

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Fourth  
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

**Volume III**

June 17, 1969 to July 2, 1969

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**1st Special Session**

January 6, 1970 to February 7, 1970

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committees like the Governor's Task Force.

In this instance the Governor's Task Force met over a period of two years, spending hundreds of hours in plenary sessions and additional hours meeting in small groups. They reviewed and discussed the operations of the administrative branch with the personnel in charge of just about every department and agency in the State. They spent hours drafting sections of the report and revising these various drafts. A thorough up-to-date proposal was prepared, and finally this proposal that we have before us was made.

It is important to note that they did all of this without any compensation whatsoever and, for that matter, none of their expenses were paid. I am told that on a few occasions, on two occasions at least, they met in Augusta and were served a free lunch. Apart from this though, their time and their traveling expense was all voluntarily given by these individuals for the welfare of the State.

It strikes me as something close to ingratitude for a member of the Legislature to characterize the work of these private citizens as a Democratic Party document. As a matter of fact, in the early months of the Task Force work our present Deputy Secretary of State, Denny Shute, was an active member. A very valuable, scholarly, historical section of this report was prepared by an outstanding Republican and distinguished former member of the Waterville City Council, Mr. Sidney Farr.

Among the members of the Task Force was one of the most distinguished students of public administration in this country, Dr. Oliver Garceau, who we are all proud to have now as a resident of Sedgwick, Maine. Those of us who are familiar with Dr. Garceau, we know that he can command impressive fees for his consulting work with state, local and the national government. Yet he devoted his time to this task force, with no reimbursement for even out-of-pocket expenses.

Dr. Mawhinney, Chairman of the Political Science Department of

the University of Maine, is well known for his expert independent knowledge of state government, and he also participated vigorously in this task.

The eminent Dean of the University of Maine Law School and the President of the University of Maine in Orono were also active members of the Task Force, as were two leaders of the League of Women Voters of the State. Other members of the Task Force were prominent Maine businessmen.

Now, I know, and I know the members of the Senate know, that these men and women would not lend their names and their reputation to a partisan hatchet job. I think it comes as close to insult as possible to suggest that these private citizens would do nothing other than to sincerely and objectively appraise the state of our government organization here in Maine.

As Legislators, we are free to do what we want with proposals from the Governor's office. We can do what we want with these proposals as they relate to this Citizens' Task Force. But I do think that we owe all of these men and women who served the State at least a vote of thanks.

Let me close by asking the good Senator from Cumberland County, Senator Berry, and his friends that why is it over the years the Republican Party has fought every attempt to modernize our State Government and bring down the cost of running a mammoth empire? Why do they always line up on the side of the bureaucrats? Why do they always side with the vested interests who ought to be regulated and controlled, but who end up regulating themselves? Thank you.

#### **Papers From the House Non-concurrent Matter**

Bill, "An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Deductions for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1970 and June 30, 1971." (S. P. 658) (L. D. 1842)

In the Senate February 4, 1970, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-428).

Comes from the House, Passed to be Engrossed, in non-concurrence.

Mr. Berry of Cumberland then moved that the Senate Insist and Request a Committee of Conference.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Cumberland, Senator Berry, moves that the Senate insist and request a committee of conference.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Dunn.

Mr. DUNN of Oxford: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: This item was considered and was not included in the budget because of the uncertain completion date of the building across the way. So, I move that we recede and concur.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Oxford, Senator Dunn, moves that the Senate recede and concur with the House. Is the Senate ready for the question? As many Senators as are in favor of receding and concurring with the House will say "Yes"; those opposed will say "No".

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed.

#### Enactors

The Committee on Engrossed Bills reports as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

An Act Clarifying Laws Relating to the University of Maine. (S. P. 632) (L. D. 1804)

Which was Passed to be Enacted and, having been signed by the President, was by the Secretary presented to the Governor for his approval.

The President laid before the Senate the matter tabled earlier in today's session, by Mr. Martin of Piscataquis:

HOUSE REPORTS — From the Committee on Taxation on Bill, "An Act Increasing State Tax in Unorganized Territory, relieving Elderly Persons from Property Tax and to Study the Assessment of Taxes in Unorganized Territory." (H. P. 1406) (L. D. 1762) Majority Report, Ought to Pass in New Draft, under New Title Bill, "An Act Increasing State Tax in Unorganized Territory." (H. P. 1448) (L. D. 1824); Minority Report, Ought Not to Pass.

Tabled — February 3, 1970 by Senator Katz of Kennebec.

Pending — Acceptance of Either Report.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Piscataquis, Senator Martin.

Mr. MARTIN of Piscataquis: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: This bill is the bill that has had a few knocks and bumps in the last few weeks. It has had a very hard time right from the beginning. This is the bill that will increase the wildlands tax from fifteen mills to twenty-five mills. It will also dedicate these funds to a tax relief for the elderly program.

This will affect property in our unorganized townships, of which we have four hundred within the State. This comprises an area of eight and a half million taxable acres, of which eight million acres are owned by a group of thirty-eight companies. Ten companies own 4.8 million acres. The tax rate is currently fifteen mills. In 1933, the tax rate was seven and a quarter mills. It was increased in 1962 to eleven mills. It was further increased in 1965 to fifteen mills.

This bill had a great deal of sympathy and a great deal of accord in the past few weeks, but has lost quite a bit of support due to the powerful lobbying and the powerful control, as Senator Beliveau from Oxford mentioned a while ago, from the bureaucrats.

This will provide funds for a relief to the elderly person. I really don't think that there is anyone in this body that denies the fact that the elderly person needs tax relief with the low income some of them are now receiving.

As a comparison, this fifteen mills compares to anywhere from a low twenty mills to a high two hundred mills in the organized towns. Out of these four hundred townships we have three hundred and sixty townships with twenty-five mills.

The whole thing to me is ridiculous to let a condition like this continue to exist, to let the powers that be continue to have control