

## APPOINTMENT EXPECTED

# James to Be Treasurer

By James B. Rowland

Star-News Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Senate President William S. James, a 27-year veteran of the Maryland General Assembly who also serves as Democratic state party chairman, is slated to become the state treasurer after the legislature adjourns tomorrow night.

The Harford County legislator is to take the post as an alternative to his earlier wish to become state attorney general. The state's top legal position is virtually closed due to Atty. Gen. Francis B. Burch's apparent decision to seek re-election rather than press for appointment to a vacancy on the Maryland Court of Appeals.

**JAMES WOULD** neither confirm nor deny the reports but sources close to the administration said

Gov. Marvin Mandel is ready to give the treasurer's job to James. The Senate president is known not to want to run this fall for another term in the Assembly where he began as a delegate in 1947. He has been in the Senate since 1955, serving as president since 1963.

James, 60, is highly respected by the Assembly and it is thought he would have no trouble being confirmed by the legislature once appointed to the fiscal post by Mandel.

During his years in the Assembly, James has been a leader in the areas of tax and election law reform plus a wide range of environmental projects. He is an adamant foe of gambling, opposing the governor on lottery and off-track betting legislation.

**THE TREASURER'S** job is being

elevated to a full-time position with the salary going from \$2,487 to \$42,650. A key role of the treasurer is serving as one of the three members of the State Board of Public Works, the agency that acts as the final authority on all construction contracts.

Former Gov. J. Millard Tawes, 80, a Democrat, has been serving as treasurer since last summer when John A. Leutkemeyer resigned.

James plans to leave the Assembly for other state service were disclosed some two months ago when Burch applied for a gubernatorial appointment to the Appellate Court rather than seek re-election on Mandel's Democratic ticket this fall. It was known that James could have the attorney general's post for the asking, if Burch stepped aside.