

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninetieth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE



1941

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AUGUSTA, MAINE

On motion by the gentlewoman from Brunswick, Miss Bangs, House Rule 25 was suspended for the remainder of today's session.

Non-Concurrent Matter

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Farm Tractor Trailers" (H. P. 1893) (L. D. 1108) which in the House was passed to be engrossed on April 7th and passed to be enacted on April 10th.

Came from the Senate passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Littlefield of Albion, the House voted to recede from its action whereby it passed this Bill to be enacted on April 10th and to further recede from its action whereby the Bill was passed to be engrossed on April 7th.

Senate Amendment "A" was then read by the Clerk as follows:

Senate Amendment "A" to H. P. 1893, L. D. 1108, Bill, "An Act Relating to Farm Tractor Trailers."

Amend said bill by striking out from sub-section (1) thereof the figure "5" and inserting in place thereof the figure '4'.

Thereupon, Senate Amendment "A" was adopted, and the Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Speed Regulations" (H. P. 1552) (L. D. 843) which was indefinitely postponed in the House on April 11th.

Came from the Senate, passed to be engrossed in non-concurrence.

In the House:

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Perham, Mr. Bragdon.

Mr. BRAGDON: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House insist on its former action and ask for a Committee of Conference.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Perham, Mr. Bragdon, moves that the House insist on its former action and ask for a Committee of Conference. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the Chair appointed as Conferences on the part of the House:

Messrs. BRAGDON of Perham
ARZONICO of Yarmouth
SLOSBERG of Gardiner

Non-Concurrent Matter

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act Imposing an Additional Gasoline Tax" (H. P. 1475) (L. D. 615) on which the House substituted the Bill for the "Ought not to pass" Report of the Committee on Taxation and passed it to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A" on April 10th.

Comes from the Senate with the Report accepted in non-concurrence.

In the House:

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dixfield, Mr. Holman.

Mr. HOLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move to insist and ask for a Committee of Conference, and in this connection I would like to say a few words.

This 90th Maine Legislature assembled here on January 1st with a New Year's resolution in the mind of each one of us to do the best we could to construct a real tax program that would take care of the necessary running expenses of our State government, provide a good road program, make provision to care for all those who need Old Age Assistance, and afford some relief for the real estate taxpayers, but it seems that there is a Third House in this Legislature that is determined to block every move that we make to pass any new tax measures to carry out this program.

They tell us that we should cut expenses and balance our budget without any new taxes. Now this is the way I see it:

We had a special investigating committee here all last summer and they did not tell us where we could cut expenses. We had a budget committee here in December and they did not show us any place to cut expenses. We have an appropriations committee and they have recommended larger appropriations than ever before.

Now, if the members of this Third House know so much more than the members of the Legislature about how to run the affairs of this State, it is a mystery to me that they do not get elected to fill our positions and carry out their program.

If we are to start in cutting expenses without knowing anything about what to cut, it would seem

quite natural for us to start with the departments that use the most money.

Now, the people who are making all the noise about this gas tax are the Maine Automobile Association, the Maine Commercial Truck Association and the Associated Petroleum Industries, and it happens that the Highway Department is the department that uses nearly as much money as all the rest of the departments together. I have no desire to curtail the activities of the Highway Department, but if the people who use the roads are the ones who are clamoring for a reduction in State expenses, I think that would be a good place to start cutting expenses.

If we kill both of their proposals for bond issues, that will be a saving of over \$4,000,000 and will be a good start in the direction they are clamoring for.

Another department that uses a lot of money is the Department of Health and Welfare, and a large part of its funds go for Old Age Assistance. We might well lop off a couple million from that Department and we will have done a good job at cutting expenses.

But I do not believe that is the kind of a program the people of this State want us to put through, and I am willing to make another try for what I think is the best thing for the people of the State of Maine and not for the Third House.

There is quite a strong sentiment right now in favor of passing an order that will forbid any Legislative Agent the privilege of coming upon the third floor of the State House at any time during the days that the Legislature is in session, and it may be a good thing to adopt that suggestion.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope the Members of this Legislature have backbone enough to stand on their own feet and help carry out a program that we know the people back home want.

We need this 1-2c gas tax to carry out the provisions of L. D. 189 and I hope we may have a Committee of Conference on this bill and see if we cannot make a start on something constructive.

I ask for a Committee of Conference.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Dixfield, Mr. Holman, moves that the House insist and ask for a

Committee of Conference. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the Chair appointed as Conferees on the part of the House:

Messrs. HOLMAN of Dixfield
GRUA of Livermore Falls
SANDERSON of Greene.

Non-Concurrent Matter

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Gathering of Kelp" (H. P. 1557) (L. D. 848) which was passed to be engrossed in the House on April 11th.

Came from the Senate, indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by the gentleman from Thomaston, Mr. Smith, the House voted to recede from its former action and concur with the Senate in the indefinite postponement of this Bill.

Senate Insisting—Conference Asked

From the Senate:

Bill "An Act relating to Arrests in Criminal Cases" (S. P. 365) (L. D. 678) which was indefinitely postponed in the House in non-concurrence on April 11th.

Came from the Senate with that body insisting on its former action whereby the Bill was passed to be engrossed and asking for a Committee of Conference and with the following Conferees appointed on its part:

Mr. HARVEY of York
Miss LAUGHLIN of Cumberland
Mr. FARRIS of Kennebec

In the House:

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Williams.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House insist and join in a Committee of Conference.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bethel, Mr. Williams, moves that the House insist and join in a Committee of Conference. Is this the pleasure of the House?

The motion prevailed, and the Chair appointed as Conferees on the part of the House:

Messrs. WILLIAMS of Bethel
CONANT of Auburn
DOWNS of Rome

Mr. Richardson, of Strong, was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Mr. Speaker, we were advised last night that the lady who has been in charge of the