

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS

## Historical Records

During the ten years which have passed since the Hall of Records was established, all of the objectives of the Tercentenary Commission have been fulfilled or now are close to fulfillment. The purpose of the Memorial Hall of Records was to gather in one place for preservation all of the historical records of the State, "historical" being defined as the period preceding the adoption of the Federal Constitution. At this time all of the records of this period created by State governmental agencies are at the Hall of Records. No town records survived except those of Annapolis, which are also in our vaults, and those of Baltimore which are well cared for in the Archives of the City of Baltimore. The county records, which came in slowly at the beginning, are now being received as rapidly as they can be handled. All the county records of Southern Maryland are here; for Western Maryland only two counties, Baltimore and Frederick, had any considerable body of records and they are at the Hall of Records. In addition, we now have all or most of the records of the following Eastern Shore Counties: Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Dorchester. The rest will come as scheduled.

Many of the counties have sent their records for a later period and State agencies have deposited all of their non-current records, some when they are only two or three years old. As a result the Hall of Records is now fast filling up. When the original purpose of the Hall of Records will have been fulfilled completely, the building which was provided for the purpose will be full. This does not mean, of course, that there will be nothing left to do. Care and servicing of the records is a continuing process; there is no end to the preparation of useful finding aids.

## Modern Non-current Records

Another question now poses itself. Should the original objectives, the collecting and care of historical records, now be enlarged to include all non-current records? As a matter of fact, we have already accepted records from the counties for the period after 1788 and for almost all the State agencies until the quite recent past. So long as there was space in our stacks there was no need to make a