

File No. 19618.

Baltimore, February 9, 1916

Hon. S. S. Field,
City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:-

12087

In reply to your letter of February 7th, 1916, by which you referred to me a letter from Calvin W. Hendrick, Esq., Chief Engineer, dated January 27th, 1916, in which he presented two propositions, the first of which I have heretofore reported upon, and the second of which is, "whether or not the Inspector of Buildings could be given authority to require Insurance Companies carrying elevator insurance to send in copies of their inspection reports, which are made about once each month", I beg to say that from a strictly technical standpoint, I do not believe that such a requirement could be made of the Insurance Companies, because their inspection is purely for their private protection, and seems to have no public element. It would practically amount to the placing of an obligation upon a private concern to perform a public function, which, it would seem to me could not be enforced, but, however, the Engineer says that most of the Insurance Companies would be glad to cooperate in a system of this character; and therefore, it might be advisable to give the Building Inspector such Authority, expecting various companies to accede to it without controversy.

I am, therefore, sending you herewith a draft of an amendment to Paragraph 2 of Section 3 of the Building Code.

Yours respectfully,
George Washington Williams,