

# A New Equality, in Mansfield's View

## Washington

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said yesterday the Watergate scandal has helped Congress regain its strength as an equal power of government with the presidency.

Mansfield (Dem.-Mont.) said Congress has found itself pushed "back to the wall" by increased presidential power since the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"In the past," he said, "we had either willingly or knowingly allowed the transfer of powers which under the Constitution belonged to Congress, to the Executive."

Asked about President Nixon's statement in his news conference last week that some members of Congress are out to damage the presidency over the Watergate affair, Mansfield replied:

"It isn't a case of cutting the president down. We're not against a strong president. It is a case of equalizing the powers, under the

Constitution, between the executive and the legislative branches.

"Watergate has helped in that respect and things are tilting back toward equality."

Mansfield was interviewed on the CBS program "Face the Nation."

He said the legislative branch also is willing to "take the blame" for what happens in Cambodia because of the August 15 bombing halt which Congress ordered. He also predicted that the present Cambodian regime of President Lon Nol will fall to the forces of exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk, not the Communists.

"I do not think Cambodia will become a Communist state when Sihanouk returns because he has made it very plain he is not a Communist," Mansfield said. "He may use the Communists, the Khmer Rouge, to help him get back into power, but he will develop a country based on neutrality and based on unity."

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