

# Mandel not upset by SST flights

By KAREN HOSLER  
Staff Writer

Maryland may be headed for its own version of the battle of the SST.

Gov. Marvin Mandel said yesterday that he has no objection to Baltimore-Washington International Airport being used for emergency landings by the Concorde jets which have received temporary rights to use Dulles Airport in Virginia.

"If there's an emergency, how could I say they can't land here," Mandel asked reporters at his weekly press conference. "That would be cruel. No airport in the country can refuse emergency landings."

But, the governor also raised the possibility that he might approve the use of the state-owned airport for regular supersonic transport use.

"Supersonic jets have been flying in and out of Maryland for years," Mandel said, referring to the U. S. Air Force jets which use the airport at Andrews Air Force base. "Nobody's objected to them."

The governor agreed that the Air Force jets are much smaller than the French and English Concorde, "but there are more of them."

"BWI hasn't been an issue" in the recent debate over airport use rights for the Concorde, Mandel pointed out, because the only two airports under consideration were Dulles and the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York.

But the question of using BWI is one "which ought to be studied more carefully," Mandel said, before any decision is made.

Del. Franklin A. Thomason, D-Linthicum, who represents the people who live near BWI, doesn't agree. He is backing a joint resolution urging the U. S. Government not to allow even emergency

landings of the Concorde at BWI.

"Dulles is out in the boondocks, but BWI is right in the middle of a neighborhood," Thomason said. "I just don't think they ought to be flying those noisy jets right over a neighborhood and we still don't know about the effects on the ozone layer."

U. S. Transportation Secretary William Coleman Wednesday granted permission for the 1300-mile-an-hour Concorde to make limited flights for a 16-month test period to Dulles and JFK.

He did so over the bitter objections of people living near the airports and environmentalists who complained that the jets are too noisy, inefficient, costly and may damage the ozone layer above the earth.

T. James Truby, manager of aviation planning for the state, said yesterday morning that BWI will be the alternative landing site for supersonic flights into Dulles in cases where Dulles is closed by bad weather.

Such emergency landings should occur on the average of only once a year, Truby said.

"I'm concerned about further expansion of SST service at BWI," Thomason said yesterday.

"I really believe this whole thing was an international political decision," he continued. "The British and French want to make money from those planes. They don't give a damn about the people of District 32."

Thomason's resolution, which will come up for a public hearing in about two weeks, may bring to the surface local sentiment about the jets, but the effect of its enactment on SST service at the airport is uncertain.

The Virginia House of Delegates passed a resolution condemning SST use of Dulles on the same day Coleman announced his decision.

## Chances appear bleak

# Bill to ease penalties on pot greeted coolly

By KAREN HOSLER  
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After three years of being rebuffed in the Senate, proponents of a bill which would remove criminal penalties on possession of small amounts of marijuana have begun their annual routine this year in the House.

Their chances of getting anywhere look bleaker than ever, though. The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, one of the most conservative bodies in the legislature.

at a public hearing on the bill yesterday, there might not be a single yea vote in the entire 23-man group.

By now, the cast of characters at these marijuana hearings is familiar.

Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III, D-Baltimore, prime sponsor of the measure, was back with his argument that possession of less than an ounce of marijuana is a victimless crime which wastes police time to enforce.

He put it a little stronger, this time, saying that marijuana

minority groups in this country".

At the time marijuana first became illegal, Mitchell said, the only people using it were blacks, Mexican-Americans and Orientals.

"The use has spread into the majority community," Mitchell continued, "but the application of the marijuana laws can still be used as the same kind of tool" to harass blacks and "kids in flower-colored Volkswagens."

According to Mitchell's bill, persons found with less than



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