

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

Conference Committee Amendment "A" (H-1269) and Pass the Bill to be Engrasped as Amended by Conference Committee Amendment "A" in concurrence.

On the part of the House:

USHER of Westbrook
STROUT of Corinth

On the part of the Senate:

JACKSON of Cumberland
CUMMINGS of Penobscot
GRAHAM of Cumberland

Comes from the House, the report Read and Accepted.

Which report was Read.

Mr. McNally of Hancock moved that the Senate accept the Committee of Conference Report.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President, I would like to call the attention of the Senate to page No. 3 of the Committee of Conference Report, under Section 6, No. 6, it says: "Hunting Stamp Required. It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt or have in possession any pheasant unless at the time of such hunting or possession he has on his person an unexpired Maine pheasant hunting stamp validated by his signature written across the face of the stamp in ink."

I don't want to prolong this agony, Mr. President and Members of the Senate, but I do notice that within the amendment it states very clearly that there shall be a fee of \$3.25, 25 cents of which shall be retained by the agent and shall be exhibited to any warden or employee of the department upon request. I would honestly think that if you were going to validate this section of the bill that you should actually say that the warden himself should pay the \$3.25, because it is only the warden and his friends that are ever going to capture any pheasants. But I will sit down and keep quiet and let the people of the state get hooked again.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. President, I am interested in Section 7 of this amendment on page 4, regarding servicemen permanently stationed in Maine. I would like to pose a question to any member of the committee who might be able to answer it as to whether or not Maine citizens who are stationed elsewhere and return to Maine need to purchase an in-state, an out-of-state, or no license at all in order to hunt or fish in Maine, if they are in the United States military?

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Pray.

Mr. PRAY: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: In response to the question, there is another section in the law, Section 2401, which pertains to Maine people serving in the military, and they can purchase a license for a \$2 fee, a combination hunting and fishing license.

Last year I put in a bill which repealed the servicemen's right to buy licenses at a resident's fee, and the good Senator from Aroostook, Senator Gahagan, put an amendment on which gave it back to them, in which there were some wording problems, and that is why this appears again.

The PRESIDENT: The pending motion before the Senate is the motion by the Senator from Hancock, Senator McNally, that the Senate accept the Committee of Conference Report.

Is this the pleasure of the Senate?

The motion prevailed.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill, "An Act Redistributing the Powers of the Executive Council." (H. P. 1997) (L. D. 2197)

In the Senate April 9, 1976, Passed to be Enacted, in non-concurrence.

Comes from the House, Passed to be Engrosed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1115), as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (H-1115), and House Amendments "A" (H-1166), "C" (H-1183), "E" (H-1191) and "G" (H-1241) and Senate Amendments "B" (S-524), "D" (S-529) and "C" (S-526), as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" Thereto (S-532), in non-concurrence.

Mr. Graham of Cumberland moved that the Senate Recede and Concur.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. President, I ask for a division on this question and I hope the pending motion does not prevail, because if it were to prevail, we would be in a position where we would be changing our previously stated position that we oppose the addition for confirmation purposes in the future of two groups: the Committee on Aging, comprised of seventeen members, and the Maine Human Services Council, comprised of fifteen members, making a total of an additional thirty-two new people, additional people, who would be required to go through the rather extensive confirmation process.

I would point out, Mr. President, that according to the statutes, Title 22, Section 5112 — and I will read only one sentence from this provision which refers to the Committee on Aging: "The committee shall be solely advisory in nature." Mr. President, I think this is an important point in consideration by the Senate, because if we get involved in a situation in which we are providing that members of advisory committees and committees of lesser importance than department heads, judges, and people who are involved in semi-judicial positions, such as the Public Utilities Commission, are required to be confirmed by the appropriate joint standing committee of the legislature and the full Senate on a roll call vote, then we are going to, I think, over the long run subvert the intent of the people last year and of this legislature last year in trying to simplify the process and make it more accountable for purposes of appointments so that the Governor can effectively administer this state government, except in those very important positions which require Senate confirmation.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: As a member of this body, I voted the other day for the enactment of this piece of legislation, and to be honest with you, I would like to see this bill enacted into law.

I can recall that a few weeks ago the body at the other end of the hall took a very serious step which I considered to be a dangerous step, and that was on the motion to adhere on the criminal code, and I think all of us today realize exactly what that motion did.

However, I feel it is important that we do enact this piece of legislation redistributing the powers of the executive council. I am afraid if this bill is not enacted we will have no law at all and the chief executive of this state will be able to operate with no confirmation by anyone. So it would be, I think, just good common sense today to recede and concur with the other body and pass this bill along.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill.

