

Mandel pushes rail plan

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Governor huddles with Baltimore Co. legislators

Gov. Marvin Mandel met with Baltimore County legislators Friday to explain his proposal for the county to pay a share of operating deficits for the Baltimore area Rapid Transit System. The county is still not ready to commit itself either way.

Mandel emerged from a one-hour closed door meeting with the lawmakers and insisted he only wanted to explain his position and did not seek any commitments.

The county's commitment to paying a portion of operating deficits is seen as crucial to

construction of the first leg of the subway system, from Charles Center in downtown Baltimore to the Beltway in Baltimore County.

County Executive Theodore G. Venetoulis said after the meeting that the county will make its decision within a few weeks, but only after seeing a specific formula on paper that would clearly define the county's financial obligations.

Resting at the "heart of the decision", he said, is a determination as to who pays unanticipated deficits that would go beyond any original

agreements.

Venetoulis said he realized the county's commitment was important for building the subway system, adding, "I wouldn't say it would fall through if we didn't go along, but it wouldn't help."

Mandel said in his State of the State message to the General Assembly this week he was optimistic of devising a formula for Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties and Baltimore City to participate in the cost of operating deficits.

Baltimore Mayor William D. Schaefer, a prime booster of the subway system, has agreed to help pay the operating deficits but Anne Arundel County Executive Robert A. Pascal said he had no funds to make such a commitment, although he said the county might provide funds at a later date.

Mandel said Anne Arundel County's dollars are not needed for the first phase of the system, but he has indicated that Baltimore County's dollars are.

"Our only purpose was to meet with the delegation just to keep them informed," the governor said after emerging from the meeting in the County delegation room at the House Office Building.

"We didn't ask for any agreement, we didn't ask for any support, no one is asking for any commitment."

But Mandel said the county

would have to make its decision within a few weeks because the General Assembly must approve his Fiscal 1977 budget, which includes \$120.5 million for the first phase of the rapid transit system.

from House panel

s fetal test limits

down last year.

Brown, the only medical doctor in the General Assembly, acknowledged his bill is an attempt to head off a more restrictive ban on fetal research introduced by Del. Andrew Burns, D-Baltimore. The committee scheduled a vote on Burns' measure next Tuesday.

At a public hearing Wed-

nesday, Burns objected to Brown's bill because the federal guidelines on which state law would be based could be changed without state input. He also argued the federal guidelines are not strong enough and contain at least one loophole.

Hearing witnesses also testified Wednesday it would be folly to consider the consent of a woman who has agreed to an abortion as "informed consent" on the part of the fetus.

Del. Royden P. Dyson, D-St. Mary's asked the committee Friday to hold Brown's bill for later consideration. Committee Chairman John Arnick, D-Balto. Co., immediately objected, however, warning "that after five years of hearings, don't start playing games holding up these bills. If you start playing games, then I'm going to have to play games."

The committee then defeated Dyson's motion on a 12-8 roll call vote and went on to approve the bill.

il to air Monday

for a commercial or industrial subdivision and \$65 an acre for the final plans.

According to George F. Neimeyer, county director of public works, the bill is aimed at raising money to pay for additional employees to review subdivision plans and speed the building permit process.

County builders have told the council they favor the bill.

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