

As A Mainer

You have witnessed state government become more expensive, larger, more cumbersome and more oppressive every year...

You live in one of the lowest income, highest tax rate states in the U.S....

You live in one of the highest unemployment areas but, face the highest rising tax rate burdens in America.

You now face a year long crisis caused by — the possibility of losing your property, your home, your farm, your business...

You know there is something definitely wrong in state government but you also know that the politicians and the news media are not giving you all the facts concerning government - gone mad with power.

IT WAS LATER DISCOVERED THAT COMMISSIONER HAWKINS SON-IN-LAW WITH MDOT, IN A CONSPIRACY WITH OTHERS OBTAINED THE BUILDING OF THIS ILLEGAL BRIDGE AT YOUR EXPENSE



The State Capitol building, Augusta, ME - where your tax money is illegally and systematically misappropriated for building the political and personal "empires" of the membership within the exclusive political "system"

NEWS VIEWS



Leonard Mill Bridge, Albion

Much wider than road

Another Bridge Scam?

A bridge on Albion's Bog Road, known as Leonard Mill Bridge, has come under scrutiny of Lay Advocees at Work (LAW), a private citizens group headed by Tom Dunn. Dunn alleges the state Dept. of Transportation exceeded its obligation to "repair and maintain" an old wooden bridge there — by constructing an unusually heavy-duty bridge that may benefit a private landowner in the remote location more than the taxpaying public.

In recent months, Dunn's group charged DOT with illegalities in connection with another bridge, known as Hawkins bridge, at Knox. He said it was built as a political favor negotiated by former state Sen. Edwin Greeley, who then headed the legislative transportation committee.

In both cases, only one resident could be found north of the country bridges; however, at both, the Bessey Development Company owns significant landholdings that could derive a future benefit from the new bridges.

In the case of the Hawkins bridge, Dunn alleges Bessey owns the square miles to the north. The public says there's just a quarter mile north of the bridge.

In the Leonard Mill Bridge, Bessey owns about two square miles, including two miles of road frontage on the west side of the road north of the bridge and some across the road, says Dunn. He said Bessey acquired the land from Dead River Corporation.

He contacted a federal office at Belfast and learned Bessey had applied for a claim, to be paid with tax dollars, just 100 yards from the bridge at

the total paid for the project was \$62,748.

Dunn has sent affidavits relating to his bridge investigation at Albion to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee investigating the nomination of Richard G. Cohen for U.S. Attorney. Cohen was contacted last year by Dunn on behalf of LAW about alleged improprieties within the DOT but did not act on the information in a responsible manner, said Dunn.

As a result, Dunn himself brought suit against Bessey.

Riesel, head of DOT's Operations and Maintenance division, saying he "admitted, destroyed and forged" DOT records to cover up gross misappropriations of taxpayer moneys.

Dunn also brought suit against Cohen for failure to adequately investigate, during his term of office, "misfeasance charges against the DOT for misappropriation of funds."

Riesel abruptly resigned from DOT in January at age 54, after 28 years of service in the department, Dunn says he has moved to Virginia and suspects

ident is John M. Canble of Wayne, named as vice president was Valerie Mitchell of Waterville, administrative assistant to the Senate Minority office.

Virginia Foster of Brunswick, director of public education and information for the Maine Cancer Society, was named treasurer, and Karen Simpson of Manchester, representative of the Kennebec Valley Regional Health Agency on the Family Planning Association board, was elected secretary.

Four new board members also were elected: the Rev. George C. Blund, Jr., pastor of the South Parish Congregational Church in Augusta; W. Davis Van Winkle, owner-operator of the Luther Catholic Camp, South Casco; Jane Sen. Beverly Dustin of Augusta; and Edna Jones, R.N., from Lewiston, a public health nurse for the Department of Human Services.

The organization's new president is John M. Canble of Wayne, named as vice president was Valerie Mitchell of Waterville, administrative assistant to the Senate Minority office.

On Feb. 3, LAW took the matter to Maine Attorney General James E. Tierney.

On March 20, Tierney dismissed the case with a letter to the current DOT reassignment, George B. Campbell saying he had completed his investigation and "cleared your entire department of any criminal wrongdoing."

Tierney wrote, "This letter should not be interpreted as an approval for the specific recollection of the Hawkins Bridge nor of the general recollection with you that were a parallel situation to arise today, it would not be your policy to proceed with a project such as the one done on the Hawkins Bridge."

Dunn took a husband of citizens from Maine to Washington, D.C. April 14 to pursue the confirmation of former Atty. Gen. Robert M. Rosen.

The Leonard Mill Bridge, formerly a wooden bridge, very small, said Dunn, was rebuilt without a trace of its original parts. In fact, widened to a 30-foot dimension, and now the 12-foot wide man is gradually being widened and lost.

"Why? Who is going to benefit?" Dunn asks.

DOT records show the project was voted by David Bessey, then Commissioner of Transportation, Erskine Bessey, then Commissioner of the Kennebec County Commission, and George Goodwin, then chairman of municipal government at Albion. Tax dollars from all three levels of government went into the project. The DOT bridge engineer for the site was Theodore Hallowell of Hallowell.

Forest Products Council Elects

A logging contractor and a small landowner were elected April 24 to head up the 625-member Maine Forest Products Council.

Hollis A. Hamilton, Jr., owner of Hamilton Bros. Inc. Wytopick was elected president, succeeding Road Becraft of United Timber Corp., Eustis.

Fred E. Hais of Norway, former head of the Maine Forest Service and a small landowner, was elected vice president.

Three new members of the Board of Directors were also elected: Earle B. Bessey, Jr., of E. D. Bessey & Son, Huxley; James Robbins, President of Robbins Lumber, Scarborough; and Brian E. Carlier, forester with Pappas Paper Company, Brunswick.

Re-elected officers included Richard Pierce of United Timber Corp. as treasurer and Reginald B. Ethwell, Jr., of Dead River Company as secretary.

During, and after, this investigation Dunn found that the Bessey Co. was taking large amounts of timber by theft/fraud and had an on going criminal operation of controlling massive areas of property of the elderly, recently deceased, by paying existing back taxes, then through application of a "quit