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Suggestions to Overcome Recession in Economy

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

highway aid speed-up
stockpiling of minerals
stepped up housing program to assist
woods operations

This, in addition, to extending
wool act & preventing Benson effort
to cut wheat from \$2.00 to 1.75.
Domestic manganese program, lead & zinc, &
tungsten, Libby & Yellowtail, etc.

Speech
3/6/58

Mr. President:

Whether or not present conditions are referred to as a recession or a depression is beside the point. We know that when a man is out of work, he is in a depression. We know that in the State of Montana we have a depression in our mining and lumbering industries. In order to face up to this situation, it is necessary that the Administration take prompt and strong action to alleviate the condition in which the people of Montana find themselves, and it is also up to the Congress to pass the necessary legislation to overcome this situation.

I would most respectfully suggest to the Administration that instead of a stretched-out highway program, that that program be speeded up with the coming of warmer weather so that more people can be put to work in a field for which funds have been authorized and in which much needed development is necessary.

I would suggest also that the Administration lend its strong support to a stepped-up housing program, which is not only necessary but which will be of great assistance in overcoming the slack and depression now being felt in the field of lumbering and woods operation.

I would most respectfully suggest also that the Administration take action necessary to increase our mineral stockpiles, especially in the fields of copper, lead, zinc, manganese and tungsten, and to do it at

this time while the price is low and the need for encouragement of these operations is great. I would like to point out that unlike some of our perishable agricultural ~~pr~~ commodities, that a large standby reserve of strategic metals is necessary to our security, our wellbeing, and the development of our domestic economy.

I would most strongly urge the Administration to give at least as much consideration to the domestic problems which confront us in this country as it does to such matters as reciprocal trade and foreign aid.

In addition, I would urge the Congress to extend the present Wool Act for at least a five-year period and at the same time to report out of the Agriculture Committees of both Houses bills which have been introduced by Senator Murray and me, as well as other Senators from both parties, to stop Secretary of Agriculture Benson from reducing the present \$2.00 a bushel price of wheat to \$1.78.

It would be my hope also that the Administration and the Congress would together iron out the differences which exist between this country and Canada so that the Libby Dam, which has been authorized for ten years and is ready for construction, could get underway; and that the Congress and the Administration would work together to give a fair, reasonable and equitable payment to the Crow Indian Tribe so that Yellowtail Dam in the southeastern part of Montana could be started. Incidentally, Yellowtail Dam was authorized 14 years ago.

May I state most emphatically that the people of Montana are not interested in handouts or charity. We are interested in jobs, and the above proposals are ways and means which can be utilized to give my people the breaks they deserve and the right to achieve a decent and reasonable livelihood. Surely this is not asking too much in this, the greatest, the richest, the most powerful nation on the globe.