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REMARKS OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

before the

MOSS APPRECIATION DINNER

Salt Palace, Salt Lake City, Utah

Saturday, October 11, 1969, 7:30 P.M., (MST)

Mr. Chairman, Governor and Mrs. Rampton, Ted and Phyllis Moss, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As your neighbor to the north, it is a pleasure to drop in on you tonight. I am delighted that I have been invited, along with you, to honor a man whom I have called a friend and colleague for nearly 11 years. We have worked side by side in the Senate on behalf of our respective states, on behalf of the West and on behalf of the nation.

This gathering is acquainted with the accomplishments which highlight the record of Senator Moss in the United States Senate. No member of that body of 99 men and one woman has pursued the public good with more diligence or with more effectiveness.

We gather here, on the eve of a holiday, because of Ted Moss and his great work in the Senate. Tomorrow the Nation will honor another man who, according to some, was the first European to set foot in the Western Hemisphere. Without taking sides in that longstanding debate--for all I know it was an Irishman--I do think it fitting that tonight we honor a man who, like Columbus, is known for his independence, his courage and diligence. Above all, we honor a man who has a vision of America's tomorrow and who, in pursuit of it, is willing to do what is right today--to do it in the face of the skeptics who still believe the world is flat.

The precursors of Senator Moss were Mormon pioneers in Utah. They typified the restless spirit of the nation which, at that time, sought and found a new life in the West. Yet, this same West which once beckoned with hope is now endangered, along with other vast areas of the nation, by the defilement and destruction of the natural environment.

Some men stand strong against this hideous ruin of our natural heritage. Only this week, the Senate completed action on a measure which is designed to put

order into our scattered environmental programs while it redoubles the effort to curb water and air pollution and other ravages of a careless usage.

Utah's Senator Moss is in the middle of this battle. That your Canyonlands National Park is a scenic wonder, scarcely equaled anywhere in the world, is the work of nature. That it will be preserved in its pristine beauty is largely the work of Senator Moss. In a legislative sense, the park is his creation; his perseverance gave it legal life and breath.

Like others, your state is water-poor. You know the significance of the uninterrupted flow of water, to your communities and to your economy. To many others in this nation--at least until recently--water was taken for granted unless they had read the book, The Water Crisis, by Ted Moss. In that volume, your Senator gave the nation a comprehensive outline of the unfortunate history of water use and abuse and thereby stimulated a great interest in the problems of water.

The book is one of the reasons why Senator Moss is referred to as the Senate's Watermaster. He has become, in fact, one of the nation's leading experts on water importation, that is, on bringing water from surplus areas to water-poor areas. This concept is incorporated into his continent-wide plan--the North

American Water and Power Alliance Project--which channels water from Alaska and northern Canada into the intermountain region. It is an extraordinary concept which may well foreshadow the great water-undertakings of the coming decades.

Utah knows Ted Moss as an avid fisherman and hunter. He is that, and he is more. What is reflected in his work in the Senate is a profound concern for wildlife and for forests, lakes, streams and mountains--a deep love of nature in its manifold manifestations.

We see, too, in his more recent legislative activity that Senator Moss is also moving into the forefront of the defense of the right of the American public to accurate information and protection from misleading information on the enormous quantity of complex products and services which are offered for sale in this country. Earlier this year Senator Moss was elected chairman of the Consumer Subcommittee of the Senate. In this new responsibility, he is enlarging his crusade against public exploitation, against those who conceal quantity and quality, cover up inadequacies and hide defects in their products. In short, Senator Moss is waging an all-out battle to change the time-sanctified axiom from "Let the buyer beware" to "Let the buyer be aware."

Only a start has been made but under his leadership the Senate is going to probe ever more deeply--into dubious appliance warranties, home improvement frauds, high-pressure door-to-door sales abuses, into the whole range of slick practices which plague the American public and demean the quality of American life.

Beyond domestic problems, Senator Moss has manifested a continuing interest in the difficult situation which now confronts us abroad. He is widely traveled, as any Senator must be if he is going to discharge his responsibilities in these times. In his years in the Senate, his views have come to focus on an abhorrance of the waste of war, and on a hostility to the excesses which are sometimes committed in the name of defense--as in the sheep-tragedy here and, recently, as revealed in the scandals in the service clubs overseas. Most of all, Senator Moss has long recognized the urgent need for peace in Viet Nam.

