

Mansfield Declares President Is Pleased With Congress Job

21, with theater news

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (UPI) —President Nixon, who sharply criticized Congress Wednesday, was quoted by the Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield, today as saying that "over-all" the legislative branch had done a good job.

Mr. Mansfield returned to Capitol Hill from an unannounced, (private breakfast meeting with the President and first denied having the meeting. Later he confirmed that they had discussed Congress's 1973 record over poached eggs and hash.

The Montana Senator said Mr. Nixon had told him: "Congress over-all was doing very well but that he would like to have his proposals given more consideration."

In another signal that Mr. Nixon may be willing to seek closer cooperation with Congress in the last three and a half years of his second term, Mr. Nixon scheduled another breakfast meeting Tuesday with three more Congressional leaders. They are the Speaker, Carl Albert of Oklahoma; the House Democratic leader, Thomas P. O'Neill of Massachusetts and the House Republican leader, Gerald R. Ford, of Michigan.

Mr. Nixon's remarks to Mr. Mansfield, as recalled by the Democratic leader, were in sharp contrast to Mr. Nixon's statement Wednesday that Congress's performance this year had been "very disappointing" and that he would send a new State of the Union Message to Capitol Hill Monday describing the legislation he wanted passed during the remainder of the year.

Angered by these remarks, the Democratic leadership replied in a statement that "Congress does not perform at the behest of this President or any President."

Mr. Mansfield said he had discussed with Mr. Nixon foreign policy issues and the forthcoming message.