

member to its staff. We have now reached the point where we must expand both our staff and our facilities or resign the records management functions to some other agency. It is for the Hall of Records Commission to decide which path we should follow. In the federal government and in the Commonwealth of Virginia separate agencies were created; in Delaware the archival establishment, greatly expanded, assumed the task.

On the answer to this large question will depend the answers to many smaller ones. For example, if we are to take "non-current" in addition to "historical records" for permanent storage, we shall have to find additional vault space within the year. If we are to control all the microfilming in which the state and county governments are now engaged or planning for the future, we shall need clearer authority from the General Assembly; and if we do all or part of the microfilming ourselves we shall surely save the taxpayers a good deal of money, but in order to do so we shall need a much larger appropriation ourselves. (A fair guess of expenditures for microfilming in Maryland during the past year would be several hundreds of thousands of dollars.)

Finally, if not us, should someone else attempt to regulate the expenditures of state officers in the counties for record purposes? During the last year the Archivist was asked whether three county indexing projects totaling \$200,000 were necessary. Although he rejected two of them outright and was lukewarm about the third, they are now all under way. If the Hall of Records Commission does not feel that the Archivist should enter a field of this kind, ought he to propose to the General Assembly or to the Governor that another officer, perhaps titled "Public Records Examiner," be created expressly for this purpose?

In spite of the increasing diversion of our time and energy to "records management" we feel that we have accomplished a good deal in traditional archival work, and we hope that you too will consider it a fruitful year.

Respectfully submitted,

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