

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 10, 1947

To: H. H. Harris, Acting Controller.
Accounts and Control

I have your memo of January 9th recalling a conference held in my office last summer relating to the method of computing pari-mutuel pools payable to the various agricultural societies of the State under the amendment contained in Chapter 361 of the Public Laws of 1945.

I recall the persons present at said conference and that it was agreed among all the conferees at that time that the computation would be 5% of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ of the pari-mutuel pools during each racing season, so that the agricultural societies would receive 5% as provided in said act of 1945. It was understood at that meeting and explained by you that the \$5000 placed in the general appropriation bill was merely an estimate until such time as the 1945 act became effective.

You state that you have no knowledge as to how or why this \$5000 item was put into the general appropriation act; but I will say that Mr. Mossman, who was finance commissioner in 1945, advised me that this would appear in a general appropriation act to protect the stipends for the agricultural societies until such time as an estimate could be made of the 5% of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ of the pari-mutuel pool under the provisions of Chapter 361, P. L. 1945, which was not effective until July 21, 1945, because the old law provided that an appropriation should be made from the State treasury, not to exceed 2% per inhabitant of the State, to be known as the State stipend for aid to agricultural societies. I believe I advised Mr. Mossman orally during the session of the 92nd Legislature that that law was mandatory, that a stipend should be provided for until such time as the new amendment became effective.

Your computation, as agreed at the conference last summer, meets with my approval, and I feel that the Department of Agriculture should lapse the \$5000 appropriation for the current year and that this meets the requirement of the statute and the intent of the legislature.

This modifies my ruling of February 14, 1946.

Ralph W. Farris
Attorney General

RWF:c
cc: Commissioner of Agriculture