

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Seventy-Sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1913

Whereas House Document No. 742 of the 75th Legislature, being a matter considered by the legal affairs committee in the 75th Legislature and entitled "An Act to establish a public utilities commission for Maine and to define its duties," was referred by the 75th Legislature to the 76th Legislature, and

Whereas said document and papers in the case appear to have been lost from the files,

Now, therefore, be it

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that the clerk of the House be instructed to procure a copy of said House Document No. 742 and substitute the same on the files for the original bill and papers in the case, and that the same be referred to the legal affairs committee.

Mr. WHEELER: I will say, Mr. Speaker, in explanation that this is to avoid any further delay on a very important matter.

Mr. SMITH of Patten: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the purpose of making an inquiry, do I understand that if the order is passed it means a reference to the legal affairs committee of the Legislature upon the public utilities bill, as a general proposition.

The SPEAKER: The Chair supposes that it does.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I desire to make a statement in relation to that matter. As I recollect it, there was a committee appointed in this House upon the Governor's Message, and that committee have considered the different suggestions made by the Governor and referred those suggestions under the different headings to what they deemed the proper committees. That report has not as yet reached the House, but I am informed it is in the Senate; I am also further informed that after a careful consideration of the matter and in conference with others who are deeply interested in this matter of public utilities, and considering the importance of the matter, when the report reaches the House it will contain a recommendation that that part of the Governor's Message

pertaining to public utilities be referred to a joint special committee.

Now, as I say, I believe the committee have given that matter careful consideration and it seems to many of us who have discussed the matter that that is the wise thing to do; it is a matter of vast public importance, and it is a matter that should receive great care and attention; it is a matter as it strikes me and some others, which will be better considered by a special committee who can give it a thorough investigation, and with better results than would be obtained by referring it to either of the over-crowded legal committees of this Legislature or any other committee, and for that reason I object to the passage of this order, and I think it should be carefully considered by the House before it is passed. It is a very important matter and a matter which requires very careful consideration. When this bill is referred I think it should be referred to a committee that can devote time to it, and plenty of time, and report something that will be satisfactory not only to ourselves but to the people of the State.

Mr. WHEELER of South Paris: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to find myself in agreement with very much that has been said by my Brother Smith. I agree with him that this is an important matter, and it is of too much importance to receive any extended delay. My only purpose in introducing this order is to facilitate the business of the two branches of this Legislature upon this important measure; and therefore as a matter of courtesy to my Brother Smith and as a matter of courtesy to other members of this House who probably wish to consider the matter, I will consent, and I will move that this order be laid upon the table and that it be considered at the next Tuesday morning session. In the meantime the report to which my Brother Smith has referred will come in and be before this House. I wish to give notice also that when that report comes in I shall move that that also be tabled and be