

Speech of Senator Owen Brewster before  
South Portland Lions Club at South Portland  
High School, Thursday evening May 15, 1952

Maine Development

The possibilities in Maine development were never better illustrated than in the conversion of the South Portland shipyard to a beehive of private industry.

Here hundreds of jobs and thousands in weekly payrolls are transforming the economy of this entire area.

Following the war the scrapping of this yard with all it represented was all but consummated.

Scrap dealers from New York had wormed into the federal offices in control of the disposition of the yard with a considerable amount of concealed inventory to sweeten the transaction and the job was all but finished.

Timely disclosure thru Washington sources of what verged on a conspiracy to defraud both the government and the community nipped the plan in the bud.

Transfer of the yard to a non-profit public corporation organized at my suggestion, in 1945, and manned by patriotic and unselfish citizens who have given unstintingly of their time and talents to industrialize this area marked a new and brighter day for South Portland.

The task was not simple but involved nearly a year of patient labor by all concerned in Maine and Washington to work out the details by which the yard was acquired without involving in any way the finances of the city or state and still adequately protecting the federal government.

Millions of dollars have since been invested by private enterprise under the wise guidance of the officers and directors of the Greater Portland Development Corporation who are entitled to great credit and the gratitude of all the communities concerned for the near miracle they have accomplished.

W. H. H. E. H. H. H.

Speech  
file

Speech of Senator Owen Brewster at Falmouth Hotel Rally  
Thursday evening, May 15, 1952.

Republican Prospects

Republican control of the next Senate is entirely possible and growing more probable with each day's developments.

There are up this year the nineteen Senate seats we won in 1946 and some of these face hard battles but certainly our prospects are better today than they were then.

Meanwhile the Republicans only need four seats to gain control and have excellent possibilities in five states.

In Connecticut Senator Benton won by only 1200 votes and must face the voters again this year.

In Maryland Senator O'Connor has already refused to run again because of an almost hopeless Democratic split greatly accentuated in the recent primary.

In West Virginia there is a strong Republican swing and in Wyoming a very able and popular Republican Governor is challenging Senator O'Mahoney.

New Mexico with a Republican Governor in office is offering "Pat" Hurley who came within 4000 votes of winning out six years ago and is today much stronger.

As Chairman of the Republican Senatorial Committee in two of the last three campaigns I feel there are a lot of reasons to expect a Republican Senate and House this coming year.

Speech  
File

THE THREAT TO THE FISH INDUSTRY OF MAINE AND NEW ENGLAND

The fishermen along the coast of Maine and New England have lived a hardy and difficult existence with little assistance from the Government.

Sheltered to some extent by a protective tariff in other years, they were able to make a living out of the markets of the United States in which they enjoyed the advantage of a protective tariff wall to keep out the unfair competition from the lower living standards of other countries and the resultant lower wage scales.

In recent years even this advantage has been steadily wiped out by the reciprocal trade agreements which have gradually eliminated most of the protection they formerly enjoyed.

FOREIGN SUBSIDIES

Meanwhile, in other countries to the north and east of us, generous subsidies of one character or another by the government to assist in the provision of the necessary boats and fishing gear and even in the processing of the fish added to the other advantages already enjoyed made the protective tariff barrier so low that any good-sized fish could easily jump over it.

It is interesting and somewhat irritating to note that these subsidies to the detriment of our fishing industry are being paid in some instances by countries that have benefited very materially by our own bounty to them in recent years.

Now in April, 1952, we find New Bedford reporting that the price of cod has dropped to its lowest level in more than a decade.

Responsibility for this new low price for cod was placed by George Fenner, Port Agent of the Atlantic Fishermen's Union of the American Federation of Labor, in substantial measure upon the surplus of fish brought in from Canada, Iceland, and Norway.

Boston, at the same time, was quoting cod at 5¢ per pound although cod is far less of a factor of a market than in other days, since the salt cod fish business has in large measure moved to Canada, due to the lower production costs in that country coupled with certain subsidies granted Canadian fishermen by the Canadian government.

