

## DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

When the Department of Information was created by the Board of Public Works, February 3, 1948, as a division of the Hall of Records, it was understood that our share in its work would end after official establishment by the General Assembly. The intent of the Hall of Records Commission and the desires of the Governor were restated at the last meeting of the Commission. Consequently, a bill was passed at the 1949 meeting of the General Assembly creating the Department of Information as an autonomous State agency. (Acts of 1949, Chapter 665).

Since the Hall of Records Commission was responsible for the conduct of this agency for eleven months of the fiscal year, I think it proper to give you a short summary of its activities. In the course of the year the initial staff consisting of the Director, John P. Trimmer, and the Secretary-Stenographer, Ruth Burton, was expanded to include Barbara McGraw and Ruth Kelso, who assist in the office part time and act as guides to the State House at other times. Over ten thousand inquiries were received during the year, most of which could be answered, the remainder being forwarded to other State and local agencies. Three pamphlets were published for free distribution: *Maryland at a Glance*, *Agricultural Maryland*, and *Industrial Maryland*. The total budget was about \$12,000.

After several moves the Department of Information took up its permanent home in the so-called "Old Treasury Building," from which unfortunately they have now had to move temporarily while this ancient building is being restored. A relatively ambitious program has been outlined for the new year, including a further expansion of the staff. The budget allowance for the fiscal year 1950 is approximately \$27,500. It is my hope that the Hall of Records Commission will feel that our effort in having this agency created and the time and attention which we freely offered to the new director of a new State agency were worthwhile.

## ACCESSIONS

In the course of moving from the Court of Appeals Building in Annapolis to the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore certain late records were transferred to the Hall of Records which were later returned to the Military Department. In exchange we received a fine collection of muster rolls for the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. In addition, a bundle of eighteenth century Executive Papers, which had somehow found their way into the records of this department, were given to the Hall of Records.