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## Castro and Cuba - Sugar Quota

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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It appears to me that Prime Minister Fidel Castro in his response to Congressional legislation giving President Eisenhower discretionary authority in the Administration of the Sugar Act, is putting the shoe on <sup>the other</sup> his own foot when he states that Mr. Eisenhower acted in a "moment of hate, degradation, insanity and stupidity". As a matter of fact, the Eisenhower Administration and the Congress acted more in sorrow than in anger that the usual good relations between our two countries have reached such an unhappy climax.

For a year and a half our policy towards Premier Castro and his government has been one of restraint, patience and leaning over backward in an effort to get along. Our cheek has been turned so many times that our head seemed to operate on a revolving basis. There is, however, a limit to patience and restraint. It would be our hope that Mr. Castro would start "tending to the store" for a change, that he would stop being Peck's bad boy and practice a little restraint himself, that he would call for open and free elections so that his policies and his one-man rule would be laid before the people of Cuba for their judgment.

The hope of most Americans that the revolution headed by Castro would succeed in bringing democracy <sup>and</sup> <sup>life</sup> ~~in~~ a better light to Cuba has not occurred. Instead bitter anti-Americanism, flirtation with the

communists, and constant harangues against President Eisenhower and the American government have been the result. The decision as to whether or not the present unhappy state of affairs between two governments and two peoples who have been friendly during their entire history is one which Mr. Castro will have to face up to himself. We do not want economic warfare; we do not want to be constantly criticized adversely and made the victim of hysterical propaganda charges. Mr. Castro's policy is not only making it difficult for *our two* *Centrals* *it* himself and his own people, but ~~he~~ has in fact loosened the foundations of the family of nations which comprise the western hemisphere. It is hoped devoutly that he will awaken to the realities of the situation before it is too late. The answer and the choice is up to him.