Chair would inform the members of the House that the Bill, 1452, was enacted in the other body by a vote of 26 to 4, the motion to reconsider was made and that failed. The bill is not on the Governor's desk.

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

Mr. ROLDE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: There seems to be a great deal of confusion about this order. I, myself, wonder what effect it does have and whether it has any legal effect on the Public Utilities Commission. I think because of the way this came in, there is an awful lot of confusion, I would hope that someone would table this for one legislative day.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlwoman from Portland, Mrs. Najarian.

Mrs. NAJARIAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I move this be tabled one legislative day.

Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro requested a vote on the tabling motion.

Mr. Peterson of Windhem requested a roll call vote.

The SPEAKER: A roll call had been requested. For the Chair to order a roll call, it must have the expressed desire of one fifth of the members present and voting. All those desiring a roll call vote will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken, and more than one fifth of the members present having expressed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Skowhegan, Mr. Dam.

Mr. DAM: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: A parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may pose his inquiry.

Mr. DAM: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Where this order here on the white sheet has been presented to us has no signature, how are we to know that this is the same order that is in possession of the Clerk which we are being asked to vote on.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the gentleman that there is a House Paper number which is carried on that paper which you now have, which carries the House paper which is provided here on the original Joint Resolution introduced.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is on the motion of the gentlwoman from Portland, Mrs. Najarian, that this Joint Resolution, House Paper 1589, be tabled one legislative day pending adoption. All in favor of that motion will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

#### ROLL CALL

YEA — Albert, Berube, Blodgett, Boudreau, Burns, Carey, Carpenter, Carter, Chonko, Clark, Connolly, Cox, Curran, P.; Curran, R.; DeVane, Doak Dow, Faucher, Fenlason, Flanagan,

Goodwin, K.; Hughes, Ingegneri, Jacques, Joyce, Kelleher, LaPointe, Lavery, LeBlanc, Mahany, Maxwell, Mulhern, Nadeau, Najarian, Pelosi, Peterson, T.; Quinn, Rolde, Saunders, Smith, Spencer, Sprowl, Talbot, Theriault, Tozier, Twitchell, Usher.

NAY — Ault, Bachrach, Bagley, Bennett, Berry, G.W.; Birt, Bowie, Bustin, Byers, Call, Churchill, Conners, Cooney, Cote, Curtis, Dam, Davies, Drigotas, Durgin, Dyer, Farley, Farnham, Finemore, Fraser, Gauthier, Goodwin, H.; Gould, Gray, Henderson, Hennessey, Hewes, Higgins, Hinds, Hunter, Hutchings, Immonen, Jackson, Jalbert, Jensen, Kany, Kelley, Kennedy, Laffin, Leonard, Lewis, Lizotte, Lovell, Lynch, MacEachern, Mackel, MacLeod, Martin, A.; Martin, R.; McBreairty, McKernan, McMahon, Mills, Mitchell, Morin, Morton, Palmer, Peakes, Perkins, S.; Perkins, T.; Pierce, Post, Powell, Raymond, Rideout, Rollins, Shute, Silverman, Snowe, Strout, Stubbs, Susi, Tierney, Torrey, Truman, Wagner, Walker, Webber, Wilfong, the Speaker.

ABSENT — Carroll, Dudley, Garsoe, Greenlaw, Hall, Hobbins, Kauffman, Lewin, Littlefield, Lunt, Miskavage, Norris, Peterson, P.; Snow, Tarr, Teague, Tyndale, Winship.

Yes, 47; No, 85; Absent, 19.

The SPEAKER: Forty-seven having voted in the affirmative and eighty-five in the negative, with nineteen being absent, the motion does not prevail.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nobleboro, Mr. Palmer.

Mr. Palmer: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I will be very brief. I think to adequately cover this resolution I should probably repeat many of the things which I said the other night when I lost my motion on a 67 to 61 vote to treat the town of Wiscasset the same way we treat everybody else on the subsidy problems involved in 1452.

