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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

Death, can, at times, be delayed but, in the end, cannot be avoided. Within the past month, two former Presidents of the United States, Harry S. Truman and Lyndon Baines Johnson, have left their existence here on earth. Both were Senators of the United States.. Both were Vice Presidents of the United States. Both, through the death of others, became Presidents of the United States and, then, in their own right, became Presidents again.

It was my privilege to work with these men but most closely with Lyndon Baines Johnson. I served with him for four years as the Assistant Majority Leader when he was Majority Leader of the Senate. I succeeded him as Majority Leader when he became Vice President in 1961 and continued in that capacity throughout his Presidency.

We were in friendly and fairly close contact for those many years. As President, Lyndon Johnson was the head of the Executive Branch and, as the Majority Leader, I was the representative of the Senate. As might be expected, we did not always agree but at no time did our disagreements impair the civility of our relationship.

Lyndon Johnson came from humble origins but he was not a humble man. Rather, he was a man of great pride and his Presidency was a Presidency which bore the hallmark of this pride. We shall not see his like again, nor shall we see the kind of legislative program which was enacted in response to his determined leadership in the pursuit of equal opportunity for all Americans.

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Insofar as proposing and enacting legislation in the field of domestic and social reform, Lyndon Johnson was, in my judgment, the greatest of Presidents. Historically, his record in that respect will emerge as superior to any other President or any combination of Presidents. He was in the tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the man he so much admired, and his dream of a Great Society of free men will be his enduring monument in the history of this Republic.

Mrs. Mansfield, our daughter Anne and I wish to extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to Lady Bird Johnson, one of the outstanding First Ladies of this Republic, to the Johnson daughters, Lynda and Luci, and to all their families in this hour of sorrow and bereavement. May his restless soul find peace.