

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 15, 1946

To Earl P. Osgood, Milk Control Board

I have considered the question with regard to the Council Order that you prepared, by which the Milk Control Board would be authorized to transfer to the University of Maine funds of the Board for the purpose of gathering information relating to the cost of producing and handling milk in Maine markets, such data being necessary in order to change the minimum prices for milk in the various markets of the State, when subsidies now paid by the Federal Government are discontinued. Under the law creating the Milk Control Board, the Board is charged with establishing and fixing, after investigation and public hearing, the wholesale and retail minimum prices to be charged for milk distributed for sale within the State, by stores to customers, and by producers to dealers, and others. The law further provides:

"Prices so fixed shall be just and reasonable, taking into due consideration the ensuring of an adequate supply of pure and wholesome milk and conditions affecting the milk industry, including a reasonable return to the producer and dealer."

The Board certainly would have the power to employ the services of an economist and assistants in order to furnish it with the statistical data upon which to form its judgment in the fixing of prices under the provisions of this law, and I know of no reason why it cannot, instead of hiring an economist and a staff of assistants, contract with the University of Maine, through the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, to gather such data and supply it to the Board, which you represent, would be more economical than if the Board proceeded to gather this information independently.

Abraham Breitbard
Deputy Attorney General

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