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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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700 STUDENTS
APPLAUD MANSFIELD

MISSOULA---

More than 700 University of Montana students gave Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield a rousing ovation on the Missoula campus Friday afternoon when the senator said he would endorse a Constitutional Amendment to enable 18-year-olds to vote.

After he launched the lecture series established in his name at UM--the "Mansfield Lectures on International Relations," the senior senator from Montana addressed several different groups on the campus. He received warm receptions during a UM faculty-staff luncheon given in his honor, at a press conference and at the student session.

Mansfield received a particularly warm ovation from the students at the conclusion of the question-answer period when he said, "I hope that you will engage in politics like the young people did in New Hampshire and are doing in Wisconsin."

He urged the University students on the Missoula campus "to work to get the ballot at 18."

The remarks during the student session Friday afternoon were reiterations of what Mansfield told the faculty-staff group earlier in the day.

"The youngsters conducted a good campaign in New Hampshire," Mansfield said at the luncheon. "One thing was missing. That was the voice, the vote."

Mansfield said he believes that since "18-year-olds are old enough to fight and pay taxes that they have^{the} right to determine the policies of this country."

Concerning the upcoming general election, Mansfield said he would support all three candidates in the running for the Democratic party's presidential nomination--President Johnson, Sen. Eugene McCarthy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

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Mansfield
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Mansfield added, however, that President Johnson was the man who will have his full support as long as he is president. "President Johnson will be in office," Mansfield emphasized, "until mid-day on Jan. 20, 1969, and he will have my full support until that time."

"There is only one President of the United States at one time," Mansfield added.

Mansfield told more than 250 persons attending the faculty-staff luncheon that he believes "the bombing of North Vietnam should be stopped because most of the objectives for the bombings haven't been reached.

According to Mansfield, the bombings in the North were supposed to raise the morale of the South Vietnamese, injure the North Vietnam cause, stop the infiltration of troops into South Vietnam from the north and bring Hanoi to the conference table.

He said the bombings have hurt the North Vietnam cause but added that the other three objectives haven't been obtained.

Mansfield said the present U.S. draft laws "are full of inequities." He said he feels the nation would be "better off with universal military conscription."

Mansfield, who received both his bachelor's and master's degrees at the UM, said he would favor a draft program in which the government would send students through college and then draft these same students for military duty following graduation.

One student asked Mansfield if he felt U.S. involvement in Vietnam "is imperialistic." Mansfield answered, "Basically no, but the situation has turned out somewhat differently."

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