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Statement of Senator Mansfield - D.C. Montanans for Mansfield Committee

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield

Oct. 20, 1970

The D. C. Montanans for Mansfield Committee is headed by James Rowe, formerly of Butte, and does receive contributions as a result of letters he writes to Montanans living in Washington and along the East Coast, as well as to old friends of mine and his. The money received by this Committee is sent to the Mansfield for Senator Club in Montana, of which Joe Meglen of Billings is Treasurer. Contributions given to me personally I turn over either to the D. C. Montanans for Mansfield Committee or the Mansfield for Senator Club in Montana. The only exceptions are some which I use for traveling and other personal expenses. By Federal law I must report these personal contributions and expenditures to the Secretary of the United States Senate.

Contributions made to the D. C. Montanans for Mansfield Committee in Washington are sent by that Committee to the Mansfield for Senator Club in Montana which must report all contributions received by it from the D. C. Montanans for Mansfield Committee and also from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee to the Montana Secretary of State in Helena.

All contributions received are spent for campaign purposes in Montana. All laws, Federal and State, are fully complied with.

There is nothing new about this procedure. Six years ago there was such a D. C. Montanans for Mansfield Committee which made contributions to the Mansfield for Senator Club in Montana, and all such contributions were reported to the Montana Secretary of State.

I have deliberately required that each of these Committees be headed by a Senior lawyer of many years' practice, one in Montana and one in Washington, so
as to make sure that all laws, Federal and State, are fully complied with.

I heard about the newspaper story just before leaving Washington for Montana. In view of the story, I have instructed Rowe to report voluntarily a full list of contributions and expenditures to the Secretary of the United States Senate, although this is not required by the Law.
Senator Ray called from Billings with this:

The evening edition of the BILLINGS GAZETTE CONTAINED the front-page banner headline:

"MANSFIELD LINKED TO SECRET FUNDS" - article by James R. Polk (Washington, AP)

"Hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign money have been given to U. S. Senators through hidden fund raising groups set up in Washington where a loophole lets the politicians keep the contributions secretly.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana and his G. O. P. counterpart Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania head the list of candidates using these hidden committees to help bankroll their re-election races this year.

Labor groups are making large donations to another Washington committee set up for Senator Harrison A. Williams, D.-N. J., who is in line to become Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee if he wins.

In political circles, the hidden campaign groups are known as "D. C. Committees."

The District of Columbia in contrast to the home states of most Senators, has no laws requiring public disclosure of money placed and spent for candidates. As a result, dozens of Senators and Congressmen have D. C. Committees set up here to raise campaign funds, particularly from lobbies."

(Ray said it goes on to discuss the whole thing. Lists both Democrats and Republicans - Senator Prouty, his opponent Governor Hoff, Senators Montoya, Proxmire, Smith of Illinois, Stevens of Alaska, Humphrey. Arnold Olsen later on in the article.)