#### 900% INCREASE IN FISH IMPORTS

The fishermen of Maine and New England face ever keener competition from foreign imports, as demonstrated by the fact that the imports of foreign fish have increased 900% since 1939. Canada is, of course, one of the leaders in these exports to the United States in the pursuit of the American dollar, but large imports also come in from Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and even some fillet imports from England.

What is true of fish is true of practically all the products of our forests, our farms, and our factories, which are similarly in need of protection from the lower wages and living standards of other countries.

The problem, however, has been rendered especially acute in the case of fish by the ease of access to our markets through our various ports, as well as by changes in the marketing methods and in the lowering of our tariff.

#### MARKETING PRACTICES

In addition to the foregoing reductions, however, the change in marketing practice by which fillets have succeeded to the whole fish has further accentuated the difficulty and removed for all practical purposes most of the protection that still remained.

The tariff rate upon a whole fish when applied to a fillet meant a reduction of approximately 60% in the resultant protection, as it required two and one-half whole fish to make one pound of fillet.

MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF FOREIGN FISH

The heavy influx of foreign fish has obviously had a most depressing effect upon the market.

During January and February of the present year, 18,600,000 pounds of ground fish were brought into this country as imports. This was a gain of 4,600,000 pounds over the imports of fish during the same period last year or a gain of approximately 30%.

The largest imports came from Iceland and represented an increase of 5,000,000 pounds more than last year, going up from 2,800,000 pounds in 1951 to 7,200,000 pounds in 1952. Canada and Norway sent in about the same amount as about a year ago.

Domestic production of fish also increased in January, February, and March of this year by approximately 5,000,000 pounds over 1951. Most of this increase came in March and, coupled with the foreign imports, accounted for the depressed market. It seems entirely evident from the facts and figures that the fishing industry of Maine and New England faces an impossible task in maintaining itself against the pressure of foreign imports from countries that have lower living standards and lower wage scales and, in addition, have a variety of subsidies for their fishermen, unless there is adequate protection for domestic producers in the markets of the United States by reason of an adequate tariff barrier.

THREAT TO MAINE FISHERMEN

Under our law and under the procedures sought to be established in international trade, subsidized exports to another country are considered as dumping and are prohibited as an unfair trade practice, and yet this is substantially what is being done by those who are seeking to take over our markets.

In most foreign countries it is also to be noted there is no law against combinations in restraint of trade, so that we may anticipate that once the

American fishing industry along the New England coast is reduced to a skeleton, there will be nothing to prevent the fishing interests of foreign countries from combining to exact such price as they may desire from the distributors and consumers in the United States.

#### BATTLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Early in my service in the Congress, there was a proposal to set up a great fishing industry in Newfoundland to serve the American market by one of the great food distributors of this country amply financed.

This situation was brought to my attention by the fishing interests of New England and after a very vigorous battle, with the full cooperation of New England Representatives and Senators, the project was abandoned for the time being although it was finally necessary to take the situation directly to the President in order to secure redress.

Meanwhile, the situation has been creeping steadily up with the fishermen of Maine facing a more and more precarious existence as a result of the activity of foreign interests in pouring fish into our market.

How much longer the fishing industry of Maine can survive in the face of this influx is the problem of the present. Certainly the fishermen of Maine have little to hope for from the present administration which continues its policy of giving every possible concession to foreign interests until it has reached the point where the Canadian dollar is above the American dollar in world trade today. This continuing policy of reducing tariffs has brought our country far below the lowest rates in our history.

#### PROTECTION ALMOST ABOLISHED

In the administration of Woodrow Wilson, under what was supposed to be a free trade tariff, the rates were fixed at an average of 27% whereas today under the operation of our current schedules, as continuously reduced by reciprocal trade agreements, the rates on dutiable articles average less than 15% and upon all products less than 6%.

These rates are practically meaningless under the conditions of world trade today and the depreciation of foreign currencies.

REPUBLICANS STAND FOR PROTECTION

The only hope for adequate protection for the fishermen of Maine and the farmers of Maine as well as the factory workers is in a Republican administration with a Republican Congress to give consideration to maintaining a sound economy in this country in order that we may be able to look after ourselves and be able as well to do what we can to help the world after we have properly provided for our own.

