

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 932

S. P. 318

In Senate, February 23, 1971

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Quinn of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Authorizing the Piscataquis County Treasurer to Pay over a Portion of the Funds from the Estate of Joseph Masteika to Certain Heirs of Joseph Masteika.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Treasurer of Piscataquis County; authorized to pay from funds. Notwithstanding the Revised Statutes, Title 18, section 2353, the Treasurer of Piscataquis County is authorized and directed to pay over from funds held by him from the estate of Joseph Masteika since April 6, 1948, to the following heirs of Joseph Masteika the amounts of money set forth next to their names:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Anthony Spranaitis | \$3,930.20 |
| Irene Jadelis | 377.52 |
| Regina Melinis | 377.52 |

STATEMENT OF FACT

At the time of the death of Joseph Masteika his residuary legatees were residents of Lithuania, a country which was seized by the Soviet Union during World War II. Extensive efforts through diplomatic channels and otherwise to distribute the estate to these legatees failed, since the Soviet Union would not permit it. The residue was thus turned over to the County Treasurer, awaiting the necessary advertising and escheat after 20 years. This time has elapsed, but advertising as prescribed by statute was, by inadvertence, incorrectly done.

At some point it appears that one of the 4 legatees escaped to West Germany where she has since died. The 3 beneficiaries of this Act are those

of her heirs living in the United States. The remaining heirs are residents of Lithuania.

The amounts set forth next to their names represent the proportionate share of the estate each would have received (without interest) had they claimed their share before the expiration of the 20-year period beginning when the funds were first turned over to the County Treasurer on April 6, 1948.

None of the named beneficiaries had any actual notice of the existence of their legacies until April 29, 1969.

The Probate Court has ruled that the failure to advertise properly did not stop the running of the 20-year limitation period.

None of the funds have been appropriated by Piscataquis County.