

GOVERNOR NICE THREATENS TO

# CLOSE MANSION

## REPAIR COSTS MOUNT BEYOND \$100,000 MARK

If Expenses Of Finishing Work Go Over \$100,000, Executive Plans To Lock House Up And Live Elsewhere—Assembly May Aid.

### SEN. COAD OBJECTS TO EXPENDITURES

(By The Associated Press)

BALTIMORE, Dec. 20.—Gov. Harry W. Nice said today he would "cease operations" on remodeling the Executive Mansion at Annapolis if he found "that the expenses of completing the work will exceed the money available."

Should it be necessary to stop the work with the renovation and refurnishing of the building incomplete, the Governor said the Mansion would stand idle until the General Assembly appropriated funds to finish the work.

#### Limit Is Set

Nice set \$100,000 as the amount that could be spent without stopping the work. An estimated \$97,597.53 has been expended this far.

"When a compilation of costs on the mansion now being made for me is complete, if I find that the expenses of completing the work will exceed the money available, I will cease operations," the Governor said.

"The building will then be left as it stands for the inspection of the Legislature. It can then be determined what appropriation will be needed to complete it.

"Of course, I will be deprived of the privilege of moving in while the

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legislature is in session, but the legislators will be able to see just what is there."

## Payroll Was Big

The governor said the daily payroll of between \$100 and \$150 was distributed from day to day to workmen on the mansion.

"It ought to be remembered," he said, "that all this time these people were not on relief and the State is getting something permanent for its money."

At the same time, State Senator J. Alan Coad (Dem., St. Mary's), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said excess expenditures would be a "dangerous business."

"I do not pretend to speak for the whole finance committee," he said, "but in my mind any excess of expenditures over appropriations for work of this type would constitute very dangerous business."

"When the legislature makes an appropriation for the construction or repair of a building, that appropriation should be the limit of expenditures. Otherwise, there might as well be no legislature, and its procedure becomes a farce."