

LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

One Hundred And Seventeenth Legislature

OF THE

State Of Maine

VOLUME II

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives May 24, 1995 to June 30, 1995 was assigned for second reading Tuesday, June 20, 1995.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Friday, June 16, 1995, have preference in the Orders of the Day and continue with such preference until disposed of as provided by Rule 24.

Preference until disposed of as provided by Rule 24. An Act to Amend the Real Estate Laws Concerning Validation of Defects (H.P. 1059) (L.D. 1488) TABLED – June 13, 1995 (Till Later Today) by Representative MITCHELL of Vassalboro.

PENDING - Passage to be Enacted.

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (10) "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-273) -Minority (3) "Ought Not to Pass" - Committee on Natural Resources on Bill "An Act Concerning Ring Holding Devices Used in Packaging" (H.P. 940) (L.D. 1329)

TABLED - June 13, 1995 (Till Later Today) by Representative JACQUES of Waterville.

PENDING - Motion of Representative GOULD of Greenville to accept the Majority "Ought to Pass" as amended Report.

On motion of Representative MITCHELL of Vassalboro, tabled pending the motion of Representative GOULD of Greenville to accept the Majority **"Ought to Pass"** as amended Report and later today assigned.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were ordered sent forthwith.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (10) "Ought Not to Pass" - Minority (3) "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-426) - Committee on State and Local Government on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Creating a Unicameral Legislature (H.P. 863) (L.D. 1194)

TABLED - June 14, 1995 by Representative DAGGETT of Augusta.

PENDING - Motion of same Representative to accept the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report. The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Lemke. Representative LEMKE: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women

Representative LEMKE: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: I urge you to vote against the pending motion so we can go on to vote for creation of an unicameral legislature, a one house legislature, of 101 members to go into effect after the next reapportionment. If you believe it is the time to cut the size of the legislature, this is the bill. It reduces this legislature from 186, one of the largest in the country, to 101. Whatever else, this is not a feel good bill, my friends, but it is necessary.

It would create a legislature more in accord with our population and our geography. It makes no sense, absolutely no sense, to have a bigger legislature than states with 15 times our population. This is my third term in this legislature and nothing, absolutely nothing in my experience shows that having such a bloated legislature serves any useful purpose.

Just as some of us need size reduction, so does the state house. L.D. 1194 as amended will do more however, than cut size. It will reform the way we do the people's business, big time. Just look around you. It is the middle of June and major business is unfinished. We are on the edge of shut down again. Is this Maine on the move? Is this the best we can do? This is my third term, as I said, and nothing has changed. Politics as usual, despite the expectations of the voters. Politics as usual despite the high hopes of newcomers for change. We all know it is time for change, but new people and minor tinkering isn't going to do it. We have got to get under the hood. We have got to do basic change.

L.D. 1194 by creating a one house legislature represents major structural substantive reform of the system. It is the only way to go. This is the biggest single reform bill you will have the opportunity to vote on this session. It is the big Kahuna. It is no gimmick. Indeed, I believe it is the ultimate antigimmick legislation, because my friends, unicameralism has been around a long time. It has an historical record and that record shows that it deals with basic problems and spells the reasons we are where we are today.

Unicameral legislatures are more focused. They have shorter sessions. They produce fewer bills. One house legislatures eliminate the bicameral games between the two houses, we are all too familiar with. Those games serve no purpose except to waste time, to waste money, to give the lobbyists an extra edge and to kill good bills. It is time to end the games and this will do it. One house legislatures eliminate the built in opportunity for gridlock in bicameral bodies and we all know that that opportunity is usually made reality. Unicameralism is antigridlock, big time.

If you really want a more efficient legislature and a more cost-effective system, at least 3 million dollars per, and if you really want a more accountable legislature, you should seriously consider this bill, vote for it and give the citizens a chance and an opportunity in referendum to vote for real legislative reform. It is an opportunity the people deserve.

