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property but of the rights of other students.

The law with respect to the ROTC program on campus was changed in the 88th Congress from a mandatory program on some campuses to one of local option, with each State or institution within each State permitted to make its own option with respect to ROTC. The overwhelming effect is that the ROTC is now elective. A student participating does so because he freely chooses to join. This right of students to participate in ROTC should be honored and respected.

I believe the students who become military officers by way of colleges rather than through the regular academies provide a significant and far-reaching civilian influence in the military services. They add a civilian input to the branch in which they serve. They give a very desirable dimension of civilian leadership. The students who choose the ROTC path serve their country and their fellow students very well. The option to follow the way of ROTC should be preserved. It is a valuable ingredient in retaining a civilian controlled military force in this Nation.

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

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. STENNIS. I highly commend the Senator's presentation. I wholeheartedly agree with every major point he made in his fine statement. It challenges the better thoughts of the American people, and I think much good will come from the statement.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. Mr. President, I want to join the Senator from Mississippi in commending the Senator from Montana on the statement he just made. I think it would be well for the students of America to read the statement and take it close to heart.

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

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, I commend strongly the distinguished Senator for what he has just said. I want to add, or perhaps accentuate, one thought. I think the continuance of the ROTC activities on campuses is not only of great importance to those students on the particular campuses who wish to equip themselves to serve their Nation in time of war in the event their service is needed, but I think it is a very, very important ingredient of the entire defense structure of our Nation, because in any war of any size that we have ever had, at least in my experience, we have found that the Reserve officers exceed in numbers those of the Regular branches of the military services.

It seems to me that it would serve as not only a great disservice to the areas represented in the schools where ROTC is sought to be excluded, but a great disservice to our Nation, because our Nation needs the services of ROTC trainees coming from every part of the Nation, so that every part of the Nation may feel that it has its own part in the Armed Forces of our Nation, and in those who

RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, one institution that has come under particular attack on the American campus is the Reserve Officers Training Corps program. The ROTC is a manifestation of the Defense Department's presence on the campuses. As such, it is a convenient target for the frustration which has been engendered by the tragic and unending involvement in Indochina.

I do not believe in violence, either personal or against property as a form of protest. I do not believe in acts of destruction. Whatever the frustration with respect to the war in Indochina, the burning of ROTC installations is inexcusable and is destructive not only of

lead those Armed Forces as Reserve officers in time of grave national need.

I strongly commend the distinguished majority leader, and think that what he has said is in support of a strong and secure United States of America.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I thank the distinguished Senator. May I just emphasize the main points in the statement I have made today?

First, to the best of my knowledge, it is not forced on any university or college.

Second, no student to the best of my knowledge is forced to enroll in any ROTC course.

Then I wish to emphasize the civilian input to the various branches in which the ROTC officers serve, the very desirable additional dimension of civilian leadership, and the significant and far-reaching civilian influence in the military services which results. To quote the last line of my prepared remarks again: It is a valuable ingredient in retaining a civilian controlled military force in this Nation.