Mr. MERRILL: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I would just like to briefly add my voice to those who are asking for a motion to recede and concur, and admit in doing so that I think I agree with the logic of the Chairman of the State Government Committee, the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis. If I was writing this bill all by myself, I think I would

agree that these positions shouldn't have to go through the confirmation process. I might say though that due to the work of that State Government Committee we have reached agreement on many, many complicated areas that I thought were going to be thorny problems last session when we passed this bill.

I think what we are discussing now really is a very small aspect of the bill. We have already cut down the number of people that have to be confirmed by several, several hundred, and I think that if people are worried about opening the door — and I think that is the problem with people as they look at this rather small infringement on the 150 that State Government has got it down to, they are worried about opening the door and having more in the future — I think that as experience goes by and as the legislature deals with the confirmation process, and realizes its limitations and the fact that it should be saved for more serious matters, I think that the thrust is going to be to have less positions that have to go through the confirmation process. I guess what I am saying is that the weight of our experience or the weight of the experience of the 108th when it starts dealing with these will be to cut back anyway.

I note that an amendment that has been on this bill before in the House, that was defeated specifically here in the Senate, isn't on here, so there is a compromise position I think that is offered as it comes back, and I would hope that we could see to it that the bill would pass, and get it passed as soon as we can, and hope that this week before it comes to an end on the calendar it can come to an end here.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Graham.

Mr. GRAHAM: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I want to congratulate the Chairman of the State Government Committee, Senator Curtis from Penobscot, who has done a magnificent job in cutting down the number of appointments that do require confirmation. We have cut down that number by two-thirds, so even if this bill goes through with the House Amendments, it will have less than 200 appointments requiring confirmation. So I urge you to accept my motion to adhere or to recede and concur.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. President, if this were not a matter that I considered of such importance from the point of view of establishing a legislative policy as to what types of positions should be confirmed, I would not oppose this amendment so adamantly. We are talking about an amendment that provides for thirty-two new positions for confirmation. The Committee on Aging positions are three-year positions. That means that every three years an additional five members, not counting the two members who are legislators, but an additional five members will be up for confirmation. I have been told that those members' appointments expire in October. Now, what adding this type of committee, and this committee in particular, to the confirmation process would mean is that either the committee would operate for a number of months with only two-thirds of its membership, from October at least until January, or that the legislature, at least the joint standing committee that is involved, which would be the joint standing committee on Health and Institutional Services, and the full Senate would have to be called into special session.

I submit to you again it is very important that we consider the policy that is being established. Judges of this state serve terms of office of seven years. Most commissioners serve terms of office coterminous with the Governor. They will be coming into office when a new Governor is elected and many of them, most of them probably, will stay the full four-year term. The

legislature will be in session anyway when those nominations are posted. But when we get into the question of some of these staggered committees — and as soon as we establish the principle of adding the Committee on Aging and the Maine Human Services Council, then the LEAA Committee and some of the others that we have seen suggested will be right along next year saying what is the difference between our committee and the one you have already decided to have confirmation for — as soon as we get into that position. I suggest that we have subverted the entire intent of the constitutional amendment that we have worked so hard for.

The other thing I would like to suggest is that if this committee or perhaps the chairman or some part of it is that important, then the full legislature can reconsider the matter next January, and any time that two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate agree, a new position can be added or a position can be deleted. But I think we ought to establish the principle today.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I would point out that the good Senator has made a very emphatic statement, a very important statement, that the legislature next January can very well reconsider its position. It may be reconsidering its position on the entire matter, and I think really in many cases it is good enough to come across with half a loaf of bread rather than a full loaf.

I would also point out to the Senate that both the membership of the Committees on Aging and Human Services stay on board until their successor has been confirmed, so in the event that this does not pass they are going to be there anyway, and I just think it is important that we recede and concur with the House.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill.

Mr. MERRILL: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I think it is clear that I agree if it were up to me that I wouldn't put these positions in, but I have to say that I think it is a little inaccurate to suggest that what we have here is a pristine and pure bill where strict policy decisions have been made right down the line and now we have something that falls outside of those strict policy decisions. There are many matters of judgment as to what should be confirmed and what shouldn't be confirmed. As I understand it, the purchasing agent of the state has to be confirmed under this bill, there are some bureau directors that have to be and some bureau directors that don't have to be. These are matters of judgment. And I think I agree with the judgment of the chairman of the committee in this case, but I think we have to yield some of our own positions in reaching an opinion that is in agreement between the two bodies.

