

environment. In all, 13 Administration-backed bills—ranging from a comprehensive program for the management of liquid and solid wastes to putting added muscle in existing water and air pollution control laws—won legislative approval. The Environmental Services Act of 1970 created the nation's first State utility-type agency to regulate the building and operation of water treatment facilities. Also enacted were important measures to afford Maryland consumers greater protection in the marketplace, to create a new authority to guide the development of Friendship Airport, and to assist institutions of higher learning and health in improving their facilities.

The 1971 session of the General Assembly again saw the enactment of landmark legislation sponsored by Governor Mandel, including the adoption of the Governor's unique proposal for an immediate assumption by the State of the entire cost of public school construction throughout Maryland. This far-reaching program gave massive fiscal relief to the financially pressed subdivisions of the State, making it possible for local governments to pass on the benefits to the taxpayers in the form of lower property tax rates in some areas, expanded services in others. Another significant measure sponsored by the Mandel Administration made possible \$1.5 million in State assistance to private colleges in the State.

An environmental measure that won nation-wide recognition was the Governor's bill permitting the State to control the location of future electrical power plants in Maryland. This law allows the State to acquire potential sites for power plants to minimize possible damage to the environment that could result from imprudent siting of such installations. Other Administration proposals winning legislative approval covered a wide range of areas including health, welfare, consumer protection, housing, and law enforcement. The hallmark of the Mandel Administration, however, has been the tone he brought to State government through a series of impressive appointments, both to his personal staff and as advisors.

In 1970 Governor Mandel was elected by his fellow Governors to serve on the seven-member Executive Committee of the National Governors' Conference, and he also served as Vice Chairman of the Conference's Transportation Committee.

He is a former Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Middle Atlantic States Governors' Conference which he was instrumental in organizing in 1970.

He is a member of the Policy Council of the Democratic National Committee, and was selected in 1971 by his fellow Democratic Governors to be one of five Governors to represent the Democratic caucus at a meeting with the leadership of Congress and the Democratic National Committee.

At their meeting in September 1971, the Democratic Governors of the nation elected Governor Mandel Chairman of the Caucus of Democratic Governors, a position of national leadership within the Democratic Party.

Governor Mandel was similarly honored by the National Governors' Conference in September 1971, by being selected one of eight Governors to make an official U. S. State Department goodwill mission to the Soviet Union and Rumania.

In addition, the Governor was selected by his fellow Governors to serve on the three-member National Governors' Conference Permanent Subcommittee on Revenue Sharing.

Governor Mandel was unanimously elected Chairman of the National Governors' Conference at its meeting held in Houston in June 1972,