

Among the Maryland materials of great historical value now in the custody of the Hall of Records the Commission chose for its first publication Liber A of the records of the Prince George's County Court. The Archivist was instructed to request the necessary funds for publication from the Legislature.

A resolution was adopted requesting the Council of the Maryland Historical Society to transfer to the Hall of Records the large number of Executive papers which the Society had preserved in its vaults since the turn of the century when they had been saved from destruction at Annapolis. The members of the Commission at this time inspected the new equipment which had been installed during the year, and they were shown some of the work of the staff accomplished during the same period. The meeting closed with informal discussion led by Mr. Tawes on how the Hall of Records might be of further use in the preservation of certain governmental records and the destruction of others. Subsequent conferences between Mr. Tawes and the Archivist have resulted in several concrete proposals: a bill will be introduced in the next Legislature providing that records whose destruction or preservation are not specifically required by law may be turned over by the custodian to a Commission which in each case shall be composed of a member of the Board of Public Works, the Custodian, and the Archivist. This Commission may decide that records should be preserved, either in the office of the custodian or at the Hall of Records, or it may order their destruction. Furthermore, no custodian shall be permitted to destroy any records without consultation with this Commission unless the destruction is specifically provided for by law.

In the case of records to be removed from local depositories to the Hall of Records and replaced by photostatic copies in the offices of the custodians, the Comptroller has in the past granted special funds to the Hall of Records from the excess fees of the officer for this purpose. However, in some of the older and more historical counties such an excess of fees does not exist. On the suggestion of the Hall of Records Commission the Comptroller and the Archivist have agreed that the solution to this problem is the creation of a revolving fund drawn from the excess fees of all the counties so that the preservation of historical records need not be dependent on the amount of business transacted in any single governmental office today.

The sympathetic understanding of Mr. Tawes and his deputy Mr. Joseph O'C. McCusker in these and other matters relating to the financial affairs of the Hall of Records has proved of great assistance to the Com-