

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

***One Hundred and Eighth
Legislature***

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

Volume II

May 26, 1977 to July 25, 1977

Index

**Senate Confirmation Session
September 16, 1977**

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KJ PRINTING
AUGUSTA, MAINE

The Chair laid before the House the fourth tabled and today assigned matter:

Senate Report — "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-186) — Committee on Taxation on Bill "An Act to Lighten the Burden of Property Taxes on the Elderly Widowed or Disabled" (S. P. 440) (L. D. 1531)

Tabled — June 13, 1977 by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

Pending — Acceptance of the Committee Report.

On motion of Mr. Quinn of Gorham, tabled unassigned pending acceptance of the Committee Report.

The Chair laid before the House the fifth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill "An Act Relating to Reporting of Data of Abortions Performed by an Attending Physician" (H. P. 1628) (L. D. 1831)

Tabled — June 13, 1977 by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston.

Pending — Motion of Mrs. Huber of Falmouth to Indefinitely Postpone Bill and All Accompanying Papers.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mrs. Berube.

Mrs. BERUBE: Mr. Speaker, I would ask for a division and that you vote against the indefinite postponement.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Falmouth, Mrs. Huber.

Mrs. HUBER: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House: Some of you may not have been on the floor Monday when I spoke to indefinitely postpone the bill and I don't want anyone here to misunderstand my motives. Therefore, I will tell you once again, very briefly, why I feel this bill is not necessary.

As you may recall, I pointed out under Title 22, Section 2841, of the laws of the State of Maine, there is a section entitled Registration of Fetal Deaths. This requires the reporting of all fetal deaths within three days to the municipality in which the death has occurred. The definition of fetal death as I also discussed here on the floor does encompass the categories that this bill covers, and I will read you that definition if I may. "Fetal death is death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother the product of conception irrespective of the duration of pregnancy. The death is indicated by the fact that after such separation, the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as the beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles."

Since I spoke here Monday I have been in contact with Mr. Carey in the Department. He said to me that in fact they did have an enforcement problem under this existing law but that he agreed with me, he did not see how enacting this particular bill that we have before us would solve the enforcement problem. I also talked to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, House Chairman Mr. Spencer, and he informed me that the committee had not discussed whether in fact this bill is redundant and unnecessary. Therefore, I hope you will support the motion to indefinitely postpone.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mrs. Kane.

Mrs. KANE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I really fail to understand why there is any controversy whatsoever associated with this bill. When it was presented to the Judiciary Committee, which gave it unanimous "Ought to Pass" Report, there was agreement reached between the Maine Right-to-Life Committee, which is an anti-abortion group, the Maine Right-to-Choose, which is a pro-abortion group, the Maine Medical Association, a group of doctors, and the Department of Human Services, they all support this bill. I submit that if you can get a diverse group such as that behind anything, it is almost a miracle.

The Maine Medical Association supports this bill because it will give information to the department thereby to be disseminated to doctors so that they can avoid using procedures that cause complications in abortions so that they can further help women in their subsequent pregnancies who have had abortions. There are complications in abortions and there is not enough data on this because this has only very recently been allowed to be performed and statistics are not being recorded.

I am somewhat confused that Mr. Carey from the Department of Human Services would say that he did not feel that this bill was necessary, because I have in my hand a copy of his testimony at the hearing saying the Department of Human Services supports this bill and they feel that because they are now unable to obtain this data, this bill would help in having hospitals supply this data to them. In fact, to quote him, "We must point out that we are now unable to provide much statistical data on induced abortions because the reporting of these events are not now mandated. Even though our MRSA, Title 20, No. 2841 now requires all fetal deaths to be reported to our office, many hospitals are refusing to report induced abortion until laws are enacted providing for this."

The basic purpose of this whole bill is to allow doctors, through the reporting statistics, to give better medical care to women, to give better medical care to them when they are given abortions and to give better obstetrical care to them if they have previously had abortions. This is a bill to help women. People who are in favor of abortions support it, people who are against abortions support it, doctors support it, even though it is going to be work for them which they are not presently doing, the Department of Human Services supports it. I simply cannot understand how anybody could be against trying to give medical care to people.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Standish, Mr. Spencer.

