

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 25, 1959

Donald J. Minich
Executive Director
Caribou Chamber of Commerce
Box 618
Caribou, Maine

Re: Solicitation of Funds--Lucy Evans Memorial Camp

Dear Mr. Minich:

I have your letter of June 22, 1959, to the Attorney General, for reply. The Church of God in Christ was incorporated under the laws of Maine on June 1, 1951, and the names mentioned in your letter are officers or directors of the corporation.

I have checked with the Department of Health and Welfare and find that License #59-1A was issued to the Church of God in Christ on April 26, 1959, to allow them to solicit funds to build and operate the Lucy Evans Memorial Camp. Such license was issued pursuant to Sections 274-A through 274-D, both inclusive, of Chapter 25, Revised Statutes of 1954.

Section 274-B, Chapter 25, prohibits solicitation of funds for charitable or benevolent purposes outside of the municipalities where such persons reside or a corporation has its place of business. This section charges the Department of Health and Welfare with the duty of determining, among other things, if the solicitor "has suitable facilities for applying the funds for the purpose for which they are to be solicited, and that the records of such funds and the purpose for which they are used will be properly and accurately kept. Such license . . . may be revoked by the department whenever in its discretion it seems for the best interest of the public to do so."

Donald J. Minich

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Section 274-D provides a penalty for non-compliance with any of the provisions of the statute.

I have talked the the ex-County Attorney, Walter Sage, Esquire, and he indicated that he thought this office had made some investigation in the past. I have been unable to find any investigative report on this matter except letters in the files.

In view of the 1955 amendment to the statute (Chapter 25), I am referring your letter to the Department of Health and Welfare for appropriate action.

If you feel there is evidence of larceny by false impersonation, you should contact your county attorney.

Very truly yours,

George A. Wathen
Assistant Attorney General

gaw/m

cc: George C. West, Esquire
Health & Welfare Department