

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Report
TO THE
Legislature

BY THE

Maine Development
Commission

Showing Progress
ON
Postwar Planning

TO MARCH 31, 1944

The 91st Legislature, foreseeing the problems likely to be imposed upon the State of Maine during the period of transition from an economy of war to an economy of peace, enacted a law, Chapter 353, entitled "An Act to Provide for Post War Planning." Section 2 of that act, among other things, provides that the Maine Development Commission shall report to the next special or regular session of the Legislature on its activities under the Act. This report is thus submitted to the special session of the 91st Legislature and records the progress made by the Commission from date of enactment of the Act, July 9, 1943.

During July and August, 1943, the Commission organized the Postwar Planning work. Mr. Harry B. O'Brien has served as Director of Postwar Planning and Mr. Franklin A. Milliken has served as his assistant. The accomplishment reported herein represents the work of Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Milliken, assisted whenever possible by the Commission staff. The Development Commission has been responsible for the establishment of general policy and procedure and has carefully followed the month by month progress reports of Mr. O'Brien and his assistant, Mr. Milliken.

The development of the work, from mid summer of 1943 to date, has shown sufficient progress to warrant certain general conclusions in this brief summary report to the Legislature. It is anticipated that a second and more factual, complete report will be made for submis-

sion to the Legislature early in 1945. The complete report will cover in detail these summary subjects:

1. Based on interviews with managements representing 85% of Maine employment in the manufacturing industries, this is now slightly in excess of 152,000 compared with 91,642 in 1940.

2. Based on these same interviews, private industry in Maine expected to employ nearly 115,000 after the war period.

3. The reconversion problem is not an acute one in Maine since industry, in general, is producing much the same general type of product as will be manufactured in normal peacetime operations.

4. State Departments have completed or will soon have in complete form the listings of desirable projects for the consideration of the Legislature. The selection of the projects and the magnitude of expenditures will of course be subject to Legislative action. Postwar planning seeks only to list in orderly manner, along with reasonable estimates, such of these many desirable projects as seem worthy of Legislative consideration.

5. Municipal governments throughout the State have been offered State services to assist them in their own efforts to forward local postwar plans. Nearly 175 municipalities, representing over 70% of the State's population, have supplied information concerning the progress made in local preparation of postwar programs. Eighty-two of this number have funds totaling over \$800,000, already ear-marked or available for postwar employment

projects. The Protected Reserve Act has been utilized by twenty-four municipalities in setting aside about half the sum mentioned. Nearly seventy-five municipalities have started or completed the assembling of necessary plans. In eighteen or more communities both funds and plans are ready-to-go. There are now more than forty municipal planning committees in Maine, as compared to about six a year ago.

6. Certain other of the complex phases of postwar planning are subjects for the complete report. We recognize the likely place of federal capital expenditures within the State, and we recognize the moral responsibility of the State in the readjustment program so essential for the returning State of Maine soldiers. These and many other subjects are being given careful study.

EXPENDITURES

Of the \$1,000,000 appropriated by the 91st Legislature, \$50,000 was made available by the Legislature for the cost of the planning work. From enactment of the Legislature July 9, 1943, to March 31, 1944, total expenditures have been \$7,686.42, about 15% of the sum ear-marked for planning work. The detail of this expenditure to March 31, 1944, is as follows:

Salaries	\$4,802.76
Travel	1,358.98
Office Supplies	376.00
Expenditures by State Departments:	
Park Commission	532.59
Agriculture	616.09
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	\$7,686.42

SUMMARY

In submitting this brief general summary the Development Commission makes full acknowledgment that the report does not reflect a complete accounting of the responsibilities assigned to the Commission by this Legislature. We do submit, however, that State of Maine Postwar Planning is in such shape at this time that the Legislature will have available for its consideration the basic facts with which it may discharge intelligently and effectively its essential responsibilities during the critical conversion period.

MAINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION