

NYTimes FEB 2 1974
**MANSFIELD BARS
WATERGATE'S END
IN REPLY TO NIXON**

**Bids Congress and Courts
Pursue Inquiry to Cleanse
U.S. Political Processes**

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—The Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield, declared tonight that Congress and the courts must pursue their Watergate investigations "in order to cleanse the political processes of the nation."

In a speech prepared for delivery, the Senator from Montana, responding on behalf of

Excerpts from the Mansfield speech are on Page 11.

the Democratic majority in Congress to President Nixon's State of the Union Address on Wednesday, pledged that his party would put "the regular business of the nation" ahead of Watergate.

But Mr. Mansfield said that Congress would deal "fully" with the inquiry into the possible impeachment of the President, and he specifically rejected Mr. Nixon's plea for an end to the Watergate investigations.

Meanwhile, John J. Rhodes, the ranking Republican in the House of Representatives, predicted today that his party would support a move to give the Judiciary Committee full authority to pursue its impeachment inquiry. This was seen as virtually assuring an eventual vote on the impeachment of President Nixon. [Details on Page 12.]

President Nixon told a joint session of Congress and a nationwide television audience in a 50-minute address two nights ago that it was time to end the investigations, and that "one year of Watergate is enough."

Notes 'Onerous' Tasks

Senator Mansfield replied tonight, in a 50-minute speech and interview to a comparable television audience, that the impeachment inquiry and Senate Watergate committee investigation were "onerous" but "inescapable responsibilities."

"As for the crimes of Watergate—and there were crimes—they cannot be put to rest by Congress," he said. "Nor can any words of the President's or

from me mitigate them."

The Senator said pointedly that the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, and the Federal courts must take "however long may be necessary" to complete their criminal investigations.

"Whether it is months or years, there are no judicial shortcuts," Mr. Mansfield declared.

The Senator spoke from a desk in his private Capitol office and then answered questions from a panel of six television and radio correspondents.

Mr. Mansfield appealed to the President to join the Democratic leadership in pressing for public funding of Federal elections.

"If it was in 1972 that Watergate arose, and in 1973 that it was investigated, may it be said that it was in 1974 that the matter was finally ended

Continued on Page 11, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

in a new system of open elections openly paid for," Mr. Mansfield urged.

He said that he spoke not for all Congressional Democrats but reflected their "prevailing" views in setting a legislative agenda for 1974 that was similar but not identical to the President's legislative program.

Although Mr. Nixon had implored Congress to "do everything we can to avoid gasoline rationing," Mr. Mansfield said that if rationing should be necessary to guarantee equity to all fuel consumers the Government should "not hesitate to use this device."

The Senator also said Congress would attempt to reduce the \$304.4-billion budget request that Mr. Nixon will send to the House and Senate on Monday.

Among other major priorities set by Mr. Mansfield were a system of national health insurance "which covers all Americans," expanded Federal housing assistance, reform of private pension systems, an increase in minimum wage levels, tax reform, a national program of "no-fault" auto insurance and "a renewed commitment to excellence in education after years of administrative indifference."

In a counterpoint to Mr. Nixon's declaration of diplomatic and domestic achievements of the last five years, the Democratic leader contended that Congress was able last year to halt "an ominous shift to one-branch Government."

Criticism Of Executive

Mr. Mansfield said that the

President's refusal to spend appropriated funds, curtailment of national security information expressions of "executive contempt for Congress" and the Administration's "illegal invasions of personal privacy" had been "flashpoints of a danger to freedom" that Congress had met head on.

The Senator complimented the President for calling an international conference on the energy shortage and twice credited Secretary of State Kissinger for efforts to negotiate peace in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Mortover, the taciturn Senator said he accepted at face value Mr. Nixon's statement that he would not resign and added that he raised the issues of impeachment and Watergate reluctantly.

But he refused to set any deadlines for completion of the Congressional investigations and said:

"To excise Watergate and what it implies before it becomes fatal to liberty is a fundamental responsibility of this Government. The people have a right to an electoral system free of shenanigans, capable of yielding honest, responsible and responsive government, open to all, and shaped to meet the needs of all."

Mr. Mansfield contended that Watergate had been the product of flaws in campaign financing laws and that it was therefore "incumbent on us to foreclose an excessive intrusion of great wealth—whether corporate, labor, personal or whatever—into the electoral process."