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Appearance on Issues and Answers

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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SENATE MANSFIELD’S APPEARANCE ON “ISSUES AND ANSWERS” TV PROGRAM

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the transcript of the broadcast, Senator Mansfield, welcome to “Issues and Answers.”

As the new session of Congress is about to open, what, in your view, are the prospects that it will bog down in election-year politics, perhaps over a battle on whether there should or should not be a tax increase? Mr. MANSFIELD. Well, there is always that possibility, but I think that the politics attributable to the Congress has always been over-emphasized. There is a little politics every year. There may be a little more this year, but I don’t think it will intervene with the normal processes to any extent.

Mr. SCALI. Senator Mansfield, what about the tax increase? Do you think Congress will go along?

Mr. MANSFIELD. Senator. That is a matter that normally goes to the House first. I am hopeful that the Congress will go along because I think that the stability of the dollar is of immediate interest and I certainly would rather have a tax increase than to pay more than a tax increase in inflated prices.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Senator, you have given some indication in the past that you would like to see a tax boost higher than ten per cent. Do you think ten per cent will be enough?

Mr. MANSFIELD. Senator. I should think the President would ask for what he needed and I think, from all I can gather, ten per cent would be enough, but I think it is far better, as I said before, to pay taxes and keep the dollar sound, than to not pay taxes and pay the cost and then some in inflated prices.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Well, isn’t there a likelihood that the Administration is going to have to compromise that ten per cent figure or it will be compromised in Congress in order to pass any tax increase at all?

Mr. MANSFIELD. Senator. Well, all that the President, Mr. Johnson, can do is propose. It will be up to Mr. Mills and the Congress to dispose.

Mr. SCALI. Do you think the Republicans may make a party issue of the tax fight?

Mr. MANSFIELD. No, I don’t think so because they recognize the need, as well as does the Administration, and I am quite sure that this will be found in the ranks doing what is good for the country.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Well, you don’t think there is a strong temptation for those 187 Republicans in the House to play politics with the tax boost? There certainly seems to be considerable sentiment over there to let the Administration stew in inflation through the election year.

Senator MANSFIELD. Yes, but the Administration won’t admit it. If it have an idea that there are problems, inflation, the American people will, and I think that the 187 will rise above politics and adhere to the principle.

Mr. SCALI. Would you say the President is going to have to take more vigorous steps to cut government spending in order to get his tax increase?

Senator MANSFIELD. I would point out the President took the first step himself last year when he was the one who advocated to the Congress and asked the Appropriations Committee in the Senate to put in a two per cent cut in personnel, Civil Service personnel, and a ten per cent cut across the board, so I think the President has been in the forefront in trying to bring about cuts wherever possible.

Mr. CLARK. What if you don’t get a tax increase to control inflation? Do you think the administration would take some serious thought to price and wage controls?

Senator MANSFIELD. Well, I have advocated that for some months I have been guessing, if conditions get to be bad enough, they would have to take steps, like their opposition to wage and price controls.

Senator SCALI. Is the President considering such controls now from what you can tell, Senator?

Senator MANSFIELD. No, not that I know of.

Mr. CLARK. The President has given very strong indications to some members of Congress that he is going to take some sort of a special tax on tourists and on travel abroad by Americans. How does this idea strike you, Senator?

Senator MANSFIELD. I think we will have to go very carefully on that one. I am not at all certain that that would bring what the Administration would have in mind, nor do I think it would be a good tax because it would hit the students and teachers and others who have made plans, looked forward to going overseas on study missions, vacations and the like, and this is a question we will have to handle with the greatest of discretion.

Mr. CLARK. Do you think as of today it would be doubtful that Congress would pass a tourist tax?

Senator MANSFIELD. I do.

Mr. SCALI. Well, do you think that some additional tax on overseas is now, however, in order to meet the balance of payments?

