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### Western Publisher Defends Montana

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield (D. Mont.)

Western Publisher Defends Montana

Mr. President, the article "The American West: Perpetual Mirage" appearing in the June issue of Harper's Magazine has created considerable discussion throughout the West. Walter Prescott Webb's concept of the West, what it is and why it is has, brought many Westerners to the defense of their heritage.

Several of my distinguished colleagues here in the Senate have taken exception to many of Professor Webb's findings and more recently one of Montana's most capable weekly newspaper editors, Dan Whetstone of Cut Bank, Montana has come forcefully to the defense of Montana in the editorial columns of the Cut Bank Pioneer Press.

Mr. Whetstone, a historian of the West in his own right, provides ample proof in his editorial columns that Montana should not be included among the desert states. He cites Montana's record as one of the Nation's top producers of the high quality grains, livestock and vast timber supplies, in addition to its vast natural resources.

I believe that Mr. Whetstone's concluding phrase is deserving of considerable thought in appraising the value of the Harper's article, "Growth-of-the-soil statistics disprove it", insofar as the Treasure State is concerned.

The May 4th issue of the Great Falls Tribune also takes Walter Prescott Webb to task for maligning the character and culture of the people of the 17 Western States.

Mr. President, I also ask that this editorial be printed at the conclusion of my remarks in the Record.