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Copper Strike

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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No. 33

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 1968, at 12 o'clock noon.

Senate

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1968

THE COPPER STRIKE

The Senate met at 12 o'clock meridian, and was called to order by the President pro tempore.

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

Eternal Spirit, amid the tensions of these days we seek in Thy presence a saving experience of inner quiet and certainty.

We thank Thee that this is our America, and that amid all the contentions and convulsions of these days, still we can say with utter confidence, "God lives and the Government at Washington still stands," and with Thy help will continue to stand as the beacon light of truth in these days so fraught with destiny.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of Friday, March 1, 1968, be dispensed with.

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

LIMITATION ON STATEMENTS DURING TRANSACTION OF ROUTINE MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that statements in relation to the transaction of routine morning business be limited to 3 minutes.

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

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I wish to express my great pleasure and gratitude that President Johnson announced on yesterday that he was summoning all parties in the 231-day copper strike to an emergency conference at the White House on Monday.

I am also glad that the President made it quite plain in his request to the parties that he expected them not only to come—and I am sure they will accept his invitation—but also to work on an around-the-clock basis, to the end that a settlement of this most serious economic disruption in the five Western States primarily affected will be brought to a successful conclusion.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. President, I wish to concur with the distinguished majority leader that this is a breakthrough with respect to this strike. The President, with all good will, has indicated that he wants these people to come in and bargain collectively on words that Senator MANSFIELD and I used in our telegrams, that those words are "without preconditions," without any of the other concessions, to come in and lay all these negotiable things on the table.

If the companies will come in and declare that they will give economic benefits and a substantial wage increase and the unions will come in and withdraw some of the bargaining provisions they have laid down, I believe that, with the prestige of the President on the line, we will settle this unfortunate long drawn out strike. We will settle it for the benefit of the people involved, we will settle for industry, and we will settle it for the benefit of America.