

**The original documents are located in Box D13, folder “Grandville Memorial Day Exercises, Wyoming Township Cemetery, May 30, 1950” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

SPEECH BY REPRESENTATIVE GERALD R. FORD, JR.

GRANDVILLE MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES

WYOMING TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

MAY 30, 1950

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS - in doing honor to the memory of those valiant men and women who, by their sacrifices, call to our attention that true liberty is beyond price, let us recognize that to such Americans as they the flowers and flags will be but empty tribute if we fail to rededicate our hearts and minds to those sublime truths which they held so dear. It is altogether fitting that we should pause today amid the din and dust of our daily existence but unless we as citizens go forward with the torch of freedom so magnificently carried by them their sacrifices will have been in vain.

We are living in urgent times, times in which men search their hearts and minds for at least a few answers to the great and grievous problems with which we are beset. These are, indeed, times which try men's souls. The first half of the 20th century has been critical, difficult, full of change. Those to whom we pay tribute today have gone from this worldly tempest of doubt and indecision. They have served their fellow man. Their day on earth is done. They have been tried and not found wanting. They live in the enduring quality of their heroic achievements and in the fond recollections of those who knew and loved them.

We who remain in the City of Man must persevere against these tyrannical individuals, those sinister ideologies which seek to undermine our institutions, sabotage our freedom, and dissipate our convictions. Ruthless tyrants like Stalin and Hitler with their godless doctrines inevitably point the way to dishonor and despair.



We who are destined to remain for a while in our earthly harness must hitch up our belts, shoulder our packs and strike out for new solutions to the world's mighty problems. In the words of Winston Churchill:

"We must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes if we are not to fall back."

Each of us at this crucial hour has a responsibility and an obligation which is the heaviest and yet the most glorious in the history of the world.

Prior to December 7, 1941 we in this country, our leaders and our people, were perhaps uncertain as to the proper course. Because of our relative immaturity as a nation this indecision was understandable. In retrospect our previous failures in the diplomatic tugs of war between nations are understandable because in those trying pre-war years the United States was confused by India's long standing plight, China's complex problems, Japan's iniquity, Italy's stupidity, German's perfidy and England's Munich philosophy. Despite an almost insoluble combination of circumstances the second great war for freedom in the 20th Century was won by those who believe in the sanctity of the individual. It was a world encompassing struggle that left indelible tragedies and unforgettable memories. However, because the cause was great, the sacrifices, great and small, will not be easily forgotten. Annual Memorial Day Services refresh and rekindle our appreciation of those we honor. Nevertheless, as the days pass by, year in and year out, we should periodically re-examine our consciences to see whether or not we as individuals or as a nation are doing our just share in the never-ending struggle between democracy and totalitarianism.

Literally speaking, at this very moment the world is again engaged in a near shooting war. The forces of Soviet Russia and her satellites are arrayed throughout the globe against the United States and our allies. Unfortunately this cold war at the moment hangs on a precipice. Some unexpected, some unpremeditated incident or perhaps a planned coup conceivably could change the



cold war to a devastating struggle between the men and war machines of all nations. Only recently that great military leader, General Omar Bradley, said, and I quote - "may I point out again, that the international situation has not improved in the last eight months." This statement by the Chief of Staff was made within the last month and at a time when the General was pleading with the Congress for an extension of the Selective Service Act for another two years.

You might ask, and rightly so, what are our civilian and military leaders doing in this hour of crisis. I assure you that the Congress and the top military strategists are working as a team so that our defenses will be as impregnable as circumstances will permit. The legislative branch of the government must rely on the trained militarists for the necessary plans. In turn the Generals and Admirals depend on the Congress for the wherewithal for equipment, personnel and facilities. However, neither your military leaders or your legislators can prepare for or win a war unless the people as a whole give their united support to the efforts being made. By sincere and constructive teamwork this tremendous job can be and will be done.

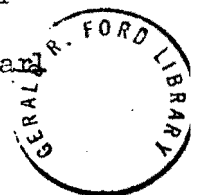
Some here today who have real fears in this Atomic Age may wonder what our state of preparedness really is. We in the middle west should be concerned for the State of Michigan and our surrounding sister states make up the industrial heart of the United States. The Soviets know that to win a war the industrial strength of America must be destroyed immediately. As a result Michigan will be a prime target if and when attack should come. This very real potential threat to our homes, our factories, our cities, yes, our way of life, must be met. In my humble opinion I believe we will meet the challenge if that horrible hour should ever arise.



