

EXPIRES: 10-26-82  
21404  
ANNAPOLIS  
P O BOX 828  
ATTN DR F  
HALL OF RECORDS  
1-1-0-93  
COMM (USPS 526-100)  
SUN (MORNING)  
MD



# SUN

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1981

•20 CENTS

VOL. 290—NO. 17—E\*\*



Former Governor Marvin Mandel, his sentence commuted, gets a kiss from wife Jeanne during press conference at BWI airport.

Sun photo—Irving H. Phillips, Jr.

## Mandel returns to friends, offer of a city job

By Karen E. Warmkessel and Will Englund

Former Governor Marvin Mandel flew into Baltimore yesterday—to be greeted by a small group of friends and supporters at the airport and a job offer from Mayor Schaefer.

Mandel, whose three-year sentence on political corruption charges was commuted Thursday by President Reagan, was released from the prison camp at Eglin Air Force Base near Pensacola, Fla., at 9 a.m.

*Maryland is prepared to resume its furniture suit against the Mandels ...B1*

and boarded a flight to Atlanta less than two hours later. After a stopover there, he boarded another plane and arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport at 4:11 p.m.

Jeanne Mandel, the former governor's wife, was the first to greet him. She and Mandel's lawyers, Arnold M. Weiner and Bruce C. Bereano, arrived in a car that met the plane on the runway, and after the other passengers had left, airport officials permitted Mrs. Mandel to board the plane for a private reunion with her husband.

Later, Mr. Weiner, who was also present, described the scene as a "great moment."

"When they saw each other, there was no one else in the plane as far as they were concerned. It was a beautiful moment as they embraced," the lawyer said.

After a few minutes together, the Mandels walked arm in arm into the terminal through Gate B-1 to face the television lights and a crowd of reporters who clearly outnumbered the friends and supporters on hand to extend their greetings.

Among those present were Donald D. Pomerleau, the former city police commissioner; Gary Mandel, the former governor's son, and Al Flora, the Arbutus bar owner who erected a sign on Pratt street urging the Mandel to "keep punchin'." State Senator Harry McGuirk apparently was the only elected official present.

Mandel—who was convicted along with five codefendants in 1977—held a press conference at the airport before being whisked off to the Volunteers of America halfway house on Boston street in Canton. He will stay there at most 16 days.

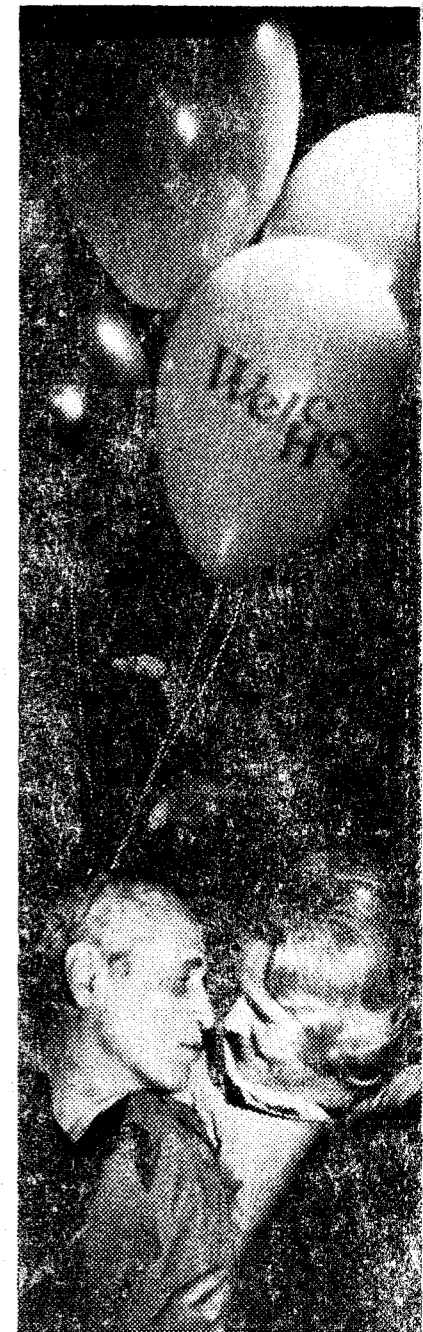
At the press conference, Mandel thanked all his friends and his wife for their support and talked about his future.

