

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

**This document is from the files of the Office of
the Maine Attorney General as transferred to
the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference
Library on January 19, 2022**

April 26, 1944

To Honorable Sumner Sewall, Governor of Maine
Re: \$2. in Taxes for \$1. in Benefits

I have been thinking about your remarks at Bangor and your suggestion that the States take steps, as they can do, to curb the federal government in its "gift" methods of assisting local financing.

I fear that the wise words of any Governor or group of Governors are likely to prove ineffective so long as the federal government is being constantly bombarded by numerous heads of departments in the State, asking for benefits for their particular brain children.

For example, you protest because we pay two dollars in taxes for every one dollar we get back, and you urge that the Congress be persuaded to let up on that procedure. While you are speaking those words, the Fish and Game Department, Forestry Department, Welfare Department, Health Bureau, Institutional Service, Department of Agriculture, Highway Commission, The Military Defense Commission, and God knows what other branches or departments or agencies or instrumentalities of the government of the State of Maine, are hounding the boys in Washington to shell out in larger quantities.

A voice crying in the wilderness is like a clarion call in comparison with the decibels of sound that you can get through the clamor raised by your subordinates and associates in administering local government. I think you need a megaphone, or some silence on the part of the others.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

FIC:c