Senator MANSFIELD. Yes, I do. I think one of the steps which could be put into operation is to bring about a reduction of our armed forces and their personnel in Europe. We have approximately 700,000 military personnel and dependents there at the present time. It is quite a drain on us. I understand Mr. Katzenbach talked this over with Bonn and the Bonn Government said they would give it serious consideration. Then they came up with the bright idea again that it might be well for the Central German Bank to buy short-term interest in returning a profit, a nice profit which, I think, xegs the question and begs the responsibility which I would assume if we are to maintain our troops there, which I don’t think we should.

Mr. SCALI. Do you think then, that, that we should take quick and very vigorous steps to bring back some of those troops that we have stationed in West Germany.

Senator MANSFIELD. Not quick and vigorous steps but only the full period of time bring about a gradual reduction.

Mr. CLARK. How about some of the heavy arms spending in others parts of the world. Would you like to see some of those 60,000 troops we have in South Korea brought home to help ease the balance of payments problem?

Senator MANSFIELD. Oh, no, because the only two places where our major commitments are in Vietnam and in Western Europe and as far as the Koreans are concerned, I think those two divisions are up there as a quick pro quo for the two Korean Divisions the Germans have in the Austrian Brigade, plus the Marine Corps, which are down in South Vietnam.

Mr. SCALI. Well, how do you meet the argument, Senator Mansfield, that if we withdrew troops from Western Europe we send a big shiver through the entire area and tempt the Russians to engage in some sort of foreign adventure?

Senator MANSFIELD. I don’t place much in that kind of an argument. After all the Germans have been telling us about the detente which they take place with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Well, that Western Europe, has exchanged ambassadors with Romania and is on the verge of exchanging ambassadors with Yugoslavia.

I think that they just like to keep us there to maintain the burden, to assume the primary responsibility and live up to their commitments which none of which. Mr. CLARK. Senator, is the Senate going to bow down in a filibuster at the opening bell over the Civil Rights Bill that you have already said will be the opening business of Congress?

Senator MANSFIELD. Well, it is hard to say. Title V is the pending business. There will be lengthy debate. How long remains to be seen.

Mr. CLARK. Is it your hope that the very limited Civil Rights Bill that has already become law in Congress has amounted to an open housing provision?

Senator MANSFIELD. Yes, that is my personal hope, because I don’t think we have the votes for an open housing amendment and I am apprehensive that it would endanger the chances of Title V which is in trouble enough as it is. I do think this does mean that open housing is dead, as a concept of any sort in this session of Congress?

Senator MANSFIELD. No, I wouldn’t say so. But I would hope it would be reported out on its own and be considered on its own.

Mr. CLARK. If Congress does nothing on an open housing bill, won’t this add fuel to the militant black power advocates around the country and perhaps contribute to a feeling that only violence will move the Congress to act?

Senator MANSFIELD. Oh, I don’t think it will have that effect one way or the other, but only time will tell.

Mr. CLARK. Well, Senator, you said you were going to push hard to get the Congress over by August 1. If you pass this one Civil Rights Bill, are you really going to take the chance of typhus, Senator, or will you go on with what would certainly be a full blown effort to pass an open housing bill that was presented on its own?

Senator MANSFIELD. I’ll take all legislation as it is reported out of the committees and handled by the Speaker of the House or the Floor of the Senate for consideration. After all, if a committee considers a bill and reports out, then I think it is entitled to consideration.
Mr. CLARK. For any program.

Mr. CLARK. You still have lying latent up there the program of nuclear test ban at Pennsyl­

Mr. CLARK. It, as I recall, would be an emer­

Mr. CLARK. I doubt it. Mr. SCLAI. Well, do you think there is a need of an­

Mr. CLARK. It has not accompl­

Mr. CLARK. I would say, for example, that in the De­

Mr. CLARK. What sort of anti-crime package will Congress pass this year?

