

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

One Hundred and Fifth

Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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requested, then I am open to any other motion or suggestion.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ of Kennebec: Mr. President, I find myself unable to make a motion until the Senator withdraws his motion. Subsequently I would like to make one.

Thereupon, Mr. Violette of Aroostook withdrew his motion to table.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ of Kennebec: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: There are two things involved here. One, waiting for a meeting of the State Board of Education, which is going to act upon a document which is presently within my possession, and which is about as black and damning a document that I have ever seen pertaining to any institution ever since I have been here. So if we are not going to table until May 15th, maybe a pertinent motion may be to table until Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, at which time I will reproduce the document and let the Senators be judges of what the decision is going to be.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Piscataquis, Senator Martin.

Mr. MARTIN of Piscataquis: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I only wanted to offer some explanation on my request for the May 11th tabling date. It is because the Board of Education meets on May 7th, which is a Friday. May 11th is the following Tuesday.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Hoffses.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Hoffses of Knox, tabled and specially assigned for April 20, 1971, pending the motion by Mr. Katz of Kennebec that the Senate Accept the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report of the Committee.

The President laid before the Senate the second tabled and specially assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act Relating to Drinking in Unlicensed Places." (H. P. 356) (L. D. 464)

Tabled — April 8, 1971 by Senator Hoffses of Knox.

Pending — Passage to be Engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Kellam of Cumberland, Retabled and specially assigned for April 22, 1971, pending Passage to be Engrossed.

The President laid before the Senate the third tabled and specially assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act to Eliminate Moose River from the Maine Forestry District." (H. P. 141) (L. D. 196)

Tabled — April 8, 1971 by Senator Wyman of Washington.

Pending — Motion by Senator Wyman of Washington to Reconsider Engrossing.

On motion by Mr. Wyman, of Washington, retabled and specially assigned for April 22, 1971, pending the motion by the same Senator to Reconsider Passage to be Engrossed.

The President laid before the Senate the fourth tabled and specially assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act Increasing Minimum Wages." (S. P. 16) (L. D. 44)

Tabled — April 8, 1971 by Senator Berry of Cumberland.

Pending — Motion by Senator Moore of Cumberland to Indefinitely Postpone.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Anderson.

Mr. ANDERSON of Hancock: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: In Ellsworth over the previous weekend I was harassed by a group of businessmen who are conducting small businesses. Perhaps I am putting it a little strong. I will say that they were very much disturbed over the proposed increase in the minimum wage.

They were unanimous in their assertions that if this went into effect that they would have to let many employees go. Now, this would simply mean a raid on the unemployment office and another tax burden on the taxpayers.

It is inevitable that the federal government is coming up with an

increase in the minimum wage, and I can see no reason why the State of Maine should jump the gun. Therefore, I shall go along with the motion of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Moore, for indefinite postponement.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz.

Mr. KATZ of Kennebec: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I think it is no secret that I do not think this is a good bill in its present form.

There is a lot of merit to what the Senator says about the inability of small businessmen to meet a two dollar payroll. The cost of doing business today leads to some regrettable things. One of the major stores on Water Street in Augusta this past week was in the intolerable position of having just two people on the floor. This is a large store, and they had only two clerks on the floor. The cost of doing business is a real factor. And having a store understaffed is just a pure and simple invitation to shoplifting, and shoplifting is getting to be an extremely serious problem. In my business I have lots of things out on the floor, open so that somebody can walk by and steal, and occasionally they do. Fortunately, it is not an endemic situation with me yet.

But I would oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone, purely and simply because I would like to offer an amendment which would increase the minimum wage from \$1.60 to \$1.75, which I would consider a reasonable level. I haven't figured it out percentagewise, but I am sure some of you can. To increase from \$1.60 to \$1.75 over a period of years that have gone by, in the face of inflation, I think is a realistic appraisal. I would not expect employers to be enthusiastic or jubilant for support of any increase in the cost of doing business, so the fact that the business community is hostile to an increase in minimum wages is expected and reasonable. But I think also reasonable is the fact that we might consider raising the minimum wage from \$1.60 to \$1.75.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tanous.

