Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

The Great Silver Rush

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THE GREAT SILVER RUSH

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, with the indulgence of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for an additional 2 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senator from Montana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, the great run on the "cartwheel" has continued until the silver dollar has now all but vanished. The Treasury Department has joined the coin collectors and is clinging to a few million remaining pieces. But insofar as silver as a medium of exchange is concerned, the Treasury is now thrown back to the days of the assay offices of the old West. It is reduced to substituting silver dust for silver dollars.

And another sign of what has happened is a press report of another case of silver-dollar pilferage, this time right here in Washington, D.C. There is likely to be more of the same as scarcity gives to these coins an ever-increasing value.

Mr. President, I cannot believe that the Congress will stand by passively much longer and watch this travesty continue. Montana citizens from every walk of life have written me, urging that the government to redeem silver certificates on demand. Consider the labor and other costs involved in weighing out 77 grams of silver bullion and placing it in an envelope every time a holder of a silver certificate walks into the Treasury. That is what the Treasury will have to continue to do under existing law unless it has the funds to mint new silver dollars. There is such a thing as being wise and metal foolish. In the end, the denial of funds to mint the silver dollars may mean that the Government will pay far more in labor and other costs as it strives to meet its obligations by measuring out raw silver. If silver bullion is to replace the silver dollar, we may have to appropriate extra funds to pay for the process of weighing and enveloping the bullion. Further, in the light of the bill introduced by my distinguished colleague, the Junior Senator from Montana (Mr. METCALF), the Government may be losing out on an opportunity to reap a seigniorage from a new minting of silver dollars which might be more than repay the cost of the operation. Senator METCALF's bill would authorize the reduction of the silver content in the silver dollar from 900 to 800 grams. I do not know whether this is the precise reduction that is needed to keep these coins in circulation; I am sure that the members of the Banking and Currency Committee will be able to make that determination especially in view of the fact that today the hearings on the Metcalf bill were started, the witnesses being the distinguished Senators from Nevada (Mr. BIBLE and Mr. CANNON).

Senator METCALF's bill points the way to overcoming the primary objection that has been raised against the appropriation of funds to mint the 50 million new cartwheels. And, enacted into law, it would have the effect of diminishing the hoarding of silver dollars—one of the principal reasons why free circulation of silver dollars is imperiled today. Indeed, the great run on the Treasury's supply did not begin in earnest until there were reports that no more silver dollars would be minted.

Mr. President, I urge the Senate not to fiddle while the silver dollar melts—while the symbol of hard money, of poor man's money, disappears from our midst. We ought not to dismiss the cause of the silver dollar as unimportant. This is not a tempest in a teapot. There is a deep sentiment and understandable reaction of public dismay at the immi-
The Senate met at 11 o'clock a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. METCALF).

The Chaplain, Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Our Father, God: This sacred altar at which we bow at the very threshold of the day's deliberations is the witness of our weakness and the contrite confession that in Thee alone is the answer to our needs.

Our hearts grow faint in the dust of our foolish pride. The arm of flesh but fails us. It reaches far short of worthy goals. The cries of the crowd about us but bring us to confusion without and perplexity within.

Weary of fruitless quests and futile arguments that have not Thee in awe, we turn to Thee in the humility of prayer. Give us vision and wisdom, that by the decisions made in this Chamber Thy servants in the ministry of public affairs may have a part in making earth's crooked ways straight when, at last, social and industrial relations will lose their hard antagonisms and will become the sacred cooperation of comrades in human service.

In the Name which is above every name, we lift our prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

On request of Mr. MANSFIELD, and by unanimous consent, the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of Friday, March 20, 1964, was dispensed with.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States submitting a nomination was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Miller, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session, the ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting the nomination of Dorothy H. Jacobson, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

TRANSACTION OF ROUTINE BUSINESS

Mr. MANSFIELD, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be the additional 3 minutes. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MANSFIELD, Mr. President, breaking precedent, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for an additional 3 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana is recognized for 6 minutes.

