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Congressional re: President's Message on Federal Pay Increases

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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President's Message on Federal
Pay Increases

Mr. MANSFIELD. I listened with interest to the statement of the distinguished senior Senator from Kansas concerning the proposed pay raise for military and civilian personnel. I am delighted that a bill will be coming to us soon, but I would hope that more stress will be placed on the pay raise for the military, because it is my belief that the discrepancy between pay raises allowed by the Government for civilian and military personnel shows the military pay lagging far behind.

There is a sizable investment in the training of men who enter the Armed Forces. In my opinion, a sizable pay increase would be a gesture and a factor in achieving greater economy, because it would mean that more men would remain in the Armed Services. This in turn would mean that the Government would spend less money to train pilots, technicians, and specialists of various kinds.

I would most certainly hope that proper regard would be given to the military, so that those people would remain in service and the Government would be able to save money through the retention of their technical skills, thereby making the effective support of the country that much stronger.

Mr. CARLSON. I deeply appreciate the views of the distinguished majority leader with respect to military pay. I fully agree with him.

The 3-percent increase for classified Federal workers is based upon studies by the Bureau of Labor Standards. Based on those studies, I do not believe the pay raise proposed for the Federal classified workers is excessive. But as to the military pay, I thoroughly agree with the Senator from Montana.

It would be most unfortunate if the effective date of the military pay increase were deferred until 1966. I hope that it will be made effective on July 1, 1965, for Federal classified workers and military personnel.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I feel certain that the Senator from Kansas, who is the ranking minority member of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, will see to it that that factor is given every consideration.
