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Message: Rocky Boy Elementary School Dedication

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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November 2, 1973

Senator Mike Mansfield (D. - Montana)

Rocky Boy Elementary School Dedication - November 2, 1973

I am delighted and pleased to extend my greetings and best wishes to the Chippewa-Cree, friends, and honored guests gathered together this week and for the two-day celebration dedicating the new Rocky Boy Elementary School.

This facility stands as a fitting tribute to what the Indian people have done, in an innovative way, to resolve some of their problems. The American Indian has been faced with many difficulties in the twentieth century and only in the past decade has there been any measurable improvement. Perhaps the greatest success is in the area of education and the example set by the Rocky Boy Indian School Board is among the finest. An all Indian School Board concerned with the needs of its own young people has developed an innovative approach to education. Guided by Rocky Boy parents and interested parties in the State and Nation, the young Chippewa-Cree children are responding to a program of high quality education which includes bilingual and bicultural curriculums. This plan does not isolate the young but stimulates and expands their appreciation and educational achievements. The success of the bilingual approach is a known factor and I believe that Montana can be justly proud in knowing that the Rocky Boy School is such a success. It is indeed appropriate that you should have this new school facility.

While matters of great concern require my presence here in the United States Senate, I am pleased members of Senator Metcalf's and my staff have
an opportunity to visit with you and participate in the festivities. The School Board is doing an excellent job and I ask that you extend my personal regards to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, Marvin Franklin, my Indian friends from around the State, citizens of Montana, and especially the young people at Rocky Boy School.

MCS MANSFIELD
MAJORITY LEADER
U.S. SENATE