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### Bricker Amendment

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JANUARY 21, 1954

STATEMENT BY SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D. Mont.)

In regard to the Bricker Amendment, I am of the opinion that in its present form it would not be helpful to the United States in this day and age. This is based on testimony and statements made by President Eisenhower, Secretary of State Dulles, and others in the present Administration who have expressed opposition to the amendment on the ground that it would cripple the operations of the Chief Executive and bring chaos in our dealings with foreign countries.

Under Mr. Bricker's amendment, a treaty to become effective would have to win a two-thirds vote in the Senate, and then the same treaty would have to win a majority of votes in both the Senate and the House before being sent to the President for his signature and be recognized as the law of the land. Furthermore, the Bricker Amendment would require action by the legislatures of the 48 States to conclude international agreements of friendship, navigation, commerce, narcotics control, and possibly the pooling of atomic energy. The Bricker Amendment would enable Congress to destroy the President's power to meet international emergencies such as the Berlin blockade. The provision in the Bricker Amendment that any part of a treaty conflicting with the Constitution "shall not be of any force or effect" is unnecessary since this is already the law. The Bricker Amendment would make our treaty-implementing procedure the most cumbersome in the world. In this atomic age it would appear that such a policy would be a perilous handicap in our relations with other countries.

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