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Biography of Senator Mansfield

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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July, 1969

BIOGRAPHY OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD, (DEMOCRAT, MONTANA)

Born March 16, 1903; raised in Great Falls, Montana, and received all his education in Montana except for two quarters on his Ph.D. at U.C.L.A. Did not complete the 8th grade, but left home in 1917 and joined the United States Navy at 14 years of age on February 23, 1918 for the duration of World War I. In 1919 he enlisted in the United States Army for one year, and then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps for two years in November, 1920.

In 1922, he returned to Montana and worked in the Butte mines as a miner and mining engineer until 1930. As he had never graduated from grammar school or attended high school, he had to take entrance examinations to become eligible to enter college. He attended Montana School of Mines in Butte from 1927 to 1928, and Montana State University in Missoula* from 1930 to 1934. From the University he received the degrees of B.A. and M.A. From 1933 to 1943, he was a Professor of Latin American and Far Eastern History, at Montana State University.* He is now Professor of History on permanent tenure at the University of Montana.

He was elected to Congress in November, 1942, and served five terms as a Representative. In October, 1951, he was appointed by President Truman as a Delegate to the United Nations Sixth Session in Paris.

Elected to the United States Senate on November 4, 1952, and reelected in 1958 and 1964. Presidential Delegate to Southeast Asia Conference in Manila in 1954. He was elected Assistant Majority Leader (Majority Whip) of the United States Senate on January 3, 1957.

In September, 1958, appointed by President Eisenhower as United States Delegate to the 13th General Assembly of the United Nations. He was reelected to the United States Senate November 4, 1958, and again elected Majority Whip on January 7, 1959. In November and December, 1962, he undertook a foreign policy assignment to West Berlin, Southeast Asia and Vietnam for President Kennedy; and in November and December, 1965, he undertook another foreign policy assignment to Europe and Southeast Asia for President Johnson.

He is a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Appropriations Committee, Chairman of Democratic Conference, Policy Committee, and Steering Committee.

Elected Majority Leader of the United States Senate in January 1961, and each succeeding session to the present time.

*The University in Missoula is now referred to as the University of Montana.