

# POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

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March/April

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The articles in the magazine represent the personal opinions of the authors and/or the editor and should not be construed as representing the viewpoint of the Potomac Valley Chapter, A.I.A.

# 11th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF CSI

CSI President Henry B. Baume, FCSI, announces the 11th Annual Convention of CSI will be held at the Hotel Fontainebleau, Miami, May 29-31. The theme of the three-day meeting is CSI '67— "An Evaluation." The principal address will be delivered by Horace M. Chase, Director of Building Construction, Bureau of Building Construction, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Other distinguished speakers will address the gathering. There are a number of social events planned as well as programs for the ladies. For further information call the Washington office: 483-6645.

# NEW MEMBERS

Potomac Valley Chapter, AIA, welcomes the following new Corporate members:

Robert Kent Harwood — Collins & Kronstadt, Leahy, Hogan & Collins

Richard Francis Downing — Collins & Kronstadt, Leahy, Hogan & Collins

Paul J. Clarke, of the office of Edwin F. Ball, AIA

T. Girard Lee, Jr. — Bagley-Soule' & Associates and welcomes back to the fold Florida transfer William M. Blocker, Jr.

Samir Z. Simaika, of the office of Walton & Madden is also welcomed as an Associate member.

## **NEW PARTNERSHIP**

Charles M. Goodman of Washington, D. C. and Neil R. Greene of the Potomac Valley Chapter this month announced the formation of a partnership known as Goodman Greene Associates The partnership will continue to practice in the quarters previously occupied by Charles M. Goodman at 814 - 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006, Telephone 393-8047.

# **EDITOR-ARTIST**

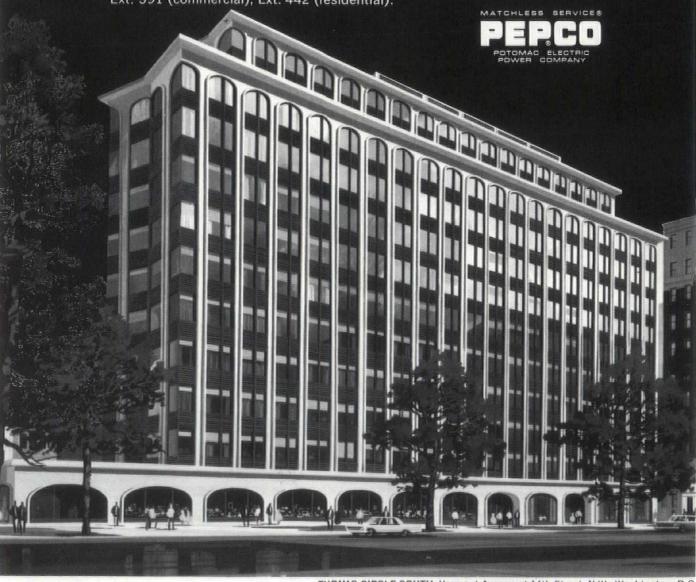
James F. Hilleary, PVA Editor, announces that he has joined the stable of the Henri Gallery and will participate in a group show when the gallery opens its new quarters at 1521 - 21st Street, N.W. sometime in mid-May.

# ON THE COVER

Detail photo of Wilkin's Coffee Company, Landover, Maryland by the office of Edwin F. Ball, A.I.A. See chapter work in this issue.

Albert S. Borland-Photographer

THOMAS CIRCLE SOUTH: Stunning twelve-story tower of glazed white brick with bronze-anodized aluminum spandrels, now under construction. Flexible electric heating and cooling met the architect's demand for individual temperature controls and individual choice of heating or air conditioning at any hour—even after hours—in any season. With electricity, occupants can adjust heating and cooling in their office as easily as they turn on the lights, independent of the adjoining office. This completely-detached building will provide 160,000 square feet of office space, 14,000 square feet of first floor retail space, and 450 parking spaces on four underground levels. In planning your next project, explore the advantages of electric heating and cooling. Call PEPCO for facts, figures, case histories—even engineering assistance. There is no charge, no obligation. Call NAtional 8-8800, Ext. 591 (commercial); Ext. 442 (residential).



THOMAS CIRCLE SOUTH, Vermont Avenue at 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
ARCHITECTS: Edmund W. Dreyfuss & Associates
GENERAL CONTRACTORS: The Blake Construction Company
CONSULTING ENGINEERS: Shefferman and Bigelson

PLANNING COMMISSION REJECTS 1500 CAR GARAGE AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.

