Democratic State Convention

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Recommended Citation
MR. MANSFIELD: In response to the question raised by Mr. Lodge, I think it ought to be clearly understood that Mr. Tsiang, the chief delegate from China to the United States, made a statement that Formosa did not need any military assistance.

I have one further statement. I want to associate myself with Mr. Ribicoff. I think the Secretary of State has certainly done his utmost, as much as any one man could possibly do, to bring home to the people of the country the danger which we face. However, I am very much appalled at the way too many people in Congress make a clay pigeon out of the State Department and use it for political purposes. They think it is easy and they can get away with it, but they do not realize when they are doing that they undermine the instrument which typifies this country to the world, and I hope we can give the Secretary the support which he is certainly entitled to in this terrible responsibility he has.

CHAIRMAN KEE: Mr. Merrow—

MR. MERROW. I hope it will be possible for us to hear the Secretary in executive session some time in the near future, because it would be most helpful to go over these many items that he does not feel he can discuss in public session.

CHAIRMAN KEE. I was going to speak to that point. I think the Secretary has been very generous for a man as busy as he is, to offer to come here in executive session, and give us the benefit of information which he does not feel he can give to us in public, and I will be very glad
to make an arrangement with him at his convenience if the committee so desires, and to have him here at the earliest possible date that we can arrange such a meeting.

MR. JUDD: I feel under obligation to make one short statement in view of what Mr. Mansfield has said:

I too deplore the low regard in which the State Department is held throughout the country but I must say for the record that nobody has done so much to undermine it, as much as the Secretary has, at a public statement, which I must condemn as an official attitude. I think that did more to undermine the State Department and his usefulness as a very brilliant and able and determined man than all the carpings of this, that or the other group, or including myself, could possibly do. I feel I must say that.

CHAIRMAN KEE: I do not think the Secretary would care to comment on that.

SECRETARY ACHESON: No.
SPEECH DELIVERED BY CONGRESSMAN MIKE MANSFIELD TO STATE CONVENTION OF DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BILLINGS, MONTANA
August 30, 1950.

MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS:

It is with deep regret that I am unable to attend the State Convention of my Party. If it had been at all possible, I would have been here to participate in your discussions and to make a report on my activities in Washington.

I want to pay my respects, at this time, to all Democratic state officials because, from the Governor on down, they have worked in unity with Senator Murray and me on all matters affecting our state and party. I want to pay my respects to all our Democratic County officials, to all our precinct people for the spirit and unity they have shown and I want to pay my respects to Senator James E. Murray, a great liberal, a great partner, and a great man. He has never let Montana down and he has not spared himself in helping to build up our state.

The matters which have held me in Washington and prevented my being with you today are: appropriations for the Hungry Horse, Canyon Ferry Projects, the Anaconda lines, the Omnibus Appropriations bill for the fiscal
year 1951; which contains many irrigation and flood control projects for Montana; the Smokejumper Project for Missoula, the supplemental military appropriation bill for the armed forces, the bill covering family allowances for the dependents of our men in service; the Anti-Subversive bill; U.M.T.; the Tax Bill, and other measures as well as personally appearing before the Veterans Administration Appeals Board, in behalf of Montana servicemen who have asked me to help them on their individual cases. Most of these bills are of importance to Montana as well as to the Nation and I feel that, as your Representative, you would want me to remain on the job at this time. I am especially interested in seeing to it that the maximum amount of funds will be appropriated for Hungry Horse and Canyon Ferry Projects because they are needed not only for the development of our State but for the maintainance of our security.

I am very interested also in seeing that enough funds are appropriated for the transmission lines from Hungry Horse to Anaconda. I am interested in the bringing in of more private industry so that greater security will
be offered to our people and greater opportunity given to our children.

I am delighted to report that we have been able to help locate private industry such as the Victor Chemical Company at Silver Bow and the Harvey Machine Company in the Hungry Horse area.

At the present time another well-known chemical company has been given a temporary contract for 20,000 kw of power by the Bonneville Power Administration and is looking over the area between Missoula and Silver Bow for a possible location in further phosphate development.