THE SILVER DOLLAR—VANISHING AMERICANA

Mr. MANSFIELD, Mr. President, as a former Member of the House, I have the highest regard for its Members and its outstanding committees. Among them, none is held in higher esteem than the Appropriations Committee and its great chairman, CLARENCE CANNON, and the distinguished Virginian, the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Treasury, Mr. GARY.

I know that they and their colleagues have a profound respect for the living symbols of the Nation's traditions. I know, for example, that they have shared the national concern with the threatened extinction of the whooping crane and the bald eagle. They have done their part through appropriations to preserve these birds of America, as others in the past made the successful effort to save the vanishing buffalo. They have played their part in the preservation of the vanishing wilderness areas which link us with a pristine America.

I cannot believe that these distinguished House Members will look with a cold indifference on the vanishing silver dollar. Yet I am at a loss to place any other interpretation on the United Press International report of yesterday that the Appropriations Committee of the House had turned down a request of the Treasury Department for $650,000 to cover the cost of minting $50 million in these coins.

The silver dollar is, in its own way, as much a symbol of the frontier and of the populist tradition of the Nation as the buffalo was of the vast serenity of the empty plains. The silver dollar, moreover, is far more than a sentimentality. And it is more than an historic tradition. It is still a means of exchange in current usage and, may I say, in preferred usage in the State of Montana and, to some extent, throughout the rest of the West.

To be sure, there are arguments against the continued coinage of silver dollars. Coin collectors, for example,
tend to hoard them. But I can only say that the committee’s announcement of the intention of stopping additional mintage will only exacerbate this drain, to the detriment of the people who use them and to the loss of the Government. It will, in short, hasten the day when the “cartwheel” vanishes from American life.

Mr. President, that is the committee’s belief that the raw silver stocks already in the possession of the Government might best be used for silver coins of smaller denomination, for the dime or the “two bits” or the “four bits,” for which there is no paper substitute as there is for the silver dollar. But, Mr. President, that seems to me, with all due respect, to be somewhat specious line of reasoning. One might just as readily argue that since the Government has enormous stocks of paper, it ought to use some to print 10-cent or 25-cent or 50-cent paper bills.

Mr. President, I am aware that the continuously rising price of raw silver has just about reduced the seigniorage in silver dollar coins to the point of invisibility. For, indeed, soon become profitable to melt the silver dollars down into bullion, with the result that as soon as the metal is removed the coin will disappear, to reappear again as silver bowls or candlesticks. But, Mr. President, there is an answer to that. It is provided in the bill introduced yesterday by my able and distinguished colleague from Montana [Mr. METCALF], a bill now at the desk, and available for additional Senate sponsors until April 2. His bill is directly to the point, and I wish to commend him for the commonsense with which he would meet the argument against further coining of the dollar pieces. His bill would simply authorize the reduction of the silver content in the silver dollar from 900 to 800 grams. This would in no way reduce the ultimate usage of the coin where its usage is preferred. At the same time it would meet the most persuasive argument now raised against the additional mintage of silver dollars.

I would express the hope that the distinguished chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee, the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBERTSON], would give prompt consideration to this bill, as I know he will. At the same time, it would be my hope that the House Appropriations Committee, bearing in mind the possibility of favorable action on the Metcalf bill, would reconsider a provision which, if it stands, will sound the death knell for the silver dollar. I know that neither the able chairman of the committee, Mr. CANNON, nor the able chairman of the Subcommittee on the Treasury, Mr. GARY, take joy in doing violence either to a great tradition or to the current usage of many Americans in Montana and elsewhere in the West. The bill of the Senator from Montana [Mr. METCALF] points the way to the avoidance of an arbitrary injustice. At the same time, it should answer the concern for cost to the Government which is always and properly uppermost in the minds of the members of the Appropriations Committee in the House, for the reappearance of a margin of seigniorage with the reduction of the silver content of the silver dollar may well depray most of the cost of the minting. Indeed it may even have a margin of profit to the Government.

Mr. President, I hope the silver dollar does not follow the gold piece into oblivion. Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. President, will the Senator from Montana yield?

