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a general system of conduits in the City, to determine the amount of rental to be charged for the same, so that the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore could establish reasonable rental, and to fix rules and regulations governing the use of said conduits and the payment of rentals. The Electrical Commission determined upon a scale of rentals on October 4th, 1900, which was established by Ordinance No. 81, approved December 10, 1900. This scale of rentals was increased by Ordinance No. 35, approved October 26, 1923. If those rentals do not provide a reasonable return, it is no doubt within the power of the Bureau of Mechanical-Electrical Service and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to increase them. Mr. Straus, Engineer in charge of the Bureau, will be able to advise you as to whether we can reasonably increase such rentals.

In addition to the ordinance fixing the scale of rentals, the City always enters into a lease with anyone desiring to use its conduits. These leases, which are all in the same form, remain in force and effect for successive periods of six months. I am advised that the current six months period on all of the larger ones will expire on April 1st, 1933. The leases in question set out the current rate but further provide that such rate may be

"according to any other scale or scales that may be hereafter prescribed by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

"The semi-annual rentals as above apply to the total number of duct feet in use by the lessee at the time rentals are due and payable."

From this it appears that it will be impossible to change the rates in the leases of the largest users of our conduits until April 1st, 1933.

Very truly yours,

(signed) PAUL F. DUE

Deputy City Solicitor

PFD/RRS