If I may note a personal view with respect to that situation, it seems to me that a flicker of hope may be detectable in the events of the past few weeks. The signs are feeble, to be sure - reduced casualties for a short period of time, reduced infiltration from North Viet Nam, the wide recognition in this nation of the tragedy of the military involvement in the first place and the beginning of the withdrawal of substantial American forces. Feeble though they may be, the signs seem to be pointing in the direction of peace.

If there is, indeed, this glimmer, I want to say that the President deserves every commendation for veering our policies towards peace. So, too, may I add, does Ted Moss and so do other members of the Senate who have urged this President as they did his predecessor to turn in that direction. So, too, do the American people who, in their wisdom, have made increasingly clear to their government that this war - this brutal war - must come to an end.

Notwithstanding hopeful signs, peace is still to be achieved. What must be decided involves not only the timetable of withdrawal of American forces but also a military strategy which is suited to the interim, and, finally, the terms on which a settlement among the Vietnamese themselves will be achieved.

They are hard decisions but they have to be made if there is to be an end to this hideous wastage of lives and the spending of tens of billions of dollars in the present futile pattern.

In my judgment, the conflict is likely to end sooner rather than later once it has become clear, not only to Hanoi but also to the government in Saigon, on whose behalf we became involved, that it is not they who will decide for us but we ourselves who will decide the course of this nation. It is for the President, not for Hanoi or Saigon to make the decisions that are necessary to sustain the vital interests of this nation in ending this war.

As far as I am concerned, there is no basis for a moratorium in the Senate on constructive counseling of the President in this situation. The role of the Senate has been of the highest importance to date. It will continue to be of the highest importance until the final shot is fired and the last American soldier leaves the shores of Viet Nam.

I am frank to state that the Senate must share responsibility for acquiescing by silence in the initiation of this tragic war but I do not think the Senate will again make that mistake. It ought also to be equally clear that under two Administrations - a Democratic and a Republican - it has been

the Senate which has supplied much of the initiative which may be now, at last, putting this nation on the path to peace. The Senate will stay with this issue, in short, until peace is achieved. That is our duty. That is our responsibility. We will not shirk it.

I would hope that the President will find in present indications, a basis for initiating a hold-fire coupled with a stand fast which will permit American forces to refrain from firing unless fired upon. It would seem to me a most encouraging development in this direction that Secretary Laird announced in a press conference on October 9th that the role of American forces had shifted to that of "protective reaction."

I would hope, finally, that we would move to disengage ourselves from the internal political affairs of the South Vietnamese people. It is their country, not ours. After we are gone from it, whether they be Nationalists, Viet Congs, Hoa Haos, Budhists or Cao Daists--the Vietnamese will still live in it and with one another.

A responsive and responsible government in Saigon and South Viet Nam, in short, must be derived in the end from the Vietnamese people themselves and not primarily from our support or presence. It seems to me that our

intimacy with the present leaders in Saigon, therefore, should begin now to contribute to that purpose. Indeed, it must contribute to that purpose if there is to be a realization of our single objective in this war as it has been delineated by the President - that is, to insure the right of the people of South Viet Nam to determine their own future. Otherwise a continuing intimacy with Saigon corresponds neither to this nation's interests nor to the interests of the Vietnamese people on whose behalf we went into that unfortunate country in the first place.

Viet Nam is not a partisan matter. It is not a political issue. It is an American issue and all of us are involved.

On the other hand, there are some issues for which one or a handful of legislators may be assigned full responsibility. What comes to mind is the issue involving cigarette commercials on T. V. It is seldom that a single legislator can be identified with an outstanding accomplishment. Senator Moss is one of the exceptions. Standing almost alone, he won from the television networks an agreement to end cigarette advertising.

This achievement has significance to the young people of the entire nation and, hence, to the nation's future. Even smokers--and I happen to be a

pipe smoker--prefer that no further stimulus be given to the practice - particularly among the younger generation - in view of the evidence of health hazard. The ending of the Madison Avenue romanticizing of cigarettes will bring to Utah the gratitude of the entire nation for sending Senator Moss to Washington. His work in this connection has been a singular service.

Let me conclude by saying that the reputation of Utah's Senator Moss is high and growing throughout the nation. It is growing because his horizons are endless. On education, the abuses of alcohol, civil liberties, the problems of the elderly; on the poor, the crisis in agriculture; on foreign relations and military affairs; on law enforcement and a more equitable tax structure--and tax relief--he is there not just with words but with hard work and deep commitment.

The Senate listens when Senator Moss speaks. It has in the past. It will--with your help--in the years ahead.