Mr. BARTLETT. I desire to associate myself with everything the able and distinguished majority leader has said today and heretofore on this subject. I believe it important that the silver dollar be maintained in circulation.

Reference was made yesterday to its use in Nevada. Mr. President, it is still widely and commonly in use in my own State of Alaska, and I am sure Alaskans would not want to see it disappear. It is a part of the American scene.

I had not known previously of the bill introduced by the junior Senator from Montana [Mr. METCALF]; but it is my intention to proceed directly, at the conclusion of my remarks, from where I now stand to the desk, to join in sponsoring the bill.

We should keep the silver dollar in circulation; it is a part of America. I congratulate and commend the senior Senator from Montana for supporting this good cause.

Mr. MANSFIELD. As a former miner, the distinguished Senator from Alaska knows whereof he speaks; and we welcome his support.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Mr. President, yesterday the distinguished majority leader, the Senator from Montana [Mr. MANSFIELD], complained of the shortage of silver dollars in Montana and in other Rocky Mountain States where from time immemorial the silver dollar has been the favorite type of money, and asked me, as chairman of the Senate committee that has never proposed legislation relating to issuance of money, and as chairman of the subcommittee that approved funds for the operation of the mint, to contest the demand for silver dollars. I promised to go into the matter as soon as other duties would permit. But while that colloquy was in progress, the House Appropriations Committee included in its report on funds for the Treasury Department a statement concerning silver dollars, in which it said that the demand for smaller coins is so urgent and of such necessity for the operation of vending machines and for merchants who need them to make change for customers, that priority would have to be given to the minting of minor coins, and that no funds for the minting of additional silver dollars would be included in the pending bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed in the Record the full text of that “silver dollar” report.

There being no objection, the report was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

Silver Dollars

The committee has heretofore urged the resumption of the minting of silver dollars at this time. The committee held extensive hearings on this subject, and the members of the committee considered statements by congressional delegations representing the silver States. This is not out of any desire to aid brokers or the minting of additional silver dollars. Many other factors are involved, and the committee carefully considered the evidence. The committee is fully aware of the importance attached to this issue by the silver States; however, in view of the facts developed during the investigations and hearings, the committee could support only one conclusion—that the best interests of all the people require that the total minting capacity of the two existing mints be devoted entirely to meeting the critical shortage in minor coins.

Among the major considerations which support the committee’s position are the following:

(1) The shortage in minor coins at the present time is the most critical in the history of the mint, and the demand is increasing at a rate that has outstripped the capacity of both existing mints, even at three-shift, 7-day operation. Every denomination of silver coin is now being realized. Should there be a silver substitute for minor coins such as there is for silver dollars.

The new mint to be constructed in Philadelphia, for which funds are allowed in this bill, will not be in actual production for several years.

(2) Additional silver dollars can be minted only at the expense of minting minor coins.

(3) At the present rate of use, the supply of free silver in the Treasury will be exhausted in 7 or 8 years. At the present time, the present stocks are being rationed and managed annually at a rate approximately equal to the entire world production. Considerable quantities of silver are used in defense activities and cannot be recovered.

(4) The amount of silver in a silver dollar, at current prices, is worth slightly more than a dollar, while the amount of silver in two half-dollars is worth about $22 cents. The committee feels that additional silver dollars should not be minted until the Congress enacts legislation concerning the silver content of the silver dollar. Should the price of silver continue to rise, even just a few cents per ounce, it would be profitable to melt additional silver dollars down.