The problem, make no mistake, has no easy solution. Those who are now overcome with a war hysteria and who literally see the enemy off our shores and in the sky overhead want us to make the United States an armed camp. Such individuals seek an Army, a Navy, and an Air Force comparable to that which defeated the Nazis, the Fascists and the Japs. The cost for such a peacetime war machine would be prohibitive. The United States even in a cold war era cannot afford 30 to 50 billion dollars annually for national defense. Such expenditures would bankrupt the nation and make us so weak internally an enemy would destroy us with hardly a battle.

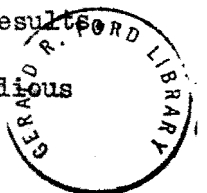
Several weeks ago I visited the National Gallery of Art to see some of the excellent exhibits. I observed a number of coats of armor belonging to knights of old. These impressive figures of steel looked tough and formidable. Such is not the case for a small child could push to the ground the coats of mail with the slightest nudge. Shiny armor means nothing in fighting capacity. Such figures lack blood and sinew. They have no life. The United States in time of peace, while we prepare ourselves for any eventuality, must be certain that the industrial blood and sinew is kept strong and virile, that circulation continues to flow, that we are capable of fighting and if pushed aside for a moment to rise and fight again as we did during World War II.

Rather than depend on such defenses, our military strategists say this nation should spend enough each year to prevent us from losing the next war the first day and enough to permit us to win such a war in the long pull. Too much spent now for military hardware that will be outdated within twelve months would be foolhardy although such a program would undoubtedly please those who hysterically seek an iron ring around our shores. Too little spent now would likewise be disastrous and would inevitably lead to another Pearl Harbor.



During the next fiscal year, the United States will spend over 20 billion dollars, directly or indirectly, for national defense. In other words, approximately 50% of our 1951 budget will involve defense projects or programs. Certainly no one can contend that the Congress is neglecting our homeland or forgetting our allies and friends throughout the world. Here in part is an itemized list of the contemplated outlays in fiscal 1951. Department of Defense 14.8 billion. This is for the guns, planes, ships, bases and personnel. The Atomic Energy Commission will receive about 960 million. Would anyone deny that dollars spent for atomic development are purely for national defense? In the early stages of World War II the United States was caught short without adequate supplies of strategic and critical supplies. Our government wants no part of such an experience again. In 1951 the Congress will appropriate about 733 million for that purpose. The National Advisory Committee on Aviation is scheduled to receive 56 million and almost all of this appropriation will be for aviation development of a military nature. United States relief in occupied areas will total 300 million and our military assistance program will cost approximately 650 million. The E.C.A., which has been successful in halting the march of the Soviets across Western Europe, needs 3 billion for the next twelve months. Military public works in this country and overseas require 300 million. These items total 20 billion plus, and frankly that is about the maximum America can afford in this day and age.

Despite these vast expenditures, and they have been larger in the past several years, some might argue that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been asleep in the period following the Japanese surrender. The contrary is true. Your military leaders have worked in close liaison with the Congress. The Unification Act, now that the bugs are about eliminated, is producing results. Since demobilization in 1945 and 1946 the Armed Forces by a slow and tedious



process have been revitalized. In most instances the fat has been replaced with muscle. As a result today the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are in a better fighting trim for their assigned missions than they were a year ago. The Services are to be congratulated on achieving greater effectiveness on less funds. With the world situation as it is today, let's be chary about diminishing further the present potency of our Armed Forces. Unless and until we win some long sought diplomatic successes in Europe and in the Far East, I believe we should restrict additional reductions that might destroy the substance of our military forces.

In conclusion, there has never been a time in the history of the world when there was such a heavy responsibility upon, but such a magnificent opportunity for, realistic and courageous Americans. We, as a nation and as individuals, seek Peace and Prosperity. Tennyson's indomitable Ulysses exhorted his followers, "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." By following the words of Ulysses, we today in this great nation can successfully assume our responsibilities and obligations to those who have made the great sacrifice and those in the generations to follow.



*speeches misc*

SPEECH BY REPRESENTATIVE GERALD R. FORD, JR.

GRANDVILLE MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES

WYOMING TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

MAY 30, 1950

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS - in doing honor to the memory of these valiant men and women who, by their sacrifices, call to our attention that true liberty is beyond price, let us recognize that to such Americans as they the flowers and flags will be but empty tribute if we fail to rededicate our hearts and minds to those sublime truths which they held so dear. It is altogether fitting that we should pause today amid the din and dust of our daily existence but unless we as citizens go forward with the torch of freedom so magnificently carried by them their sacrifices will have been in vain.

