

Mitchell wants Pomerleau out

A state senator from Baltimore says that if Gov. Marvin Mandel does not fire Baltimore Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau, he will introduce a resolution demanding Pomerleau's ouster.

Democratic Sen. Clarence Mitchell III issued the threat on the Senate floor Thursday, the day after the Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee released a report critical of the commissioner and spying activities carried out by the department's vice squad and Inspectional Services Division (ISD).

"If no action is taken, then we are saying to the people of this state that we take very lightly the invasion of privacy of our citizens," Mitchell said.

"If no action is taken, there are those in (the police) department who will take this as a license to renew these activities," Mitchell continued.

It did not appear likely that Mandel, who appoints the city police commissioner, would oust Pomerleau on the basis of the committee's 157-page report.

An aide to the governor said Mandel has no intention of dismissing Pomerleau. The aide said that although the governor had not read the report, he based his support of Pomerleau on "information reaching him."

Meanwhile Thursday, sources close to the investigating committee said the year-long probe had turned up sufficient evidence of illegal

activities to enable Maryland U.S. Atty. Jervis S. Finney to bring the matter before a grand jury.

The sources said the investigation had developed evidence that police activities violated federal privacy and wiretap statutes. Committee members said that Finney has been sent copy of the report and will be given detailed testimony and affidavits from witnesses if he asks for them.

"It's all there if he wants to pursue it," one source said when asked if the material could support a grand jury investigation. This source's assessment was supported by others close to the legislative probe.

The sources said the material would enable Finney's office to take action against both

unidentified members of the police department and some employes of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. of Maryland

The committee report said the panel uncovered possible violations of the federal wiretap statute.
