

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 10, 1956

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To Honorable Sumner T. Pike, Chairman, Public Utilities Commission
Re: Counsel

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 30th with respect to counsel for the Public Utilities Commission.

I answer your letter for two reasons: first, that I may not at some later date be said to have now acquiesced in a situation about which I have previously complained and notified you that it would no longer continue; and, secondly, to determine if we were both talking about the same thing.

I cannot consent to the continuation of the employment of counsel on a retainer basis. It is not, and has not been, my intention to deprive you of the services of Mr. Sanborn for specific items of business such as rate cases.

I do believe that the Commission and the State would be better served by full-time counsel. I appreciate the fact that it would take some time to break in a new man in this type of work and should hope to have the benefit of Mr. Sanborn's experience during the early stages of the employment of full-time counsel by the Commission.

The only thing available under present law is assignment of a Special Assistant Attorney General to your Commission. This I cannot, and would not force upon you. If, however, you decide that this might meet your needs, I would be pleased to confer with you in regard to it.

Frank F. Harding
Attorney General

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