Mr. SPENCER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Just as a clarification on the record, I did state to Mrs. Huber that there was no evidence presented at the hearing on this bill that there was another statute that dealt with either the same subject or a related subject, but I did also state that it was my intention to support the committee's position.

Mrs. Huber of Falmouth requested a roll call vote.

The SPEAKER: For the Chair to order a roll call, it must have the expressed desire of one fifth of the members present and voting. All those desiring a roll call vote will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Falmouth, Mrs. Huber.

Mrs. HUBER: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Lest I give the wrong impression, I have no quarrel with the reporting of statistics. In fact, these statistics are being collected and reported right now. Some of you may recall the formula I showed you which is currently in use. It will be replaced by two other forms as of the first of January. There clearly is no problem with the departments collecting these statistics and making good use of them.

The point I think that should be understood here is that those in this legislature want to pass a law which simply restates one that we already have. Frankly, I have not been out working on this bill, lobbying you, asking you if that is a good thing to do, because I think what we have covers that bill, and for the life of me, I can't understand why there has been an effort to pass what is really just another law that does exactly the same thing as one we already have on the books. Now, if that is the decision and desire of this body, that is strictly up to you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Norris.

Mr. NORRIS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I think this bill does address one problem that hasn't been mentioned here, and that is that in the State of Maine, it is still under state statute, illegal to perform abortions, and this bill does immunize the physician for reporting. So I submit that if we leave the law the way it is, that no physician is going to report if he stands a chance of being taken to court, and this bill does take care of that, and that is one of the major reasons why I supported it, and I think it will bring in a much clearer and concise record to the department, because the physician will be immune under this statute for reporting.

Mrs. Huber of Falmouth was granted permission to speak a third time.

Mrs. HUBER: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I have to differ with my good friend in the next row. It is my understanding that because of the Supreme Court decision, in fact that particular law which is on the books has absolutely no validity and is completely null and void under the laws of the Supreme Court of this land.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question is on the motion of the gentleman from Falmouth, Mrs. Huber, that this Bill and all accompanying papers be indefinitely postponed. All those in favor will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL

YEA — Alopis, Bachrach, Bagley, Berry, Brennerman, Brown, K. L.; Carter, F.; Clark, Conners, Davies, Durgin, Dutremble, Fenlason, Garsoe, Howe, Huber, Hunter, Hutchings, Jensen, Kany, Lougee, McPherson, Najarian, Nelson, M.; Perkins, Post, Quinn, Sewall, Sprowl, Talbot, Tarbell, Teague, Tozier, Trafton, Valentine.

NAY — Ault, Austin, Beaulieu, Bennett, Benoit, Berube, Biron, Birt, Blodgett, Boudreau, A.; Boudreau, P.; Brown, K. C.; Bunker, Burns, Bustin, Carey, Carroll, Carter, D.; Connolly, Cote, Cox, Curran, Devoe, Diamond, Dow, Drinkwater, Elias, Flanagan, Fowlie, Gauthier, Gill, Gillis, Goodwin, H.; Goodwin, K.; Gray, Green, Greenlaw, Hall, Henderson, Hickey, Higgins, Hobbins, Hughes, Immonen, Jackson, Jacques, Jalbert, Joyce, Kane, Kelleher, Kerry, Kilcoyne, Laffin, LaPlante, Lewis, Littlefield, Lizotte, Locke, Lynch, MacEachern, Mackel, Mahany, Marshall, Martin, A.; Masterman, Masterton, Maxwell, McBreairey, McHenry, McMahon, Mitchell, Nadeau, Nelson, N.; Norris, Peterson, Plourde, Prescott, Raymond, Rideout, Rollins, Shute, Spencer, Stover, Stubbs, Tarr, Theriault, Torrey, Truman, Twitchell, Tyndale, Whittemore, Wilfong, Wood, Wyman, The Speaker.

ABSENT — Carrier, Chonko, Churchill, Cunningham, Dexter, Dudley, Gould, LeBlanc, Lunt, McKean, Mills, Moody, Morton, Palmer, Peakes, Pearson, Peltier, Silsby, Smith, Strout, Tierney.