The Federal Aviation Agency's request for a temporary parking garage was rejected by the NCPC planning staff as public pressure mounts for airport parking facilities. Though FAA warned that "the general public would be the losers", the Planning Commission wisely refused to act on the basis of expediency. They will require the approval of the Airport Master Plan, being prepared now, before a garage can get under construction. The Planning Commission, which will call for drastic changes, feared that the Government would be reluctant to demolish a temporary garage facility and that if one were hastily constructed the airport would have to be planned around it.

A temporary but immediate solution to the parking problem could be gained through more rapid and more economical public transportation, the shifting of some flights to Dulles Airport and the provision of shuttle service between distant parking points and the airport.

WMATA APPROVES SECOND DOWNTOWN SUB-WAY THROUGH SOUTHWEST. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority chose the \$98 million system for the S.W. office district line over the \$56 million Columbia Heights line. The new line will run from the White House along Independence Avenue to the South of the Capitol. It will serve some 85,000 S.W. office workers and over 22,000 residents by 1971. NCPC and RLA staffs have both given approval to the plan and are requesting intensified bus service in S.W. starting immediately.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY SHORELINE EXTENSION through Prince George's County has been approved by the Maryland Legislature and enthusiastically received by Secretary of Interior, Udall. The scenic \$9 million highway will run south from the Capital Beltway to Fort Washington and will be financed by matching County and Federal Funds. The huge outdoor Armed Forces Museum, battlefields and harbor will be viewed from the road along the Potomac.

DOWNTOWN PROGRESS REPORTS EAST DOWNTOWN BUSINESS LOSS as jobs and businesses shift to other parts of the city. The study presented to RLA indicates the difficulties and frustrations of trying to upgrade this valuable downtown area between 5th and 15th Streets, N.W. The noble efforts of private renewal have been frustrated here by the disorder of mediocre design, unrestored buildings, minimum demolition and impossible transit and parking problems. Beyond this is the compelling desire of business to seek a new image in a new and contemporary environment.

The result has been the incredible construction boom in Rosslyn, Southwest, Alexandria and the Westside of Downtown from 15th Street to Foggy Bottom. Other businesses have joined the suburbanite in the areas of Silver Spring, Chevy Chase, Bethesda, The Beltway and Route 70S to Rockville and Gaithersburg.

To make the Downtown Progress Area really succeed will require a drastic change of image with the prestige

created through the incorporation of pedestrian malls, the separation of delivery areas, automobiles and pedestrians and the added stimulations of exciting design and facilities.

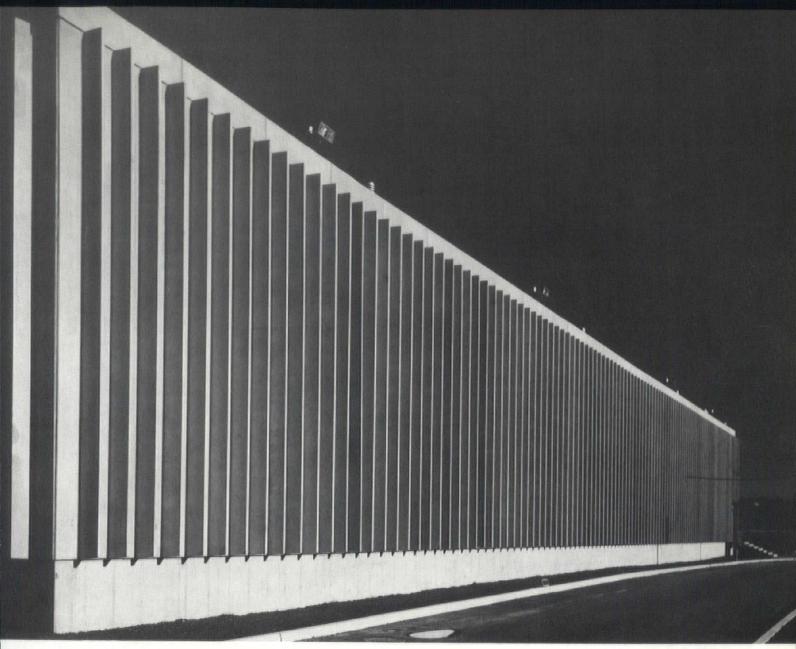
ARLINGTON HALL DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGEN-CY H.Q. approved by Planning Commission. Congress will give final approval to seven-story headquarters and overall 20 year, \$36 million revised master plan for development of Arlington Hall Station. Demolition of 67 buildings on 87 acres is called for with the construction of four major structures to house 5,200 persons. The plan was approved despite strong objection from Arlington.

