

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, August 27, 1975.

The chief clerk makes the following entries under the above date.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Senate Resolution 13

Relating to censuring the SOO Line Railroad for evading its legal and moral responsibilities following the derailment of a SOO Line train near Beulah Station in Walworth County on July 16, 1974.

Whereas, the derailment of a SOO Line train near Beulah Station in Walworth County on July 16, 1974, spilled 9,000 gallons of phenol, a carbolic acid, on the ground; and

Whereas, the SOO Line negligently carried liquid phenol, a highly toxic substance difficult to contain and control, when the substance can be carried more safely in a solid state; and

Whereas, despite the substantial risk of harm caused by carrying liquid phenol, the SOO Line had little or no knowledge of preventive or ameliorative measures which could be taken in the event of accidental spillage to minimize or contain damage and destruction caused by the acid; and

Whereas, the SOO Line authorized implementation of a flushing procedure soon after the derailment which increased the size of the devastated area and greatly enlarged the scope and difficulty of the problem, a matter which could have been resolved within a few weeks had the phenol been contained at the spill site; and

Whereas, as a direct result of the SOO Line's negligence, many citizens of this state have suffered substantial harm and serious inconvenience, namely:

1) Hundreds of people have suffered from skin rashes, diarrhea and other physical discomforts caused by the ingestion of phenol-contaminated water;

2) More than 30 families have been prevented from using their well water for more than a year; they have had to rely on bottled water, obtained with difficulty and at great expense, for all purposes including bathing, drinking, laundry and dishwashing;

3) Citizen problems resulting from the spillage and its aftermath have required the expenditure of thousands of tax dollars by the town of East Troy, and thousands of person-hours on the part of town officials; and

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Whereas, the SOO Line has refused to accept responsibility for the damage caused by its negligence, has refused to bear the costs of a portable water supply for citizens whose wells have been contaminated, and has refused to finance the extraction process necessary to cleanse the ground waters of phenol pollution; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby censures the SOO Line Railroad for its refusal to meet its responsibilities as a corporate citizen of this state, said censure to remain in effect until the railroad provides adequate financial compensation for the damage caused by its negligence and in addition supplies sufficient funding for corrective measures; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all state agencies and officials, who are requested to refrain from using the SOO Line Railroad, unless there exists no feasible alternative means of transportation, until such time as the censure is no longer in effect.

By Senator Cullen.

Read and referred to committee on Agriculture, Human Services, Labor and Taxation.

BILLS INTRODUCED

Read first time and referred:

Senate Bill 518

Relating to caboose safety requirements.

By Senators Peloquin, Frank and Devitt, by request of United Transportation Union.

To committee on Commerce.

Senate Bill 519

Relating to postponement of the requirement to make negative aid payments of school aids to the state.

By Senator Flynn.

To committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.

Senate Bill 520

Relating to increased disbursement limitations for candidates who challenge incumbent officeholders.

By Senator Flynn.

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To committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee on Commerce reports and recommends for introduction:

Senate Bill 521

Relating to miscellaneous changes in the laws pertaining to motor vehicle dealers, salesmen and sales finance companies.

Introduction; Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

Read first time and referred to committee on Commerce.

Senate Bill 522

Relating to the issuance of credit unemployment insurance.

Introduction; Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

Read first time and referred to committee on Commerce.

RONALD G. PARYS

Chairman

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor
Madison, Wisconsin

August 25, 1975.

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to the provisions of the statutes governing, I have nominated and with the advise and consent of the senate do appoint Sister Mary Agreda, of Fond du Lac, as a member of the Board of Nursing, to succeed herself, to serve for the term ending May 1, 1979.

Sincerely,
PATRICK J. LUCEY
Governor

Read and referred to committee on Agriculture, Human Services, Labor and Taxation.

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**State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor
Madison, Wisconsin**

August 25, 1975.

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to the provisions of the statutes governing, I have nominated and with the advise and consent of the senate do appoint Valencia Prock, of Madison, as a member of the Board of Nursing, to succeed herself, to serve for the term ending May 1, 1979.

**Sincerely,
PATRICK J. LUCEY
Governor**

Read and referred to committee on Agriculture, Human Services, Labor and Taxation.

**State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor
Madison, Wisconsin**

August 25, 1975.

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to the provisions of the statutes governing, I have nominated and with the advise and consent of the senate do appoint Barbara J. Whitmore of Milwaukee, as a member of the Board on Nursing to succeed herself, to serve for the term ending May 1, 1979.

**Sincerely,
PATRICK J. LUCEY
Governor**

Read and referred to committee on Agriculture, Human Services, Labor and Taxation.

**State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor
Madison, Wisconsin**

August 25, 1975.

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to the provisions of the statutes governing, I have nominated and with the advise and consent of the senate do appoint

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Kenneth Jamron, of Milwaukee, as a member of the Board on Nursing, to succeed himself, to serve for the term ending May 1, 1979.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. LUCEY

Governor

Read and referred to committee on Agriculture, Human Services, Labor and Taxation.

AMENDMENTS OFFERED

Senate amendment 1 to Senate Bill 438 by Senator Goyke.

Senate amendment 2 to Assembly Bill 75 by Senator Harnisch.