

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held on Wednesday, May 12, 1954, in the Hall of Records at Annapolis. The following members were present:

The Chief Judge of The Maryland Court of Appeals,
Honorable Frederick W. Brune,

The President of St. John's College,
Dr. Richard D. Weigle,

The President of the Board of The Peabody Institute,
William L. Marbury, Esq.,

The President of The Maryland Historical Society,
Honorable George L. Radcliffe,

The Comptroller of the Treasury,
Honorable J. Millard Tawes.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman, Dr. Richard D. Weigle at 2 P. M. On proper motion, reading of the minutes of the last meeting of the Hall of Records Commission, November 10, 1953, was dispensed with. A copy of the minutes had been received by each member following that meeting, and the minutes were approved as circulated.

Dr. Weigle then advised the Commission that it was necessary to choose a new chairman to succeed the Honorable Simon E. Sobeloff, who resigned as Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, February 25, 1954. Judge Brune was elected chairman. The Archivist then pointed out that a vice chairman must also be chosen, because the chairman and vice chairman form the executive committee which is empowered to act for the whole Commission in the interval between meetings, should it be necessary to do so. Dr. Weigle was elected vice chairman.

The Archivist reported on the steps he had taken since the last meeting to increase the salary scale for the Assistant Archivist. The new scale had been refused by the Standard Salary Board at its meeting of January 24, 1954, and the Archivist had been invited to appear at a subsequent meeting which was held May 11, 1954. The Archivist had appeared and had been heard at that time. He reported to the Commission that he had every hope that the new scale would now be granted, but that the final decision would be made by the Governor.

The Commission then considered the problem of future storage space for non-current records which are not suitable for permanent preservation at

the Hall of Records. The Archivist explained to the Commission that at several earlier meetings he had recommended that we exchange space offered to us in the new Annapolis State Office Building with the Land Office for the space which that office currently occupies in the Hall of Records Building; the advantage in that arrangement being that no additional members of the staff would be required to service the records held in temporary storage. The Archivist pointed out also that space had been allotted to the Hall of Records Commission in the new State Office Building now projected for Baltimore City, and consequently, under this arrangement, he would have to maintain staffs in three separate buildings.

The Archivist advised the Commission that he had consulted with members of the staff of the Land Office and with the architect, and he now felt that it would be too expensive for the State to provide the kind of quarters requested by the Land Office in the new building. He recommended, therefore, that we make no effort to make the proposed exchange with the Land Office at this time. This recommendation was accepted by the Commission, and Mr. Tawes then pointed out that requests for space in both new buildings would be reviewed by the Board of Public Works which would make the final decision in each case.

The Archivist reported the resignation of Mr. Edward N. Johnson, Assistant Records Administrator, as of May 3, 1954. Mr. Johnson left the Hall of Records to accept a position as Records Officer of the Post Office Department in Washington. The Archivist reported that he was now seeking a successor to Mr. Johnson and that as soon as a qualified candidate was found his appointment would be submitted to the Executive Committee for its consideration.

Dr. Weigle moved that the Hall of Records co-operate with the General Assembly in microfilming its proceedings each day after adjournment. It was pointed out that while this would entail some expense and inconvenience to the Hall of Records, it would be more efficient and more economical than for the General Assembly to provide its own equipment and staff for this purpose.

At the suggestion of the Archivist, the Commission considered the possibility of having our publications printed by a university press. At present each volume is offered for bid by the State Department of Budget and Procurement. The difficulty is that printers have to bid so low to get the contract that they find it impossible to do the job well and still make a profit. Consequently, most of our publications have been delayed and, in several cases, the job has been quite unsatisfactory. The Archivist was authorized to discuss this problem with the Department of Budget and Procurement and with one or more university presses, and to make a full report to the Commission at its next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned
at 3 P. M., sine die.

Frederick W. Hume

Chairman

Morris S. Radloff

Secretary