

Mandel defense fund contributors won't be named

A Washington area businessman raising money for Gov. Marvin Mandel's legal defense fund says he will not publicly identify contributors to what he thinks will be a kitty of several hundred thousand dollars.

Hotsy I. Alperstein, a fraternity brother of Mandel when both were students at the University of Maryland, said he would not release the names of contributors because there is no law requiring such disclosure.

Mandel told his news conference Thursday that he reluctantly gave Alperstein and other friends authorization to solicit contributions after deciding he was unable to personally pay the cost of defending himself against federal mail fraud and racketeering charges lodged against the governor and five codefendants in November.

"The burden has become too much," the governor said. "I don't have the assets." Mandel declined to discuss specifics of his financial situation or how much money he thinks he will need to pay for his defense.

The governor said he would not be involved in the statewide fund-raising effort and would not know who was contributing.

"I don't want to know because I don't want any of you to comeback and say, did so-and-so give to you," he said.

Mandel stated that he has been receiving small, unsolicited contributions from around the state. "It's been the most gratifying thing that's ever happened to me... They don't think they are personally contributing to me but are contributing to keep the state the kind of state it is," he explained.

Alperstein said he and other organizers of the Marvin Mandel Legal Defense Fund have not set a dollar-amount goal, but he added: "In my opinion, we're going to need several hundred thousand dollars.

"We're going to get all we can get because we think we're going to need all we can get," Alperstein said.

He said that the defense fund would not accept contributions from corporations. Asked if it would take money from persons doing business with the state, he replied: "I wouldn't know who does business with the state. If it's an individual contributing, I personally don't see any reason not to accept the contribution."

House

Despite the sponsor's request that his bill be given serious consideration, a measure to allow conjugal visitation in prisons has received a hostile committee reception and the opposition of the state corrections commissioner.

"In the past, bills like this have been summarily dismissed, but this is a serious bill that deserves your consideration," Del. Robert Jacques, D-Montgomery, told the House Judiciary Committee Thursday.

"We have a serious problem in our prisons with homosexual attacks," Jacques testified. "This is not a bill to coddle criminals, but you can't lock a man up for 20 or 30 years and not distort his normal nature."

Although he conceded in his explanation that there might be logistical problems in implementing a program of having private visits by inmates' spouses, committee members and Mark Levine, the corrections commissioner, addressed most of these questions to these problems.

"Would you allow unmarried prisoners to have such rights?" asked Del. Andrew Burns, D-Balt.

When Jacques responded that he would, Committee Chairman Joseph Owens, D-Montgomery, asked: "Would it be up to the department to find an unmarried inmate a partner?"

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Patuxent termed failure as rehabilitative facility

Patuxent Institution, the only rehabilitative prison of its type in the country, has been described as an experiment which failed as the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee opened hearings on a bill to abolish the unique features of the facility.

treat its more than 300 inmates. It currently has no full-time psychiatrist and is utilizing one part-timer and four others on a consulting basis, according to Crawford.

Other critics of Patuxent included former inmates who testified they had spent more

"It's a game down there," he told the committee. "If you're lucky enough to get in with the right doctor, if you do things his way, he'll put in a good word for you."

Only two witnesses favoring the retention of the institution as it now is had time to testify