I want to read, and I want you to look at this order. I did sign it. There is no funny work between what is up there and what is down here, it is the same order. I want to read it, it just simply says, "Resolved: That We, the Members of the 107th Legislature hereby request that the Public Utilities Commission give immediate consideration to the granting of compensatory rate increases to the affected Maine electric utilities in amounts to reflect the large, sudden and unbudgeted increases in their operating expenses caused by the enactment of L. D. 1452."

Very briefly, this House the other night, many of you felt as I did, that the formula used in 1452, the distribution of funds was inequitable it was unfair, I call it unethical, not alone for the citizens of Wiscasset, but for the power company there involved.

I am not standing up here this morning as a proponent of any one particular individual group, I am coming back to you same people and asking you to apply the lesson of fairness which we tried to apply the other night. Many people in the debate said at that time that they thought that who was going to pay for this anyway the consumer was going to pay for it. This simply says the Public Utilities Commission, in view of the fact that CMP particular did not have budgeted this significant amount of money for their taxes, that the commission should at least look into the problem, should consider it and should consider the fact that perhaps

compensatory rate increases should be granted to take care of this extra burden.

I submit to you this morning that there is no corporation in this state, no business in this state which is so rich that it can overnight find a million or two extra bucks which it did not budget for.

I think that we have asked CMP to fund a part, an extra part, of the cost of education in this state, more than their share. I think that we should at least say, having done that, we want them to at least have a day we want the PUC to consider the fact that we have done it and in that light, perhaps, if they see fit in their wisdom to grant some compensatory rate increase to them to care for this deficit.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dover-Foxcroft, Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I was one of those who voted with Mr. Palmer the other day when he gave his very eloquent plea on behalf of his constituency and I did it with true devotion and absolutely consistent with my conscience.

I have a number of questions. I didn't expect this to appear quite as quickly. As a matter of fact, I hadn't been informed it was going to appear at all. This is a quasi-judicial body and I am wondering what the ethical implications of attempting to influence a quasi-judicial body are. I have no conclusion of my own that I would wish to offer at this point. I think it is something that certainly should be considered before we vote either way on this. I don't believe we would attempt to petition a court in this manner and I wonder also about the timeliness of this, and at this point at least, as far as I know, Central Maine Power Company does not have an application before the Public Utilities Commission.

The number of questions that I think ought to be looked into that have not been answered, I am going to have to vote against this today and otherwise I might possibly, if the questions were answered satisfactorily, would vote for it, but today, at least, I am certainly not going to vote for this thing and would ask that we be given the time to get these very serious questions answered.

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

Mr. FINEMORE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I am not doing anything to hurt Mr. Palmer and I hope he doesn't feel that way. I will tell you, I have a lot of business with public utilities and power companies and telephone companies and I can tell you right now, they look out for themselves. When you get your light bill and your telephone bill, you don't have to worry too much about where they are going to get their money or where it is coming from. I haven't any sympathy, although I will vote for this and support it. I wonder if it is up to us to even suggest to the public utilities, they look out for themselves.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Durham, Mr. Tierney.

Mr. TIERNEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I move that this Resolution be indefinitely postponed and request to speak to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Durham, Mr. Tierney, moves the Joint Resolution be indefinitely postponed.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. TIERNEY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Many of the

remarks made by my good friend from Nobleboro that he is concerned about his constituents who live in Wiscasset have nothing to do with this order. This order is merely an orthodox request by this legislature to try to put pressure on a judicial body to increase the power rate for the people of this state. There isn't one word in here which gives one extra penny to the people in Wiscasset. The money which Mr. Palmer wants to get will go to Central Maine Power Company.

There are other utilities in the state that he hasn't mentioned. There is nothing in here about the phone company, there is nothing in here about Rangeley Power, there isn't even anything in here about the Eagle Lake Water District. They are utilities too, and they are affected by 1452. I think even if you wanted to go this route you would have to have a much more encompassing order than this. I don't want to go that route. It looks to me like CMP is going to have to pay their taxes, their property taxes, the same way that the poor people in my town have to pay their property taxes, and 1452 just puts the property tax rate in Durham up 30 percent — 30 percent, ladies and gentlemen, and I am going to have to go back and explain at the town meeting to the people who are living in mobile homes, and tar paper shacks, and run down homes, in a town that has a very low per capita income, and instead, what does this house do within minutes after L. D. 1452 becomes law, we try to give a subsidy to Central Maine Power Company. Well, I am against it. I want to indefinitely postpone this resolution and I request a roll call.

