6-4-1970

Statement of Mike Mansfield - 'John Frank Stevens'

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/872

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
Mr. President, many leaders contributed to the development of the Pacific Northwest of which my State of Montana is an important part, but few accomplished more than John Frank Stevens, a key figure in the location and construction of the Great Northern Railroad to the Pacific.

In this enterprise, on December 11, 1889, in heavy snow and bitter cold, Mr. Stevens found Marias Pass through which the railroad was constructed across the Rockies with the most favorable grade in the northern part of the nation.

The contributions of Stevens were not limited to work in the United States. While serving as chief engineer of the Isthmian Canal Commission, 1905-07, he rescued that project from chaos and potential disaster; organized the forces for construction; acquired a major part of the plant, and was mainly responsible for bringing about the great decision for the high level lake and lock plan under which the canal was completed. For his tremendous contributions on the Isthmus, he has been acclaimed as the basic architect of the Panama Canal.

Other important but little known events in the notable career of John Frank Stevens were what he did in Russia, Siberia, and Manchuria, 1917-1923, as president of the U. S. Advisory Commission of Railway Experts and of the Inter-Allied Technical Board with the rank of minister plenipotentiary.

The parts played by Mr. Stevens in the construction of railroads in the United States and in the design and launching of the Panama Canal have been adequately recorded in history. Now, the story of his achievements in Russia, Siberia and Manchuria have been published in an article by Dr. Raymond Estep, professor of Latin American History at the Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, in the March, 1970, issue of the Explorers Journal.
In 1969, about 100 distinguished leaders in various parts of the United States, in and out of government service, organized the John F. Stevens Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University.

Mr. President, as the article by Dr. Estep is of unusual interest especially people who know of the work of Mr. Stevens in the Northwest and Panama, I ask unanimous consent to have it printed at the conclusion of my remarks in the Congressional Record.