

May 26, 1977

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1333.

This bill requires that the Democratic Party of Maryland solicit, and expend funds only in the name of the Democratic State Central Committee. Specifically, the bill requires that the constitution of the Democratic Party central committee contain such a provision.

The Attorney General has advised me that this bill raises serious constitutional problems in light of the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the laws. A copy of the Opinion of the Attorney General is attached and should be considered a part of this veto message.

House Bill 1333, on its face, purports to treat one political party differently than another. In the opinion of the Attorney General, no rational basis exists for the discrimination which would be created by the bill. If the purpose of the bill is to remedy an alleged abuse existing in the use of outside fundraising committees, no valid reason exists to confine the restriction only to the central committee of a particular party.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 1333.

Sincerely,  
Marvin Mandel  
Governor

Letter from State Law Department on House Bill 1333

May 11, 1977

The Honorable Marvin Mandel  
Governor of Maryland  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Governor Mandel: