

mimeographing and photocopying. Additional duplicating services are expected to be included when the need arises.

Again this year, we continued to advise the Comptroller of the Treasury on the expenditure of funds for record equipment, supplies, and services for the Clerks of Court and the Registers of Wills of the counties and Baltimore City. The Archivist and the Assistant Records Administrator reviewed requests from twenty-three officers of seventeen counties and Baltimore City. Among the items requested were microfilm and photostat cameras, microfilm readers, quick-copy machines, roller shelves, filing cabinets and new indexes. Proposals for the re-binding and recovering of record books were also considered.

## OPINIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

We have ruefully conceded that legal authority for the destruction of records is not easily achieved. The form and character of many records are provided for by innumerable Acts of Assembly, opinions of the Attorney General, court orders and even by the Constitution. Our ultimate aim is to be free to maintain records in the most economical and efficient fashion and to destroy them when their usefulness is over. To achieve this objective we have now built up a respectable body of law and opinion and more is needed. In the course of the year there were two opinions of the Attorney General which bear directly on this objective:

July 6, 1959

Mr. Charles M. Speicher  
*Chief Deputy Treasurer*  
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Mr. Speicher:

You state in your recent letter that the State Archivist has recommended that all cancelled checks over fifteen years old be destroyed. You inquire whether there would be any legal objection to such disposal.

The destruction of State records is governed by the provisions of Article 41, Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Ed.). Section 180 of this Article charges each State agency with the responsibility of developing "a continuing program for the economical and efficient management of its records,