Many of you remember not too long ago that the cry throughout Montana was that we had a surplus of power. Now the question is where are we going to get the power for the many private industries which are making inquiries about locating in our state. While we have made great strides in constructing Hungry Horse, in building Canyon Ferry and in authorizing the Libby Dam in Lincoln County, we must remember that we are only beginning to tap the resources which our state possesses in such great abundance.

The key to the building up of Montana is the development of our water power because we have in our state 10% of the hydro-electric potential.
in the entire United States. Canyon Ferry, Hungry Horse, Libby Dam, mark only the beginning of the eventual ten million kw which will be brought into being in the years ahead and which will build our state and give to us a more diversified economy and a greater degree of security for our people. One of the things which has always bothered me since working in the mines in Butte, at the Smelter in Great Falls and teaching at Montana State University, in Missoula, has been the fact that too many of our young people have left the state of Montana to seek their fortune elsewhere. They have said that there were no opportunities in Montana. They have felt that they had to go elsewhere to make their mark in life. Now the picture is changing and that change is due to the fact that at the present time, we are developing our resources and creating opportunities for those of our people who have stayed with us and those of our people who have left but come back. We must furnish every available opportunity and advancement to our people, especially our youngsters, because the future of our state will be in their hands. We don't want other states to get the benefit of the training which our
younger people have received. We want our youngsters to stay in Montana so that the investment which we have in these trained people will come back to them and to us many times over. The parents of these youngsters also have an investment in Montana. They have helped us by building up our state; they have stayed with us when the going was tough; they have contributed mightily of their resources and we are indebted to them for the great contributions to our welfare. We know that our people would like to stay in Montana but we know also that we must give them every opportunity that we possibly can. We are glad that after a loss of 13% of our population during the second world war, that we have regained that lost percentage this year and as a matter of fact, are somewhat ahead of the figures for the 1940 census. We are growing now and we will continue to grow because we are on the road to building up Montana so our people can participate in its development and partake of the fruits and profits to be derived therefrom.
Turning from Montana to foreign affairs - the Democratic Party is proud of the part which it played in formulating the Greek-Turkish Aid Plan to stop the advance of communism into Greece and Turkey. The Democratic Party is proud of the part it played in sponsoring the Marshall Plan to combat the spread of communism in Western Europe. The Democratic Party is proud of the fact that it worked for and helped achieve the North Atlantic Pact among the nations of Western Europe, Canada and ourselves so all of us, together, could participate in the common defense against the advance of communism.

We have done these because we have recognized that the insidious advance of communism was extremely dangerous to us and we have been able to accomplish these achievements only over bitter opposition and grave obstruction. We know that if it had not been for the Greek-Turkish Plan, that Greece and Turkey would today be Russian Satellite states and the Mediterranean would be controlled by the Soviet. We know that if the Marshall Plan had not been undertaken that practically all of Western
Europe would today be under the control of communism.

We know also that if we had not entered into the North Atlantic Pact to give strength as well as rehabilitation to the countries of Western Europe; that they and we would be far worse off today than we actually are.

I think that the Democratic Party has done a good job in helping this country prepare itself. You need only to look at the vote of individual members of both Republican and Democratic Parties to find out just who is responsible for what degree of preparedness we have. I am indeed happy that I was one of those who voted for the 70-Group Air Force. I am indeed glad that I have been the leader in the fight to bring about a stronger Marine Corps and I am happy to report that fifty-five Members of the House and four Senators joined with me when I introduced my bill to strengthen the Marine Corps on June 30, 1949. I am only sorry that we were not able to have the Marines prepared as they should have been and it is my sincere hope that we will have a permanent Marine Corps of not less than 300,000 men with four full combat divisions and four complete air wings ready for duty at all times.
I feel also that we should do more in the way of handling our home front problems. On the Floor of the House on July 31, 1950 I made the following statement:

"Mr. Chairman, in view of the emergency which faces our country at this time, I feel it is incumbent upon me to state that it is the duty of this Congress now to enact legislation to meet the crisis which confronts us.

"I believe we should do the following:

"First, Restore regulation W to the Government to limit consumer credit and installment buying. It is my understanding that consumer credit buying has reached the astounding total of $19,000,000,000 at the present time.

"Second, Enact tax legislation to carry on the full cost of the conflict in Korea, and to insure our own national security.

