

1-1-0-925-01-802358
HALL OF RECORDS COMM
ATTN DR C PAPERFUSE
P O BOX 828
ANNAPOLIS
MD
EXPIRES: 10-12-79



SUN

Hughes picks Hettleman
for social service post: B1

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1979

15 Cents



Sun photos—William Hotz

Governor Mandel (left) meets the press in Annapolis while his stand-in, acting Governor Lee, finds one Mandel comment funny.

Mandel, allies 'storm' capitol; U.S. plans steps Mandel

Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Just after noon yesterday the side doors of the State House flew open, and five men in trench coats stormed in, hats pulled low over their foreheads.

It was Governor Mandel's long dismantled first team—his former press secretary, patronage secretary and three top lobbyists, returning en masse to their old haunt.

"The muldoons are back. The muldoons are back," Michael S. Silver trumpeted as the group marched through the basement hallways en route to their old second floor offices.

"I've got the nameplates right here in my pocket," Frank H. Harris chimed in.

At least for this one improbable day, Marvin Mandel was back in the saddle. The "old Maryland," repudiated last fall by the voters, was having its last hurrah.

The 58-year-old Governor, whose conviction on corruption charges was overturned by a federal appeals court Thursday, made a triumphal return to the State House yesterday to remind the citizens of Maryland that "I am Governor."

At a press conference in the ceremonial reception room, surrounded by portraits of former governors, Mr. Mandel showed that his long hiatus from office had not changed his style of dealing with the press.

A throng of reporters gamely tried to get him to say whether, for the five days remaining in his term, he would formally resume the powers he transferred to acting Governor Lee 18 months ago.

"I have not really had an opportunity to think about it or talk to Blair [Lee] about it," he said. "I see no need for any great rush or any need for me to move precipitously in any way."

But time is running out, the questioners said. What are you going to do?

"I think I'm going to think about what I am going to do."

Mr. Lee, who has always been as frank as Mr. Mandel is guarded, told the press corps that he, too, has had trouble getting an answer to that question. The acting governor was seated before the same bank of microphones as Mr. Mandel, who was flanked by his wife, Jeanne, and his lawyer, Arnold M. Weiner.

"I had a very brief meeting with him in the inner office to try to find out what his intentions were and what my future for the next five days was and I didn't get anywhere," Mr. Lee said. "So I came out here with him trying to get some scraps of information, but he's obviously not putting out. So I'm going to follow him around for the rest of the day."

The press conference was the highlight of a day of celebration for Mr. Mandel's long-time supporters, who were unabashedly gloating over the return of their fallen leader.

The movable party with Mr. Mandel at the helm had actually begun in the Hilton

See MANDEL, A6, Col. 3



Sun photo—Walter M. McCardell

"The muldoons are back," cried Michael S. Silver (left) as he and four other Mandel associates stormed the State House about noon yesterday in a jubilant comeback. With Maurice R.

Wyatt (2d from left) and Frank H. Harris (center) Mr. Silver exchanged jibes at the patronage office of Simon McHugh (2d from right), formerly Mr. Wyatt's haunt.



Sun photo—Ralph L. Robinson

Arnold M. Weiner, shown near his office at 36 South Charles street, urged the prosecution of Governor Mandel be dropped.

Mandel, 'muldoons' jubilantly sweep capitol

MANDEL, from A1

Hotel bar late Thursday, moved to Chick and Ruth's Delicatessen on Main street here for breakfast, then around the fireplace at the Mandel home before finally climaxing yesterday afternoon in the State House.

"At last we've got a governor again," Delegate Paul E. Weisengoff (D., 37th, Baltimore) declared, displaying a tie with a race horse pattern he had worn especially for the day.

The five former aides who had arrived together posed for group portraits in the patronage secretary's office, playfully handing each other race track passes. They received a hero's welcome from outgoing members of Mr. Lee's staff, who joined them later in the afternoon for an office farewell party attended by the Mandels.

Delegate Daniel J. Minnick, Jr. (D., 8th, Baltimore county), who was standing in as speaker of the House yesterday, tried unsuccessfully to persuade Mr. Mandel to make a surprise appearance in the House chamber and to join him on the rostrum.

