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### Democratic Campaign Dinner

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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REMARKS OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD  
AT THE  
DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN DINNER  
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1974

Some people think campaign dinners are a poor way to raise political funds. But until a better way is worked out, those who do the spade work of political campaign dinners and those who attend them continue to fill the gap.

Wayne Hayes, Lloyd Bentsen, Herb Allen, their staffs and the Dinner Committee have done a superb job. They have shown that it can be done without Watergate. To say that, is not to claim a monopoly on virtue. To say that, is not to cloak ourselves in the robes of high office and deny that there are human beings inside.

We cast no stones. But neither do we apologize for this modest effort. It is a necessary step in bringing the

story of a democratic-controlled Congress to the people. The story has to be told before the coming election. It is a story of the decent men and women, democrats and republicans, who have stayed on freedom's frontier during these months of national anguish. It is a story of dedicated Americans who have acted with restraint and with a high sense of responsibility at a time of great national trouble.

Congress has been the rock of the Republic in the midst of a crumbling Administration. The House and the Senate have been the anchors of the people's rights and interests during a long night of political turmoil and anxiety. The Congress will continue to conduct itself responsibly and we will not be dissuaded by Watergate or related matters.

The nation will ride out the storm. We will emerge the better for this purification of the political process. But, the months ahead will be difficult, more difficult than those we have just come through. The ramifications of the nation's

political difficulties are only now beginning to flow from the Senate and the grand juries into the courts and the House.

In these months ahead a democratic-watchdog in Congress is more essential than ever. A democratic-controlled Congress is needed to buttress the basic political institutions of the nation. A strong democratic majority is required to move constructive programs of benefit to the people of the nation--to the people of the nation--to move these programs past the indifference and veto-mania of this administration. A democratic vanguard in Congress, working with the Democratic National Committee, Democratic Governors, and Democratic Mayors, is needed to pave the way for the complete restoration of responsible federal government, by the election of a Democratic President in 1976.

That is the democratic message for 1974. We begin tonight, to send it out to all of the people of the nation.