

# Mandel pushes harbor project

Gov. Marvin Mandel has asked President Ford to intervene and force federal agencies to clear the way for the state to initiate a long-delayed project to deepend and improve Baltimore harbor.

"Almost four years ago, Maryland requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a containment for the contaminated spoil to be dredged

from the Baltimore Harbor and its approaches by the Corps," Mandel said in a letter to Ford Thursday.

The governor said the project "has been delayed entirely upon the inaction of the federal government, specifically the Department of Interior, the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Army..."

"The federal government agencies have not given proper consideration to the urgency of the situation with respect to the need to halt overboard disposal of contaminated spoil and to the fact that Baltimore Harbor's role in the economy of the state is absolutely without parallel," Mandel wrote.

The governor said that during the wait for federal approval of the Hart and Miller Island Project the cost has risen from \$13 million to more than \$25 million and will increase further if the delay continues.

## Blue Cross payments up

BALTIMORE (AP)—Blue Cross of Maryland Thursday reported that its average payments per day to hospitals rose 14 per cent in fiscal year 1975, one of the largest jumps in recent years.

According to the firm's report, the average daily cost of hospital care for the 1.5 million Blue Cross of Maryland members increased from \$128 in fiscal 1974 to \$146 in fiscal 1975.

A Blue Cross spokesman said the preliminary reports on costs for the first half of the current fiscal year indicates the cost increase is continuing.

In terms of total payments, Blue Cross reported that the plan paid out \$208 million, a 16 per cent increase over the \$180 million paid out in 1974.



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problems, she would offer an amendment to establish just one pilot center.

"The attempt here is to get the services these people require in one place," the Montgomery Democrat and numerous witnesses testified.

"The center would make use of existing programs, but would make sure displaced homemakers would have access to counseling, a clinic, job training, money management courses and information on available government assistance."

The measure, HB94, is the first such bill introduced in the

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