

posit at the Hall of Records before otherwise disposing of them, the Archivist was asked this year to accept the records of the Maryland Racing Commission. After a detailed examination of these records in the offices of the Commission in Baltimore, it was recommended that none of these records be transferred. The reasons for this recommendation were (1) those records of permanent historic or administrative value were so small in bulk that it did not seem advisable to break up the series and (2) those records lacking in permanent historic or administrative value were less than five years old and the chances against their being altogether non-current relatively slight. It was further recommended that none of these records be destroyed, since those which lack obvious permanent value come within the provisions of the law cited above which forbids the destruction of records less than five years of age. The only alternative remaining to the Commission, therefore, was to retain these records in its offices.

That this solution was not ideal is obvious. The Racing Commission has little room for the storage of records, and such space as it has is in a modern office building in Baltimore where rentals are very expensive. Moreover, ideally it should be the head of the Commission rather than the Archivist who would decide whether a record is current or non-current. The Secretary of the Commission presumably *knows* exactly whether a record is needed for the conduct of business in his office, the Archivist only *feels* that records older than these should be given precedence in the limited space at the Hall of Records.

REPAIR AND PRESERVATION

Until February 1, the repair and preservation work was cared for by one employee who was engaged primarily in preparing materials for the laminator. It was possible for a worker borrowed from another department to laminate in one day the materials which had been prepared during the previous week. After February 1, the operation of the laminator was taken over by a worker who gives half her time to the Photoduplication Department and half to the Repair Department. There is of course enough work in each department to keep two full-time workers busy, but until it appears feasible to enlarge our staff, we shall go on with one-and-a-half workers in each.