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

Mr. JENSEN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would speak in favor of this motion. Some months ago I, along with a lot of other members of this House, went down to CMP's plant in Wiscasset. We had a tour of the building and they gave us a series of very interesting little films, slide series and facts. One of those facts, if I remember correctly, is that a large portion, well over half of that plant is not owned by Central Maine Power. If that is the case, then we were to pass this and a rate increase were to be granted, we would be relieving taxes for a Massachusetts or perhaps a Connecticut firm and that is certainly something I would like to do.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Anson, Mr. Burns.

Mr. BURNS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I may be off base. I have a question and I would like to get an answer, if I may, from anyone in the House. I understand that under L. D. 1994 the tax base was 14 mills. Under the legislation we just passed, the tax base is 13.25 mills. Has the valuation of Maine Yankee changed since we have passed these laws? The tax rate went down rather than going up; therefore, how is it going to cost them any more?

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Anson, Mr. Burns, poses a question through the Chair to any member of the House who cares to answer.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nobleboro, Mr. Palmer.

Mr. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would say in answer to the gentleman from Anson that the pink sheet, one among many of the colorful ones we have had during the debate on 1452, showed that in 1973 the town of Wiscasset paid, which of course

does take into consideration CMP and Maine Yankee, a little over a million dollars. The new sheet shows a pay-in of close to three and a half million dollars. This is due to an increase in assessed valuation and actually leaves — even if we were to have used Wiscasset the other night the way we used everybody else, they still would have had an increase and that increase is \$700,000. This means now well over \$2 million.

I just want to take a moment, and I love the fervor of my friend from Durham, and I know he uses the same old trick each time; he loves to beat to death the big massive, giant company and just loves those poor little old people he supports and I do too. I like them. I like basic fairness. I am saying to you this morning, and to Mr. Tierney particularly, all you are doing is trying to take away from the basic concept of what I am trying to prove here. I am not telling utilities to do anything. I am just simply saying "think about it," what we in this House have done. We couldn't find a way to fund education in this state unless we did it in this very devious route and you all know it. We didn't have the courage to use the formula and stick to the formula. We had to move around, devious little nightmarish ways and stick it on to one individual company and I don't care what the company is, I don't own a dime in the stock and I don't even know the lobbyist.

I believe in fair play and I believe in decency, and we knew full well when we passed 1452 that we were saying there is a million or more here that we can't fund any other place, let's let Central Maine pay for it. The argument used was, they will pick it up from the consumer anyway. Now, if you meant it the other night you ought to mean it today. I feel we didn't mean what we said the other night. I feel now we meant we will take any corporation. The next time we might take Great Northern Paper Company, they are a good whipping boy, take S. D. Warren, take Scott, take any of them and when we can't find an extra million we need, sock it to 'em. Now, I'm not asking and this order doesn't direct the PUC to do anything except to consider the situation. I think it's a fairly reasonable thing to ask. It isn't putting a burden on anybody and I wouldn't be standing here, I think I'm as politically astute, perhaps, as my friend from Durham is, and I have little old, poor, people and I know they are going to know that I said that, perhaps, CMP or some other company should be given a little break here because they have been asked to pay a greater cost of education. If you want to really solve the whole problem, why not put the whole \$247 million on to Central Maine Power Company and then tell the PUC to spread the cost of education out over your light bills. Now, that's basically what you're doing here, in a little way, so I'm a little sick of one night, talking about one thing, the next day weaseling out of it. It is not a defense of CMP, it is not a defense of Great Northern, it is not a defense of L. E. Palmer & Sons or any little grocery store or anything else in the State of Maine. It is just addressed to basic fairness. If we can't find a way in this House to fund our education in orderly fashion and with fairness and with dignity, we ought to take this route.

