

the fact whether the reward mentioned in the Executive
proclamation can be regarded as coming within the
meaning of the term donation as used in the ordinance.
It is my opinion that it can not. A donation imports a
gift merely & negatives all idea of a consideration, but
a reward implies services rendered or something done for
which a compensation is due. All officers of the Government
& Corporation are bound in their respective official positions
to exercise due diligence, skill & ordinary care, but be-
yond this they are not bound. Any extraordinary activity,
action or suffering in any case in the public cause, there-
fore might well demand a corresponding additional
compensation, without its being regarded as a new
gratuity, but it is a new gratuity or donation, which
the ordinance requires the officer to pay over into the
City Treasury & perhaps it might be added and only
as are bestowed by individuals & not by public authority.
But even supposing that the ordinance requires or
admits a different construction, yet it may be well
doubted, whether it does not conflict with laws of the
State & thus become of no effect. Upon principles
of great public policy affecting the safety of the whole
Community, when crimes of unusual atrocity & difficult
of detection are committed, it is customary, to offer a
reward for the discovery & conviction of the perpetrator,
that every citizen without distinction, may be stimula-
ted in his exertions to bring the criminal to punishment.
The object of the Ordinance however, upon the sup-
posed construction, is directly opposed to the laws of
the State under which rewards are offered for the dis-
covery & conviction of criminals.

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt. Servant.

G. L. Dulaney

His Excellency
J. Matthews Lyon
Governor of Maryland.

Laboratory of State Chemist
Baltimore April 30th/55

to His Excellency
The Governor of Maryland

Sir:

I am extremely pained in calling
your Excellency's attention to the fact that an appropriation
exists for the Laboratory of the State Chemist for the year com-
mencing on the 1st of May next. Under the State of things
I must either procure the necessary material from my own
purse or fail to perform duties which are very essential to
the welfare of the State, for which the public are paying