

## Mansfield Shifts

# Demos Urge Viet Deadline

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said today sentiment was growing in the Senate and throughout the nation for a definite deadline for U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam.

In the past Mansfield has resisted efforts by some of his colleagues to cut off funds for the war as a means of forcing President Nixon to order a total withdrawal. Today he told reporters that he was "reassessing my position."

Five of six potential rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination advocated a firm withdrawal date during a television appearance last night.

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), the acknowledged front-runner, said Democrats want the war eliminated as a 1972 election issue.

### POWs

Nixon has said Hanoi's release of U.S. prisoners of war was essential to a final U.S. withdrawal.

Mansfield said: "I would hope the POWs would not become hostage to either side. The longer the war continues, the more POWs there will be, more dead, more wounded.

"There is growing sentiment in the Senate and in the country," Mansfield said, "the strength is increasing for a terminal date resolution" by Congress calling for a complete U.S. withdrawal.

As for cutting off war appropriations, Mansfield said: "I have been loathe to do that in the past but I am reassessing my position as to what I would do individually."

### TV Reply

Muskie, Sens. Birch Bayh, Ind., George S. McGovern, S.D., Hubert H. Humphrey, Minn., Harold E. Hughes, Iowa, and Henry M. Jackson, Wash., with Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien, appeared in a half-hour television program on ABC to reply to President Nixon's broadcasts on administration Indochina policy.

Muskie, Bayh, McGovern, Humphrey and Hughes all advocated a definite date for withdrawal, saying this would open the way for negotiations with the Communists on release of American prisoners of war.

Nixon has pledged that total U.S. withdrawal will not take place until POWs are freed.

Jackson, who has generally supported administration policies, did not advocate setting a withdrawal date but said greater effort should be made to negotiate a mutual cease-fire.

The six senators made separate statements, with O'Brien opening and closing the program.

Muskie, the last to appear, said: "Some have said that we Democrats want the war as an issue in the 1972 campaign. That is nonsense. Every one of us here wants this war over before 1972."

He expressed hope that the war could be eliminated as an issue so that next year's presidential campaign could "be fought on the issue of how America should be led in peace."

McGovern, the only announced candidate so far, said current policy only "guarantees that our prisoners will remain in their cells, that our troops will remain in danger . . . and that the killing will continue."

### 'Cruel Hoax'

Bayh accused the administration of attempting a "cruel hoax" by suggesting that POWs might be released "before we end our involvement in the war."

Hughes said, "There is no honor in sacrificing American lives" in Indochina. "There is honor, I believe, in binding the wounds of our domestic society and making America a strong nation again."

Humphrey, who led off the separate presentations, said Nixon had unfairly implied that Democratic administrations were to blame for the Vietnam entanglement.

"The responsibility for our involvement was a national responsibility — not a partisan one; and our disengagement, it seems to me, must also be the task of all of us."