

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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November 10, 1943

Hon. Sumner Sewall, Governor

Executive

Frank I. Cowan

Attorney General

I am returning herewith the letter of the Acting Secretary of the Navy bearing date September 28, 1943, together with the enclosures having to do with a declaration by the Navy of its acceptance of jurisdiction. I don't like these proceedings, and two years ago, when the War and Navy Departments were getting active in connection with the airports, I figured out some language that I thought would protect the interests of the State. The United States Supreme Court, in a case involving the State of North Carolina, held that the protective language was of no avail. Inasmuch as that court has the last guess in regard to the law and we have to accept that guess as final, unless we ask them to reverse themselves, I am under the necessity of saying that on the present interpretation of the law by our court, there is nothing we can do except recognize that the United States has taken certain land. The letter from the Secretary of the Navy is simply a notice to the State of Maine so that we will have a record and the only reason for your signing the receipt which sent along is as a matter of courtesy so that they will know that the notice has been received and noted. 2.3

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General