

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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712
January 10, 1961

E. L. Newdick, Commissioner

Agriculture

James G. Frost, Deputy

Attorney General

**Interchange of Information by Departments
of Agriculture**

We have your memo of December 28, 1960 in which you ask for our thoughts on the following motion passed by the North-eastern Commissioners of Agriculture:

"Moved by Alampi and duly seconded by Gill that this association approve interchange of information concerning court decisions, cancellation of licenses and similar formal action taken by the states against commodity buyers. This information to be sent to Harold Girth, who will consolidate and distribute it to the states. Each Commissioner to designate one person in each state to forward the state report and receive the report from Girth. This material to be confidential and for state department of agriculture use only. Passed by unanimous vote."

We see nothing harmful in the motion that would permit the various departments of agriculture throughout the country from exchanging information useful to each other.

As your law presently stands, action in respect to licenses is taken in a court, and results of such decisions and other court decisions would, of course, be available to the public in the state of the decision and an exchange of such information would not, in our opinion, violate any right to know law.

Our own association exchanges information on cases which one Attorney General believes to be of interest to the other Attorneys General and we know of no law that would prohibit such interchange.

**James Glynn Frost
Deputy Attorney General**

JGF:H