It is certainly high time that the fishermen along the Maine coast recognize the factors that are making it more and more difficult for them to earn a living as our American markets are given away to foreign fishermen, and register their protest at the polls.

Another curious commentary on the attitude of the administration is found in the more favorable shipping rates that are accorded to foreign distributors over American shippers from points much nearer to the consuming market.

Here again definite advantages are enjoyed by the foreign groups.

How long Americans generally will take the policies lying down, it will be interesting to observe. Of one thing we may be sure, no adequate redress will be found until there is a Republican administration in power in Washington dedicated to giving consideration to the maintenance of a sound economy here at home and to giving American fishermen and American producers primary rights in American markets.

Threat to  
THE FISH INDUSTRY OF MAINE AND NEW ENGLAND

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~~The tariff rates have been altered as follows under the reciprocal trade agreements: (Insert list)~~

*This is to come from tariff aid to Finland  
 committed*

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Speed  
file

PART OF STATEMENT OF SENATOR OWEN BREWSTER  
AT THE MEETING OF THE WALDO COUNTY REPUBLICAN  
WOMEN'S CLUB, BELFAST, MAINE, ON FRIDAY  
EVENING, APRIL 25, 1952.

MAINE MANGANESE

Maine manganese deposits of 300,000,000,000 tons promise to be of vital importance not only to Maine but to the nation.

American dependence upon supplies of manganese thousands of miles away across the oceans, has long been recognized as one of our most vulnerable spots in the industrial picture since steel-making is absolutely dependent on an adequate supply of manganese.

Formerly America depended upon Russia and more recently upon South Africa and India.

The suggestion that the Maine delegation in Washington have not been sufficiently diligent in pressing the development of this vital resource is rather curious in the light of the fact that the exploration of the Maine deposits have been carried out by a Federal Agency at the request and urging of the Maine delegation, and that further borings are even now in progress at the request of the Maine delegation.

The Maine deposits are of a different character than those found in Arkansas, Nevada and Minnesota which are now undergoing development under the established procedure.

The Maine deposits are the largest in the country and probably in the world and are of exceedingly great interest to Jess Larsen in charge of the procurement of critical materials for the Federal Government because of their vast extent.

The manganese content, however, is estimated to be around 15%, and the character of the ore requires a different process for its extraction than

has thus far been developed on a commercial basis.

The Maine delegation in Congress has been giving the matter constant attention for a long time. A half-dozen different processes are now being considered by the authorities as a possible solution for the exploitation of the Maine manganese deposits.

The Maine delegation is assured by Mr. Larsen that any process having a 50% prospect of success on a commercial basis will receive the complete support of the Federal Government in its development.

We are looking forward with confidence to American ingenuity and technical knowledge coping with the problem in the near future, with resultant development of the Maine manganese for the benefit of Maine and America.

The Maine delegation has cooperated whole-heartedly with all authorities, federal and state, in seeking to bring these vital resources into early use.

Portion of remarks of Senator Owen  
Brewster at dedication of Hall Memorial  
Bridge across Lake Wassookeag on Saturday  
afternoon November 24, 1951

The Hall Memorial Bridge dedicated to the memory of a Dexter young man in recognition of his service to his state marks a most historic spot. Nearby there might well be erected a monument to <sup>to</sup> commemorate the failure of America to recognize the talents of one of its most distinguished citizens.

Here Sir Hiram Maxim early demonstrated the possibilities of the Maxim <sup>machine</sup> gun which has transformed the character of warfare.

The military minds of the United States at that time could not perceive the significance of this novel idea. The poor country boy from Maine accordingly took his brain child across the Atlantic where in England it found a more hospitable reception.

Maxim went on to become a builder of the great Vickers industrial giant and a knight of the British Empire.

Similarly the Wright brothers found recognition of their aviation pioneering in England and it was a half century later before their original plane was returned from overseas and enshrined in the Smithsonian Institution.