The minting of additional silver dollars, at this time, would only serve to aggravate the present shortage.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Mr. President, yesterday there was also introduced in the Senate by the junior Senator from Montana [Mr. METCALF] a bill relating to silver dollars. At the present price of approximately $1.29 an ounce, the silver now contained in a silver dollar is worth approximately $1. Partly on the assumption that the price of silver will go so high that the silver now in a silver dollar will be worth substantially more than the dollar, and partly on the assumption that that is supported by the Morgan dollars of 1878 which are now being distributed by the Treasury Department, that it be worth more than a dollar, there has been a tremendous demand in recent days for silver dollars. One hoarder who claimed that he had $800,000 worth of Morgan dollars and was buying $11,000,000 more said it was worth one cannot lose, because the silver dollar would always be worth a dollar and could be worth substantially more. In my
opinion, his idea that it was "heads, I win and tails the Government loses" may not be as assured as he thinks. In the first place, the Treasury has an abundant supply of the Morgan dollars to meet the reasonable needs of collectors. In the second place, the time will come when the Government will be minting enough silver to meet the demand, and the silver in those dollars will not be worth more than a dollar. The bill with that in view, introduced today by Senator Mansfield from Montana (Mr. Metcalf) provides about a 10-percent cut in the amount of silver to be put in a new silver dollar. However, the president of the largest silver mining company in the Nation has for months been advocating that the value of the silver in the dollar and other coins be increased.

Banking and Appropriations for the Treasury. Mr. President, the Banking and Currency Committee not only on the silver content of the dollar but also on the silver content of all of the lesser silver coins. The Treasury has been studying this problem for a long time, it is genuinely concerned over the situation that is developing, both as to a shortage of smaller coins and the possibility of the Treasury sending silver dollars for less than their value in silver, and will no doubt be prepared within the near future to make specific recommendations to our committee. Incidentally, there are now in operation vending machines costing over $2 billion which are equipped with electrical devices that will automatically eliminate slugs that do not contain silver. That is just one phase of the problem which indicates not only the necessity for small coins but likewise the necessity to continue the use of silver in their minting.

Mr. President, the Banking and Currency Committee will make every effort to bring to the Senate for action a bill on this subject in time for congressional completion before the sine die adjournment of the 80th Congress.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. ROBERTSON. I yield.

Mr. CHURCH. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. ROBERTSON. I yield.

Mr. CHURCH. I commend the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency for his forthright statement in the last paragraph of his report. Idaho is the largest silver producing State in the country.

I also wish to associate himself with the remarks of the majority leader. There is a strong attachment in the West to the silver dollar. As a young boy, I recall how this State of Idaho asked the Treasury to open a new silver mine, and the only equipment needed being a 2-ton truck.

Mr. MANSFIELD. The Senator is correct.

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SENATE

of fiscal policy on March

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pore. Without objection, the request of

said, it ties into a drawdown on the gold

of prosperity, we cannot meet the

dollars has been taking place at the U.S.

must be explored very carefully.

All have seen the news story in the

steps of corrective action should have

taken much earlier, for anyone who has

seen and must have known what was

taking place.

The truth of the matter is simply this:

Coin collectors have been aware for many

months that old Morgan dollars were

being dispensed from the Treasury.

Some of these valuable coins went out

many months ago and these collec­
tors were soon aware. Now the actual run

is on and there will be no silver dollars in

the Treasury within a week if the

Secretary of the Treasury does not take

action. I think that his Department

should make an immediate investigation

of this entire matter.

Last May, when hearings were held on

the repeal of the Silver Purchase Act, I

questioned the testimony given by Secre­
	ry Dillon and his advisers. I stated

I did not believe that silver stocks

would last 12 to 15 years as testimony

given in the record. I predicted the

period would be much less and that our

silver should be held to protect our coin­

gage and our economic security. On Jun­

uary 14, 1964, the Treasury held 69,688,192

silver dollars to hoarders and coin

collectors. Some of these valuable coins went out

from Montana [Mr. METCALF], not that

Mr. President, I ask unanimous con­

sent that I may join as a cosponsor of

the bill introduced by the Junior Senator

from Montana (Mr. METCALF), not that

I am convinced this is the answer to the

problem at this time, but at least it

would give us an opportunity to place

the problem before a proper committee

and explore the problem further, as we

attempted to do at the time we pointed

out some of the dangers during consider­

ation of the repeal of the Silver Pur­

chase Act.

Those of us who come from the West

take great pride in the fact that the

silver dollar is a sound and honorable

metal. I do not believe there is an easy

answer. I do not believe there is an easy

answer. What has been permitted to go on at the

Treasury the past week is, in my

opinion, a disgraceful situation, and that

is to permit speculators to cart off silver

dollars for the sole purpose of specu­

lating or to check their numismatic value

in order that profit may be made at the

expense of the Western States, which

have long cherished hard money and

used it as a medium of exchange.

