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### Five Young Montanans Disappear

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D. MONT)

FIVE YOUNG MONTANANS DISAPPEAR

COPY

Jan 17, 1961

Mr. President,

Adventure is always an admirable quality in our young people, and each year we hear of new challenges presented by Mother Nature. The lure of mountain climbing is irresistible to many. During the holiday season, five young Montanans attempted to climb Mt. Cleveland, the highest and most rugged mountain in Glacier National Park. This is a challenge which has defeated others and, apparently, these five have failed to reach the summit of Mt. Cleveland. After two weeks of searching, it was generally determined that the climbers had met an unfortunate fate. This part of Glacier National Park is extremely hazardous because of heavy snowfall and the constant threat of avalanche. The search parties were unable to find any clues as to the possible fate of these young men. It is likely to be spring before the recovery is accomplished.

The five youths, Clare Pogreba and Ray Martin, Butte; James Anderson, Bigfork; Jerry Ranzler, Bozeman; and Mark Levitan, Helena; set out on December 27 to attempt the first ever winter descent up the mountain's north face. Three of the climbers were students at the Montana State University, and the boys from Butte were enrolled at the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology.

This is indeed a tragic occasion, not only the apparent loss of these young men, but the uncertainty which must linger within the hearts of their immediate families. Mrs. Mansfield and I extend our personal bereavement to the mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers of these outstanding young men.

This is a very sad story but one which is a tribute to the strength and character of five youthful Mountaineers. I ask that a series of articles from the Missoulian and the Hungry Horse News be printed at the conclusion of my remarks.