

OPINION
57-58

August 13, 1957 (OPINION)

COUNTIES

RE: Ambulance Service - Donation of County Money

This is an opinion relative to your request of July 31, 1957. The facts appear to be substantially as follows: A private individual is seeking a contribution of county tax money to help maintain and operate a privately operated ambulance service. The contribution would be in the nature of a donation. The county has no property interest in the ambulance service.

Section 185 of the Constitution of North Dakota, as amended by Article 32 of the amendments to the Constitution, states:

"The state, any county or city may make internal improvements and may engage in any industry, enterprise or business, not prohibited by Article 20 of the Constitution, but neither the state nor any political subdivision thereof shall otherwise loan or give its credit or make donations to or in aid of any individual, association or corporation except for a reasonable support of the poor, nor subscribe to or become the owner of capital stock in any association or corporation."

It is the opinion of this office that a contribution or donation of tax money by the county to a privately operated ambulance service would violate the above-quoted constitutional provision and would therefore be illegal.

LESLIE R. BURGUM

Attorney General