

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 9, 1975

David Sanders

Executive - OEO

John W. Benoit, Jr., Deputy

Attorney General

Your letter of May 30 re Secretary of State's Use of Social Security Numbers

This is a reply to your letter of May 30, 1975, addressed to Attorney General Joseph E. Brennan.

Your letter states you are familiar with the opinion of this office dated March 24, 1975, and of a letter Attorney U. Charles Rummel, II, submitted to us, both items being concerned with the Secretary of State's use of Social Security numbers on motor vehicle operators' licenses. You state your general concurrence with our opinion but request that we address a related question not raised by Attorney Rummel and not covered in our opinion.

Thank you for your letter and its attachments. It is noted that you signed your letter with the title "Legal Counsel." When I saw that designation, I checked our files to determine if we had approved a contract for your employment as legal counsel to the Division of Economic Opportunity, and I found no such contract. The provisions of 5 M.R.S.A § 191 specify, among other things, that all legal services required by officers, boards and commissions in matters relating to their official duties shall be rendered by the Attorney General or under his direction. In all instances where the Legislature has authorized an office or an agency of the State to employ counsel, the Attorney General's written approval is required as a condition precedent to such employment.

JWBJr/mf

cc: Charles Wyman