

1952

Final Campaign Speech of Congressman Mike- Mansfield

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Final Campaign Speech of Congressman Mike- Mansfield" (1952). *Mike Mansfield Speeches*. 61.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/61

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Campaign 1952
final Speech

My Fellow Montanans.

This is Mike Mansfield speaking to you from Billings. Tonite I want to report to the people of Montana on the issues in the campaign for the United States Senate.

I have not -- and I will not -- descend to personalities nor will I spread falsehoods about my fellow-men. I have too much respect for the intelligence and the sound judgment of Montana's people.

In the past weeks I have travelled the length and breadth of our state's 148,000 square miles. I have been through the mountain country of the west, across the great plains and rich oil lands of the east, into our fast growing towns and cities, and to the cattle ranches and farms.

As I have travelled, I have talked to you -- sometimes before ~~XXXX~~ large audiences in the bit cities, sometimes when you were gathered together in small groups and whenever you best had the time we have talked face to face. I think that those of you who have spent some time with me will agree that I have been listening as well as talking. Many of you have told me what is in your minds and on your hearts. I have found that the problems that bother ~~MA~~ you are the same problems that worry me. I have found also that we have the same brave hopes, the same great dreams for the future of Montana and ourselves.

I am proud that new industry is coming into Montana and the reason is cheap power. Cheap power always attracts New Industry. The electric power for these new plants comes from the great Hungry Horse Dam in the Flathead country. I have fought in Washington for ten years to get the appropriations to build Hungry Horse. I can

tell you it was not an easy job, but three weeks ago the people of Montana had their triumph -- when Hungry Horse Dam was dedicated.

I am pleased but I am not content. What has been done at Hungry Horse must be done throughout all of Montana, eastern Montana as well as western Montana. There is room -- all the room in the world in this Treasure State -- for more industry. And the way to get this New Industry is to get more power -- both public and private. That is why I am happy about the Mansfield record in getting the authorizations and appropriations for the Tiber, Libby, Canyon Ferry and other projects.

These projects mean not only cheap power but they mean irrigation; they mean water for our farms. And never forget that only as our farmers prosper so will the cities and towns of Montana prosper. That is why I am for 100% parity for farmers. As our farmers and ranchers prosper so do our businessmen. Let anyone who doubts the truth of this statement look back a few years to the unemployment in all our cities. And let him today walk down Central Avenue in Great Falls, Park Street in Butte and the Main streets of all our other towns. Our cities are growing -- new buildings, new hotels, new offices, new businesses are rising everywhere.

We need cheap power for another reason. The people of Montana know better than anyone that the life of our ranchers and farmers, even as it is today, is no bed of roses. Every farm in Montana should have electricity. Electric power is needed to run the farms and ranches. It is needed for the comforts of the farmer's wife. We have made great strides through R.E.A. in bringing electricity to our farms and today almost 75% of the farms in Montana are electrified.

Now that is a good record but it is not good enough. The R.E.A. is, without question, of tremendous assistance to private ~~enterprise~~ enterprise and the appliance dealer on Main street knows it.

I have reviewed the Mansfield record on public power and R.E.A. to show you how it has made Montana a better place in which to live.

I would like to ask my opponent where he has stood for six long years in the Senate on public power. Ask him how much help he ever gave to the people of Montana in the fight for Hungry Horse. Ask him why he has voted against R.E.A. even though he says he is in favor of it. Ask him what he has ever done for Montana. I can tell you the answer. In six years in the Senate he has accomplished -- nothing! Now, two years is a fair enough time to judge what a man can do for his State in Congress. I think six years is too long. I do not say that Mike Mansfield has hit a home run every time he has been at bat in the last ten years but he has gotten more than his share of hits, and a lot of them were for extra bases. If you will look at my opponent's record, the one thing you will notice is that he has struck out -- every time.

But I am not content. We of Montana must not dream small dreams. We dream great dreams because we are a great people living in a great State. Montana has just begun to grow and develop. It is our job to improve the fortunes, the lot and the livelihood of everyone in Montana, not just the businessman, not just the working man, not just the farmer. For example, what about the Indians?

I am proud of what I have accomplished in behalf of the Flathead Indian Tribe -- the only Indian tribe in my Congressional district. The Flathead tribe controls its own funds and looks after

most of its own affairs. This must be extended to every Indian tribe in Montana.

