

Land Commissioner. Since the Land Office occupies part of the stack area of the Hall of Records, and since the abstract volumes were beginning to fill this space and would require more within a few years, it was thought that the Hall of Records was sufficiently involved to justify an expression of opinion. (The Act as passed is printed in the Appendix as are the other Acts concerning the Hall of Records.)

A second bill in which we were interested provided for the destruction of certain types of records after they had been microfilmed with the consent and approval of the Archivist. Such microfilms might then be admitted in evidence. Some members of the Commission were not sure of the weight in evidence of such films, and the Archivist was instructed to discuss the matter informally with the Law Department. These discussions proved to be inconclusive, for while the Law Department saw no real objection, in other States where such laws have already been passed the courts themselves, in view of the lack of precedent, are meeting the problem as it comes up. Perhaps such a test will be forthcoming shortly in Maryland, for the bill was passed and is now law.

Scheduling of records disposal in governmental agencies was provided for in a third bill which the Commission approved. As the bill was introduced and passed it requires the submission of a schedule by the county or State agency which created the records and approval of the disposal schedule by the Archivist and the Board of Public Works. It was reported by the Archivist that an attempt was being made to establish such a schedule for Montgomery County.

The sponsorship by the Hall of Records Commission of the Department of Information was discussed in the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Archivist. Members of the Commission agreed that this Department should be set up as a separate agency under the Executive Department, and subsequently a bill was introduced and passed in the General Assembly which accomplished this result. The matter of responsibility for the *Maryland Manual* was also considered and it was decided to defer to the wishes of the Governor, who later decided that editorial responsibility should remain with the Hall of Records.

The Archivist, after reporting that the microfilm project sponsored jointly by the Hall of Records Commission and the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was nearing completion, proposed that since the Land Records of the State could be replaced