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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT AN "HONOR MANSFIELD RECEPTION"

ROOM S-207 THE CAPITOL

Let me say that it is great to be back up on Capitol Hill and to see Senator Mansfield and the Democratic leadership in this end of the Capitol and also great to see the Speaker and the others from the other end of the Capitol.

But I am here primarily, in fact, exclusively, to pay tribute to a person who I have known all of my almost 26 years in Washington, 25 of them being in the Congress -- Mike Mansfield.

When I came in January of 1949, Mike had been here four or six years and I quickly developed a great respect and admiration for him as a Member of the House, and when he went to the Senate, that admiration and respect increased.

Anybody who can be a leader, particularly in the majority, for 13 years, I think, deserves the greatest congratulations and compliments. I think it proves a couple of things: That bullies don't always prevail. You have to have some of that very fine quality of working with people without twisting their arm. I think it proves that people who can negotiate survive better than those who take a flat adamant attitude.

But I think I can sum it up better than any way by going along in opposition to a statement that Leo Durocher is alleged to have said, that good guys finish last. Mike Mansfield is a good guy and he has finished first for a long, long time.