All have seen the news story in the

morning paper, and the only consolation

to me, and I must state it is a very small

one, is that the Treasury Department
	took action yesterday to set a maximum

of 50,000 silver dollars to a customer and

closed the servicing windows to 2 hours

day and a part of a day. This provision should have been

taken much earlier, for anyone who has

watched this situation closely could have

been aware for many months that old Morgan dollars were

being dispensed from the Treasury.

The mere fact that the price of silver

has finally pierced the magic 1.2929 point

is of little significance as an indication for

the amount is much too small at 1.3 to

can encourage anyone to melt silver dollars down to gain a fraction of a cent in the

process. Actually, today's price would

not permit a profit for the effort. In

addition, why should one even want to

do this when they can still go to the

Treasury and call for silver bullion sim­

ply by exchanging silver certificates?

Now when silver dollars disappear, one

will not be able to secure a silver dollar

for his silver certificate and as of Janu­

ary 31, 1964, there were $1,970,651,736

outstanding silver certificates of which

$1,721,940,308 were in circulation, the

remainder being held by the Federal

Reserve banks and agents.

Now if we are to carry this matter fur­

ther, all we have to do to get rid of all of

our silver is to permit the complete

withdrawal of bullion. And at this point,

let me state that six firms in this Nation

have withdrawn by redemption of silver

certificates through February 20, 1964,

sums in amounts varying from $1,772,925

to $9,002,351. Eight other firms, includ­
ging the small amount of $15,518 drawn

by Nevada for minting purposes, brought the total figure to $21,264,993 in withdrawal of silver bullion.

An investigation and complete study of

the silver policy with respect to silver

is needed at once and anyone familiar

with these figures surely will agree, un­

less the purpose is to demonetize and use

other metals for coinage purposes and let

the speculators clean house on Treas­

ury stocks of silver.

Should the Congress demonetize the

content of our coins, how will this policy

affect the silver certificate which is out­

standing in large amounts? Will we

then permit a stepped-up run on our

silver bullion? It seems to me just a

little impractical to have silver dollars

worth one amount and a silver certifi­
cate worth a dollar's worth of silver

bullion.

Nevertheless, I have today joined with

Senator METCALF on S. 2671, to use this

bill as a vehicle for a full Senate investi­
gation of the current silver shortage.

Mr. President, all of the discussion on the silver dollar is inter­

esting, but I am somewhat disturbed

by the statement made by the Senator

from Montana [Mr. MANSFIELD], who

said that robbers recently had taken sil­

der dollars. I wonder if they are better

than greenbacks.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I think they al­

most have been. The robbers at White

Sulphur Springs took in excess of $20,000 in silver dollars.
Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I have been interested in the debate about financial stability, the flight of the dollar, and the outflow of gold.

The distinguished Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBERTSON) is chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, and is also chairman of the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Treasury and Post Office Appropriations.

I wish some serious consideration could be given to the inflow of silver. Montana is a silver-dollar-using State. There is a great scarcity of silver dollars in Montana; and we would like to see something done, by means of which an appropriation would be made, so that the Director of the Mint could mint some more silver dollars. As I understand it, paper money is turned in on the average of about every 3 months because it wears out and becomes useless. A silver dollar lasts for decades. It is something solid, something one can throw on the counter—or perhaps on the bar.

Mr. President, a man knows he has something in his pocket when he has a silver dollar there.

Furthermore, the Government does not lose any money on the minting of silver dollars; in fact, I believe that, under seigniorage, the Government makes a little money, a reasonably good profit. I understand that at the present time the mint is dipping into the last silver dollars it has, and is even releasing those under date of 1850. I also understand that those silver dollars have a value in excess of $1. Insofar as collectors are concerned. At the start of 1963, there were 94 million silver dollars in the Treasury; today there are only 28.5 million silver dollars remaining and they are going fast.

