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## Article by Senator Mansfield for the Toronto Star

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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cratic leadership last Wednesday morning.

The story goes on to say that—

Senate Majority Leader MIKE MANSFIELD, citing political considerations, has notified House leaders that he will not schedule action on gun control legislation in the Senate this year, a decision that apparently dooms the measure.

May I say this is untrue. No such statement was made. The question was raised and my reply was, first, that there was no such legislation on the Senate calendar, that it was highly doubtful if any gun control legislation would be reported out of the Judiciary Committee, and that even if it were, it would have to be considered by the Democratic Policy Committee before any action could be taken on the floor.

As far as the allegation that I told the House leadership that I "would refuse to bring up the legislation in the Senate, irrespective of any action by the House," that statement is totally false. What the House does is its business; what the Senate does is the Senate's business; and we have detailed procedures by means of which any bill reported out by any committee is given the same consideration by the Policy Committee as any other bill.

I am also supposed to have said that—

The measure is too controversial to tackle this late in an election year.

I do not recall making any statement of that kind. As far as a measure of this kind being controversial, it would be controversial at any time, in any year, and under any circumstances.

The article goes on to say that—

As leader of the majority party in the Senate, MANSFIELD, . . . controls the legislative calendar in the chamber. Thus, he apparently would be able to block consideration of the gun control measure.

That is inaccurate.

I assure the Senate and the press and the people that, if any bill of any nature, including gun control legislation, is reported out by any committee, it will receive the same consideration as any other proposal and that, as far as I am concerned, it will not be blocked. May I say, incidentally, that I have never personally blocked any legislation in my 16 years as majority leader, and I do not intend to start now.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

#### GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I have been contacted by the press and have noted several stories to the effect that "MANSFIELD Blocks Gun Control Bill for 1976." The source of this story is given as an "aide" who attended a meeting of the Joint House-Senate Demo-