Civil Rights

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001
that they certainly will not be solved without the substantial upward salary adjustments recommended in this bill. The safety of the Nation’s Capital is a national disgrace. The safety of the nearly 800,000 residents of the District and the maintenance of our citizenry who visit the Capitol each year demands that the Metropolitan Police Board and the Fire Department be brought up to and maintained at full strength as promptly as possible. To do this, the Senate should accept a favorable competitive position salarywise a-vis the sub­urban jurisdictions of the Washington area and other major cities of the Nation. Title I of the bill will provide this sorely needed advantage.

In previous reports this committee has voiced its support for programs that will attack the roots of crime in the District of Columbia. In your committee’s judgment, Title II of the H.R. 15381 represents a major stride toward that goal. A great effort is underway to renew rejuvenate, and enhance the quality of public education in Washington. There is much talk of making the education of children in the Nation’s Capital a model for the rest of the Nation. This cannot happen unless the community agrees to guarantee that teachers in the District’s school system is strengthened. The District Board can no longer afford to be a training ground for neighboring suburban jurisdictions. The teachers of the Washington area must be in a position not only to retain its experienced educational staff but to attract a new generation of creative and able to teach effectively amidst the difficult conditions of a restless and growing city.

In your committee’s judgment, it is absolutely certain that this will not be done unless the District is able to compete for qualified teachers to one of the most difficult teaching jobs in the Nation for the same salary as they command for more affluent communities, but it is clearly unrealistic and unreasonable to expect many such teachers to enter into teaching or even to demand work for the same or less money.

In the committee’s judgment, the salary levels proposed in Title II of H.R. 15381 are both realistic and reasonable. They will give the District of Columbia Board of Education the advantage it must have to improve the quality of instruction in the schools. They help recognize the teacher as a professional in the scale of community values. This investment in the educational system is a necessary fundamental step. Good teachers foster good citizens.

It is in this spirit that your committee recommends H.R. 15381, as amended, to the Senate for prompt passage.

The title was amended, as so to read:

"An act to amend the District of Columbia Police and Firemen’s Salary Act of 1958 to increase salaries, to amend the District of Columbia Teachers’ Salary Act of 1955 to increase salaries, and for other purposes."

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. Mr. President, what is the Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. Mr. President, on the calendar are Calendar No. 1034 and 1025, together with No. 934, the purpose of which is to dispose of certain items in the stockpile. I wonder if the Senate could be brought up today and acted upon.

Mr. MANSFIELD. No. They will not be brought up today because we have the conference report on the supplemental appropriation bill, the school-lunch program, and other matters which we would like to consider, such as $970 million for park development and training activities—both of which were dropped in conference—and hope­fully will be restored on the floor with a number of the recommendations of the Senate Agriculture Committee, extending the pilot school breakfast program for 2 years and authorizing an appropriation of $6.5 million for each of these two fiscal years which is hoped will be disposed of before the recess.

Fourth. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary ordered reported on April 4, with the report to be filed by April 14, the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act which will provide over $100 million in fiscal 1968 and 1969 and $300 million in fiscal 1970 for law enforcement agencies for recruiting and training, grants for riot control and organized crime, and court-approved wire­tapping.

Fifth. Before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare is an extension and modification of the District of Columbia Teachers’ Salary Act of 1955 to increase salaries, and for other purposes, to provide over $100 million for fiscal 1968 and 1969, and $300 million for fiscal 1970 for law enforcement agencies for recruiting and training, grants for riot control and organized crime, and court-approved wire­tapping.

Sixth. The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry is expected to take action soon on a bill to increase the authorization for the food stamp program.

Seventh. The excise tax extension action which is now in conference includes several amendments relating to welfare programs providing aid to families with dependent children, in-kind service applications in the food stamp program, and the unemployed fathers program.

Eighth. I have just been informed that the committee has called a meeting for April 24 on the Health Act and the extension of Equal Employment Opportunity program.

Seventh. The excise tax extension action which is now in conference includes several amendments relating to welfare programs providing aid to families with dependent children, in-kind service applications in the food stamp program, and the unemployed fathers program.

