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### Present and Future Legislative Goals

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Jan. 19, 1963

Meeting of the Democratic National Committee

Sheraton Park Hotel

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PRESENT AND FUTURE LEGISLATIVE GOALS

We begin the 88th Congress with a democratic President and administration which has received the nearest thing to a popular vote of confidence that is possible under our system in a non-Presidential year. It was not an overwhelming vote but it was a healthy democratic vote, let there be no mistake about it.

To be sure, there were local and state issues which loomed large in it. But just about everywhere the Kennedy Administration was an articulated and an implied issue. And the answer is clear. Throughout the nation, the people want the kind of government--mixture of idealism and realism; the sensitivity to human needs and human possibilities which the President, himself, personifies.



I know of no goals which the Congress--a democratic Congress--can aspire to than to give the President every possible assistance through legislation in leading the nation in the direction which he dedicated in his State of the Union message a few days ago. Certainly, <sup>as</sup> the Democratic Leadership of the Senate that will be my primary purpose. We shall not try to steam-roller the President's program. We shall not ask Senators to suspend their critical faculties. We could not do so, even if we were so inclined which we are not. There are still major differences with some elements of the President's program on the part of democratic members of Congress, let alone insofar as Republicans are concerned. But there is also a great area of common agreement among democrats with the President. That is the area which the Leadership will seek out and encourage with a view to realizing as much of the President's program as possible.

Our goals in this Congress will most certainly center on the tax cut. The President has laid great stress on its need both in terms of its benefits to each American family but even more important in terms of putting a surge forward into the nation's economy. Conditions have been good in the nation but they have not been good enough. They have not been good enough to raise our sights to new possibilities and standards of excellence for all our citizens.

That is what is involved in a tax cut of the kind the President seeks and in the Senate we shall do what we can to get it into legislation.

Beyond the tax cut, we must turn our attention to the special needs of older citizens and young people. In these areas, there is too much callous neglect. In the case of older citizens we shall set out legislative goals to the end that they may live their years not only free from the want of food and shelter but also free from the fear of impoverishing illness.



And as for young people, we shall do what we can to establish creative outlets for their energies both in terms of constructive service to the nation and constructive development of their capacities for their own sake. The key, here, is to open equal opportunities for education throughout the land so that all young people may be educated in excellence to the limits of their capacity and determination. What it takes in the way of legislation to achieve these ends, that is what we shall seek.

Looking beyond the immediate, the legislative goals of the democratic party in Congress, as in the administration shall be to seek in every possible way to bring this nation closer and closer to its ideals of equal opportunity for all Americans whoever they may be and wherever they may be in this nation.

And while we seek this goal we shall also endeavor to do our part in bringing this nation and the world closer and closer to a more secure peace. For it is upon peace in this nuclear age and all else depends. The President leads in this matter. He leads with intelligence and courage and restraint. In Congress, we can perform no greater service than to support in every possible way in this fundamental task of the nation and of all nations.