ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED AT THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

AT THE

JANUARY SESSION, A. D., 1968

[Note: General Assembly in Recess
at time of Publication.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Providence
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1968
versary of the birth of George Washington, February 22, 1968; and be it further

Resolved, That his excellency, the governor, his honor the lieutenant governor, the members of the honorable senate and the honorable judges of the respective courts of this state are hereby invited to join with the house of representatives at 1:15 p.m., on Tuesday, February 22, 1968, for the purpose of holding fitting exercises for the observance of the anniversary of the birth of George Washington; and that special committee appointed in accordance with the provisions of this resolution be directed to transmit the invitation to his excellency, the governor, his honor, the lieutenant governor, the honorable senate and the honorable judges of the respective courts of this state.

House Resolution creating a special house committee to study the feasibility of acquiring suitable property for use as a Rhode Island governors mansion.

Resolved, That a special house committee be and the same is hereby created consisting of five (5) members; not more than three (3) of whom shall be from the same political party, to be appointed by the speaker; and whose purpose it shall be to study the feasibility of acquiring Sprague Mansion in Cranston; the former residence of the late United States senator Theodore Francis Green, or other suitable property for use as a Rhode Island governors mansion.

Forthwith upon the passage of this resolution, the members of the committee shall meet at the call of the
speaker of the house and organize and shall select from among themselves a chairman. Vacancies in said committee shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

The membership of said committee shall receive no compensation for their services.

All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to said committee and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the committee to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

Resolved, That the committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the general assembly on or before January 20, 1969.

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**Senate Resolution** creating a special senate commission to investigate the failure of the director of public works to provide adequate access in the Fox Point area of Providence to the interstate highway system and to proposed park and recreational facilities.

**Whereas,** The director of public works has erred, and disregarded the welfare and convenience of thousands of citizens, in not providing appropriate access to and from the central Fox Point area in his proposed plans for construction of the new Washington bridge, the connector between said bridge and the proposed Henderson bridge, and the expansion of interstate route 195; and
January 16, 1969

The Honorable Joseph A. Bevilacqua  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with the terms of House Resolution 1434, may I respectfully submit this final report of the Special Legislative Commission to Study the Feasibility of Acquiring Suitable Property for use as a Rhode Island Governor's Mansion.

Due to unfortunate circumstances beyond its control, the commission has not been able to delve into the matter as thoroughly as it anticipated. Its organization meeting, for instance, was scheduled for the day we learned with great sorrow of the untimely death of former Governor John H. Chafee's beloved daughter, Tribbie, and therefore was postponed.

From cursory study, and from personal interviews with Rhode Island Chief Executives, however, it would seem that Governors-in-office, including Governor Frank Licht and former Governor Chafee, with commendable modesty, are reluctant, in fact are adverse, to the state providing an official residence. After an 18-hour-day on the job, they apparently would prefer to return to the comfort and privacy of their own homes in order to relax and renew their strength rather than in the formal surroundings of a state mansion.

For that reason, and because the time is not propitious for any substantial outlay for a Governor's Mansion at this time, the commission is agreed that the proposal should be held in abeyance for the present.

Be that as it may, I for one, and I believe others on the commission feel as I do, that eventually an official Governor's residence should be provided, by means of a gift, hopefully, of a stately and historic property, or by purchase, if necessary.
While no formal decision was reached, the feeling was general that a suitable residence should be provided for future Governors, where they may receive visiting dignitaries, entertain on formal occasions, and conduct with the dignity and grace of a great commonwealth the social and official amenities of this high office.

I personally feel, too, that such an official residence would be a tourist attraction of great popularity and, planned in a manner befitting a state mansion, could serve as a showcase for Rhode Island industrial output, as well as its historic lore. Although this report concludes our commission study of the matter, may I say for myself that I will continue to explore it further in the hope that someone, sometime, will offer to the state the type of residence it will be glad to accept as the official residence of Rhode Island Governors of the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Peter J. Coelho, Chairman

Rep. Francis McCabe

Rep. Robert E. Sweeney

Former Rep. Nils G. Broms

Former Rep. Barbara W. Nichols

PJC:far