

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 13, 1948

To Harrison C. Greenleaf, Commissioner of Institutional Service  
Re: Religious Activities in State Prison

I received your memo of October 13th inquiring in regard to the trouble that some members of the religious sect called Jehovah Witnesses have been making at the Prison.

It is my opinion that you cannot have special rules for Jehovah Witnesses any more than you can for any other denomination or sect. You are correct in your statement that you and the Warden have general supervision, management and control of the grounds, buildings, property and inmates of the State Prison. It is for you and the Warden to make rules and regulations and keep order within the Prison, in conformity with the statute.

I should have the Warden write Attorney Scott, who represents Jehovah Witnesses, advising him that the administration of the Prison is strictly in conformity with the statute and the rules and regulations provided thereunder, and that religious denominations and outside parties have no legal right to interfere with the administration of our penal institutions.

Ralph W. Farris  
Attorney General

RWF:c