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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Statement by Senator Mike Mansfield (D. Montana)

National Radio Week, May 5-11

Mr. President, this week the Nation is observing National Radio Week, saluting one of our most vital means of communication.

Those of us in public life are more aware of the great services provided by radio than any other group of people since we know it as the means of communication and information between the people and its Government. Radio is constantly on the job, informing the people.

There are 3600 AM and FM stations serving the public, and Americans own nearly 150 million radio sets. In fact there are more radios in our homes than any other modern appliances.

Radio has grown tremendously since the first commercially licensed radio station went on the air in 1920. It operates freely under our American system bringing to the public what it wants--music, news, religion, politics, drama, sports or entertainment. The public is its censor.

Radio is an integral part of our system of free enterprise, principally as an advertising medium, helping to move goods and services from the producers to the consuming public. The history of radio is filled with dramatic episodes--advanced warnings, evacuation bulletins, emergency announcements, pleas for help and round-the-clock broadcasting.

Since Americans are so inclined to take for granted such things as radio - National Radio Week is set aside to pay tribute to this great medium of communication.