

## BIENNIUM 1941-1943

The Legislature which met this year made appropriations for the biennium October 1, 1941-September 30, 1943. Pursuant to the wishes of the Hall of Records Commission the Archivist requested an extraordinary sum of \$5,000 per annum for this biennium to be used for the publication of Prince George's County Court Records. This request was granted. The Archivist also asked for \$1,280 per annum more than the Hall of Records has previously received to provide salary increases for certain members of the staff. This request was refused; therefore unless a special session of the Legislature is called, staff members cannot receive any increase in salary although they were employed and are still paid at the depression rates of 1935 and the cost of living has risen extraordinarily since that time. In addition, the ordinary budget as it appeared in the Printed Budget indicates a cut of \$1,731 per annum from the amount appropriated during the preceding biennium. This cut was reduced in the Revised Budget to \$731 per annum. The attention of the Commission is also called to the fact that by virtue of an Act of the Legislature (Acts of 1941, Chapter 938) the Board of Public Works will deduct 1% of the total appropriation to each State agency during the next biennium.

There have been certain favorable developments in addition to the \$5,000 appropriated for publications: the Comptroller has promised a sufficient annual amount from the excess fees of the Clerks of the Court to pay for the photostating of County Court records. It has been found inadvisable to continue the procedure we followed last year of asking each county to care for its records out of its own excess fees because all counties do not have such an excess, nor would it be possible to do this work on our ordinary budget. A very gratifying development has been the generous cooperation of Mr. Ezra B. Whitman, Chairman of the State Roads Commission, who gave us the use of a truck and driver to bring the records of Somerset and Worcester Counties to the Hall of Records and who promised us this accommodation in the future. Since the ordinary budget of the Hall of Records for transportation is only \$50 it would otherwise be impossible to bring more than one truckload a year to Annapolis. Finally, the Board of Public Works has promised to take over part of the financial burden of maintenance of the Hall of Records building.