

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Fifth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1931

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

in favor of Eugene H. Flint of Monson.

(Emergency Measure)

(H. P. 201) (L. D. 143) An act to authorize the county of Aroostook to enlarge and repair the county jail at Houlton.

The SPEAKER: This being an emergency measure, it is necessary that it have the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of this body. All those in favor of the passage of the bill to be enacted will rise and stand until counted, and the monitors have returned the count.

A division being had, One hundred and seventeen voting in the affirmative and none in the negative, the bill was passed to be enacted.

Mr. BIDDLE of Portland: Mr. Speaker, if in order, I move to take from the table Legislative Document 749, bill an act relative to taxation on gasoline, tabled by me earlier in the session.

The motion prevailed and that gentleman presented House Amendment B and moved its adoption, as follows:

House Amendment B to H. P. 1117, L. D. 749, an act relative to tax on gasoline.

Amend said bill by inserting after the words "stationary engines" in the twentieth line of section one, the words "or in aeroplane engines."

Thereupon House Amendment B was adopted.

Mr. Allen of Sanford withdrew his motion that the bill be given its third reading under suspension of the rules, and tomorrow was assigned for its third reading.

On motion by Mr. Ashby of Fort Fairfield, it was voted to take from the table the 13th unassigned matter, House report ought not to pass of committee on Taxation on bill an act to raise an excise tax on corporations organized for making, generating, selling, distributing and supplying electricity or electric current for power, lighting, heating, manufacturing or mechanical purposes, H. P. 995, L. D. 677, tabled by that gentleman March 26, pending acceptance of the report.

Mr. ASHBY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature: It has

been one of the great indoor sports of this House to substitute the bill for the report. Now I think there has been a reason for this. While we all feel that the committee are good members, we sometimes doubt their judgment. As a matter of fact I am inclined to think, sometimes, that they are something like the French Canadian. He sold a horse to a man that he warranted to be strictly sound, and when the gentleman took the horse, the horse ran into most everything he came to—fences, barns, anything. He decided he must be blind and he took him back to the French Canadian and said: "You warranted this horse to be sound, but he runs into everything and he must be blind." The French Canadian said: "That is good. He no blind; it just because he don't give a damn." (Laughter)

As I have been told, there was one gentleman who signed this report who said he believed in the taxation of excess power but that it would kill him in his own county if he signed it. In view of all these things I move in this instance that the bill be substituted for the report.

Mr. FARRIS of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, I am very much surprised that the gentleman from Fort Fairfield (Mr. Ashby) should rise this afternoon and make such a motion. He talked this forenoon relative to the Code committee as though it was something sacred. The Taxation committee is one of our regular Joint Standing committees created by joint order of the two branches. I do not think that the gentleman is consistent. He has not given any reason why the bill should be substituted for the report. I believe that the opinion of the committee on Taxation on this matter is worthy of consideration. I tried to go against the Code committee this morning and was defeated. Now I am going to sustain the Taxation committee and I trust you will not turn down the committee's report without hearing any evidence.

Mr. ASHBY: In answer to Mr. Farris, I would say this: The difference in these two reports was that in the instance of the Code committee not one single opponent appeared against it. In the instance of this bill there were plenty of pro-