

Mandel eyes tax

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to finance MTA

By **JOEL McCORD**
Staff Writer

Anne Arundel County taxpayers may have to pay part of the state Mass Transit Administration's future deficits under a plan now being worked out by Gov. Marvin Mandel and Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer.

The plan, part of a deal to get the governor's support for immediate construction of the Baltimore rapid transit line, would require Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore to pay a major share of the MTA's deficit beginning in the next fiscal year. For the next five years, the jurisdictions would subsidize MTA bus operations under the plan. After that, they would also be obligated to cover losses in subway and light rail operations.

According to reports in the Baltimore Sun, the agreement of all three chief executives would be enough to seal the deal. Arrangements could be made on the state level to pay the money, bypassing the county and city councils.

It is unlikely, however, that Anne Arundel County Executive Robert A. Pascal will agree to the plan.

Pascal, who could not be reached this morning, has, in the past, adamantly opposed any subsidies for the rapid rail line. He also indicated last week he would not approve other mass transit subsidies.

He said he would not consider subsidies for the bus lines unless ridership studies showed a substantial number of county residents would benefit.

Under the plan, which the governor has discussed with Schaefer and Baltimore County Executive Theodore G. Venetoulis, the local governments would have to pay for any deficits beyond the flat dollar amount the state pays. The state's figure is still under negotiation.

The shares of the deficit payment would be allotted to each jurisdiction according to the ridership figures of the MTA. The administration estimates that 12 per cent of its riders come from Anne Arundel County.

Baltimore, with 60 per cent of the MTA riders, would pay 60 per cent of the deficit. Baltimore County has 28 per cent of the riders and would pay that part of the deficit.

The actual dollar amount cannot be computed until Gov. Mandel and the three

executives agree on the maximum amount of the deficit the state will pay.

If the executives agree to the plan, the arrangements can be worked out in the General Assembly. Instead of asking the local legislatures to pay the state a certain amount of money, the state would get the money by subtracting state transportation funds from the money that would normally go into the local treasuries.

It is unclear exactly how much money would be involved, but the plan will force local governments into making major commitments.

The MTA bus deficit, which has been growing rapidly, reached \$9 million for the fiscal year that ended last June, despite a \$4 million federal operating subsidy.

MTA officials are projecting a similar deficit this fiscal year
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Student charged in Arundel blast Anonymous call tips police

By **RICHARD BAYNE**
Staff Writer

A 15-year-old Arundel Senior High School sophomore was arrested yesterday and charged with planting the bomb that exploded in a locker in the "F" hall of the school Monday afternoon.

County police said the youth was arrested at the school about 1:40 p.m. after an anonymous tipster telephoned authorities and identified the youth as the originator of the explosion.

Detectives would not say whether the call came into the school or the police department, but they said they received "outstanding cooperation from school authorities" in making the youth's arrest.

Police said the youth, who was a resident of Crofton, was first picked up for questioning, then gave a statement admitting to manufacturing and detonating the device. Police refused to release his name.

The youth was officially charged with manufacturing, transporting and detonating an explosive device.

He has been released to his parent's custody and a juvenile hearing is pending.

Arundel Senior High School was evacuated for the remainder of the afternoon Monday after a bomb exploded in an unlocked locker in a hall near the science classrooms during the afternoon session.

Police said the locker in which the bomb had been placed was not assigned to the charged youth.

U.S. will investigate Morton's appointment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Election Commission will investigate the appointment of Rogers C.B. Morton as a White House adviser paid by the taxpayers but assigned by President Ford to at least some political duties.

Democratic presidential candidate Fred Harris filed a complaint letter with the commission on Wednesday night, calling for a "full investigation and full disclosure concerning the mixed White House and political duties of ... Morton."

An FEC spokesman said the complaint by Harris would not be brought up during today's commission meeting, although commissioners might be advised of it during a closed executive session.

But the spokesman said the receipt of a notarized complaint letter would automatically launch a staff investigation.

Harris' letter asking for the investigation followed comments by commission chairman Thomas Curtis, who said Wednesday that he is concerned about the propriety

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MTA tax eyed

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even though federal money is still available and a fare increase is scheduled in March.

The MTA is projecting deficits of \$9.5 million, \$11.6 million, \$15.3 million and \$19.2 million during the next four fiscal years. Federal subsidies are scheduled to end in 1980,

and the operating deficit could go beyond \$32 million after that.

Mandel imposed the plan last week after Shaefer spoke to him, urging an immediate start on the Baltimore rapid rail line.

Mandel has also discussed the plan with Venetoulis, but has not talked with Pascal.

Lamb proposal hit

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public hearing on any personnel matter."

"Frankly, I haven't had enough time to read Mrs. Lamb's letter," she said, "but I'm against what she seems to be suggesting. They don't do this in any other area of government."

P. Tyson Bennett, Mrs. Lamb's sole ally on the board, also felt there should be no public hearing, but suggested an alternative. He proposed a system similar to that used in some states for the reappointment of judges.

"We could advertise publicly," he said, "either in a legal notice or regular ad, that the superintendent's contract is expiring, and ask for comments on his performance in office."

Several board members expressed their willingness to consider that suggestion.

As expected, Mrs. Lamb's letter has increased the antagonism between her and most other board members. In their private remarks, some have

questioned her motives, and expressed some resentment at her taking the issue directly to the public.

U.S. indicts Vesco, 6 others

NEW YORK (AP) — Fugitive financier Robert Vesco and six of his associates have been indicted on federal charges of conspiring to divert more than \$100 million to their personal use from Investors Overseas Service, the giant mutual fund they controlled.

The new indictment, handed up Wednesday, marked the third time that Vesco, now living in Costa Rica, has been indicted for transferring funds from the mutual fund to his own use.

an education and research center.

The director said it will be available to citizen groups in both Maryland and Virginia as

Foundation scientific and organization membership of Maryland and

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