

for naught. I recall, for example, news reports that a rebellion was brewing in the House among some of the new members who would have preferred a less friendly atmosphere with the new Republican administration. As one writer aptly put it, it was effectively squelched by Mr. Mandel between puffs on his meerschaum.

In many ways the man we honor tonight reminds me of another well known house speaker in this country, Jesse Unruh of California, a power in Democratic politics in that State and a firm leader of the Assembly there. I had the pleasure of presenting a citation, on behalf of the American Good Government Society in Washington two weeks ago, to Speaker Unruh for his leadership in attempting to make State legislatures a more independent and stronger branch of government. In the course of our dinner conversation, I found that he and Marvin Mandel have much in common. Each is engaged in active programs to modernize his Legislature and expand its role in State affairs; they both are liberal and progressive in their views on legislation; and neither favors obstruction of a Republican governor for the sake of obstructing. For that last view, I am particularly grateful.

California's Speaker is known as "Big Daddy," not for physical size but for the political power he mustered through friends soon after his election to the House. Like Unruh, Marvin Mandel certainly doesn't qualify to be called "Big Daddy" on physical grounds, but in all other respects I think he measures up to the title.

He has played an important role in the leadership of our House of Delegates since 1955, when he was elected chairman of the large Baltimore City delegation. He later became chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and was elected to his first full term as Speaker in 1964. Old hands in Annapolis agree that seldom has House business been dispatched with such efficiency — or fairness — as it has been under his guidance.

It is a pleasure to be with you this evening and to honor this outstanding legislator and Democratic leader. To use a phrase you may have heard in the last election, "He's my kind of man."

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