There is a great deficiency of silver dollars in the State of Montana. Montana, along with Nevada, is the only silver-dollar-using State, in which we are losing the silver dollar. As Mr. ROBERTSON pointed out, in 1880, the value of a silver dollar was $1.60; in the valley of Montana, it is now $1.29; and in Montana, it is $1.25. Montana is one of the areas where the silver dollars are needed most.

I show to my colleagues a Chinese penny which I obtained in Hong Kong. It is made of copper. The inscription on the penny has long since worn off, but I still keep the penny. I got it when I visited Hong Kong, where the people have an average income of only $90 a year. This is only a penny, but a penny is important to them. I have kept it to remind me of the fact that the many people who are under our form of government and our free enterprise system would be very glad to get that penny. So I carry it around.

In reference to the silver situation, I should like to point out that there has been such a demand for the memorial Kennedy coins that they are being offered for $2.50 to $3 each when the coins have a value of only 50 cents.

Mr. ROBERTSON. That is true.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I hope that an investigation of that subject will be undertaken.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Some people believe that a silver dollar will be worth more than $1.29 for the value of the silver in the coin. When the value rises above $1.29 an ounce, which is the price we have now fixed, the silver in a silver dollar will be worth more than a dollar. So collectors are buying up the coins and holding them, speculating that prices will be inflated.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I do not intend to be diverted from my main theme. I am not being facetious about the silver dollar. It is solid and durable. It is something that we know represents money, in contrast to paper. I would most certainly hope that to supply the deficiency which we are feeling in my State, which along with Nevada, I repeat, is the only silver-dollar-using State in the Nation, and in which we desire to continue to use silver in preference to paper. I would hope that the distinguished Senator from Virginia, in his dual capacity as a chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency would go into the investigation immediately.

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Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. STENNIS. I yield.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I would hope that in his dual capacity as a chairman of that particular subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations and as chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, the Senator from Virginia would undertake an investigation into the subject of the accumulation or the taking of orders before the Kennedy silver half-dollars are made available. I understand, also, that they are being offered, when they become available, for $2.50 to $3 each when the coins have a value of only 50 cents.

Mr. ROBERTSON. That is true.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I hope that an investigation of that subject will be undertaken.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Some people believe that a silver dollar will be worth more than $1.29 for the value of the silver in the coin. When the value rises above $1.29 an ounce, which is the price we have now fixed, the silver in a silver dollar will be worth more than a dollar. So collectors are buying up the coins and holding them, speculating that prices will be inflated.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I do not intend to be diverted from my main theme. I am not being facetious about the silver dollar. It is solid and durable. It is something that we know represents money, in contrast to paper. I would most certainly hope that to supply the deficiency which we are feeling in my State, which along with Nevada, I repeat, is the only silver-dollar-using State in the Nation, and in which we desire to continue to use silver in preference to paper. I would hope that the distinguished Senator from Virginia, in his dual capacity as a chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency would go into the investigation immediately.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I do not intend to be diverted from my main theme. I am not being facetious about the silver dollar. It is solid and durable. It is something that we know represents money, in contrast to paper. I would most certainly hope that to supply the deficiency which we are feeling in my State, which along with Nevada, I repeat, is the only silver-dollar-using State in the Nation, and in which we desire to continue to use silver in preference to paper.
consideration, not only so far as funds for the minting of silver dollars are concerned, but also in the matter of investigating the exorbitant prices now being suggested for the Kennedy half dollar.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may yield to the Senator from Ohio under the same conditions previously stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUSCHE. The Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBERTSON] and the Senator from Iowa [Mr. MILLER] have mentioned that if we are to cope with the problem of fleeing gold, we had better do something domestically. The record will show that dollars spent by foreign visitors coming to the United States amount to between $1,200 million and $1,400 million a year less than the dollars spent by American tourists in foreign countries. In other words, we suffer an imbalance adverse to us in the amount of about $1,300 million a year, which is spent by tourists from our country going around the world.

