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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSTFIELD (D., MONTANA)

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The decision of the people in the last election to continue their trust in a Democratic Congress created this party's continuing responsibility. It is a Democratic obligation to try to curb the political excesses of the Administration and to correct a bureaucratic indifference to inner national needs. It is incumbent on us as democrats to join with Republicans in the Congress to try to hasten the end of the involvement in Viet Nam--to end it, period.

We will keep that trust. In the year and a half which remain of the 92d Congress, we will do what can be done by legislation to stop the neglect of city and surrounding suburb and of farm and environment. We will try to check the disintegration of public services. We will seek to curb both a disrespect for law and official assaults on law which are deepening the divisions within the nation. We will do what can be done to shore up this faltering economy which leaves countless returning veterans and young people on the outside looking in and threatens the livelihood of millions of other Americans with inflation and depression.

In the Congress, in short, we will do what can be done in the months ahead to meet the pressing needs of the nation. It will not be enough. It will not be nearly enough. So we will also look ahead to a time when this party, this Democratic Party, will again lead the nation in the Presidency as well as in the Congress. We will look beyond Viet Nam to a new leadership in 1972. We will look to Executive-legislative cooperation in new policies which will convert the tragedy of Viet Nam into an enduring peace and will deepen the concern and compassion for human needs at home. That is why Democrats are here tonight, to rededicate their diversity to a new unity in the nation's service.