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### Memo Comments on the State of the Union Address

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Mansfield

FROM: Frank

SUBJECT: Comments on the *State of the Union Message*  
~~President's Address to Congress.~~Introductory Paragraphs (p. 1)

It is ironic that an address on the State of the Union  
*as this one does,*  
should begin largely on the note of the state of another Union -- the  
*He also infers, as the State Dept. has already*  
Soviet Union. ~~Further, in saying that the Russians' announcement~~  
*done, that we think it very unpleasant that the*  
*Russians are leaving Berlin planning to leave*  
of their intention to abandon their responsibilities in Berlin is a  
*Berlin; in effect, that we are sorry to see*  
*them go.*  
~~disdain of their international obligations, he is, in effect, saying~~  
  
~~that we are sorry to see them go.~~

Section 1. (p. 2) deals largely with our defense and its cost.

*with the President when he says that*  
One can hardly argue ~~that~~ we have formidable forces  
  
and that they are expensive to operate. However, one can argue *with*  
*less contention*  
that our military and related scientific progress has been "highly  
gratifying" ~~as the President says.~~ We have evidence in the comparative  
performance of the <sup>rocket</sup> rocket, in the recent reported failure of the warning  
system off the Florida coast that the progress may not be "gratifying"  
  
at all.

Until we see the military budget we can hardly determine whether it advances the aims of "a sensible posture of defense" and "increased efficiency and avoidance of waste" which he says it will.

▷ *Reveal*

Section II (p. 4) The section deals largely with the state of the national economy but digresses on the point of establishing a committee of non-governmental experts to do some "five-year" planning of *our* national economic and social goals.

The President says that "the recession is fading into history." The several millions unemployed would hardly agree with him.

As for his idea of a Committee to plan national goals, certainly we ought to be using our best brains to look ahead. One wonders, though, what bonafide Republicans with their deep-seated aversion to imagination and socialism in government are going to think of a Committee on Five Year Plans. The idea seems to have a faint tinge of

*for months* *even a faint tinge of*  
both imagination and socialism. *in its* Five year Plans, indeed!  
*Where have we heard that term before*

The President says, "if we are wise and resolute, we will not tolerate inflation in the years to come." Fine, but what <sup>is</sup> the <sup>Administration</sup> Republicans suggesting that we do about it? Further, he speaks of inflation almost exclusively in terms of the "wage-price spiral."

But what <sup>do</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Administration</sup> Republicans think the effect is on supply <sup>of goods</sup> and, hence, on <sup>high</sup> <sup>when</sup> prices <sup>of</sup> factories and mines <sup>are</sup> shut down for months on end as they were last year, and <sup>when</sup> of millions of men <sup>do not</sup> not working? <sup>Doesn't the Administration think that</sup> Might these factors not <sup>have</sup> have something to do with high prices, <sup>the level of</sup> <sup>too?</sup> <sup>And what does it</sup> ~~just as price increases and the~~ <sup>propose to do about it?</sup> ~~wage-increases which more often than not chase them, rather than~~ precede them?

The President says that he will submit a balanced budget ~~and~~ <sup>if the balance budget is unbalanced and</sup> and, then, he leaves the impression that/inflation occurs it will be the fault of Congress because of its power of the purse. Well, who has been <sup>and unbalanced</sup> responsible for the record budgets of recent years? Who has cut those budgets?

Other statements in this section deal with tax reform, the

specific veto on appropriations items and federal credit reforms. *There is nothing new very spectacular in them.*

Next, he turns to agriculture. This section makes very clear that we have a very serious situation on our hands and he promises prompt action. We shall have to wait to see what he proposes.

In addition to the above matters, the President returned to the question of price stability at the end of the section. He promises to call for <sup>an</sup> amendment of the Employment Act of 1946 <sup>- what kind</sup> and ~~to study the~~ *is not indicated - and for more study.* ~~problem through various means.~~

Section III (p. 8) -- The International Situation.

There is nothing new in this section, except perhaps the statements concerning an increased contribution to the World Bank and Monetary Fund and a program designed to marshal the full potential of American business for foreign economic development -- a program which is not spelled out.

Section IV (p. 10) - Civil Rights.

~~He~~ <sup>As President</sup> talks of the necessity for ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> effective Federal legis-  
lation ... to insure the rights and economic freedoms of millions of

American workers." Is he suggesting, since he uses the term

"millions" that the AF of L-CIO are corrupt from top to bottom?

Is that a Republican concept? Or, isn't it a fact, that the McClellan

Committee's finding points largely to the behavior of one union which

has been expelled from the AF of L-and the CIO. In short, is it the

Republican <sup>intention</sup> to wage war on all unions or on corruption in the few? If

it is the latter, then, the President would hardly have <sup>implied</sup> said that what

Congress tried to do in this field was half-hearted. <sup>last session</sup> He would have

<sup>the Democrats and progressive Republicans</sup> worked with Congress in support of the Kennedy-Ives proposal. After

all, it was Congress which had uncovered the corruption -- not the

<sup>Republican</sup> Department of Labor -- and, perhaps, Congress had <sup>valid</sup> some ideas on how

<sup>the corruption</sup> it ought to be eliminated.

On the issue of civil rights, it has taken the President

a little while to get around to remembering "the supremacy of the  
Constitution." <sup>and his determination to uphold it.</sup> If he had ~~done it~~ <sup>recognized his responsibilities</sup> earlier, perhaps some of the uglier

incidents might have been avoided. Apart from indicating that he  
will propose new laws in this field when he is <sup>has hardly begun</sup> only beginning to

implement the one which was placed on the statute books in the last  
Congress, he also says that <sup>what we need is to fulfill</sup> in making the concept of equality

~~meaningful, we all have a solemn obligation. He says further that we~~  
~~can fulfill that obligation by our leadership in teaching, persuading,~~ <sup>the solemn to make equality meaningful. What we need,</sup>

<sup>Well, where is it?</sup> <sup>he says,</sup>  
demonstrating and in enforcing the law. It can hardly be said that  
<sup>it is coming from this</sup> ~~he or any of the Republicans in his Administration are setting a very~~

~~inspiring example in any of these ways.~~