BACK TO THE WEST FRONT STORY AS LOBBY GROWS TO PRESERVE HISTORIC CAPITOL FACADE. As special committee report is released by A.I.A. to

As special committee report is released by A.I.A. to congressional leaders the challenge has been made to Capitol Architect J. George Stewart to defend his contention that the old sandstone walls are in danger of collapsing. The Capitol Architect contends that buttressing, not only the repair of the existing walls, is necessary to balance the changing stresses imposed by the East Front Addition, the weight of the dome and general settlement. Aside from the necessary interior modernization and modifications Stewart's proposal would compose and unify the ultimate exterior envelope of the building. Correction would be made in window design, column and pilaster numbers, stairway location and pediment of the West Front Porch. The irony of the West Front Story is that the group demanding preservation at any cost will have to recognize that new marble will have to be substituted for the original limestone, that the errors in the classic design will be retained and that the extreme danger of collapse will accompany the removal of every stone to be restored. The obvious and necessary recommendation of the A.I.A. report is the immediate provision of a master plan for future construction on Capitol Hill. A commission of highly experienced professionals\* to implement the plan and pass on the design of new buildings will surely limit future debate and diminish the romantic legend of the Architect of the Capitol.

\*The architects and engineers who supplied reports and designs to the Architect of the Capitol are the most respected and experienced professionals in the U. S. in their familiarity with this type of construction.

N.E. LANDSCAPE PLAN APPROVED BY NCPC to be first large scale landscape master plan in nation. If approved by D. C. Commissioner, it will become the official master plan for landscape architecture. The Plan prepared by landscape architect Lawrence E. Coffin, Jr. recommends redesign of Forts Mahon, Choplin and Dupont incorporating parks, play areas, bicycle paths, foot paths and general improvements to Pope and Watts branches. The plan takes into consideration the needs of various neighborhood groups and considers not only topography and vegetation, but placement of schools, play areas, public housing and other elements of urban requirements.



Wilkins Coffee Co. Plant, Landover, Maryland Albert S. Borland—Photographer

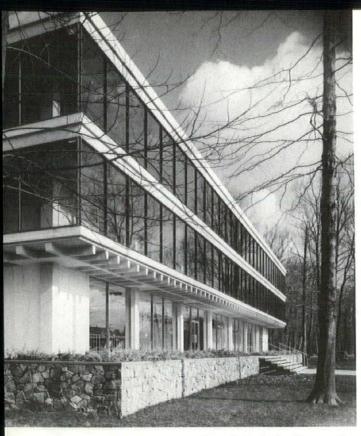
—"Vertical use of concrete tees to produce large scale texture."

# **CHAPTER WORK**

Office of Edwin F. Ball, A.I.A. Riverdale, Maryland

The office of Edwin F. Ball was opened in January 1956. Since that time, the firm has been striving to produce a contemporary architectural answer consistent with the individual projects. As of I January 1967, Paul J. Clarke, A.I.A., has become an Associate in the firm.