Eighth. I have just been informed that a hearing bill may be reported out of Committee on Banking and Currency on April 18.

Title I is that which is by no means exhaustive is indicative of the kinds of measures which have been recommended by the President and which bear upon the situation.

It would be my hope that in the case of measures which are before Senate committees, the committees would converge during the next few days or so as possible to complete their consideration. All of these measures, in my judgment, are of significance. All of them, in my judgment, should come before the Senate for disposition during the current session.

However, the leadership will not engage in a rush to passage. It will not bring the Senate into session to give the appearance of urgent action where there is no prospect of action. To do so, would do injustice to the measures which confront this Nation. The fact is that we do not have 2 days of urgent work on the problems which have
April 10, 1968

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

been so grotesquely silhouetted against
the flaming wreckage in the Nation's
cities. The fact is that we have weeks,
months, years of relentless and painful
work, and we will be well, therefore, for
the Senate to use this weekend, this most
significant weekend, to contemplate the
damage which has been done to this
Nation both at home and abroad. It
would be well to begin to steel ourselves
for the effort which lies ahead if this
Nation is to be knit together again in
a new and enduring unity.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent
that the statement I made on the
door of the Senate on Monday last, entitled
"A Time of Crisis," Interrelating the
urban unrest, Vietnam, and the dollar
problems, be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the state-
ment was ordered to be printed in the
Record, as follows:

A TIME OF CRISIS

Mr. Mansfield. Mr. President, we live in
the most troubled period in the history of
the Republic, and we have perhaps passed
through the most significant 7 days of our
lives. We must consider, I believe, three
major problems at this time, so that we can
keep our views in perspective.
The first is the question of urban unrest,
which is now so prevalent throughout our
land.

I would express the hope that the House
very shortly—I recognize the fact that that
is its responsibility—would pass the civil
rights bill passed by the Senate several weeks
ago. I would hope, also, that the Senate, in
its appropriate committee, would report
the equal opportunities employment bill, which
has been under consideration for more than
a year.

I am glad to note that the Committee on
the Judiciary has reported the safe streets
bill, but I understand that because of a
time limitation to allow various points of
view to be annotated, it will not be and
could not be brought up until after the
Easter recess.

Mr. President, I recognize that laws and
appropriations alone are not the answer in
the field of urban unrest. I believe that part
of the answer lies in a greater participation
on the part of private industry in facing up
to this problem which confronts all of us. I
feel, also, that a greater degree of responsi-
BILITY on the part of our citizens is manda-
tory. I feel, also, that there must be a re-
spect for law and order on the part of all
of us, and it is my belief that this is vitally
necessary if we are to regain our self-
respect.

The second factor of importance is the
question of Vietnam. I would hope that, in
view of the President's speech on Sunday a
week ago, and on the basis of events since
then, all of us, regardless of our personal
views, would give him our full support in his
endeavors to bring about an end to that bar-
baric conflict.

So far as the holding of the conference
which may be in the offing is concerned, it
really is immaterial where it will be held;
but if I may express a personal wish, it
would be my thought that inasmuch as this
is an Asian problem, perhaps a good site
would be Rangoon, in Burma, or Phnom
Penh, in Cambodia.

The third factor is the instability of the
dollar—and may I say that we cannot dis-
associate the urban unrest, Vietnam, or the
last mentioned factor. I would hope that the
House would pass the Senate-approved bill
which imposes a 10-percent surcharge tax on
income tax payments, a $10 billion reduction
in the budget, and a $6 billion reduction in
the field of expenditures; or, if this is not
possible in conference, that the House would

report a measure with a comparable degree
of fiscal restraint.

All three momentous crises must be faced
now and action must be taken, even though
it will not provide overnight solutions. The
measures recommended above will provide
only a start, but a good and necessary start.

Mr. President, let all of us forget our own
political futures, personal and partisan, and
do what must be done for the common good
and the survival of the Nation. All else is of
little consequence. If the President can make
the sacrifices which he has made, I believe
Congress can join him in making the neces-
sary sacrifices to see that this Nation is once
again put on an even keel.