

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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July 7, 1944

To Capt. Joseph Young, State Police  
~~From Frank I. Cowan, Attorney General~~

Norway Firemen's Association - Beano

I am very reluctant to extend the provisions of the beano law beyond our present interpretations. We have already been about as liberal in the matter of fairs as we can be and still keep within the spirit of the act.

The Norway proposition for permitting operation of beano games by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ or some other person to be employed by the Association operating the carnival presents difficulties, but at the same time gives us an opportunity to study the matter from a different angle. I suggest that you issue a license to the Norway group permitting them to operate beano games in the same way that beano games are operated by fairs, but inform them that the purpose of issuing the incense is solely to enable us to study the situation and that since it is experimental on our part, it is not to be regarded as a precedent, and the fact that they receive a license to operate beano in connection with that carnival will not be considered as a precedent by the State for issuing licenses to any other group for operating beano in connection with a carnival. If we are satisfied from our study of the situation that it is proper to issue beano licenses to local charitable groups running carnivals on the same basis that we issue licenses to fair associations, then the Chief of the State Police may ~~and~~ may not issue such licenses, he acting within the discretionary limits provided by the statute.

I am of the opinion that the Norway group should not employ Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ or any other operator on a percentage basis. That way certainly furnishes a toe-hold for racketeers. Any such employment by this group, or by fair associations, should, it seems to me, be on a per diem basis.

Frank I. Cowan  
Attorney General

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