Yes, 35; No, 95; Absent, 21.

The SPEAKER: Thirty five having voted in the affirmative and ninety five in the negative, with twenty one being absent, the motion does not prevail.

Mrs. Najarian of Portland offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" (H-492) was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Portland, Mrs. Najarian.

Mrs. NAJARIAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I think that the importance of this bill has already been magnified out of proportion to its significance. It seems to me that it would have made little difference if it had passed, because the causes of fetal death which are required to be reported in this bill are already being reported, and if it had been indefinitely

postponed, the same process would still continue since it is required by the statutes and by rules and regulations.

However, my original intention in setting this bill aside was simply to ascertain the purpose of the bill, since I was aware that reporting of abortion data is already being required. The answer I received from the members of the Judiciary Committee did not seem to respond directly to the question. As near as I can recall, the answer went something like — Right-to-Choose supports it and Right-to-Life supports it, and those two groups are usually opposed, on opposite sides, but that really didn't give me any information on why the bill was necessary. I still haven't been given an adequate explanation by anyone. Obviously, there are people who want the bill to pass, but the real purpose, I guess, can't really be stated or they are unwilling to.

As you have heard, the data that this requires to be reported is already required by the department on nationally standardized forms, except for Sections A and B of the bill. Those are the two sections which I am proposing that we delete. That reads: (a) The weight in grams of the fetus aborted to the extent practical; (b) The measurement in centimeters of the fetus aborted, crown to rump, sitting height, to the extent practical.

Actually, there is only one section of the bill that upsets me and that is Section B, the measurement in centimeters of the fetus aborted, crown to rump, sitting height, to the extent practical. I find it personally repulsive and by inquiries of obstetricians and others indicates that my abhorrence of this requirement is largely shared. It is my instinctive reaction, just reading the words and imagining the process, and just think what it must be like to have to actually perform this procedure. It serves no meaningful purpose, would add no additional information that cannot be gained from the other data that is required to be reported, such as the method used for the abortion and the menstrual age of the fetus.

Since all abortions in Maine are performed under 12 weeks, the methods commonly used leave no identifiable fetus to be weighed or measured anyway in most cases, and that is why the Judiciary Committee put in "to the extent practical."

This is not a subject I like to talk about anymore than is necessary, but I didn't introduce the bill. I do think that requirement "B" is gross and borders on the sadistic. Since no valid justification for its inclusion can be offered, I personally do not want to have anything to do with a bill that would require physicians and nurses to endure such an emotionally traumatic procedure if it should ever become practicable when the measurement made would add nothing significant to the store of knowledge.

I ask your support of this amendment to delete only that provision of this bill which totally lacks any redeeming value.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mrs. Berube.

Mrs. BERUBE: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: Somehow I can't believe that she used the word "sadistic" to measure what has just been performed via the process or the procedure of abortion. I don't know which one of the two would be more sadistic, but that is not the question, and I certainly do not wish to debate the issue of abortion, pro or con, this is not the issue. This is a vital statistic reporting bill.

I believe it is Mrs. Najarian who has mentioned that the national standardized form in 1978 will not have those two items. In the suggested U.S. standardized form for 1978, Section 11, says "The physicians estimate of gestation period." He or she must put that down. Well, in order to put it down, he must have a

very accurate count of the gestational age, and that can only be accomplished, according to the letters and medical information that I have before me, that can only be done by the weight and the measurement.

I could go along and quote paragraph after paragraph where, for instance, when the length of gestation is included, it will provide some indication of the effectiveness and safety of the various termination procedures at different gestational ages. This is by the Director of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio. I could go on and on, but I know that time is running fast here.

I would like to state one other reason why the weight is important and, again, I don't like to go into this subject on the floor of the House. To determine the correct gestational age, and this is what is required in the 1978 form that Mrs. Najarian has mentioned, one gynecologist says, "One has to use the size of the uterus during a growing gestation or, better yet, the size and weight of the fetus should the pregnancy abort intentionally or unintentionally." I think those are two very important statistics to keep.

