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REMARKS OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

BEFORE THE SENATE DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

ON THE OCCASION OF GOVERNOR CARTER'S VISIT

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1976, 12:00 NOON

In a moment, I am going to introduce to you a stranger to the Capitol. Until a few months ago, most of us did not know this man. Much less did we know that he was going to be the next President of the United States.

By contrast, he knew it. He knew it because he went to the people in all parts of the nation and they told him so. They told him in New Hampshire in February, in Florida and Illinois in March, in Pennsylvania in April and in state after state. Finally the word reached what some would call this outpost of America. Now, all of us in this Conference of Democratic Senators know it and, I expect, some in the Republican Conference know it, too.

By this time we also know something more. The Nation is going to elect as President in November a builder of bridges. The Democratic Party is going to be led by a joiner, by a man who put together rural Plains and urbane Atlanta and who can put together small town and big city America.

This man closes the differences between races and between religions. His voice reaches out, alike, to worker and to manager, to skilled and unskilled, to young and to old, to northerner, easterner, southerner and westerner.

He has tied together the Democratic Party as it has not been tied together since the first Roosevelt Administration. That achievement is evidence of a character and a competence which can supply the leadership that is sorely needed in this place and in these times. It is the kind of leadership that can close the wide gap:

-- between this government in Washington and the people throughout the country;

-- between this nation and other nations;

-- between the hope for peace and a solid structure of peace;

-- and, not the least, between the Presidency and the Senate and the Congress so that, together, these institutions may work as they must work--for the welfare of the American people, for the security of the nation and for the peace of mankind.

It is in this latter context that Herman Talmadge and Sam Nunn, the two Senators from Georgia, joined with me in inviting Jimmy Carter to meet with the Conference of Democratic Senators. We think it is high time to get to know one another.

Governor Carter