

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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December 27, 1955

To the Public Utilities Commission  
Re: Employment of Special Counsel

Under date of June 3, 1953, an order was passed by the Governor and Council at the request of the Public Utilities Commission and with the approval of the Attorney General authorizing the employment of an attorney for not less than 70 days in the fiscal year starting on July 1, 1953. This order was passed at the time of the hearing of a rate-increase petition by the Central Maine Power Company and was intended to cover only that proceeding.

On December 23, 1953, another council order was passed at the request of the Attorney General with the approval of the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission authorizing the further employment of the same attorney in the same proceeding for the purpose of representing the State before the Supreme Judicial Court.

In 1954 a council order was passed at the request of the Public Utilities Commission and without the approval of the Attorney General authorizing the employment of an attorney at the rate of \$50 per day for a period of not less than 70 days in any fiscal year. An attorney has been employed by virtue of that order until the present time. This third order changed the status of employment from that of an attorney working upon one specific matter to that of an attorney upon a retainer basis. We now have a bill for the second half of 1955, which will be approved by this office.

In the future, however, no such bill will be approved and no such part-time employment will be authorized. This is not to be taken as a refusal to permit employment of special counsel for specific items of business; but any future employment will be restricted to those specific items of business.

Frank F. Harding  
Attorney General

cc: Controller  
Richard B. Sanborn, Esquire