

Opposition To Agnew Prosecution

Annapolis

Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel said yesterday he opposes any state prosecution of Spiro T. Agnew for tax or criminal charges stemming from the federal probe that culminated in the Vice President's resignation.

"I feel the man has been dealt the severest kind of punishment an individual can get," Mandel, a Democrat who succeeded Agnew as Maryland governor in 1967, said at his regular weekly news conference.

"I agree with Attorney General Elliot Richardson that the case involving Agnew should be closed," Mandel said. "I think that he's correct in saying that the public interest has been served."

The governor indicated that state officials under his direct jurisdiction will not proceed against Agnew. He admitted, however, that local prosecutors in Baltimore City or any county are free to take whatever action they desire.

Earlier in a Washington news conference, Richardson said that Maryland authorities are not bound by the agreement reached between Agnew and the Justice Department.

Agnew resigned and pleaded no contest to federal tax evasion in return for the U.S. Attorney's office agreeing not to seek his imprisonment or further criminal prosecution.

Regarding the possibility that Agnew might owe state income taxes, Mandel said that Maryland will wait to receive information from the Internal Revenue Service on this matter.

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