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## Statement of Senator Mansfield - 'Rimrocks National Monument'

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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February 11, 1971

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D-MONT)

"RIMROCKS NATIONAL MONUMENT"

COPY

Mr. President, on behalf of my able colleague, Senator Lee Metcalf, I have sent to the desk legislation which would provide for the establishment of the Rimrocks National Monument near Billings in eastern Montana. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the inclusion of the Rimrocks, a fantastic natural formation, in the National Park System as a National monument.

In the past year, a movement has been generated to give the Rimrocks National monument status so as to protect them in their natural state and preclude any damaging development. In September of last year the National Park Service was most cooperative in sending a Task Force to Billings for an on-the-ground survey of the natural rock formations. It is my understanding that the Federal officials were most impressed with the beauty, history and scientific values of the Rimrocks. This group is now in the process of preparing its report for the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, which will meet in April. Hopefully, this recommendation will be favorable. In the interim, the people of Montana wish to let it be known that we stand behind this proposal 100 per cent, and it is for this reason that I have now introduced this bill. As soon as the report to the Advisory Board is made available, I hope that the Congress will then be able to expedite the enactment of Senator Metcalf's and my Rimrocks National Monument proposal.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at the conclusion of my remarks the case for the Rimrocks National Monument as prepared by one of the many enthusiasts in the Billings area, Kim Larsen.