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Resignation of the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee

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Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield (D., Montana)

February 2, 1959

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THE RESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. President:

Last Friday the Senate learned of the resignation of the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Green) as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations. During the years of his tenure, the Committee handled many matters of vital importance to the nation. It handled them well. It handled them with dispatch. No Member of the Committee contributed more diligently to the building of that record than its outstanding Chairman.

For those who have been associated with the Senator from Rhode Island in the Committee on Foreign Relations, his resignation can only be a source of mixed feelings. On the one hand, we are reluctant to lose his leadership. On the other hand, we do not wish him to over-tax his energies, no matter how formidable they may be.

Those Members who were present when the Senator from Rhode Island tendered his resignation know how his colleagues tried to dissuade him. There was far more to this effort than mere ritual. There was in it, deep affection, deep respect and deep appreciation for his dedicated service.

There are few Members of this body who even begin to approach the fine Senator from Rhode Island in fullness of years: For that alone he might have the special place which he holds among us. But it is not

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for that alone. His place in our hearts and in our midst derives from something more. It derives from his keen intelligence, his brilliant wit, his unfailing ability to draw the meaningful out of the vague.

The able Senator from Rhode Island has used time to accumulate more than years. He has used it to gather understanding and to sharpen his wisdom. We may indeed count ourselves as fortunate if, at the end of our lives, our cups contain half as much of understanding and wisdom as his does now.

And the Senator from Rhode Island is not nearly at the end of the road. As a matter of fact his response to these words is likely to be, "For heaven's sake, dont' eulogize me, I'm not leaving the Senate until I'm at least a hundred."

I say to the Senator that is splendid with us. We want the Senator from Rhode Island to go on for many years. We want him to continue to gather experiences at home and all over the world. We want him to remain, as he has ever been, always a source of new ideas and fresh thought. We want him to contribute out of the great fund of human feeling and acute intelligence, which is his life, to the work of the Committee, to the Senate and to the nation. The State of Rhode Island needs him. The nation needs him. We will need him until he is a hundred and beyond.