

Finally, as the amended Bill would probably be construed, the penalty for possession for purposes of self-administration is being lessened. Under the present law, any unauthorized possession, including possession for purposes of self-administration, subject to a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine or one year imprisonment or both. Under the amended Bill, possession for purposes of self-administration appears to be subject to the same penalty as violations of subsection (e), which is a maximum fine of \$100.

Because House Bill 820 is unclear and because it apparently lowers the penalty for the offense of possessing LSD, I have decided to veto it.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARVIN MANDEL,

Governor.

House Bill No. 908—Cecil County Severance Tax

AN ACT to add new Section 119A to the Code of Public Local Laws of Cecil County (1961 Edition, being Article 8 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Cecil County," subtitle "County Commissioners," to follow immediately after Section 119 thereof, to provide for the levy and collection of a severance tax on sand, gravel or stone of any kind excavated, removed or quarried in Cecil County, to require periodic reports of such material excavated, removed or quarried, and the keeping of records of such excavation, removal or quarrying, and to provide powers of enforcement of this Act.

May 28, 1969.

Honorable Thomas Hunter Lowe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 908 and am returning it to you.

This Bill purports to impose, "for the privilege of deleting the natural resources" of Cecil County, a "severance tax" on excavators or other persons regularly engaged in excavating, removing or quarrying sand, gravel or stone in Cecil County. The County Commissioners are authorized to set the tax rate at not less than one cent nor more than five cents per ton of sand, gravel or stone. The Bill further provides that excavators and others engaged in removing sand, gravel, or stone shall file monthly reports with the County Commissioners informing them of the amount of excavated sand, gravel or stone "which has been sold during the preceding month" and that such persons shall "pay the tax due thereon."

After giving this Bill a great deal of study and consideration, I have reached the conclusion that it must be vetoed for several reasons.