10-12-1965

Statement by Mike Mansfield on the Vote for Cloture

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/606

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 by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE 26291

October 18, 1965

Agency would acquire valid title to this land, which the language of section 3 would permit the Agency then to sell to the District of Columbia. The authorized price of $22,896 represents the amount paid by the Agency to the roadways for their rights and interests therein.

The Subcommittee on Business and Commerce of the Committee on Appropriations, on August 19, 1965, received testimony from the Redevelopment Land Agency and the Assistant Engineering Commissioner for the District of Columbia. There was no opposition expressed to the resolution. The committee is informed that the District of Columbia Commissioners, the Department of Justice, and the Bureau of the Budget have concurred in approval of this proposed legislation. Accordingly, your committee recommends that this resolution do pass.

DOCUMENTATION OF THE VESSEL "LITTLE NANCY"

The bill (H.R. 3217) to permit the vessel "Little Nancy" to be documented for use in the coastwise trade was announced as next in order.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I withdraw the call of the calendar.

ANTIDRAFT MOVEMENT DISGRACEFUL AND DANGEROUS

Mr. KUCHEL. Mr. President, every decent American will applaud today's announcement by the Department of Justice that a national investigation of groups behind the antidraft movement is being made. The Department informed me this morning that its investigation will include those contemptible groups agitating in California. Well it should. Over the weekend in Berkeley, a dirty little sheet has been distributed which is entitled "Brief Notes on the Ways and Means of Beasting and Defacing the Draft." In recent days people have thrown themselves on railroad tracks in San Francisco in an attempt to prevent passage of troop trains and railroad cars carrying military supplies to the docks for transshipment to southeast Asia. Contemptible youth, who have publicly torn up their draft cards in great glee, in my State, the head of the California Democratic Party in my State, his honor, has asked this person to resign, though he has never been defended by the State president of the Young Democrats who notes that that organization has "gone on record advocating a shift in our Vietnam policy."

Attorney General Katzenbach has stated "there are some Community organizations involved" in this left-wing movement. Its ranks are replete with so-called conscientious objectors, beatniks, and those who in varying degrees oppose the southeast Asian policy of our Government.

Consequently, I commend to the attention of the Senate the right of constitutional free speech and of the constitutional right of any citizen to petition his Government, but what I have described here is far beyond the pale of reasonable or rational con-

titutional discussion or petition. Indeed, what has gone on sows the seeds of treason.

This is an American problem and both our American political parties share a feeling of revulsion and a demand that the laws of this Nation, including the Selective Service Act, be respected and enforced.

The radical left in all its facets, gleefully infiltrated by Communists, undercuts respect and faith in our American Government. What a shocking paradox it is that the radical right, and all its self-styled superpatriotic leaders, simultaneously alleges that our American Government is 60 to 80 percent dominated by Communists, and those are a menace to this land. Thank God, they represent a very small percentage of the fine, decent, patriotic citizens of our country. Recently in Oakland, Calif., a group was formed under the name of Responsible Citizens Aroused. They held a rally over the weekend to counteract the activities of the so-called Vietnam Committee. I sent a telegram to them. I ask consent to send a copy of this telegram to that group of fellow citizens and its statement on this general subject issued on Constitution Day be printed at this point in the Record.

There being no objection, the telegram and statement were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

ALEXANDER CRENSHAW
Donner Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

Regret that Senate schedule prevents me from joining you and members of Responsible Citizens Aroused. They held a rally over the weekend in Berkeley, Calif., a group was formed under the name of Responsible Citizens Aroused. They held a rally over the weekend to counteract the activities of the so-called Vietnam Committee. I sent a telegram to them. I ask consent to send a copy of this telegram to that group of fellow citizens and its statement on this general subject issued on Constitution Day be printed at this point in the Record.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I yield to my able friend, the majority leader.

RCA believes in, trusts, and has faith in the discretion, dignity, and virtue of all American people. RCA is a group of young, bay area people who intend to unite vocal support for our country and its principles and display to the community, the United States as a whole, and the world, that the bay area is populated by responsible Americans. RCA asks for other like-minded citizens to join this effort.

Let us make our position clear: We are not objecting to picketing and peaceful demonstrations. As a matter of fact, picketing is an old tradition in America. We shun war and desire a just peace. It is the U.S. leaders who are requesting negotiations. You hear no requests for negotiations from Peiping. We do not, however, subscribe to a policy of peace at the price of the freedom of the South Vietnamese.

The Vietnam Day Committee does not represent the feelings of Americans. Its actions have inflamed the integrity of the American people. Its members have called the President of our country a "traitor" and a "dictator." They called the former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam a "murderer" and demanded he "stand trial" for his actions before five of their members. They have given the name of bay area cities and institutions a bad name.

We believe that the bay area community has been insulted long enough. It is not only patriotic, responsible citizens who are standing up in active support of their country and in opposition to the Vietnam Day Committee.

1. We call for pledges to attend a patriotic program on October 16 at a location to be announced, while the Vietnam Day Committee is "attacking" the Oakland Army Terminal.

2. RCA calls for the public, Republicans and Democrats alike, to write their Representatives and Senators expressing support of our policies.