We are living in urgent times, times in which men search their hearts and minds for at least a few answers to the great and grievous problems with which we are beset. These are, indeed, times which try men's souls. The first half of the 20th century has been critical, difficult, full of change. Those to whom we pay tribute today have gone from this worldly tempest of doubt and indecision. They have served their fellow man. Their day on earth is done. They have been tried and not found wanting. They live in the enduring quality of their heroic achievements and in the fond recollections of those who knew and loved them.

We who remain in the City of Man must persevere against these tyrannical individuals, these sinister ideologies which seek to undermine our institutions, sabotage our freedom, and dissipate our convictions. Ruthless tyrants like Stalin and Hitler with their godless doctrines inevitably point the way to dishonor and despair.





We who are destined to remain for a while in our earthly harness must hitch up our belts, shoulder our packs and strike out for new solutions to the world's mighty problems. In the words of Winston Churchill:

"We must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes if we are not to fall back."

Each of us at this crucial hour has a responsibility and an obligation which is the heaviest and yet the most glorious in the history of the world.

Prior to December 7, 1941 we in this country, our leaders and our people, were perhaps uncertain as to the proper course. Because of our relative immaturity as a nation this indecision was understandable. In retrospect our previous failures in the diplomatic tugs of war between nations are understandable because in these trying pre-war years the United States was confused by India's long standing plight, China's complex problems, Japan's iniquity, Italy's stupidity, Germany's perfidy and England's Munich philosophy. Despite an almost insoluble combination of circumstances the second great war for freedom in the 20th Century was won by those who believe in the sanctity of the individual. It was a world encompassing struggle that left indelible tragedies and unforgettable memories. However, because the cause was great, the sacrifices, great and small, will not be easily forgotten. Annual Memorial Day Services refresh and rekindle our appreciation of those we honor. Nevertheless, as the days pass by, year in and year out, we should periodically re-examine our consciences to see whether or not we as individuals or as a nation are doing our just share in the never-ending struggle between democracy and totalitarianism.

Literally speaking, at this very moment the world is again engaged in a near shooting war. The forces of Soviet Russia and her satellites are arrayed throughout the globe against the United States and our allies. Unfortunately this cold war at the moment hangs on a precipice. Some unexpected, some unpremeditated incident or perhaps a planned coup conceivably could change the



cold war to a devastating struggle between the men and war machines of all nations. Only recently that great military leader, General Omar Bradley, said, and I quote - "may I point out again, that the international situation has not improved in the last eight months." This statement by the Chief of Staff was made within the last month and at a time when the General was pleading with the Congress for an extension of the Selective Service Act for another two years.

You might ask, and rightly so, what are our civilian and military leaders doing in this hour of crisis. I assure you that the Congress and the top military strategists are working as a team so that our defenses will be as impregnable as circumstances will permit. The legislative branch of the government must rely on the trained militarists for the necessary plans. In turn the Generals and Admirals depend on the Congress for the wherewithal for equipment, personnel and facilities. However, neither your military leaders or your legislators can prepare for or win a war unless the people as a whole give their united support to the efforts being made. By sincere and constructive teamwork this tremendous job can be and will be done.

Some here today who have real fears in this Atomic Age may wonder what our state of preparedness really is. We in the middle west should be concerned for the State of Michigan and our surrounding sister states make up the industrial heart of the United States. The Soviets know that to win a war the industrial strength of America must be destroyed immediately. As a result Michigan will be a prime target if and when attack should come. This very real potential threat to our homes, our factories, our cities, yes, our way of life, must be met. In my humble opinion I believe we will meet the challenge if that horrible hour should ever arise.



The problem, make no mistake, has no easy solution. Those who are now overcome with a war hysteria and who literally see the enemy off our shores and in the sky overhead want us to make the United States an armed camp. Such individuals seek an Army, a Navy, and an Air Force comparable to that which defeated the Nazis, the Fascists and the Japs. The cost for such a peacetime war machine would be prohibitive. The United States even in a cold war era cannot afford 30 to 50 billion dollars annually for national defense. Such expenditures would bankrupt the nation and make us so weak internally an enemy would destroy us with hardly a battle.

Several weeks ago I visited the National Gallery of Art to see some of the excellent exhibits. I observed a number of coats of armor belonging to knights of old. These impressive figures of steel looked tough and formidable. Such is not the case for a small child could push to the ground the coats of mail with the slightest nudge. Spiny armor means nothing in fighting capacity. Such figures lack blood and sinew. They have no life. The United States in time of peace, while we prepare ourselves for any eventuality, must be certain that the industrial blood and sinew is kept strong and virile, that circulation continues to flow, that we are capable of fighting and if pushed aside for a moment to rise and fight again as we did during World War II.