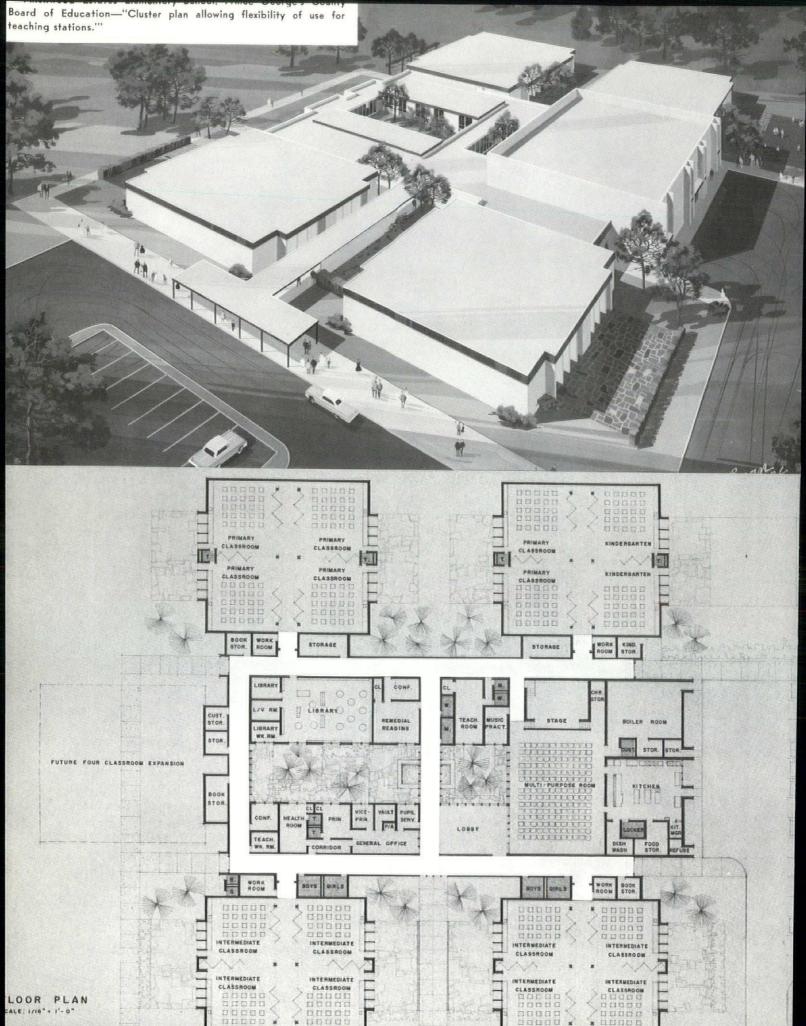
Some projects now in the design or working drawings stage are the Baden Elementary School and Community Center complex in Baden, Maryland, townhouses for Greenbelt Homes, Inc., an office building in Prince George's County and a building for the Cheaspeake and Potomac Telephone Co.

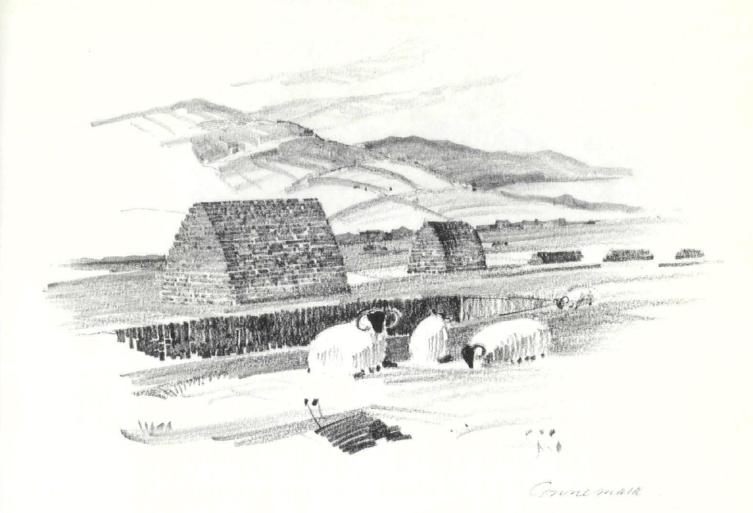


Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Regional Office Building, Riverdale, Maryland— "A monumental building in an undisturbed natural setting."