"Third, Enact legislation to tax all profits over and above ordinary peace-time profits on all industries engaged in the war effort. This will take the profits out of war and insure more funds to pay for the cost of the conflict and help to balance the budget.

"Fourth, Prices on all commodities should be rolled back to June 25 the day before the Korean conflict started.

"Fifth, Nonessential Government expenditures must be reduced.

"It is up to this Congress, Mr. Chairman, to do something about high prices, hoarding, and irresponsible profiteering. These practices are dangerous to our own security; they hinder our war effort; they create undue burdens on our economy and lead to inflation. They are unpatriotic and dangerous, and they fall hardest on the people who can least afford to pay the ultimate costs.

"President Truman has acted with speed and courage to provide the increased military needs of the times. He has offered an anti-inflationary program which I do not think goes far enough. While wages have not gone up, as yet they
are bound to unless prices are controlled. The cost of our military program plus the additional expenditures which will be needed for our increased program will amount to approximately $30,000,000,000 this fiscal year. This means an increase of $15,000,000,000 over the present military budget and an increase of the total budget by one-third; $60,000,000,000 will be needed this year compared with the present $45,000,000,000 for fiscal year 1951.

"If we are courageous enough to tax ourselves sufficiently to meet our needs the less it will be necessary to set up controls, because taxation, if gone into honestly and deeply enough, will make controls unnecessary. If prices continue to rise, it will be hard to bring them down; and the longer this situation continues, the more difficult it will be to find a solution. Voluntary controls and appeals to patriotism will in themselves not work; they have never stopped inflation before; there is no reason to believe they will now. This is no ordinary political year; we cannot continue either business or politics as usual. The American people are awake to the dangers of the times and they are looking to us for leadership."

In Korea today we are facing a difficult struggle. There is no question as to what the outcome of that conflict will be. I have heard it said that the United States is responsible for the war in Korea and I have heard it said further that the Democratic Party was responsible for what is now taking place there. I recall that on January 19, 1950 -- this year -- the House of Representatives defeated the Korean Aid Bill by a vote of 192 to 191. 129 Republicans -- and Marcantonio of New York -- voted with the majority to defeat this measure. It seems to me that a
country called Russia had something to do with the aggressive tactics of the North Koreans. You and I know that if this aggression had not been met with force that today all of Korea would be occupied by the communists and that Korea would then be a dagger pointing at the heart of American occupied Japan. You and I know that if we had not moved into Korea that very likely by now other attacks would have been made. You and I know that had those tactics continued, eventually we would have had to have a face-to-face showdown with the Union of Socialist Soviet Repub-
lics. It is better, despite the cost in blood and tears and sacrifice, that we met the problem in Korea as we have, and that we recognize our weaknesses and prepare ourselves accordingly. I believe that we should go on as full a mobilization basis as possible because we do not know what the future has in store for us. I believe that if we can keep the Korean conflict localized and at the same time increase our preparedness, we will make Russia recognize the hard fact that any further aggre-
ssion by her or her satellites will be met with force.

Out of this recognition may come a desire on the part of Russia to try and cooperate with the Western World. The decision, as to whether or not a third world war will break out, rests not with us but with the Politburo in Moscow. It holds the key to either war on a world-wide scale or peace on a world-wide basis. We know that because of our action in Korea, the United Nations has become stronger and we are looking forward to the day when that organization, man's best and perhaps last hope for peace, will become a real brotherhood of nations so that all people everywhere may live in peace and security and be able to work out their lives in a manner of their own choosing. We stand not for war but for peace. The days of isolationism are gone and gone forever. We must, whether we like it or not, recognize that we are a member of the family of Nations, that we are brothers one with another, and we must recognize further that what happens in any part of the world today affects us in one way.
or another. The goal we strive for is peace -- peace for all mankind. This peace will not be achieved at the bargain counter or on a cut-rate basis. This peace will be achieved only by unity among our people at home and with our friends throughout the world. A mutual recognition of responsibilities is necessary and a mutual tolerance of one another is mandatory.

Friends, these are only a few of the things which I wanted to call to your attention and which I will call to the attention of the people in Montana in more detail when the Congress adjourns. In the meantime, I want to ask of you that we maintain unity in our Party and work together for the victory of all Democratic candidates in November; that we devote our efforts to building up Montana for the benefits of our people; that we maintain our security both at home and abroad, and that we do all in our power to bring about the achievement of a just and lasting peace for all mankind and for generations yet unborn.
MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS:

It is with deep regret that I am unable to attend the State Convention of my Party. If it had been at all possible, I would have been here to participate in your discussions and to make a report on my activities in Washington.

