

BIGGER DEFICIT LOOMS ON NICE MANSION WORK

Governor Now Doubts His
Figure Of \$110,000 Will
Cover Job

COST A WEEK AGO
TOTALLED \$97,597

Only \$106,000 Actually
Available—Executive
Defends Project

A substantial deficit in funds available for remodeling, redecorating and refurbishing the Executive Mansion at Annapolis became apparent yesterday as Governor Nice revealed that he is not altogether certain that \$110,000 will do the job.

Up to December 11 the State Comptroller's office had charged \$97,597 against the work, then about ninety per cent. complete. That was \$597 more than was available from the various funds created for the improvements. However, Governor Nice still had a \$9,000 balance from the executive budget contingent fund of last year.

\$4,000 Deficit Seen

On the basis of his latest estimate that the completely remodeled and refurbished mansion may cost even \$100,000, at a minimum, there will be a deficit of \$4,000 when that figure is reached. The cost over and above that figure will add to the deficit.

The money available for the mansion job was made up of a \$50,000 appropriation from the Legislature; \$25,000 in unspent balances from the Ritchie administration and \$22,000 allocated from the so-called "cushion fund."

"I am not sure that \$110,000 will be sufficient," Governor Nice said yesterday. He compared the work that has been done and is contemplated on the mansion with the cost of an entirely new building.

Would Cost \$181,500 New

"The mansion contains 363,000 cubic feet and when completed will be equivalent to a new building," he said. "New construction, at a very conservative cost, would be 50 cents a cubic foot. This would mean \$181,500.

"The \$181,500 would be exclusive of furnishings, decorating, painting and landscaping. The cost of a new building, furnishings and landscaping would run considerably over \$220,000.

"So when completed and refurbished, the mansion will be a permanent, sound investment for the State. It probably will be the show place of Maryland."

Talks With Architect

The Governor conferred yesterday afternoon with Clyde N. Friz, the architect who planned the remodeling, and the construction agents.

It was explained that the cost of the work has risen successively above the original estimate and from revised estimates that have been given from time to time because of conditions found existing in the structure when workmen tackled it.

Parts of the old building that the architect had planned to utilize were found unsafe or unfit when the actual construction got under way, it was said.

Interior Of Mansion Virtually Complete

[From a Staff Correspondent]

Annapolis, Dec. 18—Interior work in Governor Nice's \$110,000 executive mansion job is going ahead quickly, a survey today revealed, and the place should be ready for occupancy when the Legislature convenes.

Plastering is practically completed, and a temporary heating plant is drying out the plaster so that painting and papering can go ahead. To the left of the entrance on the first floor, a small reception room is being painted, but the fireplace and mantelpiece have yet to be put in place.

Rapidly Nearing Completion

This small reception room opens into a sun porch, and beyond, into a conservatory. These rooms are rapidly nearing completion. Carpenters are finishing up woodwork and the flooring has been put in although not completed.

In the wing to the left as one enters are the Governor's waiting room and office. Here the rooms are being painted, while in the office a railing for three steps at the door is being put in place.

Part of the floor in the private dining room, which is in the original building, was being replaced today in spots where it had become worn.

Three Bathrooms Added

On the second floor carpenters are putting in the trim which is to make the rooms over in the Colonial style. Three new bathrooms have been built and two old ones have been done over with new tiling and fixtures. In some instances the old marble tiling has been used.

On the third floor one bedroom has been completely painted and papered and a second is nearing completion. The bathroom on this floor has been tiled with the marble taken from the old baths.

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