

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 3, 1964

E. L. Newdick, Commissioner

Agriculture

George C. West, Deputy

Attorney General

Use of the Mailing List of the Department of Agriculture

FACTS:

The Department of Agriculture publishes a Market News Report. It formerly contained advertising of articles for sale or swap far removed from agriculture. Beginning January 1, 1964, the advertising was limited to items clearly connected with agriculture.

An individual has conceived the idea of putting out a so-called swap sheet list. He has requested the department to make available to him the latter's mailing list under the Right to Know Law.

QUESTION:

Is a departmental mailing list within the purview of the Right to Know Law?

ANSWER:

No.

REASONS:

The Right to Know Law was enacted as P.L. 1959, ch. 219, and is R. S. 1954, ch. 1, § § 36 to 41.

It applies to "public proceedings." They are defined in part as "transactions of any functions affecting any or all citizens of the State by any administrative . . . body of the State . . . which body is composed of 3 or more members"

The Department of Agriculture is under the control of a single commissioner so it does not come within the purview of this law.

GCW:H

George C. West
Deputy Attorney General