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Congressional Record - Appropriation Bill

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota. I yield.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, first I wish to emphasize again, as I did with the acting chairman of the committee, the fact, as has been pointed out by the distinguished senior Senator from North Dakota, as well as the senior Senator from Louisiana, that the present defense appropriation request before the Senate marks a decrease of approximately \$6 billion below the Nixon budget and approximately \$8 billion below the Johnson budget. Both budgets were submitted this year. I think this is a good indication of how the administration and Congress, working in tandem, so to speak, can bring about sizable reductions within the Defense Establishment without reducing in any way the effectiveness of the defense which is needed for the security of this country.

Second, I wish to raise this question. Is it not true that as far as the ABM construction funds are concerned, approximately \$200 million was available for use in connection with sites in North Dakota and Montana this year?

Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota. From previously appropriated funds.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Yes, carried over; and the figure carried over to the fiscal year 1970 program is \$60 million or more.

Is it not true, regardless of the outcome of this bill, that activities will begin this winter at the Grand Forks area and will begin this coming spring in the Great Falls, Mont. area.

Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota. The Senator is correct. There has been considerable activity there already.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I just wanted to make the record clear that the funds affected in the pending appropriations measure will in no way conflict with the Army's desire and plans to go ahead with the work which has already been started at the so-called pilot plants in Montana and North Dakota. Is that correct?

Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota. The Senator is correct. The program would have to go on in a more limited way if no funds were appropriated in this bill, but for both necessary components and research and development for the first stages of the program we would have to have the funds in this bill.

Mr. MANSFIELD. In order to carry on these programs, it is my understanding, based on the evidence presented by the senior Senator from North Dakota, that in excess of \$300 million is being asked for in this year's appropriation bill.

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Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota. That is correct.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I thank the Senator.