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

Mr. MULKERN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I believe this

Order we have on our desks today is completely unnecessary. It seems to me, I don't think we should be going around singling out particular firms like Central Maine Power Company and having the legislature sort of imply that we'd like to see the Public Utilities Commission look into possible rate increases for them. It seems like they can go through regular channels just like all the other utilities, and if they have a problem, they can go to the Public Utilities Commission and ask for a rate increase. I find this Order completely unnecessary. What are we going to do? Are we going to give Central Maine Power Company a pat on the back, the way we gave the Maine Central Railroad a big break the other day? It just seems to me this is completely unnecessary and I don't go along with this Order at all.

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

Mr. ROLDE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I did, the other day, support the gentleman from Nobleboro, the argument he made for the town of Wiscasset.

The reason that I ask to have this item tabled is because there is one element of it that does disturb me. The Central Maine Power Company did come for a rate increase rather recently. They were granted a certain amount but they were not granted the entire amount that they wanted. They have now taken the Public Utilities Commission to court. I wonder, if we pass this Order, will we be, in any way, affecting their court case and what legal effect this particular Order will have?

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Owls Head, Mrs. Post.

Mrs. POST: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: In response to that very recent request, I'd like to bring up this point which may not have been considered. The last two sentences of this Order read or the last two lines read that this action needs to be taken to reflect a large sudden and unbudgeted increase in their operating expenses caused by the enactment of L. D. 1452 and it would be my assumption that when Central Maine Power went for their most recent rate increase request, if, in fact, the property taxes that were paid by the town of Wiscasset and, therefore, at least ninety percent by Maine Yankee, we are responsible for a large amount of the capital requirement or the money requirement for Central Maine Power, then Central Maine Power would have had to, I would have again assumed, would have had to base their need to pay this property tax on 1994, because of course, they had no way of knowing that we were going to enact 1452, so Central Maine Power would have had to ask for their rate increase figuring that the town of Wiscasset was going to have to pay in over \$3 million dollars and that Maine Yankee was going to have that tax liability for property taxes. In fact, all 1452 does in terms of the tax liability of Maine Yankee and Central Maine Power's need for revenue actually gives them \$250,000 back. They are actually getting — they are getting a break as far as 1452 is concerned, in what originally they could be led to expect their property tax liability would be.

Now, in talking with some members of the PUC, the feeling there is that this small amount of money of the needed tax on Maine Yankee and would have little or no

effect on the actual rate requirements for Central Maine Power, so I support the motion for Indefinite Postponement.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Limerick, Mr. Carroll.

