

Maureen and Mike

# Mansfield Library

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TRANSCRIPT OF RADIO TAPE OF MIKE MANSFIELD

October 13, 1952  
Livingston, Montana

First of all, I want to thank the people of Montana for the consideration they have always shown me over the years. I am grateful to you for your many kindnesses to Mrs. Mansfield and me during this and previous campaigns. To my long-time friends in western Montana whom I may not have seen this year, I wish to express the hope that you will understand, forgive and hold the reins set for me. In travelling over Montana's 138,000 square miles, I have tried to see as many as I could. I wanted to be more aware of your problems and to have the benefit of your advice and counsel so that, as a result, I could represent you better.

My entire effort and my personal background has been placed before you over the past ten years because everything I have done has been above board for all to see. Being human, I have made mistakes, and my record, while not perfect, is a good one and I am proud of it. In this campaign, as in previous ones, I shall not degrade the office I hold or the office I seek by indulging in personalities, slogans or emotional appeal. I will, however, during the course of these broadcasts, and there will be two more at this time on the following two Mondays, answer the false statements now being made about me. At this time I will only ask you what my opponent has done to develop Montana and its resources. What he has done to insure our country's security and what he has done in the cause of world peace? On what basis does he expect you, the people of Montana, to return him to the Senate.

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Tonight I am going to talk about Montana and my record, because it is important to me that I tell you what I have done for our state since I have been your Congressman. I think you are entitled to know the truth, not to make you free, because you are free, but to keep you free. The election of Mike Mansfield is far less important than the safety of our country and the building up of our state. Montana is an empire within itself. As I rode and flew over its majestic beauty, and I travelled approximately 30,000 miles in this campaign, I was impressed more than ever by its potentialities. I saw the bulk oil development in the Williston Basin of eastern Montana, a development which in ten years time will achieve anything Texas has ever known. I saw the agricultural areas, and I became aware once again that the rancher is basic to our economy. I visited the manganese and tungsten areas of Silver Bow and Beaverhead counties, the forests of western Montana and the copper mines in Butte. I visited the Hungry Horse, the Libby, the Canyon Ferry and the Tiber projects, and I met and talked, worshipped and ate with the most important of our resources, the people of our state. What does Montana mean to its people? It means job stability and security; it means hope and it means happiness. It means all of these things to me, too. I have watched too many of our youngsters leave this state because they felt there were no opportunities here. The opportunities and the resources were here, but they are lying dormant and undeveloped. That is one reason why, when you sent me to Congress ten years ago, I said I would do everything in my power to develop our state, and I have.

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A start has been made in developing the tremendous water resources which we have in such abundance. In the ten western Montana, Columbia Basin counties we have ten per cent of the hydroelectric potential in the entire United States, or, roughly, ten million kilowatts of power. We have Hungry Horse on the verge of completion and Libby Dam has been authorized and some preliminary work is now being done. Hungry Horse has furnished 300,000 kilowatts of power in Montana, and Libby, when completed, will furnish in excess of 600,000 kilowatts of power in our state. Canyon Ferry near Helena will be completed soon and another 50,000 kilowatts of power will be added. I want to see Moorhead and Yellowtail Dams developed because Moorhead would put 65,000 acres of Powder River County under cultivation and Yellowtail would furnish an additional 200,000 kilowatts of power for use in northeastern Montana. Tiber Dam is now under construction. All of these projects are fully repayable and represent an investment in our state and all of them mean new industry, a broader tax base, more jobs, more security for us and a future for our children.

Then, there is the matter of rural electrification. In the state of Montana only 74 per cent of our farms are electrified compared with 85 per cent, which is the National average. While this is a great deal above the 5 per cent of our farms electrified in 1935, it indicates that much more still needs to be done if we are to expand our over 18,000 miles of rural line to approximately keep up with the country as a whole. America's farm families know and appreciate the

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value of rural electrification. There is, perhaps, no single program of the many worthwhile and beneficial programs undertaken by this country which has directly benefited the farmer more. The farmer can now grind his feed with electric power, water his cattle and irrigate his land by electrically driven pumps. He does not have to be sold on the value of REA. The farmer's wife, who does her family's wash in a modern washing machine; prepares their meals on a clean, efficient electric stove; keeps their food and milk fresh and wholesome in an electric refrigerator and fills a deep freezer with vegetables and fruit fresh from her garden; does not have to be sold on the value of REA. The local REA cooperatives are farmer-owned and farmer-operated. They are successful businesses. They are bringing electricity to the farms at reasonable rates. In Montana REA is a big business and is benefiting other businesses as well as the farm families it serves. Let us not forget that free enterprise builds the REA line, every mile of it. Free enterprise has built the 30 million dollars worth of lines erected in Montana. Let us see what happens when the enterprising and pioneer families of Montana invest over 30 million dollars in Federal loans. First, the work concerning the power lines goes to the contractor who submits the low bid---private enterprise. Who supplies the poles, the conductors, the insulators, and the hundreds of other items needed to erect a power transmission line---private enterprise. Who pays the workers for their services---private enterprise. And yet, none of these could have shared in the 30 million dollars which Montana's ranchers were ready to invest had it not been for REA. And, as a result, private enterprise of our state has benefited by that amount. Over 30,000

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consumers have been connected to REA lines in Montana. Again, they have benefited because of REA. The state is that much richer because of this investment. Does this seem unfair to private enterprise? Do not forget that this is new business, business which would not have existed without REA. The REA serves a vital need. My goal is to see every farm home in Montana have access to electricity at rates they can afford to pay. The goal is almost in sight, and I will continue to fight for the REA until it is achieved.

