

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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cepted, Bill engrossed as amended by Committee Amendment "A". In House indefinitely postponed.)

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vinalhaven, Mr. Barton.

Mr. BARTON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I find myself in a very uncomfortable position again in that Mr. Rollins is absent today also. I understand he will be here tomorrow. I ask you to be considerate of him. I would like to retable this item and specially assign it for tomorrow.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Vinalhaven, Mr. Barton, moves that the 7th item of unfinished business on today's calendar lie on the table and be specially assigned for tomorrow morning.

All those in favor of the motion will say aye; those opposed, no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed and the bill was so tabled and assigned.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the 8th item of unfinished business on today's calendar, Resolve Providing Funds for Maintenance at Teachers' Colleges and Normal School, tabled on April 30th by the gentleman from Orono, Mr. Bates, pending final passage; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. BATES: Mr. Speaker; I move that this item be transferred to the Appropriations Special Calendar pending final passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the gentleman that the motion is out of order under the order passed this morning.

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

On request of Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston, the Resolve was placed on the Special Appropriations calendar.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the 9th item of unfinished business on today's calendar, House Report "Ought to pass in new draft" of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game on Bill, "An Act Relating to Open Season for Fishing for Black Bass" (H. P. 1753) (L. D. 1302) tabled on May 1st by the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Fenn, pending acceptance of report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

On motion of Mr. Fenn, a viva voce vote being taken, the House voted to accept the "Ought to pass in new draft" report of the committee.

This being a printed bill, under suspension of the rules it was given its two several readings and tomorrow assigned for third reading.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the 10th item of unfinished business on today's calendar, Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Clarify the Provisions That Relate to the State's Borrowing Power (H. P. 1782) (L. D. 1320) tabled on May 1st by the gentleman from Fairfield, Mr. Woodworth, pending second reading; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Mr. Woodworth then offered House Amendment "A" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "A" was read by the Clerk as follows:

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 1782, L. D. 1320, Resolve, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Clarify the Provisions That Relate to the State's Borrowing Power.

Amend said Resolve by striking out the title thereof, and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Clarify the Provisions Relating to Borrowing Power of the State, and to Place a Limit of \$10,000,000 on the Right of the Legislature to Borrow'

Further amend said Resolve by inserting after the word "power" in the 11th line of that part of the Resolve designated "Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon." the following ', and to place a limit of \$10,000,000 on the right of the legislature to borrow without a vote of the people'.

House Amendment "A" was adopted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fairfield, Mr. Woodworth.

Mr. WOODWORTH: Mr. Speaker, when this resolve came off the table last week the gentleman from Cape Elizabeth, Mr. Chase, thought that someone ought to explain what this amendment meant.

This amendment — Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution was amended last year in accordance with the vote of the Legislature in 1949. At that time we thought we were going to change the Constitution so that it would not be necessary to put every highway bond issue into the Constitution and have it become a part of it. Unfortunately, we did a great deal more than that. Some of the things we did we should not have done. I am not going to explain why we did that; I cannot, and I hope nobody will ask me.

Prior to the amendment of 1949 and ever since 1933, the provision was that the credit of the State should not be directly or indirectly loaned in any case. "The Legislature shall not create any debts which singly or in the aggregate at any one time exceed two million dollars, except for building state highways" and so forth, "to repel invasion" and "for the purposes of war," and so forth.

When we amended that by vote taken in 1949, the thing that we did and which made the trouble was this: We agreed that there should be a limit of two million dollars, but, going beyond that, we did not give the State the power to borrow as much as ten cents without a vote of the people, that is in the case of insurrection or invasion or anything else. The result is that if there should be any catastrophe happen at this time the State's hands would be tied up until we could have a referendum to the people.

This amendment as set forth in this bill recreates the same three classes of borrowing that they had before this last amendment. Under this present resolve, "The Legislature shall not create any debt or debts which shall singly or in the aggregate exceed ten million dollars except to suppress insurrection or invasion or for war purposes, and excepting also that whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, by proper enactment ratified by a majority of the electors, the legislature may authorize the issuance of bonds."

We therefore have three classes of bond issues; One, ten million dollars for general purpose; one of

unlimited amount for war purposes, and one of unlimited amount when the Legislature so votes and specifies the purpose.

This ten million dollars is intended to take care of certain buildings if and when the legislature so votes, and first among them is that three million dollar State House addition which we hope to have some day in the future. None of these things can be done without a vote of the people. Up to ten million dollars, the legislature may vote without reference to the people, and for war the Legislature may vote without reference to the people. I think that the ten million dollar item is the only case where the article has been modified over what it has been for many years, and that amendment therefore changes the borrowing power of the legislature from two million dollars to ten million dollars.

Thereupon the resolve was given its second reading, passed to be engrossed as amended and sent up for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the 11th item of unfinished business, An Act Relating to Boards of Registration in Towns Under Three Thousand Five Hundred Inhabitants and to Time of Registration of Voters in Towns, H. P. 1638, L. D. 1263, tabled May 1 by the gentleman from Standish, Mr. Center, pending passage to be enacted; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Center of Standish, the bill was passed to be enacted, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair now lays before the House the 12th item of unfinished business, House Report, Leave to Withdraw as Subject Matter is covered by other Legislation of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game on Bill "An Act Relating to Crop and Orchard Damage by Protected Wild Animals", H. P. 1532, L. D. 1125, tabled on April 27 by the gentleman from Sebec, Mr. Parker, pending acceptance of the report; and the Chair recognizes that gentleman.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Parker of Sebec, the report of the