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Congressional Record - Mansfield on Tragedy at Munich

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 92^d CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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No. 137

Senate

QUORUM CALL

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GAMBRELL). The clerk will call the roll.

The second assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THE TRAGEDY AT MUNICH—SENATE RESOLUTION 358, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE TRAGIC KILLINGS OF ISRAELI OLYMPIC TEAM MEMBERS OF THE 20TH OLYMPIAD AT MUNICH

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, a resolution can express our sympathy to the families of the victims and to their homeland, but it can in no way diminish the tragedy of Munich. That tragedy points up the fact that the Olympic games have become a forum not for sports, primarily, but in specific instances, a means for political, ideological, social, and racial expressions of the most violent kind.

It seems to me that too much emphasis has been placed on gold, silver, and bronze medals, on commercialism, on nationalism. In these games, we tend to

place stress above all else, on the superiority of nations.

What of equality among nations? What does superiority prove?

What has the tragedy at Munich accomplished, except to disturb the shaky and dangerous balance in the Middle East and to emphasize that violence in the end defeats its own ends?

In lending itself to displays of violence, of defections, of anarchy, of dispute and dissension, and even of madness, the arena of the Olympics has strayed far from its original concept of peace and unity among all men. There are individual triumphs and there are national triumphs; there are gold, silver, and bronze medals. But none of these can have any meaning when they are accompanied by what we have witnessed in Munich.

The tragedy of Munich should make us review our concept of these games and even ponder their ultimate worth. The nations of the world should address themselves to this grave question at once.

A fitting memorial for the dead demands no less.

Mr. President, for myself and on behalf of the distinguished Republican leader (Mr. SCOTT), Senator JAVITS, Senator RIBICOFF, Senator ALLEN, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, Senator COOPER, Senator GAMBRELL, Senator BAKER, Senator SAXBE, Senator GRIFFIN, Senator EASTLAND, Senator McGOVERN, Senator SPONG, Senator METCALF, Senator BROOKE, and Senator PERCY, I send to the desk a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GAMBRELL). The resolution, with its preamble, will be stated.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Whereas, with profound sorrow and deep alarm the Senate is informed of the events surrounding the killing of eleven members of the Israeli Olympic team participating in the Twentieth Olympiad at Munich, and

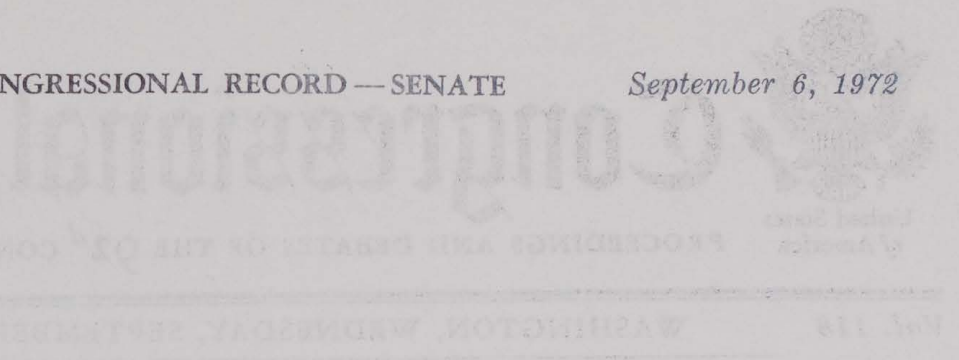
Whereas, such actions are to be condemned as inimical to the interests and aspirations of the civilized world, be it hereby

Resolved, That the United States joins with the world in mourning the loss of Israel's athletes and extends its deepest sympathy to the people of Israel and to the families of those so tragically lost and be it further

Resolved, That all means be sought by which the civilized world may cut off from

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contact with civilized mankind any peoples or any nation giving sanctuary, support, sympathy, aid or comfort to acts of murder and barbarism such as those just witnessed at Munich and that the Secretary of the Senate be directed to communicate these sentiments and expressions to the Secretary of State for appropriate transmittal.



Senate

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