

1955

Editorial of Senator Mansfield at Fergus County High School

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Editorial by Senator Mike Mansfield

You, the 1955 graduates of Fergus County High School and graduates of secondary schools throughout the Nation will soon be taking one of the major steps in your lives when you receive your diplomas this spring. You will join the other young men and women of today in seeking your proper places in a very complex and ever-changing society.

In the past ten or twelve years civilization has traveled at a very rapid rate. You have witnessed in your lifetime the birth of a new era, the Atomic Age. This new age has brought a revolution in our mode of living and thinking. It is your generation, and others to follow, who will benefit. You are the ones who will make use of atomic powered locomotives, ocean vessels, airplanes, and a revolutionized consumers' market. There is a great future ahead and no one should forgo the opportunity to take advantage of these circumstances.

At first glance, the unsettled conditions of today may seem dismal and foreboding. Young men, just out of high school, are faced with a tour of duty in one of the military services. World affairs are in a state of confusion, an alternating cycle of threats and promises. Nuclear and thermonuclear science has been developed to a point almost beyond comprehension. Yet we are not without hope.

We must meet as a challenge the increased complexity of our society in the Atomic Age. New opportunities in the sciences, engineering, medicine, education, private industry and the military sciences are

practically endless. Americans are being offered more today in conveniences and personal security than at any time in our history. These things are being made available for you and for future generations. It is up to your elders -- and you -- to see that they are not abused.

The stability of world conditions tomorrow depends upon its leaders in the years to come. It is the young people like you of the class of 1955 and those following who will be setting down the patterns of peace and security in the future.

The challenge to every young man and woman has never been greater and the fruits of success have never been more bountiful. It is a challenge that I know the class of 1955 will meet.

I am taking this opportunity through the editorial columns of The Fergus to extend my very best wishes and congratulations to the 1955 graduating class of Fergus County High School.