

Mandel reflects on decision

By KAREN HOWLER

Anne Arundel County Bureau of The Sun

Arnold—During those joyful days in January when Marvin Mandel was rejoicing in the reversal of his conviction by a three-judge federal appeals court panel, he kept telling reporters the greatest sense of relief he felt was for his family.

Yesterday—when the former governor finally agreed to speak publicly about the reinstatement of his conviction Friday on a 3-to-3 vote of the full appeals court—his main concern, he said, was still his family.

"Of course, I'm the one directly involved, and I'm big enough and old enough to be able to take whatever comes. But the biggest problem is the rest of the family, all the children, they are the ones who really suffer. They are totally innocent victims. It's a tragedy for them."

Mandel said his wife, Jeanne, and the three youngest of her four children by a previous marriage were affected by "the uncertainties, my inability to return to the practice of law—to do what I have done all my life—and the fact that we have been unable to plan for the future because we don't know what the future will bring."

"The older children, my son and daughter, and Jeanne's oldest son, are affected in a lot of different ways, often in their practices and professions," he said. "The fact that the family has to suffer really eats away at you."

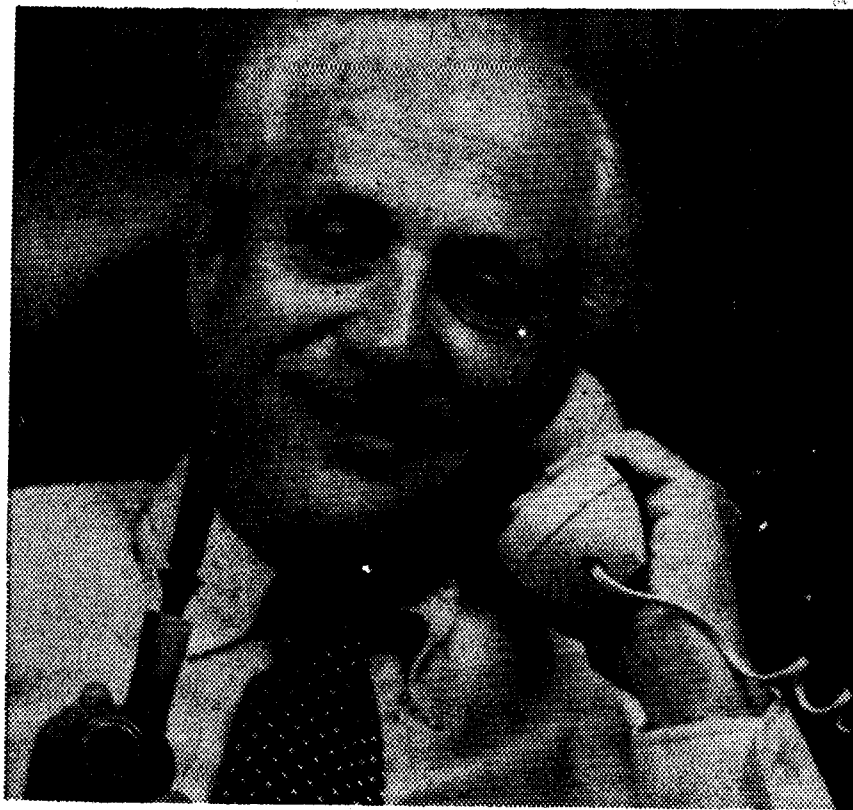
After eluding reporters Friday and over the weekend (unintentionally, he says), Mandel granted an interview yesterday morning at his office outside Annapolis.

Unlike his co-defendants and close friends, who have said that they anticipated the court's ruling, Mandel said that he did not expect Friday's decision to go against him.

"I was disappointed; particularly the way it came out: 3 to 3. In sports, when it's a tie, they've always gone into extra innings.

"We go on and on, of course," he said. "I'm sure it will be appealed. The question is which way to go."

Arnold Weiner, Mandel's attorney, said he and the lawyers for the five other men convicted in federal District Court in August, 1977, on political corruption charges are considering their next move—including



MARVIN MANDEL

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ing an appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Weiner and the other defense attorneys met yesterday to review the court's decision, but nothing definite was announced after the meeting broke up.

While Mandel was governor, he was often described as a man who rarely displays his emotions openly, making his true feelings nearly impossible to read.

But yesterday, as he sat in his high-backed leather chair and glanced at the sympathetic messages left Friday by his friends, he seemed unusually calm, resigned, even mellow.

If he was struck by the stark contrast between Friday's gloomy news that he is once again facing four years in prison and his triumphant return to the State House in January to reclaim his office for the

last hours of his term, he did not acknowledge it.

"I don't feel any differently now than I did then," Mandel said. "I don't feel that I did anything wrong. I love this state and I love the people in it. I didn't do anything to hurt it. I have felt all along and I still feel I can live with whatever happens and adjust to it."

Mandel said he "came to grips" with the fact that he may have to go to prison "a long time ago."

Apart from his family, the former governor's chief concern now seems to be with the fate of his "new career" as a business and financial consultant.

"It was going pretty well until now," Mandel said. "But, I don't how this new decision is going to affect it."