5-16-1975

Prepared by Senator Mansfield in Response to Questions submitted by Leo Michel for Publication in Le Point

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:
S 1123

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 8(c) of the National Trails System Act (82 Stat. 291: 16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(15) Indian Nations Trail, extending from the Red River in Oklahoma approximately two hundred miles northward through the former Indian nations to the Oklahoma-Kansas boundary line."

The title was amended to read as follows:
A bill to provide for a study of the Indian Nations Trail.

SENATOR MANSFIELD'S APPEARANCE ON "FACE THE NATION"

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record a transcript of the program "Face the Nation," on which I appeared last Sunday, in which the interrogators were George Herman, of CBS News, Jack Nelson, of the Los Angeles Times, and Lesley Stahl, of CBS News.

There being no objection, the transcript was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:


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Herman. Senator Mansfield, has the Mayaguez incident and President Ford's fast action there proved anything about the War Powers Act—that it's too confining, or too lose, or needs any revision?

Senator MANSFIELD. No, I think it's a good act. The President did report within the 48-hour period—the 48-hour period; however, there was no consultation. There were briefings.

Herman. Is consultation required, in the true sense of consultation?

Senator MANSFIELD. I believe so—not that it would have any effect on what the President might do, but I think that perhaps it would be worthwhile to get the advice of some of his old friends in the Congress as to what the attitude of the representatives of the people would be; not necessary, though.

Announcer. From CBS News, Washington, a spontaneous and unrehearsed news interview on FACE THE NATION, with the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Mike Mansfield, Democrat of Montana. Senator Mansfield will be questioned by CBS News Correspondent Lesley Stahl; Jack Nelson, Washington Bureau Chief of the Los Angeles Times; and CBS News Correspondent George Herman.

Herman. Senator Mansfield, I asked you that particular question about the Mayaguez incident because it seems to me it's likely
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to be some kind of a precedent in the future. Future Presidents may quote what happened in this particular incident as justification for force, and it would be a far better policy, I think, that this was adequate, proper use of all that's in the War Powers Act?

Senator Mansfield. I've never really been consulted, except for the consultative process, which is in the act and about which I am really not concerned personally. The basic principle I think should be applied to the Congress or, at least the leadership and the chairman and the ranking Republican members. And frankly I think this is a question at all had not Ron Nessen at the White House made the assertion, I believe, that all the leadership had been consulted before action was taken and had approved.

Senator Mansfield. Well, Senator, you indicated, though, earlier, that you had some questions about that whole incident. Do you question the fact that the bombing of Cambodia's mainland continued for at least forty minutes after the President had been notified that this operation had been halted safely?

Senator Mansfield. I raised those questions after we were told what the plans were at the White House when the President called us down on the phone and raised them. But I hope that we will be made more aware of what the situation is, in the words of Senator Mansfield, the House. When the President didn't have the time, and he couldn't get any guarantee that the proposal had been agreed to without any consultation.

Senator Mansfield. Senator, there are those who are saying that the Mayaguez incident will teach countries around the world that the United States is not a country that can be trusted. As a student of Asian affairs, do you think that, for example, North Korea will look at this incident and believe that the United States will live up to its commitments? Under the Constitution the President has great powers.

STAFF. I'm not exactly sure I understand the situation—I hate to keep bringing back to the war powers act—but you believe that it was too much information, but you were not consulted ahead of time, but that is not required?

Senator Mansfield. Not me. I said—what that a high school—information that was created no difference as far as I was concerned personally, but I think the principle is a good one, and there ought to be more consultation between a President and the Congress before the use of military force is agreed. That is what the War Powers Act contains.

Senator Mansfield. Senator Mansfield. Well, that implies that it was, to a slight degree, a question of the President not consulting with you before?

Senator Mansfield. Yes, Senator. Mansfield. Well, perhaps, maybe it didn't have the time, and circumstances had—we'll call come out. The story is told, we'll be able to amplify that and explain in detail.

Senator Mansfield. Well, do you think Congress should look further into it, Senator, or do you think that we should wait for the administration to say?

Senator Mansfield. No. I don't think we should look into it. I don't think we should look back. I urge, too, on the Hill, too, because, too often, conducted too many investigations, and I think we ought to face up to the present and not to look back.

Senator Mansfield. Do you consider the matter closed?
NELSON. The President has come out very much opposed to it.
SENATOR MANSHIELD. No, it will not pass.
NELSON. You think it will not pass?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. No.
NELSON. How about the proposition put forward by Senators Humphrey and Javits this past week for a national economic planning board to give the United States some outside control?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. At the federal level, yes.
NELSON. How about the proposition put forward by Senators Mansfield and Javits this past week for a national economic planning board to give the United States some outside control?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. That's a good idea.
SENATOR MANSHIELD. I haven't read their proposal—it's a pretty long one—it just came out a day or so ago, but I do think we need a reassertion of our domestic policy, especially in the economic area, just as we need a reassertion on a worldwide basis of our foreign policy.
NELSON. Do you think this is the way to go about it?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. I haven't read it.
STAH. Senator, on reassessing our foreign policy, what's your position on the recognition of Cuba?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. Senator, that's something for Mr. Kissinger and the President to decide, because it is purely an executive function; it is not a function of the legislative branch; and what Mr. Kissinger has indicated is that they are moving in that direction. The first step, I assume, before recognition will be forthcoming—will be the removal of the trade embargo against Cuba.
STAH. Well, if they came to you for advice and consultation, what would you say?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. I'd say, you're the boss, under the constitution.
NELSON. I'd like to ask you about your own political plans.
SENATOR MANSHIELD. The answer is yes. (Laughter.)
NELSON. You will be running again without question?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. Yes.
NELSON. And you will remain as Majority Leader?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. That's up to the Democratic conference.
NELSON. But you'll be interested in remaining as Majority Leader?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. Still, it's up to the Democratic conference; I've never sought the job.
NELSON. Are you still a candidate for the job of Majority Leader? Will you still be a candidate for the job?
SENATOR MANSHIELD. I never was a candidate.