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### Congressional Record - Police Appreciation Week

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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delighted that this resolution has been reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee and will shortly be passed, I assume, unanimously by the Senate.

Mr. President, we live in a time of lawlessness, a time of ever-mounting crime and violence. Broken down, it seems, is the whole fabric of community relations and the entire process of human dialog. On many fronts there is plain evidence of disrespect for law and even worse, disrespect—and in some cases utter contempt—for the man whose duty it is to enforce the law—the police officer, the lawman.

When it comes to public service, it is the police officer, the lawman, who must discharge perhaps the most important responsibilities of all. It is he, the police officer, who must protect our families and neighbors, our wives and loved ones, places of business, watch over the streets we drive and the sidewalks we walk. It is he, the police officer, who must respond to emergencies, to accidents and injuries, and to calls for help and assistance.

By no means do I say that embodied in every policeman are the qualities exemplified by the proverbial Good Samaritan. Nor do I deny that there are bad cops. Bad cops do exist, just as there are bad citizens. What I do say, however, is that the police do a job that few citizens want to do. And by and large, they do it pretty well. To put it starkly, life in many parts of this country has become brutal and violent. And it is the policeman who by his work is forced to confront the abundance of social problems that have made life brutal and violent. Maybe he is not the best equipped in every specialized respect to handle the job. But at least he is willing.

Nor is it an easy job. Indeed, it is performed at great risk to life and limb. In all last year, 86 policemen were killed while on duty. Over 35,000 of them suffered assaults. And the risk has become greater each year. Percentagewise these figures were up immensely over prior years.

Maybe I am not with it, but I find no humor at all in such crude characterizations as "pig." None whatsoever. Such a reference sickens me even more when I think of those officers who have been shot down and blown up with such cold abandon recently. Twenty police officers already have been murdered this year and scores of others wounded by snipers, bombers, and other assailants. This is not happening elsewhere. It is happening right here in our own Nation; in our own cities and towns. It is happening in Chicago, in Philadelphia and New York, in Los Angeles, and right here in Washington.

Attacks on the police have been one of the most deeply disturbing aspects of the current wave of violence. Responding to routine calls has ended too often in death and injury. These treacherous tactics of ambush, of kill and run, recall the worst days of gangsterism and bandit warfare. They cry out for swift, remedial action.

What kind of action? First of all, the policemen of America deserve and have every right to expect the cooperation and support of every American citizen. No matter how one views the causes of our

#### POLICE OFFICERS APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, that completes the call of the calendar. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 1201, Senate Joint Resolution 225.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolution will be stated by title.

The title of the joint resolution was read as follows:

S.J. Res. 225, authorizing the President to proclaim the period October 25 through 31, 1970, as Law Officers Appreciation Week.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the present consideration of the joint resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I seek recognition.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I am



many social ills, no matter how he envisions things as they ought to be, he need not hesitate to stand up and support his police officers. He may talk of closing the gap that exists between young and old, black and white, rich and poor. Why not do something about closing the ever-widening gulf that exists between the police officer and those he serves? Why not heal the bitter alienation that has produced this crisis?

Rather than dehumanizing law officers with insulting and degrading labels, let us recognize that the police force is composed of human beings who think and feel and react. That is the challenge before us. To take every step necessary to restore to the policeman what he deserves—faith and trust and respect. To do so will take more than just talk; more than mere lipservice. As a society we must become deeply concerned with the police of America, with their problems and their needs. After all, they, too, are Americans who have legitimate grievances, aspirations, and rights. And just as he seeks to protect us from crime and violence—risking his life in the process—so must we endeavor to protect and support the policeman, the lawman, and the fireman. Without him, society cannot survive.

It is not only the police officer who is being attacked, but the police force as a whole. The police officer is being attacked because he is the only one who is not being attacked. He is the only one who is not being attacked because he is the only one who is not being attacked.

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POLICE OFFICERS' APPEAL  
WEEK

MR. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, this committee has the honor to announce that the Senate will hold hearings on the bill to amend the Police Officers' Pension Act, H.R. 1301, on September 22, 1970. The bill will be read by the Senate on September 22.

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