

made no other provisions, it would continue to substitute to the best of its ability.

Some of the services which we give to other State agencies are no more difficult than those which we daily offer to private individuals. For example, did a certain person ever suffer an injury while employed in Maryland industry? The answer is found in the records of the Industrial Accident Commission by consulting three separate indexes. Is a certain Act of Assembly correct as it appears in the printed Session Laws? The answer is found by comparing the printed Act with the engrossed Act. Did a certain person serve a sentence in the Maryland Penitentiary? The answer is to be found in the records of that institution, which are in our custody.

On the other hand, there are others—and they are the more frequent—which are a good deal less elementary. The Attorney General wishes to know the terms of an agreement reached, presumably between the Governor of Maryland and a Federal agency when a certain military post was taken over. If such an agreement exists, it would be found in the Executive files, which might or might not be indexed by subject for any given year. Or the agreement might have been reached at any time after the actual taking, in consequence of subsequent Federal statutes governing such matters. This kind of problem is far from simple, and the answer must be exact. Fifty or sixty inquiries of this kind in the course of a year account for a great deal of time.

In addition to services required by the various governmental agencies for their own purposes, there are others which are asked of these agencies and then passed on to the Hall of Records. For example, the earliest charter of a society or business now in operation may have been granted during the period when such matters were in the hands of the General Assembly; but the request for information would naturally be addressed either to the State Tax Commission or to the Secretary of State, and either one of these agencies would just as naturally refer it