

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 14, 1976

Earle G. Shettlesworth, Jr., Dir.

Maine Historic Preservation

Donald G. Alexander, Deputy

Attorney General

Potential Conflict with the Presidency of the Maine Historical Society

This responds to your inquiry of May 23, 1976, in which you requested whether there would be a conflict of interest for you, as Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, to also be elected to the office of the presidency of the Maine Historical Society.

The Maine Historical Society, as we understand it, is a private nonprofit organization with general purposes to promote interest in Maine history.

We do not believe that there would be any inherent conflict in your holding both of the above-captioned positions. As the Maine Historical Society is a nonprofit group, there could be no financial gain to you as a result of any activities of the Society. Therefore, a number of the traditional rules of conflict of interest do not apply. Further, we see no basis for any inherent conflict in your holding both positions for any other reason. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission does not have such a continuing regulatory or other relationship with the Maine Historical Society as would continually raise real or apparent conflicts of interest.

We would emphasize, however, that from time to time it is possible that the Maine Historical Society could be coming before the Maine Historic Preservation Commission seeking favors such as grants in aid. These matters would not disqualify you from holding both positions. However, when any such matters come before the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, it may be appropriate for you to excuse yourself from any connection with such proposals by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for the Maine Historical Society.

DONALD G. ALEXANDER
Deputy Attorney General

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