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Mandel sets press talks at 10 A.M.

Confers with Lee; sources believe he will reclaim office

Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis—Marvin Mandel met with acting Governor Lee yesterday and then scheduled a news conference for 10 A.M. today amid intense speculation that he is preparing to reclaim the powers he relinquished to Mr. Lee 18 months ago.

During the meeting at the acting governor's Silver Spring home, Mr. Mandel did not present Mr. Lee with a letter taking back the powers he voluntarily gave up in June, 1977, before the start of his second trial on corruption charges, according to Thom Burden, Mr. Lee's press secretary.

But sources close to Mr. Mandel have told *The Sun* that it is likely he will resume his role as Governor of Maryland for the short time that remains before Wednesday's inauguration of Governor-elect Hughes.

Mr. Mandel's conviction on the corruption charges was thrown out Thursday by a federal appeals court in Richmond.

Mr. Lee, contacted at his home yesterday, declined to comment on anything that took place at his meeting with Mr. Mandel.

Meanwhile, an aide to Mr. Hughes said yesterday that the governor-elect had planned on beginning to move into the Governor's Mansion here today, but now intends to postpone that move until Mr. Mandel and Mr. Lee work out their own transfer of power.

Mr. Hughes will not move to the mansion until after his inauguration to avoid the possible embarrassment of being evicted by Mr. Mandel, the aide said.

The meeting between Mr. Mandel and Mr. Lee took place one day after informed sources said the Mandel camp was attempting to work out a return to office that would cause the least inconvenience to the acting governor.

It is known, for example, that Mr. Lee is anxious to preside at tomorrow's swearing-in of Judge Rita C. Davidson, whom he appointed last month as the first woman member of the Maryland Court of Appeals.

Conceivably, the sources said, a return by Mr. Mandel would allow Mr. Lee to retain gubernatorial powers for that ceremony.

Since last week's decision by the Fourth United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Mr. Mandel has been coy about the possibility of his reclaiming his office.

For two days over the weekend, he held court in his favorite Annapolis delicatessen, greeting well-wishers and making calls from a telephone installed in his own booth.

But he turned aside questions about his return at the delly, and again Saturday night in Sabatino's in Little Italy, a favorite dining spot.

Mr. Lee has been placid among all the speculation, going about the task of clearing personal effects out of his State House office.

Saturday, Mr. Burden said Mr. Lee's plan was to return to Annapolis today and tomorrow to perform last-minute functions.

But his role clearly depends on the decision of Marvin Mandel.