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# Congressional Record S. 11206-7 - 'Bipartisan Group is Evidence that Real Leadership Exists'

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - SENATE

#### BIPARTISAN GROUP IS EVIDENCE THAT REAL LEADERSHIP EXISTS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I was intrigued by an article in this morning's Washington Post by David S. Broder, one of the fairest and most impartial commentators I know. The title of the article is "Bipartisan Group Is Evidence That Real Leadership Exists."

The article refers to a group in the House. The names of Members of both the House and Senate are mentioned, by the way, but the names referred to in the commentary are Representatives BARBER B. CONABLE, JR., SAM M. GIBBONS, and F. ERADFORD MORSE, respectively from the States of New York, Florida, and Massachusetts.

They are carrying on an activity which indicates that there is leadership in the Congress, and especially in the House, which should be given consideration may I say leadership outside the leadership in the Senate as well, because this is a bipartisan group.

What this group does, under the leadership of these three outstanding Members of Congress, is to meet together from time to time to discuss various matters of interest, and try to establish an initiative and a program which should be considered by Congress as a whole. The group itself is taking up the slack in a period, to use Mr. Broder's words, of "apathy, divisiveness, buckpassing, and leadership failures."

He says further:

What these men are doing is big news-and good news.

Mr. President, my reason for asking that this column be printed in the REC-ORD is because I have felt, for all too many years, that too much attention has been focused on the Senate and not enough attention on the House of Representatives. I think too much publicity has been accorded the Members of the Senate, and not enough publicity to the Members of the House.

There are individuals over there who are just as smart, just as intelligent, just as forward looking, and just as statesmanlike as we are, and I daresay a good many of them who are better in these departments. I deplore the fact that the Senate seems to be the fulcrum for publicity when we have so many capable Members in the House of Representatives who should be given their just due.

So I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, to have printed in the RECorn this commentary entitled "Bipartisan Group Is Evidence that Real Leadership Exists," written by David S. Broder and published in today's Washington Post. I hope that from now on the House will be given the attention it deserves, and that recognition will be accorded to its many Members who are outstanding in every respect.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the REC-ORD, as follows:

> BIPARTISAN GROUP IS EVIDENCE THAT REAL LEADERSHIP EXISTS

#### (By David S. Broder)

Barber B. Conable, Jr., Sam M. Gibbons and F. Bradford Morse are not, as the say-

ings goes, household names. They are among the many "faceless men" in the House of Representatives, known to their constituents their colleagues in Congress and a few dozen Capitol Hill reporters—and to virtually no one else.

But Conable, Gibbons and Morse were the central figures at two occasions last week that were certainly the most hopeful and perhaps, the most significant on the Washington scene.

Conable, an upstate New York Republican, and Gibbons, a Florida Democrat, were the main spokesmen at the press conference introducing the package of congressional reform proposals backed by a bipartisan bloc of 58 representatives. Morse, a Republican from Lowell, Mass., chaired the Capitol Hill luncheon for United Nations Secretary General U Thant, sponsored by the 98-member, bipartisan group called Members of Congress for Peace Through Law (MCPL).

Press conferences and celebrity luncheons are, of course, a dime a dozen on Capitol Hill. And a cynic could easily argue that neither the congressional group nor MCPL has much in the way of concrete accomplishments so far.

The Conable-Gibbons rules reform group is brand new and its first test will come when it tries to strengthen the congressional reorganization bill on the floor of the House this week. While the omens of success are present, there is no guarantee that the standpatters will not succeed again, as they have in the past, in defeating or delaying the reform effort.

form effort. As for Morse's MCPL, it has been functioning so quietly for its almost four years of existence that even close observers of Congress were unaware of it until last week, when it drew attention by playing host to U Thant.

Financed mainly by outside contributions, its five-man professional staff and nine working committees have helped research and coordinate efforts by many individual senators and representatives to shorten the war and reduce the military budget. While it has certainly helped improve both the quality and quantity of congressional debate in these fields, it is still far from achieving the redirection of foreign and military policies it seeks.

But specific accomplishments aside, the emergence of these efforts within the Congress is of significance to those who are inclined to depair of the system's capacity to respond to the many crises of our times.

They offer evidence that real leadership is available in both parties, despite the faltering performance of so many national figures. Conable, Gibbons and Morse are all in their late 40s, with less than a decade of congressional service behind them. Many of their colleagues in these organization are even younger in years and seniority. Like many others, they have chafed at the

Like many others, they have chafed at the reluctance of the c.ngressional elders to make needed internal reforms or to raise for serious debate the vital issues of peace, war and national priorities.

But unlike so many of the other critics of the system, they have organized to produce change on their own initiative, instead of satisfying themselves with complaints. Also, when so many national figures seem addicted to demagoguery that divides an already-divided nation, these men are working effectively to find areas of agreement among diverse political factions.

Both efforts are genuinely bipartisan—and not in the bland, negative sense too often found in Congress of avoiding real public issues in favor of comfortable private accommodations.

The Conable-Gibbons congressional reform group includes everything from farleft Democrats to far-right Republicans,

#### ORDER FOR RECOGNITION OF SENATOR YOUNG OF OHIO

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, after the disposition of the reading of the Journal tomorrow, the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Youwg) be recognized for not to exceed 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll. Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order or the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### CONIGRESSIONAL RECORD - SENATE

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with a healthy snavoring servatives as well. Morse's MCPL is not only bipartisan but bicameral, including 28 senators as well as

In a period of apathy, divisiveness, buck-passing and leadership fallures, what these men are doing is big news-and good news.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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