

2-3-1954

Refrigerator Bill

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

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Refrigerator Bill" (1954). *Mike Mansfield Speeches*. 82.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/82

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 3, 1954.

STATEMENT BY SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D. Mont.)

A BILL TO REQUIRE INSIDE LATCHES ON THE DOORS OF HOUSEHOLD REFRIGERATORS SHIPPED IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

During the summer months of last year newspapers and magazines throughout the nation carried numerous stories of tragic accidents in which children, playing in old ice boxes, refrigerators and freezers, shut themselves in and were suffocated.

The untimely death of so many children in discarded ice boxes brought prompt action by many civic groups and public spirited organizations. These campaigns set about to have all hazardous refrigerators, ice boxes, and freezers destroyed or have the latches and doors removed. Premiums were offered in some cities by local merchants for doors that were removed from the ice boxes.

In accord with the campaign for children's safety at the local level, approximately 15 states have enacted legislation which forbids the abandoning of old boxes where they are accessible to children.

Since the initiative to destroy all old boxes has been taken at the state and local level it seems logical that Congress should pass legislation which would prevent accidents of this kind in the future.

The bill which I have just introduced will do just that. The bill would require inside latches on the doors of refrigerators, ice boxes, ice chests, or deep freezers shipped in interstate commerce. The proposed legislation would apply to household refrigerators of a capacity of one and one-half cubic feet or more and all those who would violate this law, if enacted, would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

What greater satisfaction could we have than in the realization that we have helped save the lives of the many children that might die each year in this manner.

0 0 0