

STATE OFFICE BUILDING

May 7, 1951

Hon. John C. Luber
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am returning House Bill 412 without my approval.

This bill would authorize and direct the State to borrow \$5,000,000 for the construction of a new State office building in Annapolis.

An important factor in my decision to veto the bill was the request yesterday by Charles E. Wilson, Federal Mobilization Director, that all State, county and municipal borrowing for "postponable" projects be deferred.

In reaching my decision, I also have taken into account the amount of the proposed bond issue. I believe \$5,000,000 is too much for any State office building that might be needed in Annapolis.

If a more moderate and useful proposal for an Annapolis office building can be developed in another session of the Legislature, it will receive my earnest consideration.

I also consider, of course, the report of a commission appointed by my predecessor at the instance of the General Assembly to investigate possible sites for a State office building, "particularly in or near the business district of Baltimore City".

This emphasis on Baltimore City as the likely location is understandable. The commission's report showed that it studied a number of possibilities, including Annapolis, although Annapolis apparently was not even considered in the legislative resolution. The commission concluded for reasons set forth in detail that Baltimore is the proper location for the structure.

The personnel of the commission was of as high quality as could be assembled. The members were Hooper S. Miles, Chairman; John B. Funk, Secretary; Albert D. Hutzler; Walter N. Kirkman; William J. McWilliams; S. Page Nelson and James G. Rennie. All signed the report except Mr. McWilliams who was out of the State at the time.

Annapolis is the capital of the State. This would seem reasonable to imply that the State offices should be located in Annapolis insofar as this can be done without undue inconvenience to people having business with the State, and without undue hardship to present State employees.

The matter cannot be decided, however, by a simple formula. The report points out that one half of the State's population