

Chronology of Mandel case from 1974 to yesterday

The following is a brief chronology of the important dates in the case against Marvin Mandel, who was inaugurated Maryland's 56th governor January 7, 1969.

April 5, 1974: W. Dale Hess and Harry W. Rodgers III, two friends of Mandel who are insurance company executives, are formally notified by the United States attorney's office that they are under investigation by a federal grand jury.

September 25, 1975: Mandel says he is the target of the federal probe.

November 24, 1975: The federal grand jury indicts Mandel, Hess, Mr. Rodgers, Irvin Kovens, Ernest N. Cory, Jr., and William A. Rodgers on charges that they engaged in a scheme to defraud. The indictment alleges that Mandel used his power to push legislation that benefited his friends, who gave him hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes and gifts.

September 8, 1976: After two postponements, a change of judges and the removal of one defendant (Mr. Kovens) because of illness, a trial gets under way in the federal courthouse in Baltimore.

December 7, 1976: The trial ends dramatically when Judge John Pratt declares a mistrial because the jury—sequestered in a hotel—hears on television that someone tried to bribe a member of the jury.

June 1, 1977: The second trial opens with Judge Robert L. Taylor, the third judge in the case, presiding. Mr. Kovens also goes on trial.

August 23, 1977: The second trial ends with the conviction of all six defendants. Six weeks later, Judge Taylor sentences Mandel and three others to four years in jail; two defendants receive lesser terms. Mandel is suspended from office.

July 19, 1978: A three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond hears law-

yers' arguments in the Mandel appeal.

January 11, 1979: In a 2-to-1 decision, the appeals panel overturns the conviction of the six men and orders a new trial. The following week, Mandel resumes office briefly before Governor Hughes is sworn in.

April 17, 1979: At the request of the prosecutors, the full Court of Appeals agrees to hear the case.

June 5, 1979: Lawyers from both sides present their arguments to six judges of the Court of Appeals in Richmond.

July 20, 1979: By a 3-to-3 vote, the appeals court reinstates the convictions of Mandel and the codefendants.

August 3, 1979: Lawyers for Mandel ask the Court of Appeals to hear the former governor's case a third time, attacking their 3-3 split decision as "intolerable."

September 17, 1979: U.S. prosecutors urge the appeals court to reject Mandel's motions for another appellate review.

November 7, 1979: By another tie vote, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals refuses to rehear arguments in the case.

December 31, 1979: Mandel and five codefendants appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Mandel asks the high court to force the federal appellate court to reach a clear-cut decision.

April 14, 1980: The Supreme Court refuses to review the case. Mandel and codefendants are ordered to begin serving jail terms.

April 23, 1980: Mandel and all codefendants seek sentence reductions. The government files its opposition.

May 1, 1980: Judge Taylor reduces to three years the four-year jail sentences of Mandel, Mr. Kovens, Hess and Harry W. Rodgers III. Ernest N. Cory's 18-month term is changed to 18 months' probation. The 20-month sentence of William Rodgers is reduced to one year and a day.

May 19, 1981: Mandel begins prison term at federal prison facility at Eglin Air Force Base.

July 2, 1980: After six weeks in prison, Mandel and two codefendants go before a U.S. Parole Commission panel at Eglin Air Force Base seeking early release.

July 19, 1980: A federal judge dismisses a civil damage suit against Mandel brought by three stockholders in the Marlboro race track.

October 2, 1980: Parole Commission rules that Mandel must serve two years of his sentence and that he not be freed before May 14, 1982.

November 19, 1980: Mandel, Harry W. Rodgers and Hess petition full U.S. Parole Commission to review decision denying them early parole.

November 7, 1980: Mr. Kovens is first of codefendants released from prison because of poor health.

December 12, 1980: Full U.S. Parole Commission upholds decision by parole panel.

February 27, 1981: Mandel seeks transfer from Eglin prison to work-release center in Anne Arundel county.

March 5, 1981: U.S. Bureau of Prisons rejects Mandel's work-release plan.

August 28, 1981: U.S. Magistrate Robert L. Crongeyer, Jr., of Pensacola, Fla., issues writ of habeas corpus freeing a codefendant, Harry W. Rodgers III, from federal prison.

October 14, 1981: Mandel lawyers seek presidential commutation, file papers with U.S. Department of Justice.

October 20, 1981: Mandel lawyers file habeas corpus petition with Florida magistrate raising the same arguments as did the petition of Harry W. Rodgers III.

November 30: Hess is released from Alabama prison to Baltimore halfway-house.

December 4, 1981: President Reagan commutes Mandel's sentence, and Hess's.