Mr. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I am not getting up here to cry crocodile tears. I am going to read to you the salary schedule of the Central Maine Power Company officials. Chairman of the Company, Chief Executive Officer William H. Dunham \$77,250.75; Elwin W. Thurlow, Augusta, Maine, \$51,104.03; Chairman of the Board, Charles F. Phillips, Auburn, Maine \$15,000; Treasurer, Floyd F. Ludwig, \$34,619.50; Assistant Treasurer, Patrick S. Lyden \$17,749.92; Financial Vice President & Controller, Nevius M. Curtis \$38,901.; Executive Vice President, Henry W. Mertens, Augusta, Maine \$42,573.51; Vice President, Charles E. Monti, Augusta, Maine, \$38,630.; Vice President Norman J. Temple, Augusta, Maine \$35,984.25; Vice President, Walter L. Worthing, Augusta, Maine \$33,494.50; Vice President, Robert F. Scott, Augusta, Maine \$30,854.; Assistant Vice President John B. Rendazey, Augusta, Maine \$30,083.; Assistant Controller, Robert S. Howle \$21,614.47; Assistant Treasurer, Gerald G. Beverage, Augusta, Maine \$21,163.40. Now we have the Directors: George E. Bass II of Wilton, Maine \$2,700, Salary Fee; Priscilla A. Clark, Falmouth Foreside, Maine, \$3,100.; Nevius M. Curtis (he's already up there above for a salary) \$1,800.; E. J. Dufour, Skowhegan, Maine \$2,900. We come to our great prize, Mr. Dunham again, \$3,000; Leon A. Gorham, Freeport, Maine \$910.83; Hubert H. Hart, Portland, Maine (he's retired) \$1189.17; Charles L. Hildreth, Portland, Maine \$3,500; Bradford H. Hutchins, Waterville, Maine \$3500.; E. Clifford Ladd, Rockland, Maine \$3300.; Henry W. Mertens, Augusta, Maine \$600. (He's retired); Charles F. Phillips, \$3200.; Carleton D. Reed, Jr. \$3100.; Elwin W. Thurlow (he's already up above here for \$51,000, \$2400.; James H. Titcomb, Sanford, Maine \$3300.; Steven D. Trafton \$3100.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have a reason for reading this, it is a selfish reason. I just got my light bill the other day. It is \$101.00—that's a corker boys, surcharge \$25. on some power bought from Canada, generated possibly by the water that flows down the little river up here in the State of Maine and I think its wonderful we have got 57 dams in the State of Maine, we have got 27 of them with hydro facilities and they are not generating any power. Now, I have some crocodile tears to shed but I want to shed them for George Carroll and that \$101.00 light bill. That's the guy I want you to cry for because I meet a lot of old people that don't have a business like I have to pay their bills and they are getting socked and that surcharge is that little jewel that I really love. I've got a bill in that's coming up for a five member Public Utilities Commission and I hope to heaven you will support it.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nobleboro, Mr. Palmer.

Mr. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Limerick for giving us all the information on the salaries of the officials of the Central Maine Power Company and sympathize with him for his \$101.00 light bill. I think the salaries of a corporate group have no part in this at all — they have very little to do with the

argument this morning. It is the old story of the schoolbook all over again and whatever we can dig out on someone that is fine. If Mr. Carroll, however, wants to dig deep into the records and find out how much this corporation is making, net return on their investment, and how much they are allowed to make, he will find that he is way off base but this corporation still is making less than they are allowed to under law and I'm worried about it because I don't care whether we have Dickey-Lincoln or Passamaquoddy or anything else. We have an energy crisis. We have work to be done in this State and we can't just use these people as whipping boys forever and ever. . . it is the most popular subject in the world to bring up the Central Maine Power Company in this House. Rally the troops around, carry the flags, it's beautiful — they don't vote, so I appreciate that.

Now, I put this Order in and I got the reaction I wanted. The reaction was, that what we said the other night was pure fakery, that we actually did, the other night, find ourselves in a financial mess and the little machinations took place in the various cubbyholes and we have come up with what we are going to have for money and I asked more than once, why \$250,000 for the town of Wiscasset and the answer I got was, the "only" one was, well, it was more than the largest figure below it. I submit to you, that is really serious, down-to-earth thinking, that is great work on how to subsidize an education subsidy bill.

I said a few minutes ago, I will say now, it is wrong and I am going to say this too, I am not related to, I don't have any money in, or anything else, I would do the same thing for Joe's Corner Grocery. It is wrong, what we have done and what we are doing but now that I know how we feel about all these things, now I know how we can vote sometimes with tongue-in-cheek and say "well, let the consumer pay it" but when it comes time, we go the other route.

Thereupon, Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro withdrew his Joint Resolution.

On motion of Mr. Carpenter of Houlton, the House reconsidered its action whereby Bill "An Act to Authorize the Appropriation of Funds for Full-time Community Administrators," House Paper 919, L. D. 1132, was indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. CARPENTER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: This is the bill on full-time county administrators which was indefinitely postponed yesterday, was held at my request after consultation with the gentleman from Skowhegan, Mr. Dam and the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Farley. We have worked out, I think, all of the major questions in this, so I ask that we back it up and let me put an amendment on it, so I would ask that you vote for reconsideration of the indefinite postponement of this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Farley.

Mr. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would ask you to go along with the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Carpenter. The changes he has, we are all agreeable to, I think.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is the motion to indefinitely postpone. If you are in favor