

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Second
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1965

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

VIOLETTE of Aroostook
STERN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BERMAN of Houlton
BISHOP of Presque Isle
DAVIS of Calais
RICHARDSON
of Cumberland
GILLAN
of South Portland
BRENNAN of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject matter reported that the same Ought to pass

(Signed)

Representative:

DANTON
of Old Orchard Beach

Comes from the House, the Majority Ought not to pass Report accepted.

In the Senate, on motion by Mr. Violette of Aroostook, the Majority Ought not to pass report was accepted in concurrence.

The Majority of the Committee on Judiciary on Bill, "An Act Relating to Photostatic Copies of Statements Filed under Uniform Commercial Code." (H. P. 634) (L. D. 859) reported that the same Ought not to pass.

(Signed)

Senators:

GLASS of Waldo
VIOLETTE of Aroostook
STERN of Penobscot

Representatives:

RICHARDSON
of Cumberland
DAVIS of Calais
GILLAN
of South Portland
BRENNAN of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject matter reported that the same Ought to pass, as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-314)

(Signed)

Representatives:

BERMAN of Houlton
DANTON
of Old Orchard Beach
BISHOP of Presque Isle

Comes from the House, the Majority Ought not to pass Report accepted.

In the Senate, on motion by Mr. Violette of Aroostook, the Majority Ought not to pass report was accepted in concurrence.

The Majority of the Committee on Liquor Control on

Bill, "An Act Relating to Sunday Sale of Liquor." (H. P. 524) (L. D. 698) reported that the same Ought to Pass in new Draft under same title. (H. P. 1118) (L. D. 1525)

(Signed)

Senators:

FALOON of Penobscot
JACQUES

of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BERNARD of Sanford
FAUCHER of Solon
ROY of Winslow
LUND of Augusta
COTE of Lewiston

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject matter reported that the same Ought Not to Pass.

(Signed)

Representatives:

MEISNER
of Dover-Foxcroft
HAYNES of Camden

Comes from the House Passed to be Engrossed in New Draft.

In the Senate:

Mr. JACQUES of Androscoggin: Mr. President and members of the Senate, as Chairman of the Liquor Control Committee, I think it is my duty here this morning to tell you why the majority of the committee came out with this new draft. We had hearings all winter on the liquor bills but the biggest hearing we had was when we had the Sunday Sale of Liquor. This bill had come up here many times. It was here four years ago. It was enacted in the House and enacted in the Senate. Then it went to the Governor for his consideration and the Governor, by pressure group, forwarded the bill to the Senate and asked the Senate to reconsider its action and the Senate would not and the Governor vetoed the bill.

This bill had a hearing that lasted almost five hours. We had hundreds and hundreds of people

that attended the hearing but only a few spoke in favor and against the bill. I voted for the majority report for one reason and one reason alone. That is that we are one of nine states in the United States that don't have liquor on Sunday and when I say liquor I mean beer and hard liquor. Our neighboring states, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts at present have liquor on Sunday and they are draining our tourist business. Sure our tourist business is going up but I think if we had liquor on Sunday it would increase and increase a lot more because we know, and I wish I had the letter here that I received, we know New Hampshire has picked up in their Class A Restaurants almost ten percent more in their liquor sales. We in committee were told that this would bring in a million dollars in the next two years. I think these figures were a little conservative at the time. Since then this has been analyzed by people that are involved in this type of business and it is said that this will now bring a million eight hundred thousand to two million dollars a year. Now I am not one to question this I am just revealing these facts to the members of the Senate and you, Mr. President, so that you will think this over before you do vote on this bill.

In licenses it will bring in, and this is conservative again, it will bring in about fifty-five thousand dollars in licenses and how do we know how much more it is going to bring in on the sales tax? As you know, we have a sales tax on beer at the present time and this also will increase the sales tax revenue for the next two years and how about the people who are coming in who will eat in these restaurants or buy liquor and how much more will they spend for rooms and other things that they need? We don't know. That is why I say this is very conservative and we hope that it does go into the two million dollars.

There were many factors brought out at the hearing and

it was a very well attended hearing. The people were very conscientious in attending this meeting. We had people that opposed the bill and believe me they conducted themselves in very good fashion and so did the proponents. It was an enjoyable day presiding at that hearing and I commended both sides for the way they took part at that hearing. I wouldn't mind conducting a hearing like that every day if it was like that one.