I might just suggest that if we keep this bill out of concurrence long enough we can spend more time debating this one small point in a very big bill than it would take to confirm these people for the next biennium.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Graham.

Mr. GRAHAM: Mr. President, I garbled my last statement a bit. I meant to say that I hope we adhere to my motion to recede and concur, and I ask for a roll call.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Berry.

Mr. BERRY: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: I always feel there is a message transmitted by the individuals who take positions on different bills. As I sit back here in the left wing of the Senate Chamber and watch the Senators from Cumberland rise in measured cadence, and I am from Cumberland too, I say to myself I must be in error if I do not share the

views of Senators Conley, Merrill, and Graham. These gentlemen are never in the rear of efforts to do good, and I frequently take my message from the paths that they blaze.

However, it is my understanding — and I hope I am corrected if I am wrong — that what we are really talking about is an effort on the part of some in the legislature to keep their fingers in the pie when the new set-up is put in effect of replacing the Governor's Council by the Senate for confirmation purposes.

I note that the committee which would handle the two issues we are talking about today, the Health and Institutional Services Committee, is composed of eight Democrats and five Republicans. And if one were to take the worst supposition and figure that confirmations and proposals which might be accepted by the committee would be based on partisan lines, then of course the nominees to these two committees would be of personalities favorable to the Democrats involved. I don't think this would happen but it is a possibility.

I also think, far more seriously, that we have once again a dangerous precedent of the legislature getting into the executive department. There is a possibility here of stacking the committee by people who would do what the legislature, and in particular the Health and Institutional Services Committee, wants. I think this is a dangerous precedent.

I think that the chips are, as Senator Conley says, down, and I think that our willingness to continue to debate the seriousness involved in this question indicates that we are not just going to swallow this whole hog, but are going to take the time to very carefully analyze it, as Senator Curtis has indicated. So I would hope that with these thoughts in mind we would give this some more attention. It is far more important than just sloughing it off and saying let's get out of here by passing this. Let's not recede and concur, and then find the solution to the problem after we have taken that action.

The PRESIDENT: A roll call has been requested. In order for the Chair to order a roll call, it must be the expressed desire of one-fifth of those Senators present and voting. Will all those Senators in favor of a roll call please rise in their places until counted.

Obviously more than one-fifth having arisen, a roll call is ordered. The pending question before the Senate is the motion by the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Graham, that the Senate recede and concur with the House. A "Yes" vote will be in favor of receding and concurring; a "Nay" vote will be opposed.

The Secretary will call the roll.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Senators Berry, E.; Carboneau, Conley, Cyr, Danton, Graham, Marcotte, Merrill, O'Leary, Pray, Reeves.

NAYS: Senators Berry, R.; Clifford, Collins, Corson, Cummings, Curtis, Gahagan, Graffam, Greeley, Huber, Jackson, Johnston, Katz, McNally, Roberts, Speers, Thomas, Trotzky, Wyman.

ABSENT: Senators Cianchette, Hichens.

A roll call was had, 11 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and 19 Senators having voted in the negative, with two Senators being absent, the motion did not prevail.

Mr. Curtis of Penobscot then moved that the Senate Adhere.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill.

Mr. MERRILL: Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist and ask for a committee of conference, and I would like to speak to the motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator has the floor.

Mr. MERRILL: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: We have had a spectacle of debate here today which has run the gamut from the sublime to the ridiculous, the final

suggestion of course that the Democrats would be so presumptuous as to presume we are going to be in control next time and therefore have our policy based on that. I can sincerely say to the Senate that I don't care what becomes of this motion, but I do care what becomes of this bill. And I think that a motion to adhere right now is inappropriate, and I frankly hesitate to presume that there will be enough good will at the other end of the hall to keep this bill alive.

I don't think it is necessary, the areas of disagreement are so minor, and I think that it is inappropriate of a great body such as this to be so petty and so demanding of having its way, and having it when it wants it the way it wants it, as to let an important bill like this that represents so much work run the possibility of going down the drain just so that we can look tough. I think it would be an act of greatness on the part of the Senate to insist and join a committee of conference and see if we can't get some agreement.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. President, I don't really consider the matter before us petty. And since reference has been made to consideration in the other branch, as I was coming in today I was surprised to hear my name being mentioned, and who I was having lunch with, in the debate in the other branch on this matter. I had lunch by myself in my car, eating a MacDonald's hamburger while driving down from Orono. Like I say, not that that was important to the bill; it is important that we consider the principle of the matter.