I want to pay my respects, at this time, to all Democratic state officials because, from the Governor on down, they have worked in unity with Senator Murray and me on all matters affecting our state and party. I want to pay my respects to Senator James E. Murray, a great liberal, a great partner, and a great man. He has never let Montana down and he has not spared himself in helping to build up our state.

The matters which have held me in Washington and prevented my being with you today are: appropriations for the Hungry Horse, Canyon Ferry Projects, the Anaconda lines, the Omnibus Appropriations bill for the fiscal
year 1951; which contains many irrigation and flood control projects for Montana; the Smokejumper Project for Missoula, the supplemental military appropriation bill for the armed forces, the bill covering family allowances for the dependents of our men in service; the Anti-Subversive bill; U.S.T.; the Tax Bill, and other measures as well as personally appearing before the Veterans Administration Appeals Board, in behalf of Montana servicemen who have asked me to help them on their individual cases. Most of these bills are of importance to Montana as well as to the Nation and I feel that, as your Representative, you would want me to remain on the job at this time. I am especially interested in seeing to it that the maximum amount of funds will be appropriated for Hungry Horse and Canyon Ferry Projects because they are needed not only for the development of our State but for the maintenance of our security.

I am very interested also in seeing that enough funds are appropriated for the transmission lines from Hungry Horse to Anaconda. I am interested in the bringing in of more private industry so that greater security will
Turning from Montana to foreign affairs – the Democratic Party is proud of the part which it played in formulating the Greek-Turkish Aid Plan to stop the advance of communism into Greece and Turkey. The Democratic Party is proud of the part it played in sponsoring the Marshall Plan to combat the spread of communism in Western Europe. The Democratic Party is proud of the fact that it worked for and helped achieve the North Atlantic Pact among the nations of Western Europe, Canada and ourselves so all of us, together, could participate in the common defense against the advance of communism.

We have done these because we have recognized that the insidious advance of communism was extremely dangerous to us and we have been able to accomplish these achievements only over bitter opposition and grave obstruction. We know that if it had not been for the Greek-Turkish Plan, that Greece and Turkey would today be Russian Satellite states and the Mediterranean would be controlled by the Soviet. We know that if the Marshall Plan had not been undertaken that practically all of Western
Europe would today be under the control of communism.

We know also that if we had not entered into the North Atlantic Pact to give strength as well as rehabilitation to the countries of Western Europe; that they and we would be far worse off today than we actually are.

I think that the Democratic Party has done a good job in helping this country prepare itself. You need only to look at the vote of individual members of both Republican and Democratic Parties to find out just who is responsible for what degree of preparedness we have. I am indeed happy that I was one of those who voted for the 70-Group Air Force. I am indeed glad that I have been the leader in the fight to bring about a stronger Marine Corps and I am happy to report that fifty-five Members of the House and four Senators joined with me when I introduced my bill to strengthen the Marine Corps on June 30, 1949. I am only sorry that we were not able to have the Marines prepared as they should have been and it is my sincere hope that we will have a permanent Marine Corps of not less than 300,000 men with four full combat divisions and four complete air wings ready for duty at all times.
I feel also that we should do more in the way of handling our home front problems. On the Floor of the House on July 31, 1950 I made the following statement:

"Mr. Chairman, in view of the emergency which faces our country at this time, I feel it is incumbent upon me to state that it is the duty of this Congress now to enact legislation to meet the crisis which confronts us.

I believe we should do the following:

"First, Restore regulation W to the Government to limit consumer credit and installment buying. It is my understanding that consumer credit buying has reached the astounding total of $19,000,000,000 at the present time.

"Second, Enact tax legislation to carry on the full cost of the conflict in Korea, and to insure our own national security.

"Third, Enact legislation to tax all profits over and above ordinary peace-time profits on all industries engaged in the war effort. This will take the profits out of war and insure more funds to pay for the cost of the conflict and help to balance the budget.

"Fourth. Prices on all commodities should be rolled back to June 25 the day before the Korean conflict started.

