

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 30, 1940

Mr. Burkett, Attorney General

Mr. Hayes, State Auditor

In re Accounts of Maine Forestry District

It is apparent from the conference held in my office this morning between Forest Commissioner Rendall, his chief clerk, Miss Coleman, yourself and myself, that the entire work of the Forestry District, as separated and apart from the Forest Commissioner's work, has been handled, since 1931, entirely independent of the provisions of the Code. I was satisfied from our conversation, that the work of the Forestry District is of such character that it would be difficult to conduct it efficiently if the requirements of the Code in regard to purchases, personnel and pre-audit were followed, and that it is further apparent that the wildland owners who contribute the funds for this work keep a close check on the disbursements of the fund and have been satisfied with the work that has been carried on.

While I feel that for the protection of the Commissioner and all parties concerned, it would be advisable to have the kind of post-audit of these functions that is made of other functions of the State government, it is my opinion that the Forestry Department should not be considered as coming within the provisions of the Code at this time, but that the entire matter should be considered by the Legislature, to whom a statement of the entire situation should be made by your Department so that the situation could be definitely clarified by further enactment.

Attorney General

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