When asked what he planned to do, he replied in a firm voice, "Work."

Mr. Weiner then announced that Mayor Schaefer, through his budget director, George A. Piendak, had offered Mandel a work-release job at City Hall.

He said that Mr. Piendak and the mayor "would be extremely pleased if the governor would consider a work-release job in the Finance Department." He added, "If he did good, there may even be more of an offer."

Interviewed later, Mr. Piendak said he "has an office" ready for Mandel should See MANDEL, A10, Col. 3



Mandels shown with balloons brought to the airport by well-wishers.

Sun photo—Irving H. Phillips, Jr.

# Friends greet Mandel at BWI; he is offered job

**MANDEL, from A1**

he take the job as a temporary budget analyst. "If he accepts, I expect him Monday."

Mandel, however, said he did not know whether he would take the job. He said he would "have to talk about terms." He reportedly has had other job offers. Mr. Weiner later said that Mandel was "flattered" by the offer, but would prefer a job closer to home in Anne Arundel county.

Mr. Piendak, who heads the city's Bureau of Budget and Management Research, said he offered the former governor the job because "there's no more knowledgeable person on state budgets. . . . Nobody's got better experience."

"It's a very serious offer, and we could use him."

The former governor would be employed in the budget department on the work-release program only until he leaves the halfway house December 20, Mr. Piendak said.

After that, "I would be very interested in talking to him" about a permanent job, "based on his performance in those three weeks."

Mr. Piendak, whose office prepares and reviews budgets for city agencies, says he has 3 or 4 vacancies among the 30 budget analyst positions on his staff.

He added that he had been thinking about offering Mandel work "for some time" but did not discuss it with Mayor Schaefer until yesterday. "The mayor approved my recommendation."

The budget chief then called Mr. Wiener with the offer.

Budget management analysts are paid between \$20,000 and \$40,000 a year, depending on their experience. Mr. Piendak said he would decide on Mandel's salary after talking with work-release officials.

Analysts also must pass Civil Service exams before being hired, and Mandel would be no different if he should stay permanently at City Hall, Mr. Piendak said.

At his airport press conference, Mandel thanked President Reagan for commuting his sentence. "I will be eternally grateful for his compassion . . . for making a life for Jeanne and I."

The former governor was asked whether, given what happened to him, he would have lived his life differently.

"Certainly, I would do things differently. What's happened has happened and I have a life in front of me now. I'm going to look forward, not backward."

Some of the people at the airport said they came because Mandel was an old friend and they wanted to wish him well.

"The governor is my friend," said Mr. Pomerleau, the former police commissioner. "I worked for him for years and years. He was my friend. He is my friend and he will always be my friend. It's a great day."

Mr. Flora, the tavern owner, said he had a new sign made for the occasion which says, "Welcome home, Governor Mandel. We thank you, President Reagan." He said the sign, posted on the side of Pastore's restaurant in Little Italy, also says, "Keep punchin'."

"It's a great day for Baltimore," he



Sun photo—Richard Childress  
Supporter welcomes former Governor Marvin Mandel, arriving home from prison at BWI airport. With Mandel is his wife, Jeanne, who had been first to greet him.

added.

Not everyone at the airport was a Mandel supporter. In fact, many who had gathered to watch the former governor come off the plane were simply travelers stopping to see what the commotion was about.

"I don't know why I'm here. I thought it would be a kick to see this," said John Blome, a special accounts manager for a local corporation who was returning from Chicago.

Asked how he felt about Mandel's release, he replied. "I thought they should have thrown away the key. He fleeced the people of Maryland for so long. I relished the extended time he feels he spent [in prison]. . . . I was glad he was the last to get out."

Leaving the airport, the former governor was driven through rush-hour traffic and arrived at the Volunteers of America center in the 2200 block Boston street shortly before 6 p.m.

Accompanied by his wife, Mr. Weiner and Mr. Bereano, he strode through the cold drizzle and immediately went inside, where he registered and was given supper.

Later, Mr. Weiner said Mandel would be leaving on a weekend pass at 6 a.m. today and will be out until tomorrow evening.

Mandel will be taking part in what is called a community residential program, which is open only to federal offenders. The Volunteers of America has been running the program for the last five years or so in an old four-story brick building that used to be a cannery.