Rather than depend on such defenses, our military strategists say this nation should spend enough each year to prevent us from losing the next war the first day and enough to permit us to win such a war in the long pull. Too much spent now for military hardware that will be outdated within twelve months would be foolhardy although such a program would undoubtedly please those who hysterically seek an iron ring around our shores. Too little spent now would likewise be disastrous and would inevitably lead to another Pearl Harbor.



During the next fiscal year, the United States will spend over 20 billion dollars, directly or indirectly, for national defense. In other words, approximately 50% of our 1951 budget will involve defense projects or programs. Certainly no one can contend that the Congress is neglecting our homeland or forgetting our allies and friends throughout the world. Here in part is an itemized list of the contemplated outlays in fiscal 1951. Department of Defense 14.8 billion. This is for the guns, planes, ships, bases and personnel. The Atomic Energy Commission will receive about 960 million. Would anyone deny that dollars spent for atomic development are purely for national defense? In the early stages of World War II the United States was caught short without adequate supplies of strategic and critical supplies. Our government wants no part of such an experience again. In 1951 the Congress will appropriate about 733 million for that purpose. The National Advisory Committee on Aviation is scheduled to receive 56 million and almost all of this appropriation will be for aviation development of a military nature. United States relief in occupied areas will total 300 million and our military assistance program will cost approximately 650 million. The E.C.A., which has been successful in halting the march of the Soviets across Western Europe, needs 3 billion for the next twelve months. Military public works in this country and overseas require 300 million. These items total 20 billion plus, and frankly that is about the maximum America can afford in this day and age.

Despite these vast expenditures, and they have been larger in the past several years, some might argue that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been asleep in the period following the Japanese surrender. The contrary is true. Your military leaders have worked in close liaison with the Congress. The Unification Act, now that the bugs are about eliminated, is producing results. Since demobilization in 1945 and 1946 the Armed Forces by a slow and tedious



process have been revitalized. In most instances the fat has been replaced with muscle. As a result today the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are in a better fighting trim for their assigned missions than they were a year ago. The Services are to be congratulated on achieving greater effectiveness on less funds. With the world situation as it is today, let's be chary about diminishing further the present potency of our Armed Forces. Unless and until we win some long sought diplomatic successes in Europe and in the Far East, I believe we should restrict additional reductions that might destroy the substance of our military forces.

In conclusion, there has never been a time in the history of the world when there was such a heavy responsibility upon, but such a magnificent opportunity for, realistic and courageous Americans. We, as a nation and as individuals, seek Peace and Prosperity. Tempeen's indomitable Ulysses exhorted his followers, "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." By following the words of Ulysses, we today in this great nation can successfully assume our responsibilities and obligations to those who have made the great sacrifice and those in the generations to follow.



Speech by Representative Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

GRANDVILLE MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES

Wyoming Township Cemetery

May 30, 1950

Mr. Chairman and friends - in doing honor to the memory of those valiant men and women who, by their sacrifices, call to our attention that true liberty is beyond price, let us recognize that to such Americans as they the flowers and flags will be but empty tribute if we fail to rededicate our hearts and minds to those sublime truths which they held so dear. It is altogether fitting that we should pause today amid the din and dust of our daily existence but unless we as citizens go forward with the torch of freedom so magnificently carried by them their sacrifices will have been vain.

We are living in urgent times, times in which men search their hearts and minds for at least a few answers to the great and grievous problems with which we are beset. These are, indeed, times which try men's souls. The first half of the 20th century has been critical, difficult, full of change. Those to whom we pay tribute today have gone from this worldly tempest of doubt and indecision. They have served their fellow men. Their day on earth is done. They have been tried and not found wanting. They live in the enduring quality of their heroic achievements and in the fond recollections of those who knew and loved them.

We who remain in the City of Man must persevere against those tyrannical individuals, those sinister ideologies which seek to undermine our institutions, sabotage our freedom, and dissipate our convictions.



Ruthless tyrants like Stalin and Hitler with their godless doctrines inevitably point the way to dishonor and despair.

We who are destined to remain for a while in our earthly harness must hitch up our belts, shoulder our packs and strike out for new solutions to the world's night problems. In the words of Winston Churchill:

"We must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes if we are not to fall back."

Each of us at this crucial hour has a responsibility and an obligation which is the heaviest and yet the most glorious in the history of the world.