You may know -- as the Indians of Montana know -- about my work in the authorization and the getting of the necessary Federal funds to build an Indian wing to the T.B. Hospital at Galen. That wing is now under construction. At this time I must pay public thanks to the Montana Tuberculosis Association, to the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs and to Henrietta Crockett, one of Montana's really great women, for the fine work they have done in pushing this project for the Indians through.

I do not know all the answers to the problems of the Montana Indians but I do know that they should have all the rights and all the privileges of other Americans, and I know also that the treaties entered into between the Government and the Indians must be followed to the letter.

And what about the education of our children, our most precious possession? I worry about the education of my daughter just as you do about your children. I know that our schools are overburdened, that our teachers are underpaid, just as the teachers of every other state are underpaid. I realize that the post-war crop of babies is flooding the schools of Montana. We must get more teachers and we must pay the teachers that we have better salaries to keep them in our schools.

That is why I have introduced the "Oil for Education" bill along with Senator Lister Hill of Alabama. This is a bill which would use the revenue from our off-shore oil resources -- estimated at \$ 40 billion -- for defense, education, and tax reduction

purposes. I was a teacher for nine years at the University of Montana so I know as well as anyone how devoted the teachers are to their profession and to our children.

Speaking of taxes I want you to know that I am against a Federal sales tax because it falls on the people least able to pay. This is not just campaign oratory because I fought and voted against the sales tax which the Congress put on the people of the District of Columbia and I am against the bill introduced in the Congress for a Federal sales tax.

And now I want to talk to you about Peace. I have no easy formula to bring peace to the world -- and neither has anyone else. I will not be one of those going up and down the length of the land today trying to fool the American people into believing there is some quick cure, some new shortcut to peace. I have too much respect for the American people, I have too much respect for myself to try to tell you anything but the Truth. The road to Peace is a hard road. It is a road of sacrifice and hard work and vigilance. I believe we will find it but we will not find it if we listen to the false prophets talking in this country during this campaign.

The people of Montana are now being bombarded by These Desperate Men who will do anything, tell any lie, for a vote. These Desperate Men are the frustrated politicians. They are so hungry for power -- so eager to take over the destiny of this country -- so anxious to regain the seat from which the American people drove them twenty years ago that they will do anything. In their slick and ugly way they are trying to blacken the record of every honest man who dares to oppose them.

You, the people of Montana, have already heard these desperate lies. These falsehoods are not only from certain opposition Montana politicians. Outsiders, carpet-baggers --to call them by the name they deserve -- are even being brought into Montana by these same self-seeking politicians to spread their malicious propoganda. You can hear their scandal-mongering about everyone. From now until election day you are going to hear it against Governor Adlai Stevenson, of Illinois, the Democratic candidate for President. You have heard it against General George Marshall, a great American patriot. In this campaign I am ashamed to tell you that my opposition has even brought into Montana a paid carpet-bagger, an admitted communist, to spread more slander.

I am used to abuse by Pravda, Isvetzia, Radio Moscow. I stood up under the abuse of Malik and Vishinsky. As a good American I am not used to having a Communist brought into Montana to attack me, my record, and my integrity. I realize full well that my opponents will stop at nothing to defeat me. The Senatorship in this State is the big prize. They seek to create bitterness and disunity and they think the people of Montana don't know it. They sow the seeds of hatred and discontent. Is is any wonder that decent people -- who should be seeking public office -- shy away from offering their services because of the visious attacks they can expect? What about the welfare and the security of our country? That MUST always come first because it is immaterial what happens to a candidate personally. What is important is the security and welfare of our Nation and the future of our children. That is the issue because our understanding of it will bring peace -- a peace based on strength and preparedness

-- a peace based on justice and tolerance -- and a peace which will create a brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

This Communish paid agent spreads malicious and un-American propaganda and the only reason I even mention this at all is because some of you who live in the eastern part of Montana may not know me as well as the citizens in the First Congressional district. I can only tell you that the people in the First District have heard this about Mike Mansfield in every campaign for the past six years. And I am honored and proud that their votes on every election day have shown ~~me~~ that they had continued their trust, their faith and their confidence in me.

