

interested in the work of the Hall of Records. He was willing to spare the time for meetings of the Commission, in spite of the specially busy wartime period in which he served as chief executive of Maryland. In addition to the demands on his time as a member of the Commission, Mr. Tawes volunteered many other services to the Hall of Records. He was our chief counsellor in financial affairs, he made it possible to transfer the Land Records of Somerset County to the Hall of Records—the first Eastern Shore records to come to Annapolis—, and he was tireless in his efforts to interest the custodian of local records in the work of the Hall of Records.

Mr. Barr resigned as of December 31, 1946. Between that date and April 22, 1947, when a permanent President of the St. John's College was appointed, there were only six members of the Commission. Mr. Barr's counsel was sought often by the Archivist who found in him not only a distinguished historian and administrator, but a friendly and sympathetic neighbor.

Although he had been in office for only a few months at the end of the fiscal year, Governor William Preston Lane, Jr., had already indicated by his approval of our budget requests and our proposals for salary changes that his interest in the Hall of Records is deep and genuine. Mr. James J. Lacy, who succeeded Mr. Tawes as Comptroller, will undoubtedly prove to be a strong addition to the Commission, as will Mr. John S. Kieffer, who became a member on April 22, 1947, when he was appointed President of the St. John's College.

No meeting of the Commission was held during the year, but the Archivist availed himself on several occasions of the counsel of the Chairman, Judge Marbury, and of the Vice-Committee, which is composed of the Chairman and of the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Pleasants. In addition, the Archivist sent to each member of the Commission a copy of his Annual Report, of each of our other publications, and of reviews of our work.