

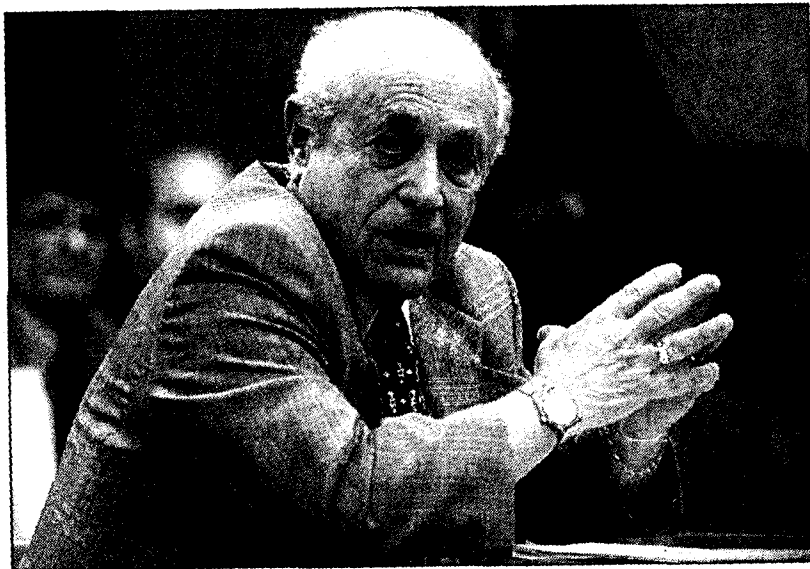
4-7-2000
**ASSEMBLY
DIGEST**

Mandel testifies against amendments to Md. Constitution

Making a rare appearance before a legislative committee, former Gov. Marvin Mandel testified yesterday against a proposed change in the Maryland Constitution that would make it easier for the General Assembly to combine two pieces of legislation into one.

The measure would undo a recent Court of Appeals decision that declared unconstitutional a 1998 bill that combined two legislative issues, one of which a Senate committee had defeated.

Mandel and other opponents said the measure could lead the Assembly to become more like Congress, where multisubject legislation is common. Legislative leaders expressed doubt yesterday about trying to pass the constitutional amendment in the four days left in this year's session.



LINDA COAN : SUN STAFF

Opposed: Former Gov. Marvin Mandel testifies before a legislative committee against undoing a Court of Appeals decision.