

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

One Hundred and Seventh Legislature

(First Special Session)

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1976

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Searsport Water District (H. P. 1837) (L. D. 2002)

Were reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed, passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Finally Passed

Resolve Authorizing and Directing the Director of the Bureau of Public Lands to Permit Great Northern Paper Company to Cut and Remove Wood from Township 6, Range 11, W.E.L.S. (H. P. 1803) (L. D. 1962) (C. "A" H-856)

Was reported by the Committee on Engrossed Bills as truly and strictly engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Connolly.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if some member of the committee or the sponsor of the bill or someone who knows about the bill might explain what it is about and what the amendment does.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Portland, Mr. Connolly, has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to answer.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nobleboro, Mr. Palmer.

Mr. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: You may recall that as a result of the work of the Committee on Public Land, at the last regular session of the legislature a great deal of work was done in trying to get back from the various companies the cutting rights which had gone years and years ago. As a result of the work, some serious negotiations between the then head of the Bureau of Public Lands, Mr. Barringer, and the Great Northern Paper Company, an arrangement was made which we verified, passed here and approved in the regular session of the legislature, which was an exchange of land, a very valuable exchange, as a matter of fact, favorable to the State of Maine. You recall that Dr. Barringer, in consultation with the various agencies of government, Public Lands, Bureau of Parks, Forestry and all, arrived at this conclusion, and we approved that in regular session.

Part of that agreement — and I wish I had it on my desk this morning, I could perhaps explain it better, but part of the agreement allowed that for a period of time the Great Northern would have the right to cut stumpage off a certain area which was part of the exchange. That was part of the agreement. When the agreement was finalized and we had approved it, the Internal Revenue Service said that they would not approve the agreement if this approval of cutting stumpage for free in this particular area was included, that they could not include it. There would be some serious problems for Great Northern taxwise. So, finally, before it was approved, Great Northern dropped from it, unilaterally, that section which dealt with what Maine gave them as a right to cut on this particular area.

This now is a bill sponsored jointly by the Speaker and myself which simply goes back and helps us now to finally consummate that deal. We are saying in effect that we now are giving Great Northern the right to cut in this area, which we originally intended to give them in the first place but which could not be given because of IRS rules and regulations.

It does nothing to change the original

agreement made between Great Northern and the Bureau of Public Lands; it finalizes the entire deal.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Waterville, Mr. Carey.

Mr. CAREY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As a member of that committee, we went over the arrangements that had been made with Great Northern. As the gentleman from Nobleboro, Mr. Palmer, said, the land was much more valuable than we got than we gave, so there was an \$8 per cord trade for 25,000 cord of wood out of the hundred thousand. That was acceptable to both parties.

One of the things that we did do, however, in the agreement the word 12½ inch diameter breast height had been left out on the cutting of the spruce. I was particularly concerned that they might go in and just clear cut, so we talked to the Vice President of Great Northern and he said he had no objection at that time to putting that back in, since it was in the original agreement, and the amendment covers that. They will not be able to cut spruce under 12½ inch diameter breast height, but they can cut fir of all sizes, and that was in the original agreement.

Thereupon, the Resolve was finally passed, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day

The Chair laid before the House the first tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act to Permit Executive Sessions in Certain Labor Negotiations" (H. P. 1891) (L. D. 2071) In House, referred to the Committee on Labor January 23, 1976. In Senate, referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in non-concurrence.

(Committee on Reference of Bills suggested Committee on Legal Affairs.)

Tabled — January 27 by Mr. Rolde of York.

Pending — Further Consideration.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Mr. Rolde.

Mr. ROLDE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: After having conferred with the sponsor of the bill and members of the Labor Committee, I now move that we recede and concur.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Rolde of York, the House voted to recede and concur.

The Chair laid before the House the second tabled and today assigned matter:

House Report — "Ought Not to Pass" — Committee on Local and County Government on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Relating to County Budgets" (H. P. 1818) (L. D. 1976)

Tabled — (Under suspension of the rules) January 27 by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

Pending — Placing in the Legislative Files.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Skowhegan, Mr. Dam.

Mr. DAM: Mr. Speaker, I move this be recommitted to the Committee on Local and County Government. This was reported out in error by the Committee on Local and County Government.

The SPEAKER: Pursuant to the information of the Chairman of the Committee, the Chair orders the matter recommitted to the Committee on Local and County Government without further action.

The Chair laid before the House the third tabled and today assigned matter:

An Act to Clarify Certain Provisions Relating to the Establishment of Hospital District No 1 (H. P. 1835) (L. D. 2000)

Tabled — January 27 by Mr. MacEachern of Lincoln.

Pending — Passage to be Enacted.

Thereupon, the Bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Mr. Walker of Island Falls, Adjourned until nine-thirty tomorrow morning.