

The question of whether staff members of the Hall of Records should be included in the State Merit System was then discussed at length. A motion was made and carried instructing the Archivist to take steps to accomplish this purpose should it meet with the approval of Governor Tawes.

The plans of the new Record Center in the State Office Building at Annapolis, which had been put in operation in September 1958, were shown to the members of the Commission. The Archivist then announced the opening of a Record Center in the new State Office Building at Baltimore; and the Commission was informed that the purpose of both Record Centers is to house and service the semi-current records of State and county governmental agencies which are required by law or usage to be kept for a certain number of years but which have no permanent historical value. The Archivist reported that he was extremely pleased with the two Record Centers and that he judged them to be among the best equipped and best arranged in this country.

The members of the Commission expressed satisfaction that the *Maryland Manual*, which had been a responsibility of the Hall of Records Commission since 1947 by order of the Governor, had now been made a statutory responsibility through the passage of Chapter 506 of the Acts of 1959. This new law provides that the *Maryland Manual* will continue to be issued by the Secretary of State, but that the funds for editing, compiling and printing will, in the future, be included in the budget of the Hall of Records Commission.

Several suggestions were made for the improvement of the *Manual*. Among others, it was proposed that photographs and biographies of the following officers be included: the Comptroller of the Treasury, the State Treasurer, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State. The Archivist was instructed to suggest these additions to the Secretary of State and to include them in the forthcoming issue of the *Manual* if they met with Mr. Finan's approval.

The problem of proprietary rights to the revised edition of the *Maryland Guide* was then taken under consideration. The Archivist was instructed to seek further counsel from the Attorney General before any steps were taken to publish this volume now being prepared by the Hall of Records Commission.

The Archivist reported at length on the removal of the Land Office from the Hall of Records to the new State Office Building at Annapolis,