Finally, if nothing else, do not consider this some professor's bill straight from the ivory tower. Let me tell you after 20 years of teaching government, if I was coming at you as an academic, I would talk the conventional wisdom for 20 years about bicameralism, where the system needs checks and balances. It produces better legislation, etc., etc., etc., as the King of Siam said. Well, that was before I came to the legislature. My practical experience as a legislator tells me that conventional wisdom is wrong. It is dead wrong. The checks and balances are a fable and this definitely isn't Maine on the move. It is time to reject politics as usual, but my friends, the time is running out.

I know it is hot in here, but it is going to be a lot hotter out there if we don't start to show the people of Maine that we have a willingness to set our own house in order. Let's start today. I urge you to vote against the status quo pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Daggett.

Representative DAGGETT: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: I would certainly be glad to agree with Representative Lemke that the bill that is in front of you would provide major structural change. However, I would like to let you know that when this bill was heard in front of the committee, there was no testimony other than the sponsor and cosponsors. There was no compelling evidence given that this would truly make things better. There were no statistics or facts given to show that it would be better.

I would submit to you that there are many, many ways that a legislature could be organized. Absent any compelling reasons to change, I can't imagine why we would do it. The suggestion was made that it is more cost effective. I would just submit to you that the one unicameral legislature in the United States, which is also a citizen, part-time legislature costs more than ours does. The cost is in staffing. In having a professional staff for the legislature, not in members' salaries. You would still need to have professional staff.

I would also ask that, if this is that terrific a mechanism for passing legislation, I wonder why Nebraska isn't considered the number one state in the union?

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative Murphy.

Representative MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Representative may pose his question.

Representative MURPHY: I see all kinds of statistics and comparisons here. I wonder if anyone did a comparison on the cost of this legislature and every other legislature in this country per capita person in the state? What do we cost each and every person in this state as compared with the other states?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Berwick, Representative Murphy has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Daggett.

Representative DAGGETT: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: When you are comparing costs of the legislature, you have to remember that there are certain economies of scale that a state with a very small population has certain basic services that have to be provided. A state with a large population has those same kinds of services. In order to make a very good comparison of cost, it is very difficult to do it by population. In the same way that we have school systems that are a certain size, they can deliver certain kinds of services and do things. It is very hard to compare the per capita costs of the legislature and have that be any indication of the kind of work that that body does.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative O'Gara.

Representative O'GARA: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I have several comments I would like to make, but I would like to respond to the previous question as well. In spite of the fact and these figures are about two years old now on the Nebraska legislature and I realize the sponsor is going to tell you that he is not copying this after the Nebraska legislature, but, in fact, it is still the only unicameral system in the country, so if it is not being copied after it as unicameral, I am not sure what it is being copied after, unless we are talking about city councils and that is kind of not very much in tune with what we are talking about.

In fact, the governmental spending in the State of Nebraska is considerably more per capita than it is in the State of Maine. In Nebraska they spend per capita \$3,813 to run their state legislature as opposed to Maine's \$3,300. On the other hand, the debt in Nebraska per capita is over \$1,000 more per capita than it is in the State of Maine.

In truth and in fact, the cost of running the Nebraska legislature has grown dramatically every single year. To give you an example, just four years ago in 1991 or whatever it was, the Nebraska state budget for its legislature was 10 million dollars, a little over 10 million dollars. In the four years since, its budget for this year, the same year we are in, is 14 million, a little over 14 million, in just that 3 1/2 year period. Our budget is a little over 1 million dollars less than the budget in Nebraska. They have 49 members in their legislature. We have 186.

I am not very good at math, ladies and gentlemen, but when they start talking about it being more economical, even I, who am a nonmath person would have a hard time understanding how for 49 legislators in Nebraska their budget in 1995 is over 14 million dollars and ours is around 13 million. It is a little over a million dollars less than in Nebraska for 186 legislators. As far as representation, I know and you know and even the freshmen legislators here who tell me on a regular basis about the paperwork, the constituent calls, phone calls, letters and the work that you have to do to respond to the demands of the public. It doesn't get any less. It gets worse. We are 186.

