

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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November 8, 1943

To Honorable Wallace H. White, United States Senate
Re: Post-War Fund

Enclosed you will find a copy of Chapter 353 of the Public Laws of the State of Maine. You will notice that the sum of \$1,000,000. was appropriated, and \$50,000. was authorized to be expended for plans and specifications; but no expenditures shall be made from this fund until the project or projects have been approved by the legislature. The Maine Development Commission is to report on its activities under this Act at the next special or regular session of the legislature.

Mr. Harold O'Brien of Mount Vernon, Maine, has been appointed by the Governor and Council to act as a director of projects for post-war consideration. Mr. O'Brien has an office in the State House. . . . He was formerly an executive officer of the International Silver Company. Upon his retirement, he bought a place in Maine and settled here because he liked the State and its people. I believe Mr. O'Brien is an engineer by profession, and it is my understanding that his services were solicited by members of the industrial division of the Maine Development Commission.

Thinking that you might like to know what has occurred to date under this program, I interviewed this morning Mr. Everett Greaton, executive secretary of the Maine Development Commission, and learned that the outline consists of these five divisions:

1. Agriculture and Rural Highways.

Under this project will be the building of good roads giving ready access for crops to public markets during the entire year. This will also result in the purchase and improvement of many abandoned farms throughout the State, which would have a market value if the roads leading to them were improved.

2. Industrial.

Both the individual and the group methods of industrial employment are being surveyed and facts and figures are being tabulated, so that industrial needs of labor and industrial opportunities for labor may be utilized at maximum capacity.

3. Municipal Projects.

The Development Commission has a full-time representative working with municipalities throughout the State on local municipal projects, such as road building, public buildings, and possibly municipal utilities, together with a careful consideration of the methods of financing the same.

4. State Projects.

All the department heads are being consulted and encouraged to submit necessary and worthwhile undertakings for the improvement of their departments, which will in turn yield a beneficial return to the public.

The Highway Department is considering highways and bridges, and also super-highways.

A new wing has been proposed and accepted for the State House.

The Department of Institutions has proposed additions to the State Hospitals and to several other institutions under its jurisdiction.

The Sea and Shore Fisheries Department has proposed the erection of some rearing stations. Incidentally, the lobster-rearing station has been a tremendous success, with the result that this year there was an excellent catch along the coast as contrasted with four or five years ago, when the situation was most discouraging. We now recognize the need of assisting nature, if we are going to take large crops from the soil or the sea each year.

The Forestry Department has proposed projects which are designed to eliminate destruction from insects and pests, as well as re-seeding.

5. Only as a last resort - the use of federal funds and federal projects.

Wallace, this has been taken just as it appears on the agenda and I have no further comments to make.

After having had to write to you for so many things over a long time, it is a pleasure to me to see a request coming from your direction toward me. If there is anything further that you would like to have me do on this or anything else, I will be pleased to respond.

John G. Marshall
Deputy Attorney General

JGM:c