

Mandel won't seek donations

Gov. Marvin Mandel says he isn't going to seek public aid in paying his legal fees, but that he might accept help if it is offered and comes from proper sources.

"The trial of cases can get very expensive," the governor told reporters at his weekly news conference Thursday.

He said he is not going to urge Marylanders to contribute to his defense.

"But I'm not going to say I would turn my back on them (the public)," he said.

Bernard Koman, founder of a new political club in Baltimore, said two weeks ago his club would start a legal defense fund for the governor, and Mandel was asked whether he would accept the money if it is offered.

"I would have to see where and how it was raised, what

sources and how the money was got together before I would consider it," he said.

He told reporters neither Koman nor anyone else from the club has contacted him about a defense fund.

The chief executive was asked what his reaction would be if other Marylanders wanted to send money to help pay his legal fees.

"I think it would be very kind," he said.

Mandel refused, as he has in the past, to answer any questions about how much it is costing him to defend himself against charges of mail fraud and violations of the federal racketeering statute.

He referred all questions to his lawyer, Arnold M. Weiner, who also refused to discuss the legal charges.

Thursday was the first day of Mandel's eighth year in office,

and he was asked what his thoughts and feelings were about the last seven years.

"That's a very difficult question to answer without some reflection," he replied. "Overall I've enjoyed it tremendously."

He said there have been some disappointments and some things he would do differently the second time around, but that there haven't been any major disappointments and that he would make no major changes.

He said he would not rank the indictment as a disappointment.

"It's not a disappointment because I think in the long run it will all turn out all right," Mandel replied.


On other topics discussed at the news conference, the governor said that:

—There is no way the state can afford to authorize a \$35

million bond issue to help Baltimore build a new downtown convention center. Baltimore Mayor William D. Schaefer says the bond issue will be his top priority item at

the 1976 General Assembly. —He hopes a decision will be made by the time the legislature convenes next Wednesday on whether to build a subway in the Baltimore area.

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