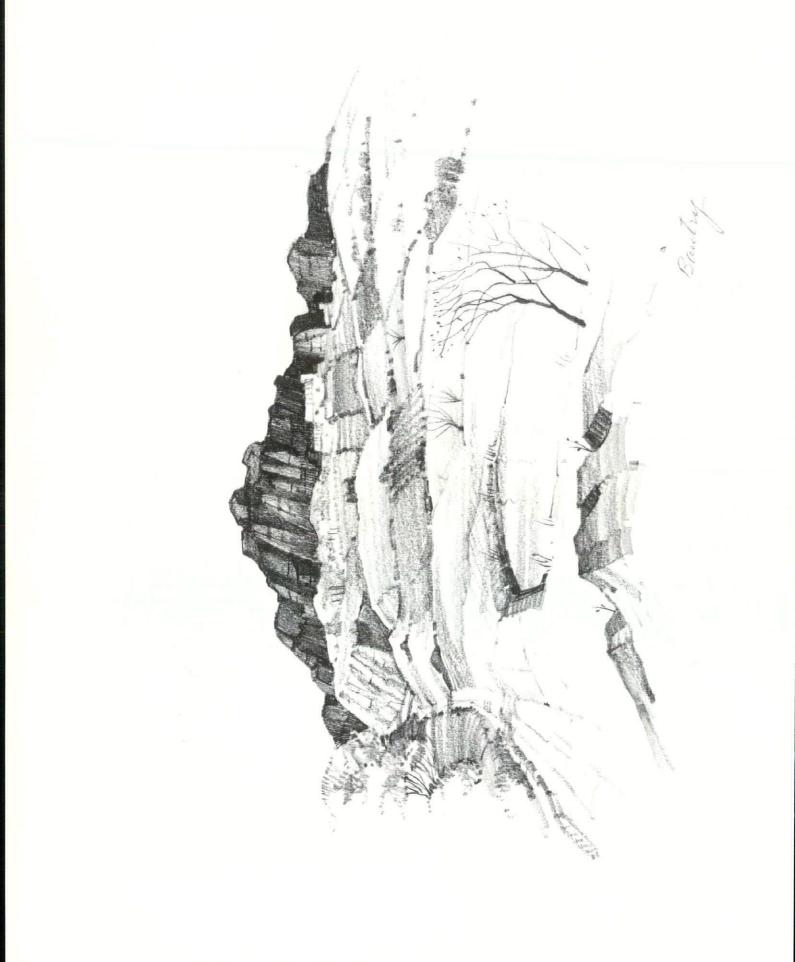
# PAGES FROM AN ARCHITECT'S SKETCH BOOK

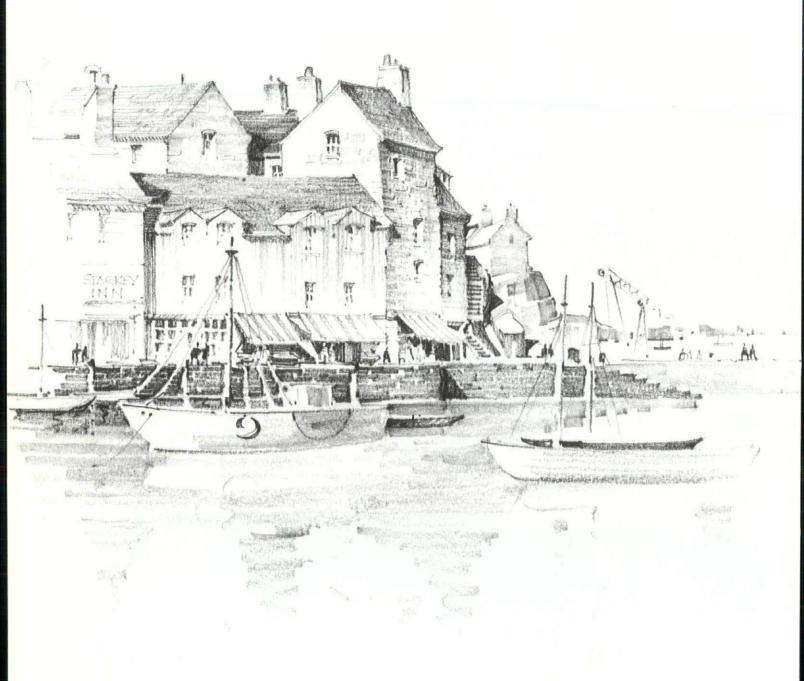
Few architects are able to express themselves as eloquently as Richard E. Collins, Sr. of Collins, Kronstadt, Leahy, Hogan and Collins. Long a teacher as well as practitioner, he has taught many of his students at Catholic University delineation; however, few have developed his eye and touch.

The particular appeal of the sketch book from which these drawings were taken is that it is off beat in material and locale. The drawings are of simple scenes in Ireland rather than the usual spots which have inspired architects to draw for many generations. The eye is that of artist more than of architect for he has seen the compositional potential which the average eye would have rejected as non pictorial and has managed to show us the possibility with great simplicity. Studying these drawings in detail reveals further delights in the elimination of all but the essential line and contrast in values. From an architectural point of view some of the sketches reveal a similarity of mood, if not material, between Ireland and Mediterranean towns, something which we had not previously observed.