"Fifth. Nonessential Government expenditures must be reduced.

"It is up to this Congress, Mr. Chairman, to do something about high prices, hoarding, and irresponsible profiteering. These practices are dangerous to our own security; they hinder our war effort; they create undue burdens on our economy and lead to inflation. They are unpatriotic and dangerous, and they fall hardest on the people who can least afford to pay the ultimate costs.

"President Truman has acted with speed and courage to provide the increased military needs of the times. He has offered an anti-inflationary program which I do not think goes far enough. While wages have not gone up, as yet they
are bound to unless prices are controlled. The cost of our military program plus the additional expenditures which will be needed for our increased program will amount to approximately $30,000,000,000 this fiscal year. This means an increase of $15,000,000,000 over the present military budget and an increase of the total budget by one-third; $60,000,000,000 will be needed this year compared with the present $45,000,000,000 for fiscal year 1951.

"If we are courageous enough to tax ourselves sufficiently to meet our needs the less it will be necessary to set up controls, because taxation, if gone into honestly and deeply enough, will make controls unnecessary. If prices continue to rise, it will be hard to bring them down; and the longer this situation continues, the more difficult it will be to find a solution. Voluntary controls and appeals to patriotism will in themselves not work; they have never stopped inflation before; there is no reason to believe they will now. This is no ordinary political year; we cannot continue either business or politics as usual. The American people are awake to the dangers of the times and they are looking to us for leadership."

In Korea today we are facing a difficult struggle. There is no question as to what the outcome of that conflict will be. I have heard it said that the United States is responsible for the war in Korea and I have heard it said further that the Democratic Party was responsible for what is now taking place there. I recall that on January 19, 1950 -- this year -- the House of Representatives defeated the Korean Aid Bill by a vote of 192 to 191. 129 Republicans -- and Marcantonio of New York -- voted with the majority, to defeat this measure. It seems to me that a
country called Russia had something to do with the aggressive
tactics of the North Koreans. You and I know that if this
aggression had not been met with force that today all of Korea
would be occupied by the communists and that Korea would then be
a dagger pointing at the heart of American occupied Japan. You
and I know that if we had not moved into Korea that very likely
by now other attacks would have been made. You and I know that
had those tactics continued, eventually we would have had to have
a face-to-face showdown with the Union of Socialist Soviet Repub-
lies. It is better, despite the cost in blood and tears and
sacrifice, that we met the problem in Korea as we have, and
that we recognize our weaknesses and prepare ourselves accord-
ingly. I believe that we should go on as full a mobilization
basis as possible because we do not know what the future has in
store for us. I believe that if we can keep the Korean conflict
localized and at the same time increase our preparedness, we
will make Russia recognize the hard fact that any further aggre-
ssion by her or her satellites will be met with force.

Out of this recognition may come a desire on the part of Russia to try and cooperate with the Western World. The decision, as to whether or not a third world war will break out, rests not with us but with the Politburo in Moscow. It holds the key to either war on a world-wide scale or peace on a world-wide basis. We know that because of our action in Korea, the United Nations has become stronger and we are looking forward to the day when that organization, man's best and perhaps last hope for peace, will become a real brotherhood of nations so that all people everywhere may live in peace and security and be able to work out their lives in a manner of their own choosing. We stand not for war but for peace. The days of isolationism are gone and gone forever. We must, whether we like it or not, recognize that we are a family of the family of Nations, that we are brothers one with another, and we must recognize further that what happens in any part of the world today affects us in one way
or another. The goal we strive for is peace -- peace for all mankind. This peace will not be achieved at the bargain counter or on a cut-rate basis. This peace will be achieved only by unity among our people at home and with our friends throughout the world.

A mutual recognition of responsibilities is necessary and a mutual tolerance of one another is mandatory.

Friends, these are only a few of the things which I wanted to call to your attention and which I will call to the attention of the people in Montana in more detail when the Congress adjourns. In the meantime, I want to ask of you that we maintain unity in our Party and work together for the victory of all Democratic candidates in November; that we devote our efforts to building up Montana for the benefits of our people; that we maintain our security both at home and abroad, and that we do all in our power to bring about the achievement of a just and lasting peace for all mankind and for generations yet unborn.