

this was denied by the College. The next best alternative is to build a new building in close proximity to the existing one. This would serve the three purposes of (1) allowing the existing building to be used in conjunction with the new one, (2) because of the continued use of the existing building, allowing the new building to be smaller and therefore less expensive than if a complete new structure had to be built to house all of the records, and (3) keeping the archives within convenient proximity to the agencies most needing them.

The condition attached to the appropriation would require the abandonment of the existing facility (which would then revert to the College), since it would not be administratively feasible to operate the existing facility together with a building outside the State Office Complex. This new building, as noted, would have to be much larger and more expensive than is presently planned or than is necessary. Although I appreciate the concern over placing too many new buildings in the Complex, I think that this condition is both unwise and unnecessary.

(2) With respect to Item (A) (1) (e), this appropriates \$72,500 for the design and renovation of the Old Armory Building on Bladen Street in Annapolis. No plans describing the proposed renovation have been submitted for review by the Department of State Planning; no particular use for the building has been agreed upon; and the continued existence of the building is totally inconsistent with the master plan for the Statehouse area.

(3) With respect to Item (A) (3) (e), this appropriates \$2,050,000 for the State's share of the cost of constructing a District Court - Multiservice Center Building in Centreville. This building is needed; however, the General Assembly amended the appropriation as submitted to require that the building be constructed on a particular site in Centreville.

The selection of a suitable site for the building has been a matter of considerable controversy in Queen Anne's County, and the County Commissioners have indicated their adamant objection to the site required by the amendment to the appropriation. I have, in fact, been informally advised that the Commissioners will not presently approve the county share of the project if required to accept this particular site. Under these circumstances, the appropriation would be meaningless.

I intend to request the County Commissioners to appoint a balanced site selection committee including appropriate State officials to attempt to find an agreeable site for the building. The appropriation can then be resubmitted to the General Assembly.

(4) With respect to Item (D) (3) (d), this