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Bert Andrews Broadcast Domestic Affairs

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Good evening. This is Bert Andrews, reporting by transcription from Washington. But first--a message from our announcer.

I have with me on this program tonight a former sailor, a former soldier, a former marine, a member of Congress, a delegate to the General Assembly of the United States and a candidate for the United States Senate. But this multiple introduction is not as formidable as it sounds at the age of forty-eight, for my guest is just one man who can list all those things after his name. He is Congressman Mike Mansfield, Democrat, of Montana. He enlisted in the navy at fourteen in World War II and served ten months overseas. Next he enlisted in the Army for a year. After that he enlisted in the Marines for two years and was stationed in the Far East. He is completing his fifth term in the House of Representatives and will run for the Senate from Montana next Fall. He was a delegate to the General Assembly this year and once so irritated Vyshinsky that the Russian shook his finger at him. Despite this extremely varied background of Congressman Mansfield, he and I are going to talk tonight—not about foreign affairs—but about some of the domestic issues that are plaguing his about such thinks as corruption and investigations of corruption. Suppose we discuss first, Congressman Mansfield, an announcement made by Newbold Morris, President Truman's choice to conduct a special investigation of charges of corruption. Mr. Morris has stated that he will ask key officials of the executive branch—short of the President—to list their outside income, if any. What do you think of his proposal?

(more)
MANSFIELD.--(reply specifically on that.....winding up with "as a matter of fact I'd go even further/")

ANDREWS.--What do you mean--you'd go even further?

MANSFIELD.--Why, I'd apply it even to Senators and members of the house of Representatives. (Refer to pending bill--when it was introduced--what it's status is now.)

ANDREWS.--On that point, Congressman Mansfield, you undoubtedly have hear the criticism which is frequently made--that Congress is always ready and willing to investigate everybody--except members of Congress. So--just what chance do you think your bill has?

MANSFIELD.--It depends entirely on whether public opinion is really aroused about this matter of corruption. If enough pressure is brought to bear, the Congress will pass it. (discuss how that pressure could be brought to bear in letters and telegrams, etc.....)

ANDREWS.--Here's a blunt question. If Congressmen were forced to file reports on their outside income, do you think it might be shown that some of them have taken money they shouldn't have taken?

MANSFIELD. (develop fact that in past ten years only a handful of thousand or fifteen hundred men who have served one or more terms in Senate or House have had the finger of suspicion pointed at them--but that they should not be immune from investigation...etc.)
ANDREWS.--Thus far we've spoken about income as if income were always money. Would you stretch the reporting requirements so the officials would have to include gifts of any sort?

MANSFIELD.--Yes. Mink coats...home freezers/etc.

ANDREWS.--Would you stretch the requirements to include Cabinet members and Federal Judges up to and including the Supreme Court?

MANSFIELD.--

ANDREWS.--Now, we've all seen cases where an individual's returns were clean—but where his partner or partners in some firm or another were cleaning up. When you speak of the need for full disclosure of outside income, do you think it should apply to such partners as well.

MANSFIELD.--Denounce vigorously that loophole and say it certainly should.

ANDREWS.--Let's go back to Mr. Morris and his task of investigating corruption. The Congress has indicated it won't give him the power to grant immunity to small fry witnesses who might testify against big violators? Do you think he should have such powers?
MANSFIELD.--Not even Congress has that power. It's a power that should be reserved—as it always has been reserved—to the duly authorized grand juries and to the representatives of the Department of Justice who have the right to recommend it. How can we depend on any one man to say who are small fry and who are big violators? Etc....

ANDREWS.—One thing that puzzles so many of us is—why should we have to have special investigations at all when we already have a Department of Justice and grand juries. Does this mean that confidence in those arms of the law has broken down?

MANSFIELD.—Situation is so unusual have to take unusual steps...etc.

Some not satisfied with way present machinery has been working. Discuss F. B. I. and clear it.

ANDREWS.—You're a Democrat and you must be aware that many people—particularly the Republicans—say that all this has come about because the Democrats have been in power too long—and that most of the violators are Democrats. Do you agree.

MANSFIELD.—Discuss length of time in power. But point to indictment of two big wheels in Staten Island, New York, Republican machine on a shocking variety of criminal charges. Crookedness is non-partisan.
ANDREWS.--You'll remember, Congressman Mansfield, that one expose disclosed that some members of Congress brought pressure to bear on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to do favors for constituents. How would you put a stop to such practices?

MANSFIELD.--Discuss letter to Fulbright and proposal that the names of all Congressmen who interceded with the R. F. C. in behalf of anybody be made public—together with the individuals and the loans involved....

ANDREWS.--Let's turn to politics. You're ending your fifth term in Congress and are running for the Senate—all of which makes you a practical politician. Do you agree with President Truman's statement that this whole matter of corruption will not be an issue in the November campaign?

MANSFIELD.--No, I don't. Only way we can do any good is to go all the way and clean it up. Point to steps already taken, etc....

ANDREWS.--Then you'd be inclined to sympathize with Congressman Quinn, of Kings County, New York, who was beaten by a Republican. Mr. Quinn said the Truman scandals beat him.

MANSFIELD.--I sympathize with anyone who gets beaten. But the truth about his defeat is....etc.
ANDREWS.--March 15--income tax day--is coming up soon. As a matter of fact it comes the day before your forty-ninth birthday. Does your mail indicate that the people of Montana are sore about the exposures of corruption in the Internal Revenue Bureau?

MANSFIELD.------