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REMARKS OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD
National Capital Democratic Club
Wednesday, January 21, 1959

The automobile industry is often described as the pace setter of the American economy. It occupies a position like that of the Democratic Party in American politics. There's only one difference. Last year the American people didn't buy enough cars. In November, they acquired a lot of Democrats.

Some people even think they may have taken too many. They think you can have too much of a good thing. They shake their heads and say, "There's too many democrats in the Senate." They shake their heads some more and say, "What's Lyndon going to do with them all?"

Well, so far as I know, there isn't any democratic unemployment in the Senate. Personally, I don't think you can ever have too many democrats -- in the Senate or anywhere else. As a matter of fact the country could use a lot more of them right now in the Executive Branch of the government. The market for automobiles may be glutted but we've only begun to tap the market for capable democrats. It won't be until 1960 that the supply will begin to catch up with popular demand.

Until a few days ago, the automobile industry had an exhibition going on in the Armory on the other side of town. The dealers were showing their new 1959 models to the citizens of Washington. It was

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quite an exhibit. Some of the cars were conservative in design; some showed liberal style changes; and a few were even futuristic. Whatever else they were, all the new models were bright and shining.

Well, tonight, under the fine leadership of President Henry H. Fowler, the democrats of the District -- not to be outdone by the automobile industry -- are putting on their own show of new models. They have even brought in a new producer, something Detroit hasn't been able to do in years. They've brought in Alaska -- with two original designs.

It is a great pleasure to join with the District democrats in this showing of new democratic Senators. Some of us have had a preview of them. We've already looked under the hoods and tried the steering gear and the brakes. Take it from us, the new automobiles have nothing on them. They may not handle as easily but they have plenty of power. As a matter of fact, some of us older models are beginning to wonder what the influx of these bright and shining new additions to the Senate may do to the used car market!

Nevertheless, we strongly commend them to you. We urge you to buy them. They will add lustre, imagination, power and safety to the Senate, to the Democratic Party and to the Nation.

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For those of you who need special persuading, I recommend close attention to our next and principal speaker tonight. He knows his political automobiles. He has a reputation in the trade as a shrewd appraiser and master technician. He is that and he is something more. He also knows that Senators, like automobiles, are not ends in themselves. Their function is to go. Under his brilliant leadership, democrats did go somewhere in the last session and the country didn't overlook that fact last November. Under his inspired leadership we are going to keep on going. We are going to go towards better foreign policies. We are going to go at the economic and social problems which still plague large parts of the nation. We are going to work for the welfare, not of the few but of all. We are going to work, not for one section but for all sections of the nation.

Without further delay, then, may I present to you a close personal associate, a great democrat, an outstanding American statesman, the distinguished Majority Leader of the Senate, Lyndon Johnson.