Mr. TANOUS of Penobscot: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I was indeed surprised to see my very good friend from Hancock, Senator Anderson, opposing my bill, but I suppose he has an obligation to represent his people as every one of us has.

I would hope that you would not go along with the motion to indefinitely postpone and that perhaps we might get this matter in its present form to the other branch to be debated in that body. I look forward to defeating the motion to indefinitely postpone, and will argue afterwards against the motion of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz, but at this time I do hope you will go along with me against the motion to indefinitely postpone. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Moore.

Mr. MOORE of Cumberland: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: This bill was quite well debated the other day, but I want to bring out just one point here before we vote on this. Why do we feel in the State of Maine that we have got to be ahead of every other state? The only states that are ahead of the federal minimum wage, which we are on now in the State of Maine, are Alaska, California and New York. New York is \$1.85 and California is \$1.65.

I would like to bring up the states like Michigan and Ohio. The State of Ohio has a minimum wage of \$.75 an hour. Michigan, one of the highly industrialized states in the nation, is \$1.25 an hour. We are not going to prove anything by going ahead of the federal wage here. We are only going to hurt ourselves and hurt the marginal worker. I hope you will go along with my motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Harding.

Mr. HARDING of Aroostook: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: We have heard this argument on minimum wage for many years. I can remember when the first minimum wage was passed, it was \$.25 an hour, and the same arguments were raised, how can you afford to pay a fellow \$.25

an hour when he may not even be worth it. So this is a consistent thing which has gone through all the way up through.

Another thing, as my good friend from Hancock County, Senator Anderson, has mentioned about Washington, about what we are waiting for them to do, this is a case where we have a chance to act on our own, and we don't have to wait for the dictates from Washington. It seems to me that that would be a responsible thing for us to do. So, if a division has not been asked, Mr. President, I would ask for a division when the vote is taken.

The PRESIDENT: A division has been requested.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Moore.

Mr. MOORE of Cumberland: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I think I should clarify one thing. I am not opposed to the minimum wage. In fact, I worked and supported the first minimum wage that we had in the state. I thought at that time that we needed it. Undoubtedly we need it now, but we don't need to exceed the federal minimum.

The PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is the motion of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Moore, that Bill, "An Act Increasing Minimum Wages," be indefinitely postponed. A division has been requested. As many Senators who are in favor of the motion to indefinitely postpone this bill will please rise and remain standing until counted. All those opposed will please rise and remain standing until counted.

A division was had. Eleven Senators having voted in the affirmative, and twenty Senators having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

Mr. Katz of Kennebec then presented Senate Amendment "A" and moved its Adoption.

Senate Amendment "A", Filing No. S-68, was Read.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Tanous of Penobscot, tabled and specially assigned for April 21, 1971, pending Adoption of Senate Amendment "A".

The President laid before the Senate the fifth tabled and specially assigned matter:

HOUSE REPORTS — from the Committee on State Government on Bill, "An Act to Repeal the Prohibition of Publishing a Periodical by the Department of Economic Development." (H. P. 897) (L. D. 1217) Majority Report, Ought Not to Pass; Minority Report, Ought to Pass.

Tabled — April 12, 1971 by Senator Berry of Cumberland.

Pending — Acceptance of Either Report.

Mr. Clifford of Androscoggin moved that the Senate Accept the Minority Ought to Pass Report of the Committee.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Clifford, moves that the Senate Accept the Minority Ought to Pass Report of the Committee.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Berry.

Mr. BERRY of Cumberland: Mr. President, I believe that I have requested recognition from the Chair in the proper parliamentary order. I would ask the Chair to so rule.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator is correct. The Senator has the floor.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Berry of Cumberland, retabled and Tomorrow Assigned, pending Acceptance of Either Report.

The President laid before the Senate the sixth tabled and specially assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act Transferring Services to Alcoholics and Drug Addicts to the Bureau of Mental Health." (H. P. 674) (L. D. 911)

Tabled — April 13, 1971 by Senator Berry of Cumberland.

Pending — Passage to be Engrossed.

Mr. Katz of Kennebec moved that the Bill be Indefinitely Postponed.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz, moves that H. P. 671, L. D. 911, be indefinitely postponed. Is this the pleasure of the Senate?

The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Hichens.