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1950

### Campaign Speech

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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I believe that we should never stop working for a lasting peace. My opponent has stated that "the blood of every American killed in our war against Communism should cling to the conscience of Mike Mansfield." I have never heard a more despicable statement and, in all my years in public office, it is the foulest and most un-American statement that has ever been thrown at me. I am not a Bridges, a Wherry, a Jenner, or a McGinnis; I do not belong to that clique which has fought every measure designed to prepare this country and our allies; I do not subscribe to isolationism; I do not make political capital out of a war which was forced upon us and the U.N. and I do not believe, as my opponent does, in a preventive war. The McGinnis idea - he says "the U.N. could not prevent a Third World War" - is a preventive war - the presenting of an ultimatum to Russia. I can see two things which makes this kind of thinking wrong:

1. We are not now prepared for an all-out war
2. Korea is merely an extension of Russia policy of limited advances, based on hitting at democratic weaknesses.

In Korea, it was military weakness; in the Balkans it was political weakness, and in Italy it was economic weakness.

We must meet all these threats firmly and without hesitation because what we are now engaged in is more than a total war; it is a total conflict.

This total conflict will not be won by a military victory in Korea or a military ultimatum to Russia. We will win this conflict only if we enlist the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Europe on our side.

The McGinnis who advocate a preventive war are the defeatists; they can see nothing but war and war and war. I believe in peace with my whole heart and soul, a peace that all men want, and peace that the people of the earth must have.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.  
EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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