We are presenting these drawings with the hope that they will give you as much pleasure as they have us.







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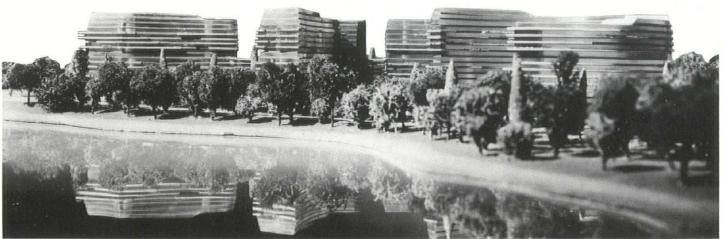
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# MARYLAND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS SENATE BILL 240

Theodore R. Cromar, Jr. Maryland Council of Architects, A.I.A., Inc.

In spite of a last minute "Custer's Last Stand", the sands of time sifted swiftly away and left us with naught but a host of friends, priceless exposure of the bill in both houses, a considerable legal fee, an empty martini glass. Before the final gavel, the House referred Senate Bill 240 to the Legislative Council for further study and recommendations to the 1968 General Assembly. We shall be back next year and, with the knowledge and experience gained during this session, confidently predict passage in 1968.

Starting work early in the beginning of the session doing research and weighing the pros and cons of our procedure, the decision was made to have the bill introduced in the Senate instead of the House. This appeared to be the quickest route this year because of the virtually entire freshman House whose members simply could not learn the ropes until the waning days of the session. We had hoped to have the more experienced Senate consider our bill, have hearings, pass on its merits and send it to the House early enough in the session that the House still would have time for final passage. Logically this was the proper course and but for some devious delays would have been the successful one.

During the snowstorm of the week of February 6th, we contacted quite a few Senators and four of them agreed that this was good legislation and would sponsor the bill. By the evening of Wednesday, February 8, 1967, we had the bill in the hopper with Senators Bertier, Hall, Anderson and Gore as sponsors. The next morning we had a terrible shock; the roof of St. Rose of Lima's Church in Baltimore had collapsed, fortunately without loss of life or serious injuries. Our task now increased tenfold: in addition to explaining the purpose of the proposed leaislation, every legislator now wanted to know how a roof like this could collapse. The day after the collapse, Friday, February 10, 1967, Senate Bill 240 was introduced and read for the first time in the Maryland Senate; a bit of unavoidable bad timing, but we had to carry on and do the best job we could. The bill was referred to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee for their recommendation. The Chairman, Senator Joseph Curran of Baltimore, scheduled a public hearing on the bill for 10:30 A.M. Friday, February 24th. This was an indication to us of possible success, having the good fortune to gain a hearing so quickly. We gathered the troops and had twenty on hand at the hearing, ten of whom were to testify. Soon, however, things were not proceeding well: we learned what power a committee chairman has. It seems as though February 24th was lawyers' day in Annapolis and Senator Curran ignored the agenda completely to give preference to the poor overworked lawyer who had journeyed to Annapolis to present his views on all the legislation he thought should be passed. Our turn arrived at 6:30 in the evening when the committee had dwindled to three and everyone impatiently waiting to go home for the weekend. The chairman courteously

agreed to reschedule our hearing for the first thing on Wednesday morning March 1st. All our troops were ready and we returned ready to do battle. The hearing proceeded very well in our opinion with the only opposition coming from the Junior Bar of Baltimore and the Plaintiff's Bar of Baltimore who quite naturally would oppose any limit that would affect their practice.

Saturday evening March 4th, at a dinner dance in Annapolis, two of the sponsors told me that they had heard the rumor that our bill would be reported out of committee favorably on Monday. Feeling confident at this point, we waited in vain for the bill throughout the evening session. About 1:30 Tuesday morning we received the disheartening news that the bill had received an unfavorable committee report and was still being held in committee. After a majority of the committee indicated to us that they would vote for the bill, this sudden reversal was hard to understand. Discreet investigation revealed that when and if a vote was taken in committee, there was definitely not a quorum present. More determined now than ever to get the bill on the Senate floor, we pressed on and Senator Curran agreed to give us a brief rehearing and a chance for reconsideration. This time we were able to get our star witness on hand, Mr. J. S. DuVall of the Victor O. Schinnerrer Insurance Agency, Mr. DuVall is more familiar with the liability problem than anyone else and made an excellent and convincing witness. We made sure that the favorable votes were present this time. gathering them up around the halls like so many stray cattle. The committee offered to vote for a favorable report if we would accept an amendment extending the statute to nine years in lieu of six years. We hesitated not at all and accepted this chance to get the bill moving