Curiously enough at the Vickers' Works outside London — with the portrait of Sir Hiram Maxim occupying the position of

honor on the office walls. I saw three years ago the jet fighters and transports in process of production that are again revolutionizing modern war and stimulating American engineering and productive genius to catch up.

Here then is epitomized the lesson that America must be careful not to give further validity to the old adage that "a ~~profit~~ profit is not without honor save in his own country."

Let us be grateful for the faithful civic service that is here commemorated in the Hall Memorial Bridge. Let us continue to recognize the achievements of peace as well as war.

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PORTION OF SPEECH BY SENATOR OWEN BRUNSTER  
AT MAINE POTATO COUNCIL, PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,  
MONDAY EVENING, JULY 2, 1951

Maine resourcefulness is again being challenged. The stories of the various steps being taken to meet the new opportunities of the fertile soil of Aroostook are an indication that the same spirit that converted the Maine forests into farms in the last century still survives.

The inflation in food values that is now rampant may well bring people back to the cheapest and best of foods as the solution of their problem.

We shall soon know to what extent the marginal producers of the last decade are now going to leave potatoes for other fields.

Meanwhile, the great defense developments at Limestone and Presque Isle are going to make enormous demands on the labor market for the next two years.

The possibilities of utilizing the manganese deposits in Aroostook are also being thoroughly explored under the leadership of Governor Payne and the Maine Development Commission and in full cooperation with the Maine Congressional Delegation in Washington and the Federal Bureau of Mines.

The tales of oats and peas and cattle and chickens coming out of Aroostook are an interesting testimonial to the enterprise and energy of a county that has survived all the vicissitudes of a half century and is still apparently unafraid.

As common sense returns to Washington, there is increasing prospect that American producers will receive their proper protection from the utterly unfair competition of other land. Nothing would mean more to the permanent prosperity of Aroostook County than the re-establishment of that fundamental principle upon which Aroostook has been built and without which it will be difficult to survive.

More progress has been made in the direction of re-establishing

protection as a cornerstone of our economy in the last year than in the previous sixteen years I have been in Washington. This is a clear result of Americans everywhere waking up to the utter unsoundness of our policies.

Herein lies the hope that all the products of our farms, our factories, our fisheries, and our forests will be protected in the enjoyment of the markets that rightly belong to us . Along that road lies a sound economy.

THE MAINE IDEA

Three wars in thirty years are causing deep and continuing concern to Maine mothers and fathers. They wonder very naturally what goes on and why.

Our domestic problems originate abroad both in the enormous burden of taxation and in the current economic unsettlement. Defense demands our youth and upsets our entire economy!

Maine development has always been a matter of prime concern to the Maine delegation in Washington. This has been shown in the various activities in Maine at the federal level. Maine is faring as well as any other New England state in the utilization of its resources and plants for the National defense.

As between defense and Maine development, there is no conflict.

The Maine delegation may well say in Biblical language "This ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone."

Nothing in Maine will be of value and life will not be worth living anywhere unless we persuade the world to settle down.

As a Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, I am making such contribution as I can to the development of a foreign policy calculated to bring us a peaceful world.

In this endeavor, I have the wholehearted cooperation of the other Members of the Maine delegation in Washington.

The federal exploration of the manganese deposits in Maine reflect our interest. We have the assurance from federal authority that development of these deposits will receive full federal support as rapidly as a process can be developed that will make this enormous and vitally needed supply of manganese commercially available.

The Greater Portland Development Corporation is another illustration of extremely effective cooperation by all authorities concerned in making a federal property available for development for the vast benefit of the communities where it was located. Millions of dollars have since been invested and very substantial weekly payrolls created as a result of the transfer of the South Portland Shipyard to public trustees for development.

MAINE DEVELOPMENT

Radio broadcast by Senator Owen Brewster  
Sunday evening May 11, 1953

Maine Development began a long time ago with the hardy pioneers who came to the Maine coast for fishing and the settlers who cleared the forests and built the woolen mills on small water-powers in Maine in the early part of the last century. Later came the great cotton mills at Biddeford, Lewiston, Augusta and Waterville.

