

# 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**

July 15, 1949

To Honorable Ralph Sterling, Register of Deeds, Skowhegan, Maine

I have your letter of July 14th inquiring in regard to Chapter 401 of the Public Laws of 1949. You state that your difficulty is with Section 3 and inquire,

"Does the new provision relative to charge for indexing instruments with more than two parties apply to all instruments or only instruments for which there are no printed forms which are referred to in the paragraph to which it was added?"

It seems to me that this applies only to instruments for which no printed forms are available.

You are entitled to make a charge for making additional indices where there are two grantors or grantees; but where the wife or husband only signs the deed releasing dower or courtesy rights, there is no need of double indexing.

RALPH W. FARRIS  
Attorney General

July 15, 1949

To Marion Martin, Commissioner of Labor and Industry  
Re: Procedure in Picketing

I have your memo of July 12th relating to the Old Town shoe workers' strike, stating that you would like to have specific rulings with regard to the law as it applies to these situations and asking the following questions:

"1. What constitutes 'mass picketing'?"

*Answer.* Boisterous conduct, the use of vile language, bellicose demeanor, threats, violence, coercion, intimidation, shouting, and interference with use of premises or impeding public highway are usually denominated mass picketing where a large number of pickets are used. Our courts have held that mass picketing is not peaceful picketing, but is illegal picketing in which laboring men and women have no right to participate. Under the Taft-Hartley Act there is a long definition relating to mass picketing, but it does not get-down to the point. It deals more with collective bargaining.

"2. Is there any limit to the number of pickets that may be used on the picket line, providing such pickets allow room for a person to pass through?"

*Answer.* I know of no statute setting the number of pickets in any picket line, where a strike is on; but any line of pickets that would interfere with the use of the premises or impede public highways would not be legal, as it would constitute mass picketing.

"3. Are pickets forbidden from making any comments while in picket line to those passing through the line?"

*Answer.* Any comments or words by pickets which tend to intimidate or inspire fear, overawe or make afraid other workers, or which tend to incite to violence would be classed as illegal picketing.