

MANDEL SAMPLES BRITISH POLITICS

Spends 2d Day Abroad Watching Election Fight

By DANIEL BERGER

(London Bureau of *The Sun*)

London, June 1—On the second day he **ever spent** overseas, Governor Mandel watched British political leaders struggle this evening to win the election that is just 17 days away.

He met Prime Minister Harold Wilson in the grubby office of a temporary Labor party ward headquarters in Kings Cross, a shabby district of North London.

He listened with rapt admiration as the Prime Minister bantered with a boisterous street crowd.

[One episode the Maryland governor missed, was when Mr. Wilson was hit between the eyes by an egg. The Associated Press reported that the egg hit the Prime Minister on the forehead and dripped yolk on the shoulder of his suit as he campaigned through London's northern suburbs. Mr. Wilson brushed off the egg yolk, ignored a crowd's shouts of "Out, out, out" and walked composed into his party's committee rooms at Harrow.]

Then the Governor sped 4 miles to watch Edward Heath spur on the well-dressed Conservative faithful in a splendid church hall in Westminster.

"Marvelous," he said as Labor ward leaders showed him how they canvass every voter and get the right ones out on election day.

And, at the carefully staged

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Conservative meeting he said, "well controlled, well prepared."

The Governor is on a brief hop to boost the first Maryland industry and trade mission in its efforts to win trade for the port of Baltimore and investments in Maryland.

He arrived yesterday, in time to tour Runnymede and Windsor Castle. He returns to Maryland Wednesday.

After presiding at a banquet for industrial leaders today, the Governor nipped out to the fancy Jermyn street pipe stores and acquired a new briar.

Labor Meeting

Then, on the spur of the moment, he went up to the North London Labor party meeting with Frank Harris, his legislative aide, and Lt. Stanley Kaplow, his State Police bodyguard.

Mr. Wilson was on a swing through North London wards to buck up the faith of party workers, who had thought they were

ahead, only to see the polls go haywire over the weekend.

Mrs. Lena Jeger, the member of Parliament defending the seat, took the Governor through the party offices.

For a moment, it looked as if he were the candidate. The workers gave progress reports on their canvassing. He thanked each one warmly.

Youth Vote Discounted

He puffed hard on his briar when Joe Jacob, the King's Cross ward chairman, said that the 18-year-old vote would not change things much.

Just as the crowd in the street grew to what Lieutenant Kaylow estimated at 350, a Conservative party sound truck came by, saying, "Ask Mr. Wilson about the broken promises."

The crowd boomed.

"Good," said Henry Bellamy, the party's professional agent for the district. "You've got to have the foil."

"This is great," said Governor Mandel to himself.

He cast a professional eye as Mr. Wilson failed to show up and Mrs. Jeger took up a public address system in the street to hold the crowd.

When she ran out of words,

an assistant shouted, "What about the housing?" and she was on for another five minutes. The street crowd swelled to 1,000, and Lieutenant Kaplow watched in admiration as dozens of police appeared, as if from nowhere, to make room for Mr. Wilson.

45 Minutes Late

When the Prime Minister arrived, 45 minutes behind schedule, he, too, shook hands with all the party workers and then with the Governor.

"I've been a guest in your state many times," the Prime Minister said.

"I'm pleased to meet you," the Governor said.

Mrs. Mary Wilson, who, like Mrs. Mandel, is not a public campaigner, was with her husband but stayed in the background.

Mr. Wilson went to a second floor window and addressed the crowd outside.

By Ticket Only

When the pipe-smoking Prime Minister left, the Governor switched from his new briar to an old meerschaum, shook a few voters' hands, and, hearing of the Conservative meeting, rushed to it.

Mr. Wilson's tour had been announced on short notice as an anti-heckling maneuver. Mr. Heath's meeting was by ticket only, for the same reason. A few words to a party steward got the Governor in to hear the end of the speech from the balcony.

Mr. Heath was calling for a "new style of government that listens to the best advice and heeds it."

The meeting chairman said, "Sir, London will do it for you and for our party."

"Go to it, and the very best of luck," said the Conservative leader after a 5-minute standing ovation and no questions.

A Different Approach

"A very different approach," Mr. Mandel commented.

The Maryland governor, facing an election of his own, was taking in everything. But he carefully indicated no preference between Labor and the Conservatives.

Not so his aide, Mr. Harris, watching the upper-crust polite audience of Conservatives leave the hall. He said, "Them was my people at that other place."