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State will pay \$4,000 in legal fees to 2 Mandel aides called by jury

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Annapolis—The Board of Public Works led for the first time by Governor Hughes, voted unanimously yesterday to pay \$4,000 in legal fees for two aides of former Governor Mandel who were called before the grand jury during its political corruption investigation.

Mr. Hughes said he agreed to the payments because they were legally called for, but he questioned whether the state should be "morally" bound to pay such expenses.

In approving the payments to Frank A. DeGasper, Mr. Mandel's former press secretary,

prosecutors gain 30 days to consider whether to seek another hearing in the Mandel case.....C20

retary and Hans F. Mayer, a Mandel administrative aide who now works for Mr. Hughes, the board sent a letter to the attorney general requesting revisions in the law governing state employees' legal fees. "The ambiguities and obscurities" in the present law make it unclear even

whether the state is required to pay legal fees for someone convicted of committing a crime while in office, the board wrote.

In another action, the board approved a \$1.6 million contract for constructing six new restrooms at Memorial Stadium. The money comes from the state's \$1 million-a-year support program for the stadium.

"Will you have a baseball team in 1980?" Louis L. Goldstein, the state comptroller, jokingly asked Douglas S. Tawney, the city's director of recreation and parks.

Mr. Tawney assured him that the Orioles would still be around, and Mr. Goldstein supported the measure, saying, "I'm a fan of baseball and football. I know when you get a call of nature, you've got to go somewhere."

The board's decision to pay the legal fees of the two Mandel aides simply ratified the recommendation of a committee appointed 18 months ago to study the matter.

That committee also recommended—and the board agreed—not to pay another \$15,000 in legal bills for four other Mandel staffers who negotiated immunity in return for their testimony. The committee

reasoned that the attorney general would not have performed such a sensitive task for those four aides.

Mr. Hughes said after the meeting that he saw no reason why a state employee called before the grand jury on a matter dealing with his job should need a lawyer, unless that employee had something to hide.

He also said that he would not allow his own staff to be reimbursed for any legal fees they might incur.

The difficulty in handling such questions was demonstrated yesterday when Harold Gordon, the official charged with licensing nursing homes and hospitals, appeared before the board to ask it to overrule the committee's recommendation not to reimburse him for \$4,550 in legal fees.

Mr. Gordon was the target of an attorney general's investigation into his department that was eventually dropped without indictments.

He said yesterday that he could hardly be expected to ask the attorney general for legal help when that office was investigating him.

The board, after hearing testimony



Sun photo—Weyman Swagger

GOVERNOR HUGHES

... in new role for first time

that Mr. Gordon was advised by his superiors to seek his own lawyer, agreed to pay the fees.