Mr. CLARK. I am hoping Tit­

Mr. CLARK. Senator Mansfield, Governor Sherman re­

Mr. CLARK. Won't you be surrendering the space race in that way, Senator, to the Rus­

Mr. CLARK. Senator Mansfield. I think we ought to.

Mr. CLARK. Do you think there is a trend in the direction of letting cities, local com­

Mr. CLARK. Do you think that is the better way to deal with this problem?

Mr. CLARK. Do you think that is the best way to deal with the prob­

Mr. CLARK. While Congress was out of ses­

Mr. CLARK. I have given it no thought, I recall the observation, but I could not say anything unless I had some details to go from.

Mr. CLARK. Excuse me, I expect that the Pres­i­

Mr. CLARK. I haven't the slightest idea.
January 23, 1968

SENATE

January turned to New to Invite the which have been made here by the seems to Indicate that Insofar as we possibly area?

Poland, that out of this agreement lays an effective groundwork for

Chairman of the Geneva Conference.

I think that he had

used to be called

Most outstanding and most capable leader in

Indo-China.

Do you think there should be

democracy?

I have so advocated

with the Viet

peace to

South

Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey.

Mr. Clark, Do you think Senator McCarthy is a serious candidate for the presidency? Senator Mansfield. Well, I think he is a serious candidate for the presidency. He is a good man, and he has a high reputation of good qualities. I am going to support him as a friend and I think he is waging quite a campaign.

Mr. Clark. Senator McCarthy said yesterday that the Administration in his view is following a policy of seeking to intimidate the Viet Cong. Would you agree?

Senator Mansfield. No. I wouldn't agree with that. As I recall when the Chaplain of Yale University, who was indicted along with Dr. Spock and the three others, came to Washington last year, late last year for that demonstration, I believe that he appeared before the Justice Department and undertook actions which he indicated would make him liable to be arrested under the law. So I would assume that Ramsey Clark and the Department of Justice are acting in accord with the law and certainly it is not a case of intimidation.

Mr. Clark. There is going to be a big peace demonstration in Washington tomorrow as Congress reconvenes. One of the leaders, Jeannette Rankin, wants to present a peace petition to you. Will you receive that petition?

Senator Mansfield. Oh, I will be delighted to see Jeannette Rankin. She is an old friend, a former colleague, the first woman Congressman, a woman of distinction and I have already written Miss Rankin saying I would be delighted to meet with her and I am sure she can represent all the others well.

Mr. Clark. She says she would like to bring along as many of her fellow-marchers as possible. At least bring them into the Capitol. Do you think there should be any limit on the number of demonstrators who should be permitted in and around the Capitol tomorrow?

Senator Mansfield. I am looking forward to meeting Jeannette Rankin alone.

Mr. Clark. You would like to see the other demonstrators kept away from the Capitol building itself?

Senator Mansfield. Well, they can see their Senators and Congressmen.

Mr. Scali. Senator Mansfield, Martin Luther King, among others, has said that he plans to organize a peace demonstration in Washington in February, and he will also organize massive anti-poverty demonstrations in the spring.

Do such demonstrations in your view have any important effect on Congress?

Senator Mansfield. No.

Mr. Scali. Why not, sir?

Senator Mansfield. Well, because we are down in the Congress to think for ourselves, to represent the people who send us here and when we can't think for ourselves and exercise our best judgment on the basis of the facts as we understand them, then I think it is time for a change.

Mr. Scali. Well, do you think they are counter-productive, they recall against the very purposes for which they have been organized?

Senator Mansfield. I do.

Mr. Clark. One of the things Congress is going to have to think about for itself in this new session is a code of ethics. What would you like to see in this code of ethics?

Senator Mansfield. Well, John Stennis and the Ethics Committee did have a code ready to present last November but because of the absence of one of the members of the Committee it wasn't able to get complete approval. It will be brought up though this month. I believe what it contains, I don't know, but I am delighted that this will be attended to at long last.