11-1960

Statement 'Giving Kennedy What He Wants'

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001
re: Mike's Statement on "giving Kennedy what he wants"
Nov. 1960
carded.

December 10, 1960

Sharon R. Crommees
925 Missoula Avenue
Helena, Montana

Dear Sharon:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 4, which has just reached my desk, and which I read with much interest.

The statement that you quote is correct, but, of course, Sharon, as you know, the legislation which I would support would be good legislation. I take it for granted that President-elect Kennedy will make only good and sound proposals. I base this statement on the fact that I worked with him closely in the House and Senate for the past 14 years; I have high respect for his ability and integrity; and I certainly think he has made an outstanding record in the matter of legislation which he has sponsored and proposed.

Must close now, but thanking you for your good letter, and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

 copied/mh
Hon. Mike Mansfield  
Senator from Montana  
Washington, D.C.  

Dec. 4, 1960

Dear Senator Mansfield;  

I have voted for you when you/you up for election because I feel you think and act above partisan politics. Therefore the brief statement I make below should not come under the classification of "political gripes".

Shortly after the election the press quoted you as saying something to the effect that "we will pass Senator Kennedy's legislation or break our necks trying".

If you did make such a statement I must say that it disturbs me for two reasons;

(1) No one man's ideas are all good or all bad. Mr. Kennedy is no exception. I feel sure that some of his program is badly needed, and I feel that some of his objectives are thoroughly dangerous---example his medical care plan under social security financing from increased payroll deductions. You know as well as I do that literally thousands of persons receiving social security are already financially able to pay their own medical expenses. I believe any medical care program should be on a voluntary insurance basis with the Government merely paying the insurance premium if the person cannot pay it. Self determination and self dignity are maintained this way.

(2) Montana citizens are already among the highest taxed people in the nation due partly to very high state property tax loads. Mr. Kennedy's legislative proposals are not for free. Please remember us here in Montana when you are considering voting "yes" on a measure that will take more dollars out of our pockets as slim as they are.

Sincerely yours,

Sharon Roy Cromeenes

Sharon Roy Cromeenes

Sharon R. Cromeenes  
923 Missoula Ave.  
Helena, Montana