There the former governor will be joining 42 other men, including some in a sep-

arate program. He will be living in a sparsely furnished dormitory-like room that houses up to 20 men, on the same floor as W. Dale Hess, who was convicted with Mandel of mail fraud and racketeering, and who moved in earlier this week.

The center also has a dining room, a chapel, a visiting room and a recreation room—with a ping-pong table, a pool table, weights, a TV and a reading area.

The purpose of the center, according to Dennis Sharoky, program director, is to help federal convicts readjust to society, especially by helping them get jobs.

"What we're trying to do for these individuals is to get them employment, reestablish family ties, get them reestablished in the community," Mr. Sharoky said.

"They're on the last leg of their sentence. It's to establish a release plan for the individual so they don't just come out of prison with 50 bucks and see you later."

Most of those who go through the program are there for a maximum of 30 or 45 days, Mr. Sharoky said. No one can go there who has been convicted of a violent crime or a sex offense, or who needs psychiatric help. Mr. Sharoky said most of the men have been convicted of such crimes as tax evasion, mail fraud and unarmed bank robbery.

The center offers job counseling, drug and alcohol counseling and educational assistance. Mr. Sharoky said the center determines what counseling is needed for each man. Someone who has a job might be required to see a counselor once or twice a week, he said.

The men who stay there are allowed out from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. to look for jobs, and generally until 10 p.m. after they have been employed. Weekend passes of up to 48 hours are available.

Visiting hours are from 6 to 10 p.m.

Mr. Sharoky did not admit reporters to the building. He said that under its contract with the government the privacy of the men sent there is guaranteed.

When Mr. Weiner emerged from the

center after Mandel had checked in, he said. "The Volunteers of America facility is a marvelous place, extremely well run," though "it ain't the Boston Street Hilton."

The former governor, however, would prefer to move to the Anne Arundel county detention center, Mr. Weiner said, because it is closer to his home and job opportunities. A decision on the move would have to be made by the Bureau of Prisons.

"He is very, very happy to be home," Mr. Weiner added. "He's overcome with the joy of knowing that this ordeal is finally over."

Mrs. Mandel came out of the center about 6:30. "Fellas, he's eating dinner," she said. "He's exhausted."

When asked about the center, she replied, "It's very nice—quite comfortable. OK?"

The center backs up against the harbor. In front is Boston street, where a steady stream of trucks, going to and from the Southeast Baltimore piers, roll by. Each truck's rumbling is punctuated by the jolt of what may be East Baltimore's largest pothole, directly in front of the building.

The former governor's new, if temporary neighbors in Canton were interested in but not generally impressed by his arrival.

"No big deal," said Sherry Bivens, who lives across the street. "Now, if my soap stars were going to be over there, then I'd be jumping all over the place."

"It's good that he's getting out," she decided. "He's going to be with his family. That's a nice Christmas present. They say he's a bad guy, but I don't know."

Mrs. Bivens—who has lived on the block three years, with her husband, a truck driver, and now two small children—said she has never had a problem with the VOA center.

"Nobody's ever bothered me," she said. "It's a quiet place. No trouble. It may look dumpy, but it's all right."

That attitude was seconded by Alice Kopczenki, who lives around the corner on Cambridge street.

"Never," she said. "They never give us no problems. They don't bother you. They don't look your way or nothing."

She, too, was unimpressed by Mandel's arrival in the neighborhood. "It don't make no difference to me. He's got to stay somewhere."

"You know how I look at it: He just wasn't smart enough not to get caught. He's been punished. He's learned his lesson. Let him go. I got nothing against the man."

Joseph Kajder, who lives a few blocks away and used to work stacking canned goods at what is now the VOA center, was a little more amused by Mandel's fate. "That's really coming down, for the governor to come to this neighborhood," he said. "He was a good governor, you have to give him that."

Mr. Kajder said he did not see why Mandel needed the counseling and help that the VOA center is supposed to give.

A friend of his, Roman Olszewski, grew up in the neighborhood but moved to Dundalk after he was married because he couldn't find a house for sale in Canton.

He said he had come back yesterday to visit some of his old haunts, but he and Mr. Kajder and another friend, Stanley Phillips, ended up standing outside in the rain for more than an hour instead.

"It's holding up my drinking, but that's all right, I got all night," he said.

Reporter Sandy Banisky contributed to this article.