

## No. 200

**PRINTING—STATE PRINTING—UNION LABEL, Necessity of on State Printing—LABEL ON STATE PRINTING**

**Held:** All printing for which the State of Montana is chargeable, including reports of state officers, state boards, pamphlets, blanks, letter heads, envelopes, and printed matter of every kind and description, save and except certificates of appointment and election to office, shall have the label of the branch of the international typographical union of the city in which they are printed.

August 7, 1941.

State Board of Examiners  
State of Montana  
Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

Gentlemen:

You will remember we considered for further investigation a letter dated August 4, 1941, received from the Montana Typographical Conference and another letter dated August 5, 1941, from the Helena Typographical Union. I have now received, as Attorney General, a letter from Mr. Ray E. Denton, President of the Montana Typographical Conference, dated August 5, 1941, which reads in part as follows:

“Enclosed herewith are two printed forms used by the State Reorganization Committee for information.

“Will you please review them and give me an opinion as to the legality of using these forms, since no printers’ union label appears thereon.

“I note on the bottom of these forms the following form number and date: ‘G & A—323—15M—7-41,’ which indicates that 15,000 were printed in July of this year. This appears to be a standard Griffenhagen & Associates form used throughout the United States, apparently recently printed for use in this state, but not printed in Montana.

“An early reply will be appreciated.”

I have investigated the information enclosed with Mr. Denton's letter and I have also interviewed the responsible heads of Griffenhagen & Associates of 221 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, who, I understand, have a contract pertaining to the study of state reorganization and economy. It appears the forms referred to are supplied by the firm named and were not printed within the State of Montana.

While I realize I have no jurisdiction whatsoever relative to the study for state reorganization and economy, nevertheless, I note—under Chapter 56, Laws of Montana, 1941—all expenses in connection with the study for reorganization and economy must be audited by the State Board of Examiners, of which I am a member, and Section 260, Revised Codes of Montana, 1935, provides as follows:

"260. **State printing—union label.** All printing for which the state of Montana is chargeable, including reports of state officers, state boards, pamphlets, blanks, letter heads, envelopes, and printed matter of every kind and description, save and except certificates of appointment and election to office, shall have the label of the branch of the international typographical union of the city in which they are printed."

While some of the representatives of Griffenhagen & Associates stated they had some of these forms on hand, nevertheless, there is no question in my mind but that they are charging the State of Montana for the forms either directly or indirectly and that such forms are being used for state purposes, whether they be so used either directly or indirectly.

It is my opinion the forms being distributed by Griffenhagen & Associates—which do not have thereon the label of the branch of the International Typographical Union of the city in which they are printed—are illegal under the laws of this state and Griffenhagen & Associates should not continue to use such non-union label pamphlets or forms in this State in connection with their said contract with the State of Montana.

I am rendering this opinion at this early date with the view of avoiding any confusion which might arise in the future, because it is my opinion that—if Griffenhagen & Associates persist to use non-union printed material the Board of Examiners cannot approve its claim for services under said contract inasmuch as to do so would be in effect to evade the laws of this state.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN W. BONNER  
Attorney General