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## Congressional Record S. 8818 - Face the Nation

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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LEGISLATIVE MEDICINE FOR AN  
AILING ECONOMY

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, since convening in January, the 94th Congress has been primarily concerned with legislative medicine for an ailing economy. The congressional majority recommended a program for economic recovery and energy sufficiency. Under the leadership of Senator John PASTORE's ad hoc majority conference committee, the Senate has expedited the consideration of measures necessary to deal with America's economic and energy supply problems as outlined in the congressional proposal. The following steps advocated by the Democratic majority have been taken:

First. A tax rebate to provide a one-shot stimulus to the sagging economy has been enacted.

Second. A temporary personal tax reduction for continuing support to consumer purchasing power has been enacted.

Third. A business tax reduction to stimulate investment has been enacted.

Fourth. Congress has repealed the oil depletion allowance to offset revenue losses and to provide more equity within the tax structure.

Fifth. Both Houses have passed an emergency housing program to create jobs, to provide homeownership assistance to low- and middle-income families, and to stimulate the depressed construction industry. Included in this measure is temporary mortgage assistance to homeowners who have become unexpectedly unemployed. In addition, the Congress has rejected the President's rescissions and deferrals of funds for existing housing programs.

Sixth. Congress has refused to put a 5 percent ceiling on Social Security benefits increases as proposed by President Ford and the Senate has passed the wage and price measure calling for an 8 percent increase. Congress proposed and enacted a one-time \$50 bonus payment to help stimulate economic recovery.

Seventh. Congress has called on the Federal Reserve Board to lower long-term interest rates and maintain a long-run growth in the money supply.

Eighth. Congress has cleared for the President increased appropriations for public service employment and job opportunities. The Senate has also passed a measure designed to open up new jobs to persons to repair train roadbeds and rehabilitate railroad facilities.

Ninth. Congress has rejected the President's proposed rescissions and deferrals of funds for job-intense public works and transportation programs.

Tenth. Congress has extended emergency unemployment compensation benefits for 4 more months and the Senate has on its calendar a bill to establish an emergency health benefits program for the unemployed.

Eleventh. The Senate has passed a host of measures to meet the situations

which may arise in regard to energy, including allocation and rationing authorization to the President to act expeditiously during a sudden shortage.

Twelfth. Both Houses have passed legislation to prevent the President from imposing energy price increases on consumers, including higher tariffs on oil imports and price decontrols. A veto of this legislation remains pending and an over-ride attempt was postponed in light of the President's deferral of further oil tariff increases.

Thirteenth. An auto fuel efficiency standards bill and a natural gas production and conservation bill have both been ordered reported and will be ready for Senate action in June. Committee work continues on several other important bills dealing with powerplant siting, energy efficiency labeling of products, the Outer Continental Shelf lands, the national strategic reserve, and others.

Aside from economic and energy related legislation, the Senate has dealt with several other matters of considerable importance in the first 5 months of this Congress. It has changed its rule regarding cloture so that three-fifths of the membership may now vote to end debate on a bill rather than two-thirds present and voting. Congress has agreed to its first budget resolution in an effort to control Federal expenditures and set budget priorities. The Senate has established a Select Committee on Intelligence to look into questionable activities throughout the various intelligence agencies and to investigate the need for legislation. The Senate has passed a measure creating a Consumer Advocacy Agency to protect consumer interests in Federal agency actions and the courts. The Senate has passed the nurse training-revenue sharing bill which as two separate bills last year was pocket vetoed.

Senate achievements this year have been substantial and we can be proud of our record thus far. For a more detailed summary of Senate legislative activity in 1975, I refer the Members to the report prepared by Senate Democratic Policy Committee staff which I ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the RECORD.