Every person in this state has two people that represent him or her in the Maine legislature, one in the Senate and one in the House. You go to 101 members in one body, then they have one representative. I have said this before and I will say it again, the City of Westbrook, where I live, could easily be represented by one representative. Obviously I would hope that that would be me. It could be done by one representative. The City of Portland could probably go from eight to five. The City of South Portland could probably go from this number down to two or three. It is not too difficult to do in southern Maine, but I submit to you that I am not a northern legislator, I represent my district, but I also represent the State of Maine.

When you begin moving north of Bangor, ladies and gentlemen of the House, I ask you what kind of citizen representation are you going to be able to give, if you are spreading out the representatives, which is already in part of our state by dropping our numbers down to 101? This is not a feel good bill. The representative from District 29 is correct. I hope you will believe in what he says, this is not a feel good bill. It might make you feel good temporarily, but not for very long when you have to justify down the road. Our budget will increase.

I spent the better part of a day in Nebraska with one of the Senators who still serve in the Nebraska legislature, Senator Cortison. I spent a better part of a day with him in Nebraska. He happens to be the chair of his committee. Regardless, if you are a chair or not, every single Senator has his or her own private office, private office. Each Senator has his or her own receptionist in that office. If he or she

happens to be a chairman of a committee, each chairman of the committee besides the other two rooms I just told you about, has another office for his or her legal analyst. Right there, you don't have to call, make an appointment or go over anybody, the legal analyst is right there.

Nebraska's budget has gone up year after year after year after year. There are several other points that I would like to make, if I may. A comment was just made about the fact that we are near shut down. I wish we would not continue to say that ladies and gentlemen. I believe that we are going to be able to prevent that kind of thing from happening. Why are people still talking and scaring employees and people all over this state by continually harping on "we are almost on a shut down." Let's get our job done and we won't worry about a shut down.

The issue that I want to make to you, ladies and gentlemen of the House, is that our differences, whether it be on the budget or health care or whatever it might be including this one, has nothing to do with the fact that we are a two house legislature. What it has to do with is that we have honest differences of opinion, whether it happens to be between Republicans and Democrats or northern and southern. We have reasonable differences of opinions about what is right and what is wrong.

To prove that, I have said that so many times, I wish the press would cover it a little bit more often, is that we have our battles on the House floor. Look at the people from all parties and all districts of the state who spend time with each other, share each others problems, go out to eat together and work together on a lot of other issues, it has nothing to do with a two House legislature. It has to do with differences of opinions on a particular issue. This is not in the best interest of the voters of the State of Maine. This is not one of the issues that you heard.

I would defy, maybe defy is a strong word, I would really ask sincerely, how many of you heard your voters talking to you about cutting spending and those kinds of things, told you that what they wanted you to do is go to a unicameral system, a one house body. Do they really understand what they are talking about, when you are talking about a unicameral system.

A couple of other comments, this is from the <u>Omaha</u> <u>World Herald</u> it is now, I grant you, three years old. Dick Hermon, the editorial page editor of the <u>Lincoln Journal</u> and a state house observer since the early 1960s said, "The changes that I see include more young members, more ambitious members, a greater reliance on staff, larger staff, a move toward case working instead of public policy issues. They become small congressmen. They are far less citizen legislators than they were 15 or 20 years ago. They are much more professionalized and much more attuned to the explosive potential of television." Doug, who is now in the Congress of the United States was in the Nebraska legislature for many years, I will quote him. "The unicameral is also very subject to being influenced by outside interests. It is a happy hunting ground for lobbyists, because you only have one house and only one set of informal leadership. It is noticeably more influenced by lobbying interests than any other legislature."

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I know many of you have signed onto this bill and I have talked to many of you since that time and asked you, why, and

we discussed it. I hope I have been able to make you understand that there is a lot more to this than a reform issue. The facts are there. I am not making them up. The Nebraska legislative budget has grown by leaps and bounds, even though they have only 49 members. Their state is about the same size as ours. We talked about the influence, someone mentioned that it would be the same for all of the states.

