

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 4, 1942

To Lucius D. Barrows, Chief Engineer, State Highway Commission
Re: Employment of Aliens

I have your memo of April 3rd in regard to the practical impossibility of securing labor for absolutely necessary work in the construction and repair of highways important for defense unless friendly aliens can be employed.

Of course, subjects of countries with which the United States is now at war cannot be employed on any of these projects under any circumstances.

Friendly aliens are barred under the Public Laws of 1937, Chapter 161.

However, under the Public Laws of 1941, Chapter 305 (the Civilian Defense Act, approved by the Governor on January 21st, 1942), the Governor is empowered and directed to provide for the security, health and welfare of the people of the State, and he is further empowered and directed to make, issue and enforce such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

If, in the opinion of the Governor, it is necessary to lift the ban on employment of friendly aliens for a time in order to relieve the shortage of labor, he has the power to do so under said section.

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

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