

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 14, 1956

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To Osear Walker, Esquire, Bangor
Re: Importation of Wines

It would appear from your letter of February 8 to our mutual friend, Glynn Frost, Deputy Attorney General, and his reply to you that the question had been referred to me.

You will recall in our conversation that I told you that aside from the provisions of our liquor law, R. S. Chapter 61, Sec. 63, no spirituous and vinous liquor can be imported into this State except by the Maine State Liquor Commission.

It was then and still is my opinion that no company could legally in Maine engage in the business of importing liquor for sale to the Maine State Liquor Commission. A corporation could be formed under the provisions of Sec. 15 which would have the authority under the previously quoted sections as well as Sec 15 to import liquors for bottling or restifying under State of Maine manufacturer's license.

In this case a Maine corporation could undoubtedly legally be formed holding a rectifier's license similar to that which is now held by Lawrence & Company in Lewiston which would be authorized to import spirituous liquor in bulk, and rectify the same for sale under their name and brand. The same company holds a bottler's license which authorizes it to import wine in bulk for bottling without rectifying and sell under its own brand name.

I believe this is pretty much the same territory we covered in our conversation.

Henry Heselton
Assistant Attorney General and
Counsel for the Commission