This is also from the <u>Lincoln Star Journal</u> and is Don Walton. "As Nebraska's population by concentrates more and more in and around the state's two largest cities, the balance of power in the unicameral government slowly, but inevitability moves eastward from rural to urban Nebraska. Meanwhile the rural town continues to decline with little real say as to their fate and that is one of the issues." The more rural parts of our state will not get the kind of representation that we all hope they are getting now.

I know many of you wish that you had more time to spend. You wish you had your own personal secretary that could respond faster to some of the calls that you get on your speaker and the notes you get. We all feel that way. I know we do. We all panic over that. We all get frustrated. We all apologize. Every one of you have heard your fellow legislators in the phone room explaining and apologizing to someone they finally get a hold of. "I am sorry I didn't get back to you last week." "I am sorry it has been so long." Most of them understand that, because this is a citizen legislature. We don't have a professional staff. We have a wonderfully professional staff, but I mean per person.

Those are the things that you really must consider, ladies and gentlemen of the House. I am very, very concerned about it. I have visited with Nebraska may be perfect for Nebraska. People it. sometimes ask me why Westbrook, which I am so proud of, still has the only strong Mayor/Council form of government in the state. We are the only one left that the Mayor has the same powers as the Mayor of any major city in the state, including line-item veto. The only city left. Why is that? Well for Westbrook it works fine. Westbrook likes electing

its Mayor. They like having it the way it is. Nebraska must like what they are doing. T They are the only state that does. No other state has taken a vote on it. I sincerely hope and pray that you will not send this out to the voters. We haven't done any research on it. There is no study on it. You are hearing more about it than the average citizen of the State of Maine and we want to send this out to referendum? I don't think so. I ask you, ladies and gentlemen of the House, to accept the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report. Thank you. The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the

Representative from Yarmouth, Representative Buck.

Representative BUCK: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Someone suggested a few moments ago there weren't any compelling reasons why we should consider this. I think if you look at the date and understand that we are supposed to adjourn in two days, we don't have a budget and most of the major legislation that has any kind of controversy at all hasn't come before us. I think that is a compelling reason. I think if you look at the condition of state government today and look at the financial condition it is in and the financial condition that it has been for the last decade, that

is a compelling reason for us to say that this system that we have in the legislature simply doesn't work.

I know we don't like to compare ourselves to other states, but if you look at the blue sheet that was passed out to you, you will find that there are states with much larger populations than ours that have much smaller legislatures. If you look at the yellow sheet you will find that Maine is ranked number 38 in population, yet in legislative size it is ranked number 10. My feeling is that if other states can operate with fewer people in their legislature, Maine can do that as well.

Someone raised the concern about rural representation. I understand that it is a concern. If you look at the way the legislative districts are configured, you will find that in every rural legislative district there is a much smaller legislative district that is contiguous to it. When we talk about expanding the size of legislative district to implement this proposal, we are not talking about expanding the geographic size by one-third, we are talking about expanding it much smaller.

The final reason is that we thought about the checks and balances between this body and the other body. When you read the text books and when you talk to people they say that we need the other body, because it is a smaller body and there are more deliberatives and therefore, the decisions made in this body may have been made in haste, but certainly with a smaller body to examine the action that we have taken will ensure that legislation that is have passed is good for the people of Maine. That sounds good in theory, but I can tell you as a freshman, after having seen this body operate and seen the other body operate, I could suggest to you that the decisions made in this body are sometimes much better than the decisions made in the other body. I would urge you to vote for the unicameral system. Thank you.

SPEAKER: The The Chair recognizes the

Representative from Westbrook, Representative Lemke. Representative LEMKE: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House: The hour is late and it is hot as can be in here. I will definitely be brief. I do want to respond to the question that was posed earlier on the floor. I do want to say that the good Representative from Westbrook made a number of points, which as far as I am concerned, basically buttress the position I made earlier.

