

Political Code, and particularly Section 285, R. C. M. 1921, relate to the power of the Purchasing Agent and provide that all supplies are to be purchased through the State Purchasing Agent. The various sections of this Chapter have been somewhat amended. The law explaining the duties of the Purchasing Agent certainly applies to all departments of the State Government unless express provisions elsewhere contained demand otherwise.

It would appear that it was the intent of the State Legislature that, (by reason of the necessity of the Emergency Relief Commission having to make purchases throughout various parts of the State, and to distribute supplies so purchased immediately to those in need) it was impossible to make purchases through the State Purchasing Department, and to substitute for such method of making purchases the rules and regulations provided by such Commission for the Administration of Federal Relief Funds.

I, therefore, believe that it is not necessary that such purchases be made through the State Purchasing Agent.

Opinion No. 514

Relief—Relief Commission—Supplies, Purchase of—State Purchasing Agent.

HELD: It is not necessary that purchases of supplies for the Montana Relief Commission be made through the State Purchasing Agent.

April 16, 1934.

Inquiry is made as to whether purchases made in the administration of relief funds by the Montana Relief Commission as provided by Chapter 56 of the Laws of the Extraordinary Session, 1933-1934, may be made by the Commission or must be made through the Purchasing Department.

This law provides that the funds shall be administered under the same rules and regulations provided by such Commission for the administration of Federal relief funds. Chapter 19 of the