

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews

Mike Mansfield Papers

4-2-1963

Readers Digest Testimonial Dinner for Harry Byrd

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Readers Digest Testimonial Dinner for Harry Byrd" (1963). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 489.

https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/489

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

COPY

April 2, 1963

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

For forty years, the Reader's Digest has been trying to save the public's reading time. And for almost as long, Harry Byrd has been trying to save the public's folding money.

Both the Digest and Senator Byrd are practitioners of the art of contraction, the one of excessive words, the other of excessive government spending. Both have been fighting a rear guard action for many years. Nevertheless, both have achieved the status of American institutions.

It was inevitable and appropriate that the two should come together at some point for an exchange of experiences in their separate but related functions in American life.

I cannot speak with authority on the techniques of word-economy, as practiced by the Digest. But I have more than a passing acquaintance with the techniques of fiscal economy as applied by the Senator from Virginia in the Senate of the United States.

It is easy enough to command attention by preaching fiscal economy in government. It is much more difficult to hold wide respect and affection while attempting to practice it. Yet, Harry Byrd has managed to achieve this synthesis and to maintain it through the years. What is his secret? His secret is that there is no secret. His public life is a faithful reflexion of his character and his beliefs.

COPY

Senator Byrd has invariably asserted his views with complete honesty and pursued them with dedicated persistence. And he has invariably recognized the right of every other American to do the same. Even as he believes firmly in his fiscal approach, he believes even more in the free processes by which we make the ultimate decisions in this nation.

In this Congress, as in all others in which I have served, such has been the hallmark of Senator Byrd. He has clashed many times with Presidents of both parties and with colleagues of both parties on fiscal policy. I have never known him to avoid these clashes; sometimes he has won; sometimes he has lost. But he has never failed to place his personal victories or defeats in the legislative process in the higher perspective of the national interest. That is why, beyond his dedication to government frugality, Senator Byrd evokes not only attention, but respect and affection from all his colleagues in the Senate. And that is why I am delighted to participate in this testimonial to his great service to the nation.