He is making the comparison with Nebraska. He says in Nebraska that the cost of the legislative budget is more. It is. He says that Nebraska is more susceptible to lobbyists. It is. That is precisely the point. I am not attempting and many of precisely the point. I am not attempting and many of the other cosponsors of this bill are not attempting to recreate Nebraska. The only thing that this legislation has in common with Nebraska is it is unicameral. Nebraska has 49 members, that is too small. I don't have the exact figures, but I can tell you that is what translates into the much more costly legislative budget. As far as lobbyists, 49 members are more susceptible, but a legislature with a single house of 101 members is going to be much less susceptible to the influence of lobbyists than a bicameral legislature. When we all know lobbyists can focus their activities on what we refer to as the other body of 35 members, where 18 votes are sufficient to kill anything.

Again, if I were presenting to you the Nebraska model, I would probably accept the arguments that the good Representative from Westbrook put forward, but this Representative from Westbrook is putting forward a Maine unicameral legislature, not Nebraska. Wonderful state, you can see a long ways, but I am not trying to recreate Nebraska. While I have the floor, the question was posed, what can be possibly the compelling reason for change? I will repeat what I said an half hour ago. Since then we have created a unicameral body in here if I count heads. An half hour ago I said, "Look around you, look at the situation we are in. Can you seriously say that this

is the best we can do? I don't think you can. The people out there may not be saving specifically they want unicameral or anything else, but they are saying loud and clear that they want a smaller legislature and they want us to reform the way we are doing the people's business. I read in the paper where one politician said that he had heard that people were telling him to cut taxes. What I have been hearing from my people is cut the crap! Quite frankly, I think this is a major way to move in that direction.

One note about Westbrook. Westbrook does not have today a bicameral council. I am sure the former Mayor would have nightmares about that, as well, if we recreated that. We had bicameral bodies on the municipal level, but we wisely got rid of them by the early 20th century.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the

Representative from Berwick, Representative Murphy. Representative MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I think it has been made very clear to us today by the good Representative from Westbrook, Representative O'Gara that this would be a very costly legislature of data that this would unicameral legislature. I, for one, really believe in checks and balances in our government. I feel very concerned that maybe we are doing away with a lot of our checks and balances in the polls. The checks and balances we had there to keep our voters honest. I think there are many things that we are doing away with. I think that is a dangerous trend that we are going to. I would hope that you would support the motion on the floor. Thank you. The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the

Representative from Jonesboro, Representative Look.

Representative LOOK: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I have listened to this debate for three terms. It is the same. Stop and think of your own area before you vote. The number of people coming here, yes, there will be fewer of them. It will not be me. It will not be many of the rest of us who have been here before those who came in 1987.

This serious matter deserves some very When you look back at your own area, consideration. by counties, Maine is primarily a rural state. In this plan the rural areas will not be represented to the capacity that they are now. Many of the smaller towns will be incorporated into the larger towns. Many of them will not be able to be elected if they are part of the larger towns. Will they have the same representation that understands their needs? I think not. I ask you to consider all of the things that you have heard. Representative O'Gara from Westbrook has laid it out very well for you. It is a serious matter.

You will be having to deal with more expense as far as staff is concerned. This is the stuff we have been hearing here. It is too costly for people, but will we get the same quality of legislation? Will it be debated as throughly as it is being now? Yes, it takes time, but at least we get right down to the root of the issue and we do the very best we can, trying to bring out all the points that are needed to make wise decisions. I hope you will vote against this unicameral legislature. Thank you.

unair recognizes Brunswick, Renner The SPEAKER: The the from Representative Representative Benedikt.

Representative BENEDIKT: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I do want to say that I support this legislation and that I hope you have read the article that was circulated with my thoughts. I do want to comment on the concerns about representation. I think when we compare Nebraska, we are unfortunately talking about that 49 person legislature which causes an excess load on the legislature and results in great staff needs. It is possible to create a unicameral legislature that doesn't have that problem and does not cause that increase in staff and therefore, maintains a reasonable cost. Without being repetitive, I do want to say that the voters in my district do support the idea of a smaller government and a less cumbersome They have told me that many times. government. Thank you.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to accept the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report.