It is the last desperate, final move of a desperate opposition who already see the bitter ashes of defeat next week and it helps to hide their completely empty record of doing nothing.

But I do want to talk to you tonight soberly and thoughtfully about the real enemy of the United States and the free world -- the Soviet Union. We are foolish indeed if we ignore the mighty armies and the sinister fifth column of this most ruthless dictatorship. As a Representative, I have been as vigilant as any Member of Congress -- more vigilant than most. Let's look again at the Mansfield record.

I introduced the bill in Congress to outlaw the Communist Party in the United States. Where does my opponent stand on this proposal?

I voted for the McCarran Internal Security Act to keep immigrants with a subversive intent out of the country. I have voted for and worked for the Mundt-Nixon bill to make Communist organizations register. Both of these bills are now law on the Federal statute books.

My opponent finally, at this late date, is talking vaguely against Communism when the Senate is no longer in session -- but ask him what he has done about it in six years besides talk? In fact I have found, in going through the Congressional Record for the past six years he has been a Senator that he hasn't even talked very much about it.

But just as important as protecting ourselves against Communists at home is preparing ourselves and our friendly allies abroad. There is only one way to win World War III and that is to prevent it. There is only one way to prevent World War III. It is a hard way. It will cost the taxpayer billions of dollars. But I say to you with deep sincerity that it is the only way.

You know and I know that the one way to prevent the Soviet army from overrunning Europe and the Middle East, Burma, India, Indo-China and Japan and, eventually, South America and then the United States is to stop them from moving in the first place. If we do not strengthen our allies and strengthen our own Armed Forces, the Soviet Union will pick us off one by one, just like sitting ducks in a shooting gallery.

That is why we have given military and economic aid to our allies. I believe in few things more deeply than this, that we must be prepared because the Soviet Union understands only one thing -- military force. This is no longer a large country surrounded by two oceans. Two months ago a British Jet plane flew the Atlantic both ways in eight hours! Two weeks ago 44 American jet fighter planes flew from California to Hawaii 2600 miles away -- about as far as from Spokane to Washington D.C. -- in four hours and 10 minutes! Think it over because isolation does not spell security and safety; it

does spell danger and death. That is why I have fought to strengthen the United States Marines. I am a veteran of all three services, the Navy, the Army and the Marines -- the only Member of Congress who is. In fact, I have been an enlisted G.I. in each of them, although I did reach the high rank of PFC in the Marines. I succeeded in pushing through the Mansfield-Douglas bill in the last Congress. That bill provides for a minimum strength of three divisions of Marines, three Marine Air Wings and puts the Commandant of the Marine Corps on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is now Federal law.

That is part of the Mansfield record on National Defense. Compare that record with that of my opponent. Do not listen to what he says at election time. Ask him what he has done for National Defense against the Soviet in the past six years.

I have been critical of my opponent's do-nothing record. So in all fairness I must tell you that before I could be the United States Delegate to the United Nations I had to be confirmed by the Senate of the United States. And my opponent did vote for my confirmation. In fact the vote in the Senate to confirm me was unanimous and every Republican Senator on the Floor voted. I appreciate this vote of confidence in my ability to handle the Russians and I hope these Republican Senators were amply rewarded for their vote by the heart-warming praise of Montana in my victory over Vishinsky.

Last week I asked my opponent some questions which I think he should answer for the benefit of the people of Montana. They are:

1. Where do you stand on farm parity?
2. Where do you stand on R.E.A.?
3. Where do you stand on the ~~WVSS~~- Hoover Reorganization proposals?
4. Where do you stand on my bill to ~~make~~ all Senators and Congressmen report, each year, all sources of outside income?
5. Where do you stand on Montana's Number One Economic Problem -- high freight rates?

The people of Montana are entitled to know your position on these questions.

Montana today has come a long long way. But we must not be content. We have just begun to build the New Montana. We stand at the beginning of a great era. We are the New America. Here in Montana and in America we must stand and fight together to achieve Peace and then to achieve a greater State than any of us ever dared to dream about 10 years ago. I have worked hard for this Dream as your Montana Congressman for ten years. If you elect me as your Senator I promise you only that I will work as hard as I can for Montana, for all of the people of Montana, for the security of our Country, and the cause of world peace. My faith and my trust is in you.

This is Mike Mansfield thanking you for listening and saying goodnight.