

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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But I still go along with the philosophy that you buy a car out of your savings account and you run it out of your checking account, and this is one time when we would give the chance, even by giving the University of Maine some money, we have a chance to save almost that same amount of money we give them out of interest, and still leave some money in the bank.

And the other reason I want to tell you is this. This needs two thirds of the membership present to pass, and it also needs to be passed by the public. I want to see the University of Maine get something and I can assure you of one thing right now, when this thing hits the electorate in November it is doomed because of the fact that our masons have worked for it and I signed the report "ought to pass" here, but when you have got money in your pocket it is no time to go around borrowing money and paying interest on it. I have a sheet here with me which shows us as of January 31, 1970, \$8.47 million in surplus.

If we are going to spend \$11 million now and these figures here come anywhere near going to where they are going to be, we will have nearly \$20 million. And if we spend \$11 million here and we give them \$4 or \$5 million out of surplus, we would save the interest money, we would save the cost of a referendum and we would assure the University of Maine of some money. Because if this thing goes before the public at \$8.3 million, I can assure you of one thing it is a dead dodo.

I shall vote for the measure as it stands; when it comes time, however, for the two thirds it might be a different story with me. But I am thoroughly convinced we have money in the bank and we should not go out borrowing. That is the worst type of finance, number one; number two, the other worst type of financing is financing monies of a recurring nature through our surplus. We have done that to a point now where we are hooked into practically a major tax at the next session. We are in a real trouble when we come back here, and for those who might come back here I

would like to have the blows less painful.

I think the Appropriations Committee took the wrong direction in this thing. I went along with them, I didn't want to be arbitrary, but the fact of the matter, it was more than just lightly discussed by the membership and it is more than lightly discussed in my own mind.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Casco, Mr. Hancock.

Mr. HANCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I move this matter be tabled for one legislative day.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Casco, Mr. Hancock moves that L. D. 2001 be tabled for one legislative day pending the motion of the gentleman from Enfield, Mr. Dudley that it be indefinitely postponed. Is this the pleasure of the House?

(Cries of "No")

The Chair will order a vote. All in favor of tabling will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken.

87 having voted in the affirmative and 33 having voted in the negative, the motion to table did prevail.

Mr. Ross of Bath was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mr. ROSS: The Supreme Court of the State of Maine last night rendered its decision on the ballot reform referendum. I will not belabor this issue, even though it is my favorite topic. However, we have almost talked the subject to death.

Today you have all received copies of this decision. It is a nine page decision and I will briefly highlight the report. The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, said it was the duty of the Governor to issue the proclamation immediately on the ballot reform referendum. It added that Governor Curtis's decision to hold the election in November was forbidden by mandate of the Constitution.

The time span exceeding six months was not a reasonably short time, as spelled out in the Constitu-

tion. Now, the Court did not issue an order under a writ of mandamus against the Governor. But they pointed out the law, they pointed out his duty, and they left the decision to his conscience.

Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake was granted unanimous consent to address the House:

Mr. MARTIN: Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: For the past two weeks, people in my corner and myself in particular, have felt rather harassed by some of the remarks made on and off the record about the so-called Monks ballot.

I expressed at that time a desire and feeling that the decision be left to the Court of the state. It is my personal feeling that certain individuals were merely attempting to get ink on the newspapers of the state, in attacking the Governor, in attacking the Democrats, in attacking the motives of individuals unjustly.

I have no objections whatsoever with the fact that the gentleman from Bath today indicated that the record and the Court decision had been handed down and we now have it in front of us. But I only wish that for the past two weeks, when all of this was in Court, that nothing had been said. It would seem to me much better in the long run. There is no question as a result of this Court decision that the decision of whether or not the question goes to the people in June, in May or in July or in November or next year, lies in the hands of the Governor.

I can assure you that he will make the decision and that it will be public and all of us will see it. But I repeat, I only wish during all of this time, we might have been spared a little bit of rhetoric.

(Off Record Remarks)

Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston was granted unanimous consent to address the House.

Mr. JALBERT: Now, Mr. Speaker, somewhere along the line, there are some people that just can't get on their feet without taking a personal cut at somebody. And I am about ready to serve notice that I have been known to do pretty well to shoot sharp curves somewhere along the line. But this morning, being a mild-mannered man, I will let it go at that.

The gentleman from Wayne, Mr. Ault, makes comment about the fact that I moved to indefinitely postpone a measure which would charge the press for rental, which probably would amount to \$150-\$200 a month. I previously made a motion to kill a bill that would spend \$450,000 of the State's money, just about ten minutes before I made the motion to kill the amendment that we charge the press. I would like to ask the gentleman if he wants to answer, from Wayne, Mr. Ault, how he voted to save \$450,000.

On motion of Mr. Porter of Lincoln,

Adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.