Maine development as an official state activity began in 1925 under my administration as Governor with the creation of the Maine Development Commission to cooperate with the Maine Publicity Bureau in promoting the industrial, agricultural and recreational development of Maine.

Initially as studies were developing of our resources we concentrated on cultivating a public awareness of Maine and its many attractions throughout the nation.

In my administration the Governors' Conference of which I was then Chairman was brought to Maine and toured the state literally from Kittery to Fort Kent with much favorable publicity.

A Maine to Southland pilgrimage was organized of 150 believers in Maine to spend three weeks on a special train at their own expense travelling through twelve Southern states and being entertained by the various Southern governors with Maine products being distributed along the way and the old Southern battle flags being returned to the Southern governors in a moving ceremony on the steps of the capital in Washington.

Know Maine Tours were conducted to the four corners of the state carrying caravans of fifty cars of Believers in Maine to learn more about the assets and resources of Maine.

A state charter for the Quoddy power project was passed by the legislature and overwhelmingly approved by the people in a popular referendum carrying the right to export tidal power.

Maine was on the march.

The Maine Development Commission and its associated activities became such a success that many of our sister states created similar commissions.

The New England Council was officially born in Maine at a meeting of New England Governors on my invitation to coordinate the activities of this region in development.

Succeeding administrations maintained and expanded the Maine development activities with profoundly gratifying results.

The Maine delegation in Washington cooperated wholeheartedly with all interests in Maine, public and private, in spreading the Maine Idea.

Potato contests, lobster festivals in Washington created endless good will and publicity.

Continually the offer of Maine was spread to the people of every state and with most gratifying results.

Maine owes much to the members and staff of the Maine Development Commission and Maine Publicity Bureau for working in season and out of season to keep Maine on the map.

Maine minerals have taken on a new significance since the war with world shortages of sulphur suddenly focusing attention on the Katahdin iron deposits. These have been known for nearly a century but are now significant not primarily because of the iron but because of their large sulphur content. \$1,200,000 has just been paid for the Katahdin Iron Works property by one of the largest chemical companies in the country.

Curiously enough Communism made Maine manganese development possible when the Russian Communists shut off manganese supplies to America after the war.

The Maine deposits of manganese were under exploration by federal and state agencies as early as 1940.

The manganese content, however, was only about 15% as against the 50% in the Russian deposits.

The Maine manganese also requires the development of a new process for its extraction because of other characteristics.

The exploration of the Maine manganese deposits has largely been carried out by federal agencies at the urging of the Maine delegation in Washington.

Constant studies have been under way for some years to determine a process that will make these Maine manganese deposits commercially available.

Jess Larsen in charge of governmental procurement and stockpiling of critical materials is vitally interested in the Maine manganese deposits estimated at around 300,000,000 tons--one of the largest deposits in the world.

Manganese is so critical because not even President Truman can make steel without manganese.

Jess Larsen has assured the Maine delegation in Washington that federal funds will be available for the development of the Maine manganese deposits the moment there is a process of extraction developed that offers a 50% prospect of success.

That is how strongly the federal authorities feel about the situation and why they are even now going to the very considerable expense of boring four holes one thousand feet deep into these Arcostook deposits to get more accurate information as to their character and extent.

#### Beryl

Beryl and mica deposits in western Maine are also now under further development as beryllium becomes a most significant metal in this air age and more and more mica is required in all the phases of electronics.

All Maine development, however, is dependent upon events far beyond our bounds. Life in Maine will be meaningless in a totalitarian world.

Maine cannot live by minerals alone in a world dominated by material force.

The spiritual heritage of Maine is still its most vital and critical possession. Without it all is lost. With it we cannot fail.

Communism seeks to destroy the church and the family as the cornerstone of our civilization. As Abraham Lincoln pointed out, America can only be destroyed from within--not from without.

The disintegration of family and religious life in Maine and in America is the worst menace to our country and to our youth.

Maine development must always have in mind the history of all the great civilizations that have perished when they have deserted their early god.