

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 1, 1941

Albert Knudsen, Esquire
County Attorney Cumberland County
Portland, Maine

Dear Sir:

Some time ago we were discussing extradition in cases of non-support. As I recall the matter, you had at that time two requests before you.

I have discussed this question with Governor Sewall and he feels that where the case is of a high and aggravated nature, such as the case of a mother and children deliberately abandoned by the husband and father under such circumstances that they may fall in need, it will be proper to proceed to have the man brought back and taken into Court for punishment.

On the other hand, if it is a case of incompatibility or if it is a case where the family will, apparently, be better off if the husband has gone away and left them (and you and I have both seen many such cases) then the State will not be interested in bringing him back even though the abandoned wife may feel ever so vindictive.

Every case should be considered on its merits.

In general, there should be no extradition where the chief element seems to be getting the man under local control so that money can be recovered from him, and where the crime of which he is accused is a mere misdemeanor.

The question of extradition should be approached very cautiously.

Very truly yours,

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

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