

# Earning Capital

PUBLISHED BY CAPITAL GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS, INC.,  
AMERICA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS

Founded 1727

PHILIP MERRILL, President and Publisher

EDWARD D. CASEY, Executive Editor

GEORGE R. CRUZE, JR., Business Manager

ROBERT P. KELLY, Managing Editor

TERRY W. HEBERT, Circulation Director

RICHARD P. MURCHAKE, Production Manager

FRED P. GLENNIE, Controller

## Burch doesn't stir on loan to Mandel

YESTERDAY in this space we reviewed the governor's amazingly casual attitude toward widely published charges that his wife and son have received some \$54,000 apparently loaned for the purpose of financing his divorce and which therefore should have gone to his first wife.

Today we would like to review the fundamental question of the governor's standing with or above the law. The attorney general of this state, Francis Burch, has many times maintained that he has no authority whatever to investigate criminal matters.

Here we have the governor and his family, apparently unwilling or unable to give reasonable explanations, or indeed any explanation, for the receipt of a sum of money more than twice his annual salary before taxes.

Evidently there is no interest and no ability on the part of the criminal justice system here to even ask the most simple questions. Presumably if the governor shoots his grandmother the police will investigate.

But any other misuse of governmental power, any other evidence of fraud, bribery, or corruption, will remain uninvestigated and untended unless the federal government sends its minions to Maryland to do the job for us.

In plain English, if you want to know why Maryland politics has produced so many crooks, the answer lies in the total absence of any significant prosecutorial authority at the state level.

In the instant case no one knows whether the governor has or has not compromised his office. Indeed, no one knows what if anything the governor has done.

All that is known are the widely published reports that the governor, his wife, Jeanne, and his son, Gary, have received a total of \$54,000 under mysterious circumstances for mysterious purposes and that he doesn't think that is anybody else's business.

We do think it is someone else's business. We think it is the people's business. And until the people receive a satisfactory explanation we think they are entitled to assume that Governor Mandel may not be all that different from his predecessor in the State House.

We think they are also entitled to an attorney general who acts, a system of justice that functions, and a governor that doesn't hide behind the skirts of his wife.

Those in power in this state apparently believe they can do whatever they please knowing that short of the federal government no one is going to pursue any lead, no matter how blatant.

Mr. Burch: We don't care what your statutory authority is. If you had any sense of public responsibility at all you would be jumping up and down with anger demanding that the legislature give you the right to investigate this matter — and others.

There is something unsavory here and you, and everyone else in this state, know it.

**Len Moodispaw**

**Planning**



## Capital give the

### Volunteers

Sir:

With the current practice of selfishness and the "who-the-hell-cares attitude" of our present-day populace, there is no wonder that the art of self-sacrifice is becoming a thing of the past, but there are exceptions, one of which is the volunteer fire department.

The lady who attempted to discredit the volunteers by submitting a letter to the editor unjustly downgrading the effectiveness of the system, evidently, has no conception of the reasons for or the workings

dedicated and pr  
practice of brother  
CLIFFORD L. S

### Landscape

Sir:

Annapolis is a known early histo  
Mr. Lewis or his  
powers" over st  
should be allowed  
destroy the beaut  
planned historic s  
city—especially  
obliterating thes  
from view.

The State House