

Mr. Herbert Fallin, Budget Director (cont'd)

and fire alarm connections, which are disconnected by simply pulling out a plug when the boat leaves the wharf.

Chapter 312 of the Acts of 1927, in part, states the purpose for the issuance of the certificates of indebtedness-not exceeding Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) -

"\* \* \* shall be used for the acquisition by purchase or condemnation of sites, and the construction, reconstruction of buildings and for providing additional facilities for the Baltimore City Hospitals (formerly known as the Bay View Asylum), the Communicable Disease Hospital of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (known as Sydenham Hospital), Fire Engine Houses and Police Station Houses in Baltimore City."

The language of the Act, stripped of its descriptive verbiage, would indicate that the proceeds were for the acquiring of sites and the construction of buildings on those sites and for providing additional facilities for the Baltimore City Hospitals, Communicable Disease Hospital, Fire Engine Houses and Police Stations in Baltimore City. Nowhere in the Act can I read any limitation upon the use of the proceeds for only the construction or reconstruction of Fire Engine Houses as physical buildings. This intention is further illustrated in the title of the Act which, in part, is as follows:

"\* \* \* for the purpose of defraying the cost and expenses of the acquisition by purchase or condemnation of sites and the construction, reconstruction, repair and improvement of additional facilities for the Baltimore City Hospitals, Fire Engine Houses and Police Station Houses; \* \* \* ."

To hold that part of the funds from this loan can not be used for the reconstruction of the facilities of the Fire Boat "DELUCE" would be to construe the Act so as to deny it its clearly intended purpose.

"There is no safer or better settled canon of interpretation that when language is clear and unambiguous it must be held to mean what it plainly expresses."  
Swartz v. Seigel - 117 Fed. 13, 54.

This Act itself has never been construed by the courts, but I believe that the construction that I have herein outlined is consistent with the rules of construction as laid down in what is perhaps the leading Maryland case on the subject -