

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Second
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

VOLUME II

MAY 17 - JUNE 4, 1965

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Bill, "An Act Relating to Sunday Sale of Liquor (H. P. 1118) (L. D. 1525)

Mrs. SPROUL of Lincoln: Mr. President and members of the Senate, before any more action on this bill, I have a few things I would like to say. I think most of them have been said already but I do want to point out one thing. The other day I had with me a man who has been active in the Democratic Party for years and years. He and I have followed each other around on election day and one has watched the other. He is as much against the liquor bill as I am against the liquor bill and there is one thing I would point out to the Majority Party today, that all Democrats are not necessarily "wet" Democrats. Two years from now the question will certainly come up before election.

Another thing I would like to point out. As I understand this bill, there will be sale of beer under this. We have beaches all along the coast. Presumably the young people will be tempted to drink a little beer. I know I see beer cans here and there and I can picture what our beaches are going to look like. Is it going to improve things on Sunday? Again, I can't say anything other than I said the other day that to me Sunday means something and this takes away just a little more.

A third thing, we have been six years now working on a Sunday law as it applies to stores and finally we reached the point where it is pretty nearly accepted. There are a few exceptions and yet we come along with this bill and we allow the sale of liquor in Class A restaurants. We allow the sale of beer. Everything is wide open. Is this what we want? It doesn't seem as though it is a step in the right direction for the State of Maine. I have nothing further to say and I ask for a division.

Mr. JACQUES of Androscoggin: Mr. President, I would like to remind the good lady, Mrs. Sproul of Lincoln, that four years ago the Republicans were in the majority party and they did pass a liquor bill. Mr. President, every-

thing has been said about Class A restaurants, hotels, and everything except for the grocery store. Naturally the grocery stores which are allowed under this bill to sell beer on Sunday are not able to have lobbyists, big paid lobbyists. This time the industry is agreed that this bill should go through to include grocery stores also. There is nothing wrong with buying beer in a grocery store on Sunday or on Saturday. They are going to have it. They are going to have it on the beach the same as they do now, Saturday and Sunday. They have it on the beach on Sunday at present because they can buy it Saturday night.

Mr. President, this is not the idea so far as the grocery store is concerned. That is to allow people who, for instance, might have company; people who normally don't drink during the week and they might have company and think, "Well, I'll have to treat them if they are coming into my home". And they are not allowed to buy it so they have to go down to the grocery store and under this bill they would be allowed to buy it. I can't see anything wrong in looking out for the little fellow. The big fellows can look out for themselves. Let's look out for the little fellow for a while.

The PRESIDENT: The question before the Senate is the enactment of this bill, An Act Relating to Sunday Sale of Liquor. A division has been requested.

A division of the Senate was had.

Twenty-one having voted in the affirmative and eight opposed, the bill was passed to be enacted.

Mr. JACQUES of Androscoggin: Mr. President, I move that the Senate reconsider its action whereby the bill was passed to be enacted; and I hope when the vote is taken, the Senate will vote against my motion.

Thereupon, a viva voce was had and the motion to reconsider did not prevail.

Emergency

Bill, "An Act Authorizing Town of Island Falls to Construct Cer-