

Mandels say they tried to help son by giving cash, arranging treatment

By C. Fraser Smith

Former Gov. Marvin Mandel and his divorced wife, Barbara, testified yesterday that they intervened to rescue their son, Gary, from drug addiction by arranging medical treatment and by giving him \$50,000 in cash.

Mrs. Mandel said she gave her 41-year-old son \$50,000 over the course of 2½ years — a period when his appearance had changed and "he just wasn't my son." She said her son told her his problems stemmed from severe back pain. He needed money, she said, to meet automobile and house payments and for other personal needs.

The defendant's parents were called as key defense witnesses shortly after the prosecution wound up its case. Mr. Mandel, a Towson attorney, is expected to testify on his own behalf when the trial resumes on Thursday after Yom Kippur.

Testimony by the defendant's mother yesterday was regarded as crucial to the defense which asserts that Mr. Mandel had income and did not need to sell drugs for money.

"I gave him cash. I gave him checks. I was trying to straighten him out," Mrs. Mandel said. Asked to be specific about the sums she gave her son, she said, "When a mother gives out money, she gives it. She doesn't count it."

The younger Mandel is on trial for drug possession, distribution and conspiracy to sell drugs between August 1982 and September 1984.



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Former Gov. Marvin Mandel going into courthouse for trial.

During the week-long trial in federal court here, prosecution witnesses have testified that Gary Mandel sold them drugs.

Also yesterday, former governor Mandel testified that he arranged for his son to be examined at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and treated at a clinic — in an effort to free him from addiction to Dilaudid, a morphine substitute.

"He was not the same person I had known," the former governor

said.

At the same time, Mr. Mandel testified, he had several conversations with Dr. Thomas Carter, a physician who was prescribing Dilaudid for Gary Mandel — even after, the former governor said, his son had completed a program which apparently left him drug free.

"I thought he was totally off the drug," the ex-governor said, "and

See **MANDEL**, 3E, Col. 1

Mandels testify for son

MANDEL, from 1E

then I got a call from [a pharmacist].” He said he drove to the pharmacist’s drugstore where he was shown two prescriptions for Dilaudid written by the physician, who had promised him that he would stop prescribing it.

Dr. Carter, testifying earlier as a government witness, said he had prescribed 20,000 Dilaudid pills for the younger Mandel during a two-year period because he needed the drug to control his pain. Government witnesses say Mr. Mandel sold Dilaudid after his own needs and the needs of his friends were satisfied.

The former governor said he called Dr. Carter from the drugstore and was told by the physician that he had provided another prescription to ease the younger Mandel’s pain “to help him over a temporary problem.”

“I said if he wrote any more I’m going to call the medical society,” Mr. Mandel said.

After that, the former governor said he found yet another physician who “thank God, was finally able to get him off the stuff.” His son’s ap-

pearance changed from “haggard” and he became “brighter, more energetic, able to work.”

Under cross examination, John Douglass, an assistant U.S. Attorney, asked Mr. Mandel to recall a meeting he had with two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“Isn’t it a fact that you acknowledged to them that Gary Mandel was a liar?” Mr. Douglass inquired.

“No,” the former governor replied.

He said he did say that his son had “been an entirely different person” during the time of his trouble with drugs and that, “during that time, you could not always rely on what he said. But I did not use the word liar.”

In her testimony, Mrs. Mandel said she had been proud of her son until 1982. Then, she said, he was “just not himself.”

“I found myself having to bop him, hit him, kick him under the table to keep him from going to sleep,” she said. She said she attempted to learn what was wrong with her son. She said he told her he was constantly in pain — but she said she did not fully understand his answers to her questions.