THE 1990 MANSFIELD CONFERENCE

ETHICS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Trust and Private Interests

May 20 & 21, 1990

Funded by a generous gift from the Burlington Northern Foundation.
WALTER MONDALE

Former Vice President of the United States, Walter Mondale is one of the few individuals in America who have had the experience of providing significant public leadership in both the Congress and the White House. He was born in Minnesota, the son of a Methodist minister. Mondale earned his B.A. degree in political science from the University of Minnesota, and received his LL.B. cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School. In 1964 he entered the U.S. Senate where he served with distinction for twelve years promoting civil rights, education, health care, social justice, and campaign finance reform, and demonstrating a deep commitment to the process of open democracy. Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale were elected President and Vice President in 1976, and he was the first Vice President to have an office in the White House and to serve as a full-time participant, advisor, and trouble shooter within a presidential administration. According to the author of Vice Presidential Power, Mondale "stands as a model for other Vice Presidents," for he was "the most effective Vice President of this century, if not in history. He set the standard by which all future Vice Presidents will be measured." In 1984 he was the Democratic nominee for President of the United States, and at that time made the history-making decision to name Geraldine Ferraro as the first woman Vice Presidential candidate. Mondale is now practicing law as a partner of the firm of Dorsey and Whitney. He is the author of The Accountability of Power: Toward a Responsible Presidency (1975) and Educating Our Citizens: The Search for Excellence (1983).

MICHAEL SANDEL

As a professor of government at Harvard University, Michael Sandel is recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities on contemporary political thought and philosophy. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and earned his B.A., summa cum laude, and M.A. degrees from Brandeis University and his D.Phil. from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar. Sandel has received fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and in 1985 was awarded the Harvard-Radcliffe Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize. His undergraduate course—Justice—a mainstay of Harvard's core curriculum, typically enrolls 800 to 900 students, the largest attendance in the college. He also teaches courses in the history of modern political thought, contemporary political philosophy, and, at Harvard Law School, law and political theory. He also serves on the university's interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics and the Professions. Professor Sandel is the author of the highly acclaimed and insightful book, Liberalism and the Limits of Justice (1982), a widely discussed critique of contemporary liberal political philosophy. He is the editor of Liberalism and Its Critics (1984) and has contributed to The New York Times Book Review, The New Republic, Dissent, and Political Theory. Sandel is currently writing a book about the democratic prospect in contemporary America, tentatively entitled Liberal Democracy in America: In Search of a Public Philosophy.
ETHICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

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Sunday, May 20

• TENSIONS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC TRUST AND PRIVATE INTERESTS IN AMERICAN POLITICS
  Honorable Walter Mondale
  7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 21

• THE NATURE OF THE PUBLIC TRUST AND PRIVATE INTERESTS
  Professor Michael Sandel
  10:00 a.m.

• PROTECTING THE PUBLIC TRUST
  Mr. Ralph Nader
  3:00 p.m.

• THE PUBLIC TRUST AND PUBLIC SERVICE
  Honorable Paul Volcker
  7:30 p.m.

All lectures are free, open to the public, and will be presented in the Montana Theatre of the Performing Arts/Radio Television Center at the University of Montana.
RALPH NADER

An American original, Ralph Nader has been acclaimed for his sense of civic responsibility and his tireless efforts as a crusader for the public interest for more than twenty years. He received his B.A. degree from Princeton University magna cum laude and his LL.B. degree from Harvard University Law School with distinction. Nader burst on the American scene when, as a young and unknown attorney, he took on the huge Detroit automobile industry with his hard-hitting book, Unsafe at Any Speed (1965). He is widely recognized as the founder of the consumer rights movement. Under his inspired and civic-minded leadership, American politics have been significantly affected by a number of public interest organizations of his creation, including The Public Citizen, Congress Watch, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Center for the Study of Responsive Law, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. A prolific writer, he has written, edited, or co-authored Working on the System: A Manual for Citizen’s Access to Federal Agencies (1972), Action for a Change (1972), Whistle Blowing: The Report on the Conference on Professional Responsibility (1972), The Consumer and Corporate Responsibility (1973), Corporate Power in America (1973), Who Runs Congress? (1975), Taming the Giant Corporation (1976), and The Big Boys: Power and Position in American Business (1986), among many others. Even his harshest critics acknowledge that “no living American is responsible for more concrete improvements in our society.” When asked what he is, Nader will state that he is first and foremost “a public citizen.”

PAUL VOLCKER

Paul Volcker is one of America’s most noted and dedicated public servants. He served in the federal government for almost thirty years under five presidents—John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan. According to Common Cause President Fred Wertheimer, Volcker “is a role model of what a public official should be.” He was born in New Jersey and earned his B.A. degree from Princeton University and his M.A. degree in political economy and government at the Graduate School of Public Administration of Harvard University. Volcker served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System with courage and conviction under both Democratic and Republican administrations. Upon completion of his second term in this position, he returned to private life as the Chairman of James D. Wolfensohn and as the Frederick Schultz Professor of International Economic Policy at Princeton University. At the same time, he agreed to serve as the volunteer Chairman of the U.S. Commission on the Public Service to study problems arising in attracting, motivating, and retaining men and women of quality to work in government service. The Commission’s report, Leadership for America: Rebuilding the Public Service (1989), warned that the growing distrust by Americans of their elected officials and public servants seriously could undermine the democratic process itself, and recommended the need to “set the highest standards of ethical conduct for those who hold the public trust, and act quickly and firmly to remove those who violate that trust.”
The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana is designed to recognize and honor the Mansfields’ four decades of public service. The inspiration for the Center derives from Mike Mansfield’s distinguished career and the two subjects with which he long has been identified: a staunch commitment to high ethical standards in public affairs and insightful contributions to the nation’s Asian policies. The Mansfield Center’s two principal programs, thus, are Ethics and Public Affairs and Modern Asian Affairs.

Mike Mansfield’s outstanding reputation as a public official is based upon his numerous achievements and personal qualities. Both he and his wife, Maureen, whom he credits as being responsible for many of his successes, are graduates of the University of Montana. He served as a faculty member in the Department of History, and then represented Montana for ten years in the House of Representatives, and for twenty-four in the Senate. He served as Senate Majority Leader longer than anyone else in American history. President Jimmy Carter appointed Mike Mansfield U.S. Ambassador to Japan in 1977, and President Ronald Reagan subsequently renewed the appointment. When he retired in January 1989 he had served in this ambassadorial position longer than any other individual.

His retirement from the Senate in 1976 was the occasion for one of the greatest outpourings of esteem ever given a departing senator by his colleagues, who commented about his “special expertise in the area of foreign policy,” “grasp of international issues,” “immense knowledge of East Asia,” and, above all, his “character and integrity.” Mike Mansfield served as “the conscience” of the Senate, they said, setting “an inspiring example of the very highest standards of principled public service” and exercising “a moral leadership which reflects the ideals and finest traditions in our country.” As one senator felt compelled to say: “Honor, decency, fairness, tolerance—these have been his hallmarks; and those qualities, much more than our words in praise of him, will remain his most eloquent tributes.”

The University of Montana is a fitting site for the Mansfield Center. As an integral part of a respected public university with abiding ties to the ambassador and his wife, the Mansfield Center is assured the permanence and quality that befits Maureen and Mike Mansfield. The Center is funded by the Mansfield Foundation.

Members of the Mansfield Center Advisory Committee:

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Albert Borgmann  Paul Gordon Lauren  Daniel Smith
Jim Flightner  James Lopach  Philip West

Additional appreciation is expressed to:

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