The two bodies that are under consideration here, the two committees, are both advisory. The statute referring to the Human Services Council states that the council shall be solely advisory in nature, and the statute referring to the duties and powers of the Committee on Aging states that the committee shall be solely advisory in nature. Mr. President, if we consider going in another direction in our confirmation process and consider confirming advisory committees, then the legislature will indeed be in session a long, long time in the future.

If there were any opportunity for substantial or meaningful compromise in this situation, I think I might agree with the previous speaker. But all of these committees are part-time. I think they serve at a salary of \$25 a day — the Committee on Aging does anyway, for days that they are actually working. This is the type of organization that the members are not full-time people: they are all volunteer people, except for the small salaries they receive which I mentioned, and it seems to me that if there would be some opportunity for change in position, then we would have seen it in the amendment when it came back to us. The amendment that came back to us, that we are debating here, is very, very similar to the one the Senate considered previously and also defeated. So I hope that we maintain our position and, as I suggest, the integrity of this piece of legislation.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill.

Mr. MERRILL: Mr. President and Members of the Senate: There has been some change, as far as I can see, already in that what I think was House Amendment "F" is no longer on the bill. I am ready to stand corrected. So I think there has been some movement at the other end already.

I just don't think that it is worth risking this whole bill over what I think anyone with perspective would have to admit is a relatively small point. I think that the chairman himself pointed out in the debate earlier that these matters weren't even brought up in the original discussions before the committee when he had asked for the input and that sort of thing, which I think indicates what a relatively unimportant

area of difference we are dealing with here. I think that it is playing very dangerously with some very difficult compromises and very difficult committee work that has been put together. And I say once again I don't care a hoot about the fate of this amendment, but I do care about the fate of this bill. Harry Truman once said of his presidency that he spent about 80 percent of his time convincing people to do what was in their best interests. I look upon my role in this debate today as having that relative position to the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Curtis.

Mr. CURTIS: Mr. President, very briefly, I will reiterate what I mentioned on Friday, that the State Government Committee gave very careful consideration to all of the duties of the executive council, and in our report, which is dated February 6, 1976, there is an appendix of some eighteen pages. In that appendix you will find the consideration that the State Government Committee gave in session to each of the powers and the duties of the present executive council in all thirty-nine titles of the statutes and in the private laws. We gave it serious consideration, we considered both of these committees, and it was our determination that they were advisory committees in nature and they ought not to be subject to confirmation.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question? The pending question before the Senate is the motion by the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill, that the Senate insist and request a committee of conference with the House.

The Chair will order a division. Will all those Senators in favor of the motion of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Merrill, please rise in their places until counted. All those opposed to the motion will please rise in their places until counted.

A division was had, 12 having voted in the affirmative, and 19 having voted in the negative, the motion did not prevail.

Thereupon, the Senate voted to Adhere.

Under suspension of the rules, sent forthwith to the House.

Enactors

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

An Act Relating to the Geologists and Soil Scientists Certification Act. (H. P. 2240) (L. D. 2322)

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

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill, "An Act to Clarify the Election Laws." (H. P. 2293) (L. D. 2344)

In the Senate April 8, 1976, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-1230), in concurrence.

Comes from the House, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by House Amendments "A" and "D" (H-1270), in non-concurrence.

Thereupon, the Senate voted to Recede and Concur.

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill, "An Act Providing for Administrative Corrections in Tax Laws." (H. P. 2312) (L. D. 2349)

In the Senate April 9, 1976, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-1252), in concurrence.

Comes from the House, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by House Amendments "A" and "B" (H-1268), in non-concurrence.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Collins.

Mr. COLLINS: Mr. President, I would like to pose a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to answer. In looking at House Amendment "B", H-1268, I note that there has been introduced into this bill a provision that assessors, on their own knowledge or on written application, may make such abatements as they believe reasonable in the real or personal taxes of all persons who by reason of infirmity or poverty are, in the judgement of the assessors, unable to contribute to the public charges. I haven't worked on this bill or studied it particularly before, but it seems to me that this is a rather broad power given to assessors in this particular type of municipal unit, and I wonder if someone better versed could explain whether this is to be a universal authority given to assessors and, if so, whether there are any safeguards against, it seems to me, a rather shallow standard of whether you assess or you don't assess.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Cyr.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Cyr of Aroostook, tabled and Tomorrow Assigned, pending Consideration.

The President laid before the Senate the matter tabled earlier in today's session by Mr. Collins of Knox:

Bill, "An Act to Base Adjustments of Teacher and State Employee Retirement Allowances on the Consumer Price Index." (H. P. 1799) (L. D. 1958)

Pending — motion by Senator O'Leary of Oxford to Adhere.

