

Records Commission I asked whether we might not begin a program of this kind by filming the Wills in each county from 1851—we already have such films for the period before that date—to the present. The Commission approved the plan provided the local officers would be willing to pay the cost of filming. I am glad to report to you that an arrangement of this kind was made during the past fiscal year and that the actual filming is going on at the time of this writing. Perhaps, in the future, means will be found to make copies of the other county records.

PRESERVATION OF RECORDS ON MICROFILM

By virtue of Chapter 518 of the Acts of 1949, the Hall of Records Commission is given some measure of control over the photocopying of records in cases where the originals are to be destroyed. This is accomplished by permitting an agency which has photocopied records, in a manner and with materials approved by the commission, to destroy the originals in accordance with the provisions of the law.

While the terms of this law apply to all types of photocopies, it is anticipated that the copies will almost invariably be made on microfilm, in order to obtain the space saving advantages of such copies. During the past year, the Department of Employment Security requested approval of a project for microfilming certain of its records. A member of our staff visited the Department and examined the equipment to be used and discussed the method of procedure to be followed in filming the records with the person in charge of the project. On December 6, 1949, the Department was authorized to proceed with the microfilming of the following record series:

- Original Claims
- Workers' Wage Record Cards
- Claim Record Master Cards
- Claimants' History Cards
- Benefit Account Cards
- Benefit Checks.

AIDS TO RESEARCH

In my report to you last year I stated that the first volume of the *Calendar of the Red Books* would be published before the end of this year. I regret to report now that this goal was not achieved. However, as the manuscript was finished and in the hands of the printer in July, the book should appear shortly.