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Congressional Record S. 2163 - Child and Family Health Services

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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My Fellow Democrats:

It was with deep regret and some relief that I made the decision not to be a candidate for election to the Senate of the 95th Congress. It was not easy, for I have enjoyed representing the good people of Montana for 34 years, and I shall be ever grateful for the great public trust they reposed in me in so many ways and for so many years. I am not only grateful to Montana, but to the nation, the Senate, and the House of Representatives for the trust that has been bestowed on me.

During these 34 years I have witnessed and participated in a great many changes. I have seen some of the great come and go. I have served with seven Presidents. Many things have happened both here at home and abroad. Most importantly, I have seen the Big Sky country transformed from a relatively quiet oasis, a rural state unspoiled by the world around it. Montana is now a haven for the environmentalist and also for those who wish to return to a more simple life. At the same time the Treasure State has been thrown into the eye of the energy crisis, awaiting to be exploited. During these recent years it has been my pleasure to have led the battle to make certain that our vast resources are not unnecessarily exploited, and that our heritage is protected to the utmost. This task
is not complete, but I am confident that those who follow will continue in this vein.

I have many fond memories of campaigns in Montana, the cities and towns, the biways in 56 counties, the coffee hours, the luncheons, and the campaign dinners. Maureen and I are especially pleased with the way that the Democratic women of Montana have always given us the finest support anyone would ever want. Maureen often remarks on the fine work done by the Democratic women for their candidates and elected officials. We know this will continue.

It is difficult to say more other than there is a time to stay and a time to go. Thirty-four years is not a long time, but it is time enough.
Retirement Speech
Mr. President:

In 1942, I was elected for the first time to serve in the 78th Congress as a representative of the people of the Western District of Montana;

And, for an additional four consecutive terms, was re-elected to the House.

In 1953, I entered the 83d Congress after being elected as a Senator from Montana and sworn as a Senator of the United States;

And, for three additional consecutive terms, was re-elected to the Senate.

In 1957 the Senate elected me as Majority Whip and, in 1961, as Majority Leader.

The flow of responsibility has been continuous from 1943 onwards.

These years in the Congress of the United States span a complete change in the membership of the Senate, except for the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Eastland) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. McCallan), both of whom entered the Senate in the same year of my entry into the House.

These years encompass:

--one-sixth of the nation's history since independence,

--the administrations of seven Presidents,
--the assassination of a President and other extreme outrages against human decency,
--able political leadership and seamy politics and chicanery,
--the dawn of the nuclear age and men on the moon,
--a great war and a prelude to,
--two more wars and an uneasy peace,
--a dim perception of world order and an uncertain hope for international peace.

Through this and more, the Senate, together with the House, has been the people's institution. In all this and more, I have believed and believe it still, that the federal government will not atrophy and the people's liberties will be safe from tyranny if the Senate remains vigorous, independent, and vigilant. The Senate is stronger, more responsive, more alive, more innovative, today, than it was at the time of my entry so many years ago.

As the 94th Congress--my 17th Congress--moves towards a close, I find myself in my 72d year. I am in good health and of clear mind. My interest in the Senate remains deep and I have not become indifferent to the nation's affairs.

Insofar as running for the Senate again is concerned, in a Constitutional sense, it is my judgment that only the people by their votes can deem a candidate too old for office. Or, to be sure, an incumbent may so deem himself. Either way, that is not a decisive factor in my own case.
My conclusion has been reached in this instance with my wife, Maureen Hayes Mansfield, who has been with me through all these years and whose sensitive counsel, deep understanding and great love have been so much a part of whatever may be the sum of my contribution.

It seems to me that the time has come to perform a final public service; to the nation, to the Senate, and to the people of Montana. A great public trust has been reposed in me in so many ways and for so many years. For whatever time remains to me I shall ever be grateful to the nation, the Senate, and to my state for this confidence.

I ask now that this trust be shifted to other shoulders. In particular, I ask the people of Montana to tap a new source from within the state—a new source of dedication and leadership to send to the Senate in the 95th Congress.

There is a time to stay and a time to go. Thirty-four years is not a long time but it is time enough.

I will not be a candidate for election to the Senate of the 95th Congress.
SENATOR MANSFIELD ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

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The administrations of seven Presidents;

The assassination of a President and other extreme outrages against human decency;

Able political leadership and seamy politics and chicanery;

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