Wednesday evening, March 15th, the bill was reported out of committee favorably on the Senate floor and we hit a snag again. Senators Dorf and McGuirk of Baltimore moved that the bill lay over a day so that they could study the effect of the church collapse. Thursday evening Senator McGuirk wanted to add an amendment to make certain that any pending suits arising from the church collapse would not be barred by this bill. His amendments were prepared and presented on Friday and the favorable report accepted by the Senate and ordered printed for third reading. Saturday afternoon, March 18, 1967, Senate Bill 240 was passed by the Senate and sent to the House for further action. We now had ten days remaining of the 1967 legislative session—ten days in which to get the bill completely through the House, a difficult but not hopeless chore. It was at this point we were able to get a copy of the third reader bill, the bill which finally passed the Senate with the amendment by Senator McGuirk. We read the bill with much concern, the amendment stated ". . . and shall not preclude anyone aggrieved prior to this time from instituting action at any time." The words "at any time" were very bad and ruined a very good bill. The bill now opened the door to old

by statute. Our difficult chore now became much worse. or action which may have at some time been barred It would be necessary to have the amendment removed in the House and gain the concurrence of the Senate or we would have to try to kill the bill.

Monday, March 20th the bill was read in the House for the first time and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. In the meantime we prepared new amendments removing the objectionable language and talked with the committee chairman, Thomas Hunter Lowe, the majority floor leader. Mr. Lowe informed us that he was taking the bills in the order in which they came before his committee because of the lateness of the hour. At this late date a public hearing was out of the question, but we were permitted to stay in the committee hearing room and wait until the bill came up in its turn. At this point we would be permitted to explain the bill to the committee members and try to gain their vote. Needless to say we remained in constant attendance and sought every opportunity to speak to the committee members explaining why we needed this bill and why they should vote for it. Our chance finally arrived and we did have a few moments to talk to the committee and explain the purpose of the bill. The members appeared genuinely interested and paid courteous attention, but I am certain that with the myriads of legislation buzzing around in their brains, their comprehension was exhausted. After the brief hearing we called many people to send telegrams to the committee to

demonstrate interest. This was our parting shot as we had Front Door to Washington, D. C. SHERATON

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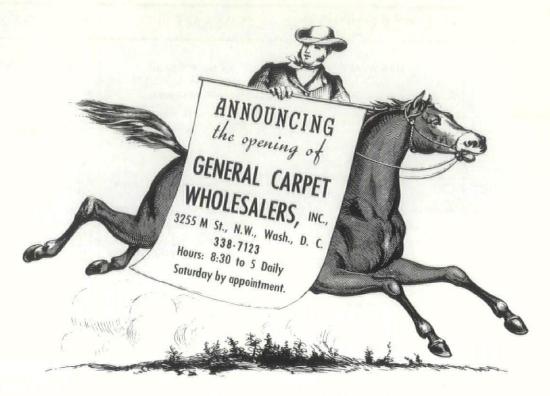
Good Friday afternoon, after a three or four hour debate on the death penalty, our bill came under discussion. We were once again a victim of bad timing. Mr. Lowe read a two-page letter to the committee and discussed the laws of other states having this type of statute. The committee generally was sympathetic toward our cause in the short time they could devote to discussion, but felt that this bill affected so many people it needed more time for deliberation. Therefore, the committee referred the bill to the Legislative Council for further study. It was felt that perhaps the nine year amendment should be changed back to some shorter period.

The Legislative Council appointed on the last day of the session includes fifteen Senators and fifteen Delegates including representation of all the key committees. Late this summer or fall, when it is determined that our bill will come under discussion, we will ask for time to present our views to the Council. We will have an opportunity to testify in a more orderly atmosphere free from the terrible pressures of impending deadlines of the short legislative session. Prior to the opening of the 1968 General Assembly, the Legislative Council's report will be presented with their recommendations for action. With all of the exposure we gained this year and with the Legislative Council's recommendation, passage of the bill next year seems a certainty although we will still need to keep right on top of the situation to iron out any rough spots that may develop along the way.

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