Representative LEMKE of Westbrook requested a roll call on the motion to accept the Majority "Ought Not to Pass* Report.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been requested. For the Chair to order a roll call it must have the expressed desire of more than one-fifth of members present and voting. All those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken and more than one-fifth of the members present and voting having expressed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

The pending question before the House is Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report. All those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 190

YEA - Aikman, Ault, Bigl, Birney, Bouffard, Brennan, Cameron, Carleton, Chartrand, Chick, Clukey, Cross, Daggett, Damren, Davidson, DiPietro, Donnelly, Dore, Driscoll, Dunn, Etnier, Farnum, Fisher, Fitzpatrick, Gamache, Gieringer, Gooley, Green, Dore, farmen, Green, Gooley, Green, Jacques, Keane, Guerrette, Hartnett, Heino, Jacques, Jones, S.; Joseph, Joy, Joyner, Keane, Greenlaw, Johnson, Kneeland, Kontos, Labrecque, LaFountain, Lane, Lemaire, Lemont, Libby JD; Libby JL; Lindahl, Look, Lovett, Lumbra, Madore, Marshall, Marvin, Mayo, McElroy, Meres, Mitchell EH; Mitchell JE; Morrison, Nass, Nickerson, O'Gara, Ott, Peavey, Murphy, Perkins, Plowman, Reed, G.; Reed, W.; Ricker, Robichaud, Rosebush, Samson, Savage, Saxl, J.; Saxl, M.; Sirois, Spear, Stedman, Stevens, Stone, Strout, Taylor, Thompson, Treat, Tripp, True, Truman, Tufts, Underwood, Vigue, Volenik, Waterhouse, Watson, Wheeler, Whitcomb, Winsor, The Speaker.

NAY - Ahearne, Bailey, Barth, Benedikt, Berry, Buck, Bunker, Campbell, Chase, Chizmar, Clark, Cloutier, Desmond, Gates, Gerry, Gould, Hatch, Heeschen, Hichborn, Jones, K.; Joyce, Kerr, Kilkelly, Gerry,

Layton, Lemke, Luther, Martin, McAlevey, Nadeau, O'Neal, Pendleton, Pinkham, Poulin, Pouliot, Povich, Rice, Richardson, Rowe, Shiah, Simoneau, Townsend, Tuttle, Tyler, Winglass, Winn.

ABSENT - Adams, Dexter, Paul, Poirier, Rotondi, Yackobitz.

Yes, 100; No. 45; Absent, 6: Excused. 0.

100 having voted in the affirmative and 45 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report was accepted and sent up for concurrence.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

COMMUNICATIONS

The following Communication: (S.P. 591) 117TH LEGISLATURE

June 16, 1995

Senator S. Peter Mills **Representative Sharon Treat**

Chairpersons

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

117th Legislature

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Senator Mills and Representative Treat:

Please be advised that Governor Angus S. King, Jr. has nominated Jon D. Levy of York for appointment as Judge of the Maine District Court.

Pursuant to Title 4, MRSA Section 157, this nomination will require review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely, S/Jeffrey H. Butland

President of the Senate

S/Dan A. Gwadosky

Speaker of the House

Came from the Senate, read and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Was read and referred to Committee the on Judiciary in concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES Ought to Pass as Amended

Representative DORE from the Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act to Exempt Food Banks from Sales Tax and to Provide a Review Schedule for Sales Tax Exemptions" (H.P. 1116) (L.D. 1561) reporting "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-526) Report was read and accepted. The Bill read once. Committee Amendment "A" (H-526) was read by the Clerk and adopted and the Bill assigned for second reading Tuesday, June 20, 1995.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day In accordance with House Rule 49, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(S.P. 214) (L.D. 556) Bill "An Act Concerning the Participation of Teachers of Adult Education in the Maine State Retirement System" Committee on Labor reporting "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-278) (H.P. 314) (L.D. 418) Bill "An Act to Amend the

County Budget Approval Process for Cumberland County" Committee on State and Local Government