

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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July 23, 1941

To Henry P. Weaver, Chief, Maine State Police
Re: License and Registration of Shows and Circuses

. . . P. L. 1939, Chapter 180, provides a \$500 license fee for all circuses and a \$25 license fee for "traveling amusement shows". I assume that the "traveling amusement show" includes carnivals, although some of them are so big that they would seem to be, as a matter of fact, circuses.

The payment of the license fee does not exempt them from the law concerning registration. However, the Secretary of State informs me that certain circuses and carnivals have come into the State this year after being informed by a clerk in the Public Utilities office that the license fee does take the place of the registration fees. Moreover, as I remember, he informed me that certain large carnivals have been rated as circuses and have paid the \$500 fee in lieu of registration fees.

I believe the State Auditor will feel that the wording of the statute must be followed literally, so this arrangement cannot be followed any further. However, I told the Secretary of State that it seems to me that if there are in the State now, or have been this year, any carnivals or circuses that have been informed that the license fee would take the place of registration, since that information might be one of the things that induced them to enter the State, we should keep faith with them, but, in the future, all circuses and carnivals should be required to conform with the statutory provisions.

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

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