We were told at the hearing that the chains, hotels, would like to locate in Maine, but our liquor laws are so inadequate that they don't dare come into our state to locate here. As you all know, liquor is in the State of Maine to stay. Let's not fool ourselves; it is. I have seen people that vote dry and will continue to vote dry but they are "wet". They have a drink as your neighbor has on Sunday or during the week. I don't mean in restaurants on Sunday.

We were also told by the "drys" that if I voted for the sale of liquor on Sundays that I would be responsible for people that would be involved in an accident and killed. Well, Mr. President and members of the Senate, we have many divorces in this country but we don't do away with marriages. We have people who get killed by guns and we don't do away with guns. We have them just the same. This is the same thing. We don't put the bottle in their mouth or the glass to their mouth. This is up to them. They either take it or leave it. This will be the same on Sunday as any other day in the week. I had a lot of mail sent to me as chairman of this committee and I enjoyed reading the mail, from both the opponents and the proponents. Especially from my community. I had, I would say hundreds of letters favoring it. There is much more I would like to say, Mr. President, but I will wait, and maybe later on I will have to get up again and fight an amendment that is going to be presented a little later.

Mr. President, I move that we accept the Majority Report of the committee which came out of the committee seven to two. There was one of our members that was not present at the time. He was in the hospital but I see him sitting here this morning and I am very happy to see him back. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mrs. SPROUL of Lincoln: Mr. President and members of the Senate, having listened to this speech which I don't feel there was much need of, I think everyone knows how the vote is going today, and I am moved to say to myself, "Who is pressuring whom around here?" The former speaker talks about pressure. What exactly has been going on since the beginning of this session? The lobbyists are thick and everyone knows who is lobbying who and how many lobbyists are on one side and how many are on the other. So much for pressure.

The next thing I would like to point out is that they say that this will benefit the tourist business. It was pointed out in the House yesterday that the tourist business has increased. Probably it would increase more, the Senator from Androscoggin says, but who knows? We are doing all right now. Another thing I have been urged to talk about since the beginning of the session, this is a Liquor Control Committee, of which the gentleman is Chairman, or the Senator, I should say. Exactly how much control has been going on in this session? I could go on and on, but insults would do no good so I won't resort to them. To me the whole thing is just a breakdown in our society. I am convinced that the majority of my constituents don't want the Sunday sale of liquor. It is true there are a few and I know exactly where they are and I have letters from them but the majority of my letters are against it.

As a woman, and one who I hope can command a certain amount of respect, I could not go back home to the young people in my town and county and feel I could still command respect if I vote for a bill like this.

So whether I am the only one that votes against it or not, I oppose the bill and I ask for a division.

Mr. JUTRAS of York: Mr. President, I am so glad that I did go down on record on April 22, 1965 and therefore I add no more to the record this morning. I am in favor of Sunday sales and that is the only thing I am in favor of.

The PRESIDENT: The motion before the Senate is the motion of Senator Jacques of Androscoggin, to accept the Majority Ought to Pass report of the committee. A division has been requested.

A division of the Senate was had.

Twenty-four voted in the affirmative and eight opposed.

Mr. CAHILL of Somerset: Mr. President, I request the Yeas and Nays.

The PRESIDENT: In order to entertain the motion for Yeas and Nays, the Chair must have the expressed consent of one-fifth the members present.

A division of the Senate was had.

Six voted in the affirmative and twenty-six opposed, and six being less than one-fifth of the members present, the roll call was not ordered.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair will again request a division on the motion of Senator Jacques of Androscoggin that the Majority Ought to pass report be accepted.

A division of the Senate was had.

Twenty-four having voted in the affirmative and nine opposed, the motion prevailed, the Ought to pass report was accepted, the bill read once and this afternoon assigned for second reading.

Senate

Leave to Withdraw

Mr. Violette from the Committee on Judiciary on Bill, "An Act to Create the Office of Public Defender." (S. P. 303) (L. D. 1005) reported that the same should be granted Leave to Withdraw.

Which report was Read and Accepted.

Sent down for concurrence.