

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

***One Hundred and Fifth
Legislature***

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume III

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**KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

of my constituents mentioned to me, he said, "You know, if that is the worst that they can concoct against you down there, you may not be in very bad shape at all."

I regret very much that this very able and distinguished columnist was victimized by publishing such a patently ridiculous statement. As I say, I have no bitterness. After all, only my honor and integrity were involved in this story. Of course, those of us who are poor in personal assets, that may be all we have, but we have to risk a great deal to serve the public. However, I am confident that this error will be corrected, and I look forward to mentioning this distinguished columnist again and how proud I am to know him when I go back to address the Presque Isle High School students next year, and I am sure that he will make proper amends once these facts have been brought to his attention. Thank you very much.

Mr. Katz of Kennebec was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate:

Mr. KATZ: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I want to express my gratitude to the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Harding, for making these remarks this morning because I have to admit that I was really taken aback when I read of the supposed deal, and I say these words sincerely, because it was so out of character, as I know the gentleman, for him to have made such a deal and stand up and make such an effective speech on the other hand. So I am glad to hear it.

I was shaken by two disillusionments on the occasion of reading that. Frankly, I am disillusioned about the direction the vote on the big box has taken, and I was disillusioned reading about the supposed deal on Senator Harding. I am still disillusioned about the big box. And if I get disillusioned about supposed deals in government, I want you to know that

my constituents feel it even more deeply than I do. I want you to know that I am to some degree less proud of being a member of state government today because of the performance of the Governor on this big box deal. I am not speaking for my party; I am speaking for myself as a member of this body and the other body for many, many years, and to some degree I have a feeling that my office and my participation in state government has been degraded by the little shenanigans that are going on between the legal profession and the Governor this week and last.

You will remember that when the question of the income tax referendum came up during the regular session. I have been pretty much a key figure in throwing the income tax down the throat of the people, and at the time it was at a substantial personal injury to myself. I offended the sensibilities and the deep convictions of many members of my party, and yet when it came up for referendum I stood before you and said that I would have no partnership whatsoever in any shenanigans, any cute little deals, any challenging of votes, any putting out cute little questions on the same ballot with the income tax so that the will of the people could be confused. I have a tremendous respect for the right of the people to express themselves in government, and the people justified themselves when it came to the income tax vote. And I feel, as I said, just a little degraded, just a little less proud, that the people apparently are not going to get their day in court with respect to this other referendum until long after the fact next November.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion by Mr. Hoffses of Knox,

Adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.