

1965

Statement of Senator Mansfield

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield

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1965 should be a particularly gratifying year for all Democrats. It has been one of continued economic prosperity based on progressive legislation designed to meet the needs of the people. Under the leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, and with responsible Democratic majorities in both Houses of Congress, major victories have been won in the nation's fight to bring social and economic justice to its citizens.

The wise application of sound economic principles has stimulated our unique system of free enterprise to new heights of production, raised the nation's job total above 75 million, and reduced our unemployment rate to its lowest point in 5 years. This has been done by timely tax reductions, and the elimination of most excise taxes.

Genuine concern for the needs of our senior citizens has prompted the Democratic Party to guide to passage what has been called the most significant piece of social legislation of our time. I refer to the program of hospital and related health care for our elderly, the so-called "medicare" bill, which guarantees adequate medical attention for every aged citizen who may need it.

At the other end of the age scale, the Democrats proposed and passed a monumental elementary and secondary education bill which not only upgrades the quality of schooling for all students, but puts special emphasis on aid to underprivileged children.

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Upon the initiative of the Democratic Party, but with bipartisan support, the Congress passed legislation guaranteeing to all American citizens, regardless of race or color, that most precious of all rights in a democracy -- the right to vote freely.

This list could go on, encompassing such items as water and air pollution control, passage of a presidential disability Constitutional Amendment, construction of health research facilities and expansion of manpower training programs.

The record of the Party in 1965 should be a source of pride and inspiration to all Democrats and to all Americans.