

microfilm copies out of the fees of the office, but if the fees are insufficient, the cost thereof shall be borne by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore."

Another Act was passed to resolve the dilemma in which the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City found himself. Colonel Ober had consulted with the Archivist about the destruction of some of his records, and we had recommended to the Board of Public Works that permission be given to dispose of them. The Attorney General held, however, that because of certain provisions of the Baltimore City Charter, special legislation would be required for this purpose. The Archivist feels that the opinion of the Attorney General in this case may result in serious difficulties in disposing of other Baltimore City records and the passage of a good deal of legislation which we had hoped our general law would make unnecessary. The Opinion of the Attorney General and the special act (Chapter 454, Acts of 1951) follow:

October 30, 1950.

COLONEL BEVERLY OBER

Commissioner

Baltimore City Police Department

Fallsway and Fayette Street

Baltimore 2, Maryland.

DEAR COLONEL OBER:

You have asked whether, under the law, you may microfilm all of your official records which are at any time more than five years old and destroy the original. Section 553 of the Charter and Public Local Laws of Baltimore City (1949 Ed.) is in part as follows:

"The Police Commissioner shall cause to be kept by his secretary a full report of his proceedings, and also cause all his receipts and disbursements of money to be faithfully entered in books to be provided for that purpose; and said books, journals and all other documents in the possession of said Commissioner, shall always be open to inspection by the General Assembly, or any committee appointed by it for that purpose; and * * * shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Mayor and City Treasurer, or either of them * * *."