Prior to December 7, 1941 we in this country, our leaders and our people, were perhaps uncertain as to the proper course. Because of our relative immaturity as a nation this indecision was understandable. In retrospect our previous failures in the diplomatic tug of war between nations are understandable because in those trying pre-war years the United States was confused by India's long standing plight, China's complex problems, Japan's iniquity, Italy's stupidity, Germany's perfidy and England's Munich philosophy. Despite an almost insoluble combination of circumstances the second great war for freedom in the 20th Century was won by those who believe in the sanctity of the individual. It was a world encompassing struggle that left indelible tragedies and unforgettable memories. However, because the cause was great, the sacrifices, great and small, will not be easily forgotten. Annual Memorial Day Services refresh and rekindle our appreciation of those we honor. Nevertheless, as the days pass by, year in and year out, we should periodically re-examine our consciences to see whether or not we as individuals or as a nation are doing our just share in the never-ending struggle between democracy and totalitarianism.



Literally speaking at this very moment the world is again engaged in a near shooting war. The forces of Soviet Russia and her satellites are arrayed throughout the globe against the United States and our allies. Unfortunately this cold war at the moment hangs on a precipice. Some unexpected, some unpremeditated incident or perhaps a planned coup conceivably could change the cold war to a devastating struggle between the men and war machines of all nations. Only recently that great military leader, General Omar Bradley, said, and I quote - "may I point out again, that the international situation has not improved in the last eight months." This statement by the Chief of Staff was made within the last month and at a time when the General was pleading with the Congress for an extension of the Selective Service Act for another two years.

You might ask, and rightly so, what are our civilian and military leaders doing in this hour of crisis. I assure you that the Congress and the top military statisticians are working as a team so that our defenses will be as impregnable as circumstances will permit. The legislative branch of the government must rely on the trained militarists for the necessary plans. In turn the Generals and Admirals depend on the Congress for the wherewithal for equipment, personnel and facilities. However, neither your military leaders nor your legislators can prepare for or win a war unless the people as a whole give their united support to the efforts being made. By sincere and constructive teamwork this tremendous job can be and will be done.

Some here today who have real fears in this Atomic Age may wonder what our state of preparedness really is. We in the middle west should be concerned for the State of Michigan and our surrounding sister states and





up the industrial heart of the United States. The Soviets know that to win a war the industrial strength of America must be destroyed immediately. As a result Michigan will be a prime target if and when attack should come. This very real potential threat to our homes, our factories, our cities, yes, our way of life, must be met. In my humble opinion I believe we will meet the challenge if that horrible hour should ever arise.

The problem, make no mistake, has no easy solution. Those who are now overcome with a war hysteria and who literally see the enemy off our shores and in the sky overhead want us to make the United States an armed camp. Such individuals seek an Army, a Navy, and an Air Force comparable to that which defeated the Nazis, the Fascists and the Japs. The cost for such a peacetime war machine would be prohibitive. The United States even in a cold war era cannot afford 30 to 50 billion dollars annually for national defense. Such expenditures would bankrupt the nation and make us so weak internally an enemy would destroy us with hardly a battle.

Several weeks ago I visited the National Gallery of Art to see some of the excellent exhibits. I observed a number of coats of armor belonging to knights of old. These impressive figures of steel looked tough and formidable. Such is not the case for a small child could push to the ground the coats of mail with the slightest nudge. Shiny armor means nothing in fighting capacity. Such figures lack blood and sinew. They have no life. The United States in time of peace, while we prepare ourselves for any eventuality, must be certain that the industrial blood and sinew is kept strong and virile, that circulation continues to flow, that we are capable of fighting and if pushed aside for a moment to rise and fight again as we did during World War II.



Rather than depend on such defenses, our military strategists say this nation should spend enough each year to prevent us from losing the next war the first day and enough to permit us to win such a war in the long pull. Too much spent now for military hardware that will be outdated within twelve months would be foolhardy although such a program would undoubtedly please those who hysterically seek an iron ring around our shores. Too little spent now would likewise be disastrous and would inevitably lead to another Pearl Harbor.

During the next fiscal year, the United States will spend over 20 billion dollars, directly or indirectly, for national defense. In other words, approximately 50% of our 1951 budget will involve defense projects or programs. Certainly no one can contend that the Congress is neglecting our homeland or forgetting our allies and friends throughout the world. Here in part is an itemized list of the contemplated outlays in fiscal 1951. Department of Defense 14.8 billion. This is for the guns, planes, ships, bases and personnel. The Atomic Energy Commission will receive about 960 million. Would anyone deny that dollars spent for atomic development are purely for national defense? In the early stages of World War II the United States was caught short without adequate supplies of strategic and critical supplies. Our government wants no part of such an experience again. In 1951 the Congress will appropriate about 733 million for that purpose. The National Advisory Committee on Aviation is scheduled to receive 56 million and almost all of this appropriation will be for aviation development of a military nature. United States relief in occupied areas will total 300 million and our military assistance program will cost approximately 650 million. The E.C