Mr. Conley of Cumberland then moved that the Senate Insist and Join in a Committee of Conference.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Collins.

Mr. COLLINS: Mr. President, I would ask for a division and ask the Senate to vote against this motion. This matter was fully debated last Friday and it is the sort of thing that there isn't any real area of conference compromise. If we were going to make a radical decision to shift the standard for increasing benefits in the retirement laws, we would adopt this sort of thing. But as I pointed out last week, the unanimous opinion of the thirteen members of the Retirement Committee was that we ought to ask the actuaries who advise the system to study this problem and give an opinion to the 108th Legislature.

The cost of living index is a national index. As a rule, the City of Portland is the only place in the State of Maine that is used in measurements, and I am not convinced that this is the way to go with this mechanism, certainly not at this time, and certainly not until our own actuaries have been able to study the measurements thus suggested against the structuring our our system as it exists. I would ask you to defeat the motion to insist.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Senate ready for the question? The pending question before the Senate is the motion by the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley, that the Senate insist and join in a committee of conference with the House.

The Chair will order a division. Will all those Senators in favor of the motion by the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley, please rise in their places until counted.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President, I request a roll call.

The PRESIDENT: A roll call has been requested. In order for the Chair to order a roll call, it must be the expressed desire of one-fifth of those Senators present and voting. Will all those Senators in favor of a roll call please rise in their places until counted.

One-fifth having arisen, a roll call is ordered. The pending question before the Senate is the motion by the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley, that the Senate insist and join in a committee of conference with the House. A "Yes" vote will be in favor of insisting and joining in a committee of conference; a "Nay" vote will be opposed.

The Secretary will call the roll.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Senators Berry, E.; Berry, R.; Conley, Danton, Graffam, Graham, Greeley, Marcotte, Merrill, Pray, Reeves, Roberts.

NAYS: Senators Carbonneau, Clifford, Collins, Corson, Cummings, Curtis, Cyr, Gahagan, Hichens, Huber, Jackson, Johnston, Katz, McNally, O'Leary, Speers, Thomas, Trotzky, Wyman.

ABSENT: Senator Cianchette.

A roll call was had, 12 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and 19 Senators having voted in the negative, with one Senator being absent, the motion did not prevail.

The PRESIDENT: Is it now the pleasure of the Senate to adhere?

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President, once in a lifetime you will notice that the good Senator from Cumberland, Senator Berry, and I are on the same side, and I couldn't let this moment go by without pointing it out. And I think all of you have made a very, very bad mistake.

The PRESIDENT: Is it now the pleasure of the Senate to adhere?

Thereupon, the Senate voted to Adhere.

There being no objection, all matters previously acted upon in today's session requiring concurrence were sent down forthwith for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Speers of Kennebec, Recessed until the sound of the bell.

After Recess

Called to order by the President.

Papers from the House

Out of order and under suspension of the rules, the Senate voted to take up the following:

Non-concurrent Matter

Bill, "An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine." (S. P. 799) (L. D. 2345)

In the Senate April 12, 1976, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Senate Amendments "B" (S-548), "C" (S-552), "D" (S-553), "E" (S-554), "F" (S-556), "G" (S-557), "H" (S-558), "I" (S-559), "J" (S-560), "K" (S-561), "L" (S-562) and "M" (S-566) and House Amendments "B" (H-1242), "C" (H-1243), "D" (H-1244), "E" (H-1248), "H" (H-1261), "I" (H-1262), "J" (H-1263), "K" (H-1264), "L" (H-1265), "M" (H-1266) and "N" (H-1267), in non-concurrence.

Comes from the House, Passed to be Engrossed as Amended by Senate Amendments "B", "C", "D", "E", "G", "H", "I", "J", "K", "L" and "M" and House Amendments "B", "C", "D", "E", "H", "I", "J", "K", "L", "M", "N", "O" (H-1272), "P" (H-1273) and "Q" (H-1274), in non-concurrence.

Mr. Collins of Knox moved that the Senate Recede and Concur.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Conley.

Mr. CONLEY: Mr. President, I am concerned about House Amendment "P" that has been added to the bill in the other body dealing with school buses. It seems to me if this amendment is to stay on the bill that it would put the Greater Portland Transit District right out of business, that is, as far as transporting children to and from school, and it is the only type of bus that the greater Portland area has. Because of my concern and reservation for that, I would move that the Senate recede.