If we accept the amendment suggested by the lady from Portland, we will be diluting this bill totally, and I urge you to vote against the acceptance of her amendment.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: My personal friendship with the good lady from Portland is well known. She is a colleague of mine on the Appropriations Committee. I have discussed this situation with her. Unlike Mrs. Berube, I don't want to discuss anti or pro abortion, although I have freely admitted to my colleague from Portland and to others, and they all know that the mere mention of the word abortion is repulsive to me. In any event, I would suggest that what Mrs. Najarian should have done after the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill, instead of presenting this amendment, she should have made a motion to reconsider and ask people to vote yes, because this is another motion to indefinitely postpone this measure here. It is not a good amendment, and if you pass this amendment, you might as well not have the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I move the indefinite postponement of this amendment, and when the vote is taken, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Portland, Mrs. Najarian.

Mrs. NAJARIAN: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I don't want to make a big deal out of this amendment. I guess the answer you get on whether this is needed or not depends on which obstetrician you talk to, because I have talked to several in Portland associated with Maine Medical Center and they agree that there are other ways of determining the ages of fetus other than this, with sonar, which measure the skull, etc., some fancy equipment most hospitals now have, and the menstrual age of the baby, which is also required on the bill, which I have not amended out.

The method used for the abortion performed gives you some idea also of the age. It makes little difference to me really whether you pass it or not, it is just something that I personally felt I had to do and personally object to. If you want it in there, fine; if not, okay with me.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Brunswick, Mrs. Martin.

Mrs. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: If we didn't use a fetus as a thing, if we used it as a person instead of a thing, we wouldn't need this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blue Hill, Mr. Perkins.

Mr. PERKINS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I rise not to get involved in the philosophies of this thing but only

to suggest to you people that if you are going to mandate this type of reporting, then you want to be prepared to also sanction some increased hospital spending, because we have heard at this session time and time again the problem of increased hospital expenses and the succeeding passthrough to the patient and cost in medical care. I would like to suggest to you here today that if you mandate this for your hospitals, you are then again mandating something that has to be passed on to the individual patient.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Livermore Falls, Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I would like to make two comments. The first time Representative Najarian spoke, she said that measuring the weight and the length would be an emotional experience for those involved. I think that reveals something. The second time that she spoke, she said in measuring post-abortion, she referred to the baby. I think that reveals something too.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Old Orchard Beach, Mr. Kerry.

Mr. KERRY: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: Basically, I would just like to respond to a few of the comments that have been made. Number one, I think what we are talking about here specifically is the most precise scientific knowledge, medical knowledge, to be able to provide what Representative Kane said from Augusta, the best preventative and scientific knowledge to prevent problems for women. And most of the women we are talking about here, in many cases are young women. If you look through the statistics throughout the country, throughout the world and even throughout the State of Maine, they are young people, and the doctors do measure or at least assess the gestational age of the child by sonar, by various means of the uterine cavity openings, etc., but the most precise form is through the actual measuring of the length and weight of the unborn child.

Basically, what it comes down to, this is a common procedure. Mr. Perkins said that it would cost more money, but this is a common medical, surgical procedure. The minute you take anything from a woman's body or a man's body, normally they weigh and measure the tissue, if you will; therefore, this is common medical practice. All they are doing is refining it to the most precise form available, and aside from my ideology or philosophy, if the main intent is to enhance the present law that is on the books, as Mrs. Huber had mentioned, that is very difficult to enforce and that the medical community itself says it is not reporting, therefore, we cannot provide this information, we cannot make the best judgments for our people; mainly, our women who are having children and who are now experiencing many complications after having their abortions, the key thing being here. Mrs. Najarian has mentioned that this particular procedure is offensive to herself and she does not want it to be experienced by the medical profession. I submit to you that I agree, it is offensive also to myself, and I am sure that it is offensive to the people in the medical community, but we have chosen this route. Many of us would disagree with it, but the point is, it is a reality, and the only way to overcome this is to enact legislation that is going to allow us to carry out the current law in the most meaningful and effective manner.