3. RCA calls for contributions to provide advertising for the program and transportation for the speakers.

Contact: Responsible Citizens Aroused, 5555 College Avenue, Oakland, Calif., 655-8891.

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

Mr. KUCHEL. I yield to my able friend, the majority leader.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I have noted with growing concern the demonstrations which have been taking place throughout the country.

I believe in the right of assembly. I believe in the right of free speech. I believe in the right of petition. But I also believe in the right of the Government and the law whether I personally agree with it or not.

I have been shocked at pictures showing some of the demonstrators using cigarette lighters to burn their draft cards. That is against the law. Within the past week, Congressmen have made it against the law. I have been shocked to read that there are certain schools of thought—certain groups, that is—which are forcing young folks how to avoid the draft; how, through the use of drugs, to place themselves in a condition that the recruiting station is not able to find them eligible; how some of them have faked mental illness; how some of them have posed as homosexuals, and how some of them have used obvious means to bring about a situation.
which I think is a discredit and a disgrace to this country in which we live.

To this day in our country, Mr. President, I would hope that those who carry on these demonstrations would recognize that they are the pride of this country, they have a responsibility, and that they should act with maturity. What is happening, in effect, is to undermine what the President of the United States is trying to do, as he has said time and time again, to bring about a negotiated settlement of the situation in Vietnam. What these people have done is furnish fodder to Hanoi, to Peking, and to the Vietcong. What they have done has been a disservice to this country.

There are many of us who have questions on our minds about Vietnam. Not the least among them is the President himself, who has tried through every possible channel, I believe he could think of to bring this matter to an honorable conclusion.

What is happening on the part of demonstrators, who show a sense of utter irresponsibility and lack of respect, who openly flout obeying the law, is to place this country in a position which is undermining a republic of stature and dignity.

Mr. KUCHEL. Mr. President, with all due respect, I swell with great pride in listening to a great American, Mr. Mansfield, a great leader of his political party, in the splendid comments he has just made.

The vicious, venomous, and vile leaders of this infamous movement who attempt to influence young people, this country to evade the draft by fraud and chicanery is an ugly page in the history of the Nation.

Let the whole world clearly understand that the overwhelming majority of the people of the United States, now almost 200 million strong, stand for law and order, stand for orderly processes, and support the foreign policy of the Government of the United States. When our country faces danger, particularly as my able friend the Senator from Montana has just indicated, when the Chief Executive of this country is confronted with an honorable commitment to the free people of South Vietnam.

I am exceedingly proud that the Senator from Montana has commented as he has.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, will the Senator from California yield?

Mr. KUCHEL. I yield.

Mr. SIMPSON. I compliment my colleague, the Senator from California, as well as the great majority leader, the Senator from Montana (Mr. Mansfield), and associate myself with them in their remarks today.

I have been one of those who supported the President of the United States from scratch on the issue of Vietnam. Unfortunately, this issue is not being properly handled as it should be, this is true not only in the slums of our cities, where people are easily worked on, but also in our universities and colleges.

Thank God for the indication that the great majority of the students of America in its colleges and universities are seeking to do the right thing and are beginning to make themselves heard on this very matter.

It is high time that the Senate took under consideration as a major part of its business, the fact the Senator from California has just made.

I am only one Senator, but I am sure the Senator from California, will agree with me that the Senate should pass a bill to punish, by fine or imprisonment, those who would seek to delay military personnel or military material. Such a bill is now pending in committee. I believe that before Congress adjourns it should make sure that such a bill is enacted into law. There is so much to be said for its enactment, and so much more to be taken into consideration, that we should make it a major item of our business immediately, to punish those who would do a disservice to our land, to our military forces, and to all those who seek so assiduously to bring about a cessation of hostilities in Vietnam.

I thank the Senator from California for yielding to me.

Mr. KUCHEL. I thank my able colleague, the Senator from Wyoming, very much. I associate myself with his remarks with legislation.

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

Mr. KUCHEL. I yield.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Mr. President, mention has been made concerning the pending bill, which would make it a crime for any person willfully, intentionally, and physically to interfere with the movement of troops, military equipment, or property. That bill was introduced by me. The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Sarbanes) is one of its cosponsors. I invite the Senator from California to become one at this time.

Mr. KUCHEL. I shall be very glad to be a cosponsor. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my name be added as a cosponsor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUSCHE. The present occupant of the chair, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Russell), is also a cosponsor.

However, I wish to say to the representatives of the Departments of Defense and Justice that we understand why they have not filed an appraisal of the bill with the Committee on the Judiciary.

When I first presented the bill, I made a study—through the experts—to determine whether there was any statute now on the books making it a crime to interfere with the movement of troops. The investigation disclosed that there was not.

For 1 month I have been in contact with both the Departments of Justice and Defense, begging them to file a report; but no report has yet been filed.

The Committee on the Judiciary is prepared to file its report. It wishes to send the bill to the floor of the Senate. It is waiting for the appraisal of the merits of the two Departments. I just do not understand the reason for the delay.

This morning, Mr. Katzenbach stated that the Department of Justice would investigate what happened throughout the North Vietnamese made demonstrations.