"He would have gotten the largest ovation you've ever seen," Mr. Minnick said.

As it was, both houses held brief meet-

ings without any formal mention of the stunning reversal of Mr. Mandel's fortunes.

Roy N. Staten, the former Senate majority leader who was Mr. Mandel's most loyal legislative ally, wandered around the State House all day with a happy grin on his face. He paused at one point to deliver a strange tribute to his former patron.

"When Mandel was governor, he extended the power to all the people," Mr. Staten said. "Contractors and developers and everyone else got in on it, not just some political clubs."

Even Mr. Mandel's former foes found it hard to criticize the motives behind his flashy return.

"I'm sure he feels personally vindicated and that he feels so deeply about it that it would not be surprising that he would like to return for a few days," said Delegate Donald B. Robertson (D., Montgomery), the House majority leader and a member of the General Assembly's increasingly influential reform wing.

"My only concern is that Governor Mandel has not been functioning in that office for a long time. If some emergency came up, he might not be prepared to act on it."

Mr. Mandel's political supporters, along with members of his family, stood in the wings at the press conference to applaud the Governor's entrance and to cheer his best lines.

Mr. Mandel, looking fit in a blue, three-piece suit, seemed benignly calm as he gracefully parried the more troublesome questions and tried to communicate his profound relief.

"If you had been through what we've been through for the past few years . . . you'd understand," he told the assembled reporters.

Asked his thoughts on the possibility of a third trial, he said, "Frankly we've been through a real ordeal. I hope enough is enough."

The appeals court decision makes Mr. Mandel eligible for more than \$30,000 in back pay for the 15 months he was suspended from office, and removes any lingering doubts his \$12,500 pension, which he can begin collecting when his term ends next week.

But Mr. Mandel said he would not ask for state help with his biggest financial burden—the enormous legal bills he has run up during three years of investigation and trial.

While his supporters were whooping up the prospects of a final few days in power ("Christ built the world in seven days," Maurice R. Wyatt, Mandel's old patronage secretary, remarked), Mr. Mandel seemed to have little interest in even a symbolic takeover.

"The government of the State of Maryland will be changing hands next Wednesday. There are transition problems. . . . I don't think you can take that lightly. I don't want to do anything that would impede that orderly transfer. So, as I said before, no great hurry."

Did that mean he was leaning against reassuming his gubernatorial powers, a reporter asked.

"No," came the Mandelian reply. "I haven't leaned at all today. I've been upright."

Had he made any plans for the future? "I'm a lawyer and I hope to resume being a lawyer."

"What about a Senate race in 1980?" someone asked.

"I'm sure there'll be one."
"How do you want to be remembered?"
"I'd like to be remembered as a very nice person."

He made some gracious remarks about Governor-elect Hughes, who had run on an anti-corruption platform, and offered his services whenever requested. He did not

even seem to mind that Mr. Hughes had not invited him to his inauguration.

"I think that the Inauguration Day is a day that belongs to the new governor that comes into office," he said. "I don't think it belongs to the old governor going out of office. It's his day and I don't want to interfere."

At his own press conference in Baltimore, called to announce three cabinet appointments, Mr. Hughes said he did not know whether an invitation would now be sent out to the reinstated Governor.

"If I knew what I was going to do, I would tell you," Mr. Hughes said.

The governor-elect testily refused to answer other questions about Mr. Mandel from a press corps that seemed more interested in the former Governor's fate than the new one's appointments. "I don't feel compelled to comment on this," he said.

Asked if the Mandel reversal took some of the luster off his insurgent campaign victory, Mr. Hughes snapped, "I wasn't elected by just judges, and the fact that there was a 2-to-1 decision by the Court of Appeals I don't think detracts from that [the Hughes victory at the polls]."

Governor Mandel was asked a similar question. Did he find it ironic that his conviction was thrown out just days before the man who profited most from the celebrated trial took office?

"I don't see any irony in it," Mr. Mandel said.

"If he doesn't, I do," Mr. Lee, the big loser in that campaign, interjected.