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Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Annual Editorial Conference of the Lee Newspapers" (1964). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 584.

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANLEY (D., MONTANA)

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at the

Annual Editorial Conference of the Lee Newspapers

Tuesday, July 7, 1964

Helena, Montana

The United States today faces a host of major public issues both at home and abroad which I should like to summarize briefly.

At home we face the continuing task of giving meaning to the Constitution's promise of equal opportunity for all Americans. The Congress has passed what I believe is a workable civil rights bill-- the product of a common effort of Republicans and Democrats. But it is just the beginning. The job must be finished in the hearts and minds of individual Americans.

We face the continuing need to raise the caliber and capacity of our educational facilities throughout the nation until they are adequate to insure that every American can be educated in excellence and to the limit of his capacities. Educated individuals are a resource of immense importance to the stability and progress of the nation; we cannot afford to neglect the educative potential of any of our children. In the last four years Congress had made a great contribution to the capabilities of all of the States in education, but much remains still to be done in many parts of the nation.

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The financing of the health care of older citizens is another difficulty which is generally recognized throughout the nation but with which we have not yet dealt adequately either through private, local, state or any other channel. It goes against the grain to find untold numbers of old folks unable to afford the ever-rising costs of adequate hospitalization and nursing care. And it will continue to rasp the national conscience until this need is met.

Mental illness and retardation remains as another aspect of national well-being which this country has just begun to attack on a massive scale. It is now the nation's number one health problem. New drugs and techniques make it possible, if proper care is provided, for many patients who have heretofore been confined in institutions to live active and useful lives in their own communities, to join the ranks of the self-supporting instead of the supported. In this last session, Congress passed pioneering legislation which, within the next decade, promises to bring about a decline of fifty percent in the number of full-time patients in the mental hospitals.

Because of the rapid growth of population, the issue of conserving the great American heritage of natural resources has taken on added significance. This Congress has passed laws designed both to provide for the recreational needs of the present and the future, and to attack the serious and growing problems of air and water pollution.

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Yet these problems will be with us for a long time to come. Indeed, I am reminded of them every time I drive along the Potomac River in the summertime on my way home from the Capitol--and in a very pungent fashion.

We also face the profound challenge of automation, which is steadily reducing the number of unskilled and semi-skilled jobs in our economy while radically increasing our productive capacity both in industry and agriculture. This development is bringing about far-reaching changes in the forms and emphases of American life. It will be our job for the next several decades to insure that these changes act to raise the quality of life for all the people of the nation and to see to it that Americans do not become so many ciphers in an impersonal computer society.

Closely related to automation is the problem of unemployment which results from an under-utilization of our productive capacity. Unemployment has been a blemish on the glittering state of the nation's economy for more than a decade. Some months ago in an effort to solve this problem Congress passed an \$11.3 billion tax cut. It has already substantially stimulated consumption, investment and economic growth, and in so doing contributed to the creation of new jobs. There is every indication, moreover, that these good effects will continue without inflation. If such is the case, there may very well be consideration of another tax cut in the not too distant future.

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Finally on the domestic scene, we face the question of poverty in the United States. Poverty has been an accepted way of life for most men in most parts of the world since the beginnings of recorded history. But it is now becoming a curable disease in America by virtue of our tremendous productive capacity, our growing understanding of the nature of poverty and of the means for dealing with it. For the first time a nation has the capacity to eliminate much of the effects of this ancient curse. Finding the proper tools for this job and applying them will be one of the major concerns of government--federal, state and local--during the next decade.

In foreign affairs, the United States also faces both challenges and opportunities. Thomas Paine once said, "The cause of America is the cause of all mankind." Our cause today is a world in which all men may realistically aspire to a life of material adequacy, of human decency and freedom, and of stable peace. We cannot remake the world in our image, and I know of no desire on the part of responsible people in government to do so. But we are not an island unto ourselves. And it is in keeping neither with our long-range national interests nor our finest ideals to evade our current responsibilities in the world.

Whether in Cuba, Berlin, or in Southeast Asia, in Latin America or in the United Nations, this nation is working now, as it has been under administrations of other Presidents, Republican and Democratic,

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for a just and honorable peace and for freedom. The keys to this policy have been and will continue to be an effective military strength controlled by prudent restraint, and the courage and wit to face our adversaries, not only on the battlefield, but across the conference table as well.

In this connection, I can say that as a result of the review and reconstruction of our military forces started almost four years ago, our military strength today is unequalled by any other country in the world. Our determination to defend ourselves was demonstrated in the Cuban missile crisis. Our prudence and restraint was demonstrated when President Kennedy refused to be panicked into a massive invasion of Cuba or in the precipitation of a nuclear war. And it was demonstrated again when President Johnson refused to send the Marines into Cuba to turn on the water at Guantanamo.

In the last four years we have worked patiently to reduce the dangers of nuclear war, to find the areas of agreement and honorable peace and to take advantage of the disharmony which has appeared among the Communist countries in recent years. The wheat sale, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, support of the United Nations in Cyprus and the Middle East, and the trade agreement with Rumania which is now pending, Mr. Kennedy's present trip to Poland, are the kinds of actions which tend toward the long-range goal of a safer, more peaceful world. What we seek are a series of initiatives, each of which may be described as

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John F. Kennedy described the Test Ban Treaty, "It is a shaft of light cut into the darkness. . . a step toward reduced world tension, . . . a step toward peace, a step toward reason, a step away from war." But here, as in domestic affairs, we have only made a beginning. Continued progress depends, as in the past, on what happens elsewhere as well as on our own determined efforts to seek a just and honorable peace.