

Perhaps this is as far as we can plan. But many questions remain unanswered. What should be done about all the court records? We have an especially rich collection in Maryland and it exists from the beginning to the present in the original only at the several courthouses or at the Hall of Records. And all of the papers, and all of the so-called "miscellaneous" records? But if the post-bomb world can do without so much of its cultural heritage as is represented in the historical records of its past, it probably cannot do without a functioning government and the records required for this purpose. The Records Management Division is now preparing—with the assistance of qualified officers of other State agencies—lists of records which would be required for the most elementary functioning of government. These records will be microfilmed from day to day, and others which will be required for the resumption of normal government are to be segregated and perhaps stored in safe areas.

How much all of this will cost no one can tell. No one knows whether there will be time to do any of it. It would be helpful to know approximately how long the present crisis will last—a month, a year, a decade. But no one knows this either. It is shocking to think of such enormous waste, so many risks, calculated and otherwise! The historian takes some consolation, however little, from his knowledge that man and his culture have persisted in spite of the crises and shocks of the past—but he is at the same time dismayed at the cost!

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS L. RADOFF
Archivist and Records Administrator