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The Evening Sentinel - Jones Interviews Mansfield - 'Servant of the Senate'

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001
Manhunt Continues For 13 Men

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A combative state trooper said Tuesday he had beenΨ contactΨ of 10 menΨ withΨ warΨ andΨ notΨ howΨ theyΨ wereΨ deadΨ butΨ whoΨ hadΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨΨPsi
RAY JONES:

Sen. Mansfield Is Big Man

Although he has been in the Senate for 20 years and in Washington for nearly 30, Mike Mansfield has not forgotten his Montana roots.

Though it is his job as majority leader to articulate the national interest, and his job as a Foreign Relations Committee member to help formulate international policy, he remains sensitive to the needs of the people back home.

This is evidenced by both what he says and what he does.

In his remarks to the Democratic Conference at the onset of the present (93rd) Congress, he opened by recognizing that all senators "speak with unique ideological and regional accents" and has "sensitivity to particular constituencies."

To keep up with his own constituency, he reads as much as he can about Montana, its growth and its problems. As I was waiting to see the senator, one of his secretaries began shuffling through a foot-high stack of newspapers looking for a particular article.

"Does he really read all those?" I asked, wonderingly.

"Yes, he gets papers from all over the country," she replied, "New York, Baltimore, Washington, Los Angeles. Plus all the papers from Montana."

It gives you confidence to know that a man with so many pre-occupations as Mike Mansfield still takes time to find out what's going on in Butte and Billings, Great Falls and Kalispell — even if you're not from Montana.

In his office, too, is evidence of his concern for the "frontier" region from which he hails. His majority leader's office, in the Capitol building, was built in an era of Victorian splendor.

The ceilings are arched, the drapes are of tapestry, the wall clock is antique and the mirror is gilt-edged.

The wall-hangings and shelf ornaments, however, would make any interior designer pale. In addition to the state seal, there are Frederick Remington paintings, rough-hewn Indian handicrafts, an old railroad poster from 1869, scale models of an Angus and Hereford — even a whip and a branding iron.

The decor is hardly uniform, but it does say something about the senator's tolerance for diversity and dedication to those he serves.

While Sen. Mansfield remains loyal to his homeland, however, his humanitarianism far transcends the borders of a single far-western state.

Anyone familiar with his record and background knows there are few people anywhere with whose well-being he is not in some way concerned.

A penchant for native art and a soft spot for Montana have not affected his dedication to the national welfare or to international understanding.

Compare his legislative initiatives of 20 years ago with a list of legislative priorities he articulated this month, and you will see a series of almost identical concerns.

In the early 50's he wanted laws to further health, education, civil rights, personal welfare, political reform, economic aid to developing areas and environmental protection. He was attempting even then to cut down military aid abroad and pare our own forces to levels he considered more reasonable.

What he's trying to do today is pretty much the same thing. The names have changed — nobody talked about a "consumer protection agency" or "no-fault insurance" or "comprehensive national health program" back then — but the motivating ideals are the same.

His commitment to peace is no less strong.

In 1944 he was sent on a fact-finding mission to China. In April and May of last year he went back again, this time writing a detailed report to the Congress entitled "Journey to the New China." In it he characterized America's post-war hostility with China as "one of the most ill-fated chapters in the history of this nation."

His opposition to the Vietnam War is well known. He is not a recent convert but has considered our participation in the conflict a horror and a travesty ever since the first troops were committed to battle in the early 60's.

In short, Mike Mansfield is a curious mixture. He has not let his rather awesome power and responsibility interfere with his concern with the people who first sent him to Congress. Nor has he let his modest beginnings as a miner and college teacher interfere with his vision of a greater nation and a more peaceful world.

Sen. Mansfield observed Monday that his greatest accomplishment was obtaining the vote for 18-year-olds. "Young people have to be won back," he said. "If the system is to work there has to be reform."

"They must bring in their idealism and their new blood."

Sen. Mansfield has been around awhile, but his own idealism has helped make the system work.

I SEE WHERE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LIED TO A SENATE COMMITTEE ABOUT AN $18 MILLION LOAN TO AN AIRCRAFT COMPANY.

IN A COURT OF LAW THAT TESTIMONY WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A PERJURY CHARGE!

BUT HE WASN'T IN COURT.... HE WAS SIMPLY LYING TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

OH! WELL... THAT RESTORES MY FAITH IN GOVERNMENT!

I THOUGHT IT WOULD.

Mike Mansfield Papers, Series 21, Box 48, Folder 50, Mansfield Library, University of Montana