Our Department of Commerce is carrying on an intensive campaign to urge foreigners to visit our country. In my judgment, a far more effective service could be rendered if the Department of Commerce began to appeal vigorously to the people of the United States that in this hour of peril, with respect to the gold reserves, they could render a patriotic service to our country by visiting the scenic and historic sites within our boundaries rather than visiting those of foreign nations. They can visit the Rockies, the Appalachians, the Great Lakes and other places, and they will behold grandeur exceeding that of the Alps. They will find historic sites within our Nation, inspirational and enriching to the mind. My appeal would be that probably the Congress ought to do something to encourage people to visit areas of the United States and abstain, for the time being, while our gold reserve problem is so serious, from going on tourist expeditions to foreign nations.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield at that point?

Mr. STENNIS. I yield.

Mr. ROBERTSON. The Senator has made a good point. I wish to mention for the benefit of our distinguished majority leader that the first national park in the entire world was established in Montana. That is the Yellowstone National Park.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. STENNIS. I yield, under the same conditions.

Mr. MANSFIELD. In addition to Yellowstone Park and Glacier National Park, we have the Custer Battlefield Monument. We have the Rockies and ranges, L.A. We have high plains, at the average elevation of 3,000 feet. Fewer than 700,000 people live in 148,000 square miles. If people wish to go somewhere and see something, I suggest that they come to Montana, and we will even give them some silver dollars, if we are able to.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Visitors will not make a mistake if they come to Ohio.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I point out also that the headwaters of the Missouri River and the Columbia River are in Montana.

TO REDEFINE THE SILVER CONTENT IN SILVER COINS

Mr. METCALF. Mr. President, inasmuch as the House Appropriations Committee today recommended against further coinage of silver dollars and suggested that study be given to melting down the existing supply, I, on behalf of myself and my colleague, the senior Senator from Montana [Mr. MANSFIELD], introduce the following bill:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, To amend section 321 of title 31, U.S.C., by changing "nine" to "eight" and "one" to "two" to read as follows:

The standard for silver coins of the United States shall be such that of one thousand parts by weight eight hundred shall be of pure metal and two hundred of alloy. The alloy of the silver coins shall be of copper.

The intrinsic value of the silver in the dollars is such that it is almost profitable for silversmiths to melt them down for metallic uses. Passage of my bill will make it possible for the Federal Government to make a profit from the coinage of silver dollars, and to permit the continued use of silver dollars as a medium of exchange in Montana and other Western States where they are the traditional and the accepted monetary unit.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be held at the desk through Friday, March 27, for additional cosponsors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALTERS in the chair). The bill will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the bill will be taken from the desk, as requested by the Senator from Montana.

The bill (S. 2671) to redefine the silver content in silver coins, introduced by Mr. METCALF (for himself and Mr. MANSFIELD), was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.
February 27, 1964

Hon. J. Vaughn Gary, Chairman
Subcommittee on Treasury and
Post Office Appropriations
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The House Committee on Appropriations has before it a request from the Department of the Treasury for authority to mint an additional 150 million silver dollars. It is my understanding that a portion of the public hearings on this item have been concluded.

The use of the silver dollar as a medium of exchange in U. S. Currency is very prominent in the western states, particularly in my State of Montana and Nevada. Recent developments have given some cause for alarm about the silver dollar disappearing from the American scene. My colleague, Senator Lee Metcalf and I wish to stress the urgency in this matter. We ask that favorable consideration be given to the Treasury Department's request. The silver dollar is a part of our heritage, and its future use should be guaranteed.

There is an adequate supply of silver. Any difference in the cost of printing dollar bills and minting silver dollars can be set off by the extended life of the metallic dollar. Affirmative action by the Congress would dissuade coin collectors and speculators thus relieving any real or artificial shortage.

The mining industry, the people of the west, and the advocate of the silver dollar urge that your subcommittee act favorably on the Treasury Department's request. It is a matter of personal interest to me, an issue which I plan to explore at some length here in the Senate.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/

MIKE MANSFIELD

cc: Hon. Clarence Cannon, Chairman,
    House Committee on Appropriations
    Members of Subcommittee on Treasury
    and Post Office Appropriations