In addition to the REA program, Congress in 1949 authorized REA to undertake a rural telephone line program to meet the great need of rural people for adequate telephone service. Some progress is now being made in this respect in Montana, and I am indeed happy to have worked for these great programs which mean so much to our people, on whom we depend to such a great extent. What does my opponent have to say about all of these things which I have been discussing with you? Just what is his stand on REA and transmission lines? I think he should tell you where he stands on Montana and its future. Don't you?

There was a group of Republican senators in the state of Montana a few days ago and in their talk in Kalispell they brought out the facts that the Republican 80th Congress had appropriated something like 13 million dollars, I believe, for Hungry Horse Dam. What they said was true, but I think you ought to know the story---the real story behind the story they told the people of the Flathead Valley. As a matter of fact, the present Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Mike Kirwan, who was at the Hungry Horse dedication, did

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far more than anyone else in Washington to get our program in the Flathead through. At the time the 80th Congress took over, Mike Kirwan was the ranking minority member. He went to the Republican chairman of that subcommittee, a partisan whip from the state of Ohio, and he said to his colleague, "I'm going to ask one favor of you." The chairman said, "Fine." "Anything you ask, Mike." Mike said, "I want you to grant the full amount for the Hungry Horse Dam." After two or three cuss words, the Chairman of the Subcommittee said, "That was the one project that I was going to cut out completely this year," and then he added, "I'll tell you what I'll do, on the basis of personal friendship and because it is the only request you have made of me, I'll go for half of the budget request, and that's it." And I hope you folks in the Flathead are listening because this is the real story of how the Republican Congress made up the appropriation when they came into control. What the Chairman wanted to do was to leave out Hungry Horse altogether. Incidentally, that same committee cut honorable appropriations so badly that they had to include a supplemental appropriations bill in a very large amount later in the year.

I am for the Hoover Plan except as it affects Veterans hospitals. My opponent says he is for the Hoover Plan; that he voted against taking Internal Revenue collectors, Customs collectors and Postmasters out of the field of a political appointment. I am for this and I have introduced bills in the last three Congresses in the past six years to take away from Congressmen the right to recommend Postmasters and rural mail carriers. Incidentally, these are the only jobs I recommend. I don't

recommend any other agency jobs, and I want these put under Civil Service. I want the people working in the Post Office Department to be considered on the basis of their ability to perform their duty.

In addition to introducing a bill for taking Postmasters and Rural Carriers off the patronage list, I have introduced the following legislation in this and previous Congresses:

1. a bill to revise the Federal election laws to stop abuses and spending of large sums of money in campaigns
2. a bill to alleviate the freight car service, which until this far, has put a tremendous hardship on our farmers and millers
3. a bill to provide a clearing house in the Department of Justice to pass on the qualifications of government contractors
4. a bill to extend the present strength of the Marine Corps and put the Commandant on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; this bill passed and the Marine Corps now has two divisions and three air wings and the Commandant is ready to land on the Joint Chiefs of Staff
5. a bill to create the Small Defense Plant Corporation to help small business; that bill passed too
6. a bill to outlaw the Communist Party
7. a bill to make it mandatory for members of Congress to report all outside income every year and to make the voting record of Congressmen available to the public
8. the Hall-Mansfield Bill to use revenue from mineral resources for defense and education

Where does my opponent stand on these measures? Where does he stand on freight tax, sales tax, and UMT? The people know how I stand and the record is there to prove it. Where does my opponent stand on Communism? He talks a great deal about it, but what has he done to stop this insidious danger? The widespread aim of world communism is,



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as he should know, world conquest, world domination, and world slavery. As for me, I will never bow down to this ideology, and I will continue to support every measure to try to combat it, to stop it, and, if necessary, to throw it back. I have backed up my words with action in voting for American security and I have introduced legislation to outlaw this Party once and for all.

Where does my opponent stand on corruption? He talks about that, too, but when the chips are down what has he done? He has voted to keep Postmasters, Internal Revenue collectors, and Customs collectors on a patronage basis, and I have voted to put them on a merit basis and take them off the patronage list. So far as corruption is concerned, there is no room for it in our government. One corrupt public official is one corrupt public official too many. I believe that it should be rooted out completely and that anyone who has violated a public office should be punished accordingly. I was one of those who urged Senator Kefauver to continue his investigation into crime in this country, and I also wrote to Senator Fulbright, asking him to continue his investigation into crime in this country relative to the RFC and other governmental agencies. I did so because I think corruption is a stain upon the name of America and because I feel that every corrupt official must be punished and punished as quickly and as severely as possible. One of the many reasons I wrote to Fulbright was because of the fact that there are supposedly in the RFC and in the White House Congressional files of letters which reportedly put pressure on the RFC to give favors to certain corporations. I believe that I had about twenty letters from small corporations in Montana who have written to me asking for help

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in development. As a matter of course, I sent them on to the RFC, but not one of my requests was ever granted. However, I want to see that my file and the files of every Congressman are complete and made available for the public.

Where does my opponent stand on farm parity? Is he for one per cent, one-hundred per cent, or flexible parity? The farmers are entitled to know because they vote from the record. The bills I have introduced are for one-hundred per cent parity. Don't be misled by words of vanity. Go by the record. My opponent has a record. I have a record. No matter what we say, we cannot go by anything but the records we have made, and I hope that the people of Montana, in their wisdom, will examine both of the records of my opponent and me and judge on what we have accomplished, what we have done and what we have not done. Judge us by the record because that is what counts.

This is Mike Mansfield saying, "Good night and so long."