

Free State Pays Tribute To A Governor's Courage

Both houses of the General Assembly adjourned yesterday in memory of W. Preston Lane, former governor of Maryland, and tributes came to him from many officials.

Ironically, the praise extended to him turned most often on his advocacy of the sales tax.

Repeatedly referred to as a courageous proposal that spurred progressive government in the State, it brought scorn and abuse while Mr. Lane was Governor.

Courage Attested

Governor Agnew said yesterday: "The courage and leadership he displayed in shoring up the State's financial structure, in the face of public bitterness and even hostility, will be long remembered.

"His loss will be felt by all Marylanders who favor progress and respect public service."

The Maryland Senate adopted a resolution which also praised Mr. Lane for having fought for the passage of the sales tax.

"For 20 years that tax has

now been a cornerstone in the financial structure of this State," it read, "and every citizen of the State of Maryland for generations to come will honor the name of Preston Lane for the ability and courage with which he met a crisis in the affairs of this State."

Salute By Mandel

Senate President William S. James (D., Harford), one of the few legislators in the General Assembly when Mr. Lane was Governor, said:

"Maryland is still building upon the firm foundations Governor Lane laid by forthright and courageous actions as her Governor. His dreams of yesterday are realities today."

Marvin Mandel, (D., 5th Baltimore), speaker of the House of Delegates, said: "He was a great Marylander and a great Governor. He risked and lost the governorship because he had the courage to do the right thing—preserve Maryland's fiscal integrity."