

Bicentennial pomp initiates '76 session

By **SABRY C. RANBY**
Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis — The Maryland General Assembly opened its regular 90-day session yesterday with a show of bicentennial ceremony and only token legislative opposition to Governor Mandel over a vetoed bill involving political patronage.

On the major battles of the day, Mr. Mandel easily had the upper hand. The General Assembly sustained all but one of the Governor's vetoes of bills from last year's regular session.

Much of the day was devoted to pageantry commemorating the 192d anniversary of the ratification of the Treaty of Paris, ending the American Revolution.

In the old Senate chamber, where the treaty was ratified,

Mandel bill would trim tax phasing

By **DONALD KIMELMAN**
Governor Mandel said yesterday that he will introduce emergency legislation to exclude commercial and industrial properties from the statute that permits large assessment increases to be phased over a three-year period.

Today's scheduled committee hearings.....C4.

Governor Mandel and a host of state and federal personages honored Count Rene de Chambrun, a direct descendant of the Marquis de Lafayette.

The Governor and Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy of the Court of Appeals addressed a joint session of the General Assembly on the role of the French in America's Revolution and the friendship of the two nations during the last 200 years.

Most of dignitaries, including the count and Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, the French ambassador to the United States, left the State House at noon to visit the French monument two blocks away at St. John's College, leaving the Assembly members to pick up the legislative thread where they left it nine months ago—firmly in the hand of the Governor.

The lone defeat for Mr. Mandel during the day occurred when the Legislature overrode his veto of a measure that requires the secretary of state to draw up a list of all patronage appointments each year.

Mr. Mandel had vetoed the bill in May, contending that leg-

If passed by the necessary three-fifths margin, the bill would considerably blunt the effect of an attorney general's ruling that the 1973 phase-in law be applied to the recent major reassessment of all city properties.

Although the city stands to gain some \$2.6 million from the Governor's proposal, Mayor Schaefer said yesterday that he might oppose it.

"I would have to measure the effect on the city's industries," Mr. Schaefer said. "I think it may have a detrimental effect on some of the things we're trying to do [to discourage businesses from fleeing the city]."

A spokesman for Governor Mandel said the emergency bill is designed to help the city increase its revenues, but that city officials were not consulted on the matter.

The state attorney general ruled Monday that assessment increases in excess of 36 per

See ASSEMBLY, C4, Col. 7

See ASSESS, C4, Col. 6



Sunpapers photos—Ralph L. Robinson

Chambrun, a descendant of the Marquis de Lafayette, wreath laying ceremonies at French monument

Assembly opening

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speech notes written by Lafayette and letters to Washington announcing the last negotiations of the Treaty of Paris. Later Governor Mandel gave Count de Chambrun two silver goblets, replicas of ones bought by Lafayette and given to his Baltimore hosts on the Marquis's last visit.

Before closing his speech to the Legislature, the count looked at his watch and said he was thinking of his Fifteenth-Century home, Lagrange, where daylight was almost over:

"Night is falling over those towers; Madame de Chambrun is lighting the candles in [the] library," the aging aristocrat said softly.

And then of Lafayette:

"His soul can see now what is happening there in his home and what is happening here in Annapolis this morning where one of his descendants is feeling, as deeply as I do, the warmth of your words that I will never forget."

'76 show opens session

ASSEMBLY, from CI

lators could compile their own list of vacant political posts each year through a careful reading of the 1,000-page Maryland Manual. He also claimed the bill would impose a hardship on an already overburdened secretary of state.

The Governor's reasoning was not shared by the state Senate, which voted 45 to 0 to override the veto.

When Senator Roy N. Staten (D., 8th, Baltimore county), the majority leader, read the veto message to the lawmakers, he was greeted by hoots and laughter from his colleagues. Even the supremely loyal Mr. Staten could not stifle a chuckle while reading the Mandel message.

"It appears to me this bill is in trouble," Mr. Staten said in mock seriousness after numerous senators stood to voice opposition to the veto.

Steny H. Hoyer (D., Prince Georges), the Senate president, interrupted to correct his majority leader. "It appears to me the bill is in good shape. The veto is in trouble."

The House of Delegates later went along with the Senate in overriding the veto on an 88-to-35 vote, 3 votes more than the required three-fifths majority.

Senator Victor L. Crawford (D., Montgomery) expressed the sentiments of most senators when he said that, without a complete list of the upcoming gubernatorial appointments, legislators were at the whim of the Governor, who could easily wheel and deal with them by juggling the available patronage jobs.

But if the Assembly knew in advance what jobs would be available, the Governor's job in accommodating the senators and delegates would be far more difficult, he said.

In the only other major veto fights of the day, a bill to transfer to the state the full cost of

all local school repairs and renovations lost by 15 votes in the House, and a bill renaming Towson State College a university was trounced in the Senate.

Mr. Mandel and Towson State officials had worked out a compromise over the weekend that made the 41-to-2 vote to sustain the veto academic.

Mr. Mandel and the legislators were obviously delighted by the address of Count de Chambrun (whom they referred to variously as Shibrone, Shonbrun, Chimbrun and Chanbrone).

They applauded the count; the Maryland Youth Symphony Orchestra, which boomed out tunes in the hallway; the Revolutionary color guard, which marched in and out of their chambers; and Louise Gore, head of the Bicentennial Commission, who put the whole show together.

Then the senators and delegates swung into the business of the day with relish.

In the House, the first of 58 vetoes which were to be routinely sustained was a measure that would have required the state Public Service Commission to finish a study of utility rate schedules by September 1, 1975.

The House leadership pointed out in vain that overriding the veto would not accomplish anything, since the bill would take effect February 14, 1976, more than five months after the specified completion date.

Nevertheless, the delegates launched an hour of debate on the measure, discussed a motion to make Mr. Mandel's veto message a special order of business for next Tuesday, held a roll-call vote on that motion, heard some more disparaging remarks about the members of the Public Service Commission and finally took a second roll-call vote on the motion to override the veto.

Mr. Mandel won this round easily with 28 votes to spare.

Watch it here

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Collier gave up

By CA
Sun S

Miami Beach—
seemed to be no way that Collier, from Baltimore's Mondson High School and San State University, make the Pittsburgh S football team.

The Steelers were Bowl champions, loaded talent at every position Collier was just an over-tious running back who had made the starting eleven Morgan until his senior year.

In the 14th round of the National Football League the Steelers were looking for bodies to fill the training roster. Veteran running back Frenchy Fuqua, a former NFL star, had mentioned Collier at his old alma mater might be worth a look, and the Steelers drafted Collier.

"I was nearly sick before the time the Steelers took me. Collier yesterday at Bishop College where the Steelers were preparing for Sunday's NFL Bowl clash with the Dallas Cowboys.

"I followed the draft and I kept seeing players who, compared to my status, were nowhere near me.

"I finally said to myself, 'I guess pro football isn't for me.' Then about 6 P.M. on the second day of the draft I got a call from Dan Rooney [president of the Steelers] saying the Steelers had drafted me."

Collier knew his chances of making the grade were "but I thought I was good enough to play pro football."

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Correction

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