

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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May 28, 1957

no

To Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, Governor of Maine
Re: Rights of Filipino Citizens

We are returning herewith the letter of Carlos P. Romulo, Ambassador from the Philippines, and the attached excerpt from the Revised Philippine-American Trade Agreement.

To assist his Government in implementing the aforementioned Trade Agreement, Ambassador Romulo has asked for the provisions of existing laws in the State of Maine which affect the rights of Filipino citizens relative to the disposition, exploitation and utilization of natural resources and with respect to the operation of public utilities, including the right to acquire land and to engage in importing and exporting.

We would advise that, to our knowledge, there are no laws in our State which particularly affect citizens of the Philippines. Of course, we have the usual statutes which discriminate against non-residents, but such discrimination has been held to be justified. For instance, discrimination exists between residents and non-residents with respect to hunting and fishing licenses; preference is given by statute to Maine workmen and bidders on public works projects; liquor produced in Maine is to be given preference over liquor produced elsewhere. These would appear to be examples of the only statutes which might militate against Filipino citizens, and similar situations would exist in all the States.

James Glynn Frost
Deputy Attorney General

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