

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

R E P O R T

OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

for the calendar years

1949 - 1950

I wish to advise that it is my opinion that the retired members of the State Police should receive in addition to their present retirement pay such additional amounts as will equal one-half of the pay which will now be paid to members of their respective grades at the time of retirement, and this will include the new salary scale which becomes effective on the same day as this Private & Special Law set forth in Chapter 210, P&SL 1949, which I have quoted, because the two bills do become effective at the same time.

If you do not have sufficient money in your budget to take care of this increase in the retirement pay of your members who have retired, it will be necessary for you to go to the Governor and Council for funds to take care of this Act, because you cannot appropriate funds of the State Police when there are none available for this purpose unless there is a transfer from the General Highway Fund to the funds of the Maine State Police.

RALPH W. FARRIS
Attorney General

June 10, 1949

To Hon. Frederick G. Payne, Governor of Maine
Re: Electoral College

In going through the files of my late Deputy, Mr. Breitbard, I find a letter addressed to you by Henry Cabot Lodge, United States Senator from Massachusetts, which has to do with a bill pending before the 81st Congress consisting of a Constitutional Amendment for abolishing the Electoral College and the office of elector, but retaining the electoral vote as a counting device. You asked Abe's opinion on this matter.

While I was in Texas last fall attending the National Association of Attorneys General, Congressman Ed Gossett of Texas was one of our dinner guest speakers, and he talked about forty minutes on this subject. He stated that he was working with Senator Lodge on the matter of this Constitutional Amendment to abolish the Electoral College. After listening to his speech I was convinced that the Constitutional Amendment would be advisable. I have read some of the statements in the pamphlet which Senator Lodge sent you on March 3rd and I note that some of the same occurrences in Presidential elections were cited by Ed Gossett in his speech at Houston, Texas, last fall.

Of course they are quite convincing on the point that the Electoral College is outmoded and should be brought up to date, and they also indicate what might happen if the election of a President were thrown into the House of Representatives. . . .

RALPH W. FARRIS
Attorney General

June 10, 1949

To Honorable Frederick G. Payne, Governor of Maine

On May 11th one of your secretaries sent over to this office two letters with attached material from Mrs. J. E. Goodbar of Portland. The letterhead is that of the National Federation of Press Women, Inc. She called