

We again provided the Commissioner of the Land Office with microfilm copies of the currently recorded land records, and the Department of Assessment and Taxation with copies of current deeds for its tax map program. These records were filmed especially for the Hall of Records by the clerks of court or were a part of their projection print recording program carried on through Hall & McChesney, Inc. Our personnel supervised the filming in all the counties and Baltimore City, inspected the completed film, and delivered it to the Land Office. During the year, 1,286 rolls of 35 mm microfilm were turned over to this agency.

We also worked closely with the Department of Budget and Procurement on requests from State agencies for the purchase or rental of records equipment and services. Requests for filing equipment were reviewed to insure that all possible records had been transferred to the Centers or destroyed, and that the equipment thus released was utilized, before authorizing the purchase of new equipment. Other types of equipment or services requested were examined to determine whether they were needed or were suitable for the purpose intended.

We also continued to serve as advisor to the Comptroller on the expenditure of funds for records equipment and services by the clerks of court and the registers of wills. This year, twenty-eight requests were referred to us for review and recommendations.

Among the items requested were microfilm cameras, microfilm readers, copying equipment, roller shelves, filing cabinets, the re-binding and re-covering of record books, and the re-indexing of records and the re-copying of plats.

OPINIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

There were two opinions issued by the State Law Department which are of interest to record keepers everywhere. The first one was an effort to define a public record in Maryland. It only succeeded in part. The second had to do with the fate of public records once we had marked them for disposal (destruction). The Law Department held that they need not be "destroyed" according to the usual meaning of the word. We had hoped to prevent public records falling into the