

April 7, 1964

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

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The purpose of this meeting is to discuss further procedures covering H.R. 7152 in the weeks ahead. As you all know, the floor manager of this bill, the man in charge with the responsibility for shepherding it through the Senate, is the Deputy Majority Leader, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Humphrey).

Before I turn the Chair over to Senator Humphrey, I believe it is advisable to say something about the quorum calls which we have had and some of which we have not been able to consummate.

Several members have come to me and stated that even though they came in after a live quorum was completed and came in within a reasonable length of time, that they should be tallied. They were informed by the tally clerk that because of instructions which I gave that they could not be so recorded. By way of explanation let me say that last week several Senators approached me and stated that they were going to question <sup>publicly</sup> the advisability of continuing a procedure whereby Members come in as late as one half hour to an hour after the quorum was achieved and could still be recorded as answering the quorum. In <sup>after consultation with the Minority,</sup> an effort to prevent an unpleasant situation, I did instruct the tally clerk to announce the completion of the quorum as soon as the 51st Member

arrived, plus what other Members would arrive at <sup>approximately</sup> the same time or come in through different doors. I also instructed the Cloakroom to notify each Senator's office as soon as possible after a quorum call was started and, if at all possible, as on last evening, to notify the offices ahead of time that there would very likely be a live quorum call at a certain time. Last night, for example, every democratic office except those of Senators out of town was notified at about 6:00 p.m. that there would be a live quorum at about 8:00 p.m. Then, as soon as the quorum call began, and the bells rang, two telephone clerks began the telephoning of every democratic office.

Several Members have <sup>raised questions about this policy</sup> found fault with this procedure and some have indicated that if it is continued, they will go their own ways and mark out their own procedures. I have told them that that was their responsibility; that I had laid down this policy; that <sup>I hoped it</sup> it would be adhered to and that I had every confidence in the work being done by the telephone staff in the Democratic Cloakroom.

~~I have been told that in making this statement that I was, in effect, calling <sup>the</sup> Administrative Assistants liars. I did not make such an assertion nor would I make such an assertion, but I will state without question that I have every confidence in the telephone staff and, <sup>sure</sup> in my opinion, they are carrying out the orders given to them exactly as requested.~~

I must say that the attendance record on Democrats is something which I would not brag about because it indicates an apathy, a disinterest, a lack of cohesion and a lack of party unity. It places the Leadership in a very embarrassing position and, ~~it~~, in my opinion, <sup>it</sup> demeans the Senate as an institution.

On Saturday last, I was, in effect, forced to recess the Senate because of a fear, perhaps unfounded, that some Member might suggest the arrest of absent Senators and, in the circumstances, make a total farce of the situation. I recessed the Senate when only 41 Members showed up, when there was no possibility that I could see of getting a quorum of 51 Members for a good many hours, and I did so with the facts in mind that the manager of the bill, Senator Humphrey, had announced 3 days previously there would be a Saturday session; that on the day before the Saturday session I had sent telegrams out to all Democrats telling them there would be a live quorum on Saturday, and their offices were all telephoned to the same effect on Friday afternoon, and, also, that on that day and the next, Senator Humphrey <sup>had</sup> ~~and~~ individually telephoned a number of Senators asking them to be on hand.

I know that there are a number of Senators running for re-election. I believe I am aware of the difficulties which confront most of them. I am aware, also, that on occasion perhaps their absences may be noted and used against them and that on occasion, they may be in town and

arrive too late to answer a live quorum call. Nevertheless, I make no apologies for what the Leadership has attempted to do because the Leadership has, perhaps too often and certainly against the interest of the Senate as a whole, leaned over backwards to be accommodating. However, there comes a point in time when certain procedures must, in the best interest of the Senate, be laid down. It is to be expected that there will be dissent on this point and that dissent has been made known this year and when the question of absenteeism was <sup>raised</sup> made last year, it was made known then. *Before I*

*turn the meeting over to Hubert who will further explain the quorum call situation*  
May I say in all frankness that I do not relish the job to which you elected me. It is not a job which is of help to me personally, *quite the contrary.* It is a job, which, in effect, gives me less power than any other Senator in my party and for that matter, in the Senate. I have to operate on the basis of accommodation, understanding and tolerance. I have taken my share of personal criticism and that is to be expected in the job. I do not say that the criticism was not merited because on occasions it was. All I do want to say is that my skin is no thicker than that of any other Senator, that I am just as sensitive as the next man and that while on the outside I may show the virtue of patience, on the inside it is quite a different matter.

My job is to get legislation before the Senate. My job is to try to keep this party of ours together. My job is to recognize to the best of my ability the needs and the attitudes of all Senators, regardless of what part of the country they come from or what political philosophy they represent. This I have tried to do to the best of my ability. I am not pleading or begging for your consideration or your understanding. I am telling you that if you want someone to be the leader of this party, you've got to meet him at least half way and perhaps a little more. ~~I know that you will.~~ I trust that from now on that will be the case.

~~+ give him the benefit of any doubts you may have. The Leadership needs your help more~~