

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
THE
HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION
MAY 13, 1941

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held on Tuesday, May 13, 1941, at the Hall of Records in Annapolis. Those present were:

The Chairman, Chief Judge Carroll T. Bond

The State Comptroller, Hon. J. Millard Tawes

The President of the Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Isaiah Bowman

The President of the Board of the Peabody Institute, Dr. J. Hall Pleasants

The President of St. John's College, Mr. Frank Stringfellow Barr

The Minutes of the meeting of October 4, 1940 were read and approved.

The Chairman appointed Dr. Morris L. Radoff, Archivist, Secretary for the meeting.

The Commission considered the advisability of taking precautionary measures now for the protection of the materials in the Hall of Records in the event of war or threat of war. The Chairman and the Archivist explained the need for such emergency planning and submitted reports of measures which are being taken in similar institutions elsewhere. Dr. Bowman then moved that the Commission approve in principle the removal of unique materials from the Hall of Records to a place of safety in Western Maryland, this place to be selected by the Chairman of the Commission and the Archivist in collaboration with the Chief Mining Engineer of Maryland, Dr. John J. Rutledge, and an independent engineer to be designated by the Commission and after consultation with the members of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barr and carried.

Consideration was then given to the problem of what provision should be made for employees of the Hall of Records who are called into war service. Dr. Bowman explained the plans of other institutions to care for this emergency, and Mr. Tawes laid before the Commission the regulations which have recently been adopted to govern other employees of the State. The following motion was made by Dr. Bowman:

"If any member of the staff of the Hall of Records be called into war service he shall be given preferential consideration for appointment to his former position on his return, it being understood that the Commission will be governed in this matter by any regulation which may be adopted by the State Employment Commissioner." This motion was adopted. The sense of the meeting was that in the event of short temporary absence the Chairman of the Commission should grant leave of absence without pay.

Dr. Bowman was called away at this point and during the remainder of the meeting the following members of the Commission were present:

Judge Carroll T. Bond, Hon. J. Millard Tawes, Dr. J. Hall Pleasants, and Mr. Frank Stringfellow Barr.

Mr. Barr informed the Commission that the St. John's College contemplates the construction of a wall around the College property. Mr. Barr asked the advice of the Commission on whether the property of the State on which the Hall of Records is built should be included in this enclosure. A motion was made and passed recommending that if such a wall be built it pass to the rear of the building and that there be gates at the junction of the Hall of Records easement and the wall on College Avenue, and at the rear of the building on St. John's Street. It was also suggested by some of the members

of the Commission that Mr. Laurence Hall Fowler be consulted about the design and form of the wall contiguous to the Hall of Records before the actual construction of the wall begins, and Mr. Barr assented to this suggestion.


Two Acts of the last assembly were brought to the attention of the Commission. One of these Acts would permit the destruction of old and useless records when these records have been refused for deposit by the Archivist and when permission for destruction has been given by the Board of Public Works. The Commission felt that the Archivist should not refuse such deposits except after consultation with the Chairman of the Hall of Records Commission.


The second Act permits the copying of governmental records by photographic process wherever transcription by hand or typewriter has been permitted in the past. Such photographic copies must be made either by the Hall of Records Commission or by the Commissioner of the Land Office.

It had been hoped that an editorial assistant to collaborate in the publication of county records authorized by the Legislature would be appointed at this time, but since no suitable candidate was available, it was decided to postpone the employment of such an assistant until a later date.

A motion was then made and passed providing that in the future regular meetings of the Hall of Records Commission be held semi-annually in April and in October, the day and hour to be fixed by the Chairman of the Commission.

There being no further business before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M. subject to the call of the Chairman.


Chairman


Secretary