

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 9, 1943

H. M. Orr

Bureau of Purchases

Frank I. Cowan, General

Attorney General

Tar Bids

I have your memo of April 8 in regard to tar bids. The statute under which you operate (P.L. 1931, Ch. 216, Sections 18, 19 & 20) gives you very broad authority in making purchases for the State. There is no provision in the statute requiring that you call for bids, your judgment as to how you will "best secure the greatest possible economy consistent with the grade or quality of supplies best adapted to the purposes for which they are needed," being the only requirement.

I note that you sent out specifications to some sixty prospective bidders in order to obtain an offer for sale of tar and that on the specifications you stated that the bids would be opened on April 7 at 1:45 A.M. An advertisement was also run in the newspaper, and through an error the newspaper date read April 17 instead of April 7. Bids were received and opened on April 7.

It is the opinion of this department that you are entirely within your rights in awarding the bid on the basis of those received on April 7 without regard to the date which appeared in the newspaper.

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

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