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

A vote of the House was taken, and more than one fifth of the members present having expres-

sed a desire for a roll call, a roll call was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is on the motion of the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Jalbert, that House Amendment "A" be indefinitely postponed. All those in favor of that motion will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL

YEA — Ault, Austin, Bachrach, Beaulieu, Bennett, Benoit, Berube, Biron, Birt, Blodgett, Boudreau, A.; Boudreau, P.; Brown, K. L.; Brown, K. C.; Bunker, Burns, Bustin, Carey, Carroll, Carter, D.; Chonko, Cote, Cox, Curran, Devoe, Diamond, Dow, Drinkwater, Dutremble, Elias, Fenlason, Flanagan, Gauthier, Gill, Gillis, Goodwin, K.; Gray, Green, Hall, Henderson, Hickey, Hobbins, Hughes, Hunter, Immonen, Jacques, Jalbert, Jensen, Joyce, Kane, Kelleher, Kerry, Kilcoyne, Laffin, LaPlante, Lewis, Littlefield, Lizotte, Locke, Lynch, MacEachern, Mackel, Mahany, Marshall, Martin, A.; Masterman, Maxwell, McBrearty, McHenry, McMahon, McPherson, Morton, Nadeau, Nelson, N.; Norris, Peterson, Plourde, Raymond, Rideout, Rollins, Shute, Silsby, Spencer, Stover, Stubbs, Tarr, Teague, Theriault, Torrey, Tozier, Truman, Tyndale, Whittemore, Wilfong, Wyman, The Speaker.

NAY — Aloupis, Bagley, Berry, Brenerman, Carter, F.; Clark, Connors, Connolly, Cunningham, Davies, Durgin, Garsoe, Greenlaw, Higgins, Howe, Huber, Hutchings, Jackson, Kany, Lougee, Mitchell, Najarian, Nelson, M.; Peltier, Perkins, Post, Prescott, Quinn, Sewall, Sprowl, Talbot, Tarbell, Trafton, Twitchell, Valentine, Wood.

ABSENT — Carrier, Churchill, Dexter, Dudley, Fowlie, Goodwin, H.; Gould, LeBlanc, Lunt, Masterton, McKean, Mills, Moody, Palmer, Peakes, Pearson, Smith, Strout, Tierney.

Yes, 96; No, 36; Absent, 19.

The SPEAKER: Ninety-six having voted in the affirmative and thirty-six in the negative, with nineteen being absent, the motion does prevail.

Thereupon, the Bill was passed to be engrossed and sent up for concurrence.

Reference was made to (H. P. 1045) (L. D. 1272) Bill "An Act to Remove the Commercial License of Smelt Fishermen"

In reference to the action of the House Monday, June 13, whereby it insisted and asked for a Committee of Conference, the Chair appointed the following Conferees on the part of the House:

Mrs. POST of Owls Head
Messrs. FOWLIE of Rockland
BUNKER of Gouldsboro

Reference was made to (S. P. 320) (L. D. 1077) Bill "An Act to Impose a 4-Quart Limit on the Taking of Smelts Throughout the Entire Smelting Season"

In reference to the action of the House Wednesday, June 15, whereby it insisted and joined in a Committee of Conference, the Chair appointed the following Conferees on the part of the House:

Messrs. BLODGETT of Waldoboro
NELSON of Roque Bluffs
TYNDALE of Kennebunkport

All matters acted upon in concurrence and all matters requiring Senate concurrence were ordered sent forthwith.

On motion of Mr. Quinn of Gorham,
Recessed until 4:30 in the afternoon.

After Recess 4:30 p.m.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The Chair laid before the House the sixth tabled and today assigned matter:

House Divided Report — Majority (10) "Ought Not to Pass" — Minority (2) "Ought to Pass" as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-589) — Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife on Bill "An Act to Provide for Snowmobile Registration in Municipalities" (H. P. 411) (L. D. 507)

Tabled — June 14, 1977 by Mr. Dow of West Gardiner.

Pending — Motion of the same gentleman to Accept the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report.

Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro requested a vote on the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is on the motion of the gentleman from West Gardiner, Mr. Dow, that the Majority "Ought Not to Pass" Report be accepted. All those in favor of that motion will vote yes; those opposed will vote no.

A vote of the House was taken.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 23 having voted in the negative, the motion did prevail.

Sent up for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the Seventh Tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act Concerning Displaced Homemakers" (H. P. 700) (L. D. 842)

Tabled — June 14, 1977 by Mr. Tierney of Lisbon Falls.

Pending — Adoption of Committee Amendment "A" (H-599).

Mrs. Nelson of Portland offered House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-620) was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. Biron.

Mr. BIRON: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: I would like to call your attention to L. D. 842 as amended, and on Page 3 of the Committee Amendment, you will see the fiscal note on this L. D. The fiscal note for the first year calls for \$15,000 and the second year \$20,000. As I understand the legislation, and first of all let me commend the sponsor of the bill for having a good idea, however, the fiscal note on this bill calls for \$15,000 in the first year. Basically, as I understand it, it means that we will expend to the Manpower Affairs Department, we will be giving that department an extra \$10,000 in the first year for the purpose of spending \$5,000. That doesn't make too much sense to me. We are going to give them \$10,000, and if they are going to hire somebody and his job is going to be to spend \$5,000. That is a bureaucracy I don't think we need.

The second year, if he does a good job spending that \$5,000, we are going to give him a \$5,000 raise, because in the second year, he is going to get \$15,000, but he is still going to spend \$5,000.

I have got some problems with this legislation. The concept behind it is good. I understand there is a sunset clause in this bill, and I would recommend at this time that we give it a very, very early sunset, that we do it today. I would move that this bill and all its accompanying papers be indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the gentleman that the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill at this time is not in order. The pending question is adoption of House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A".

Thereupon, House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" was adopted.

Committee Amendment "A" as amended by House Amendment "A" thereto was adopted and the Bill assigned for second reading tomorrow.

The Chair laid before the House the eighth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act Providing for the Practice of Architecture through a Corporation or a Partnership" (S. P. 137) (L. D. 378)

Tabled — June 14, 1977 by Ms. Clark of Freeport.

Pending — Adoption of Committee Amendment "A" (S-219).

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Freeport, Ms. Clark.

Ms. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, we are awaiting the distribution and/or printing of a proposed amendment to this bill, and I am hoping that perhaps someone might table this until later in today's session.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Curran of South Portland, tabled pending adoption of Committee Amendment "A" and later today assigned.

The Chair laid before the House the ninth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act Relating to the Commitment of Mentally Ill Individuals" (H. P. 1707) (L. D. 1880)

Tabled — June 14, 1977 by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

Pending — Passage to be Engrossed.

Mrs. Kany of Waterville offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" (H-651) was read by the Clerk and adopted.

The Bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment "A" and sent up for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the House the tenth tabled and today assigned matter:

Bill, "An Act Concerning Weekly Benefits Paid to Persons who are Partially Unemployed" (H. P. 125) (L. D. 158) (C. "A" H-568)

Tabled — June 14, 1977 by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

Pending — Passage to be Engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Higgins of Scarborough, under suspension of the rules, the House reconsidered its action whereby Committee Amendment "A" was adopted, and on motion of the same gentleman, Committee Amendment "A" was indefinitely postponed.

The same gentleman offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" (H-641) was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Scarborough, Mr. Higgins.

Mr. HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House: This amendment is the culmination, I guess, of mass hysteria that has gone on in the Labor Committee on this particular piece of legislation. The bill that I had introduced originally was amended several times in committee and at one point in time it was going to be killed, and then through some miracle it was revived to a Majority "Ought Not to Pass" and has finally reached the floor as a Majority "Ought to Pass" as amended, and I find that the amendment that was sent up from the committee was mistakenly provided in error.

The amendment that I am presenting is one, at least it is my understanding it is one that was supposed to be the committee amendment itself. I hope you can appreciate the problems I have had with this. If you look at the committee report, anytime you see the good gentleman from Westbrook, Mr. Laffin, my very good friend, and the good Senator from Hancock, Mr. McNally, on the same side, I hope you appreciate the problem that I have had a little bit with this bill.

L. D. 158 as amended is a bill designed to help those individuals who are totally unemployed for more than four weeks and wish to take on part-time work. It is an incentive that is not