

Mandel Scores Nixon Record as 'Disaster'

By Bill Richards

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In his sharpest criticism of President Nixon and his administration to date, Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel last night attacked what he said is "a record not of accomplishment and progress, but one of political corruption and domestic disaster."

"A cynical and arrogant power elite of the highest officials in our government," said Mandel, "has sold out the citizens of America to a silent partnership with the financial giants of this nation, to the corrupters of our political process, to the beneficiaries of government favors, to an ethic that is rooted in no morality but greed and survival."

Mandel made his remarks in a speech prepared for delivery last night before a group of Arizona Democrats at a fund-raising dinner in Phoenix.

The wide-ranging attack dealt not only with the President's Watergate troubles but with the administration's economic problems as well.

"While President Nixon talks about a 'good year,' the

dollar—once the unshakable standard of currency around the world—continues to shrivel at home and abroad," Mandel said.

Mandel charged that the Nixon administration had forced up the price of bread by selling U.S. grain to Russia and "forced the mothers of America to pay off the President's campaign obligations by increasing the price of milk."

In stepping up his public criticism of the President, Mandel stopped short of calling for impeachment. Since the Watergate scandal became news he has been both publicly and privately critical of the President's activities but has consistently refused to endorse impeachment.

Instead he aimed his attack for the participants in the Arizona Democratic Party's Four Keys Fund Raising Dinner primarily at Watergate-related items.

"While the average American pays his income tax at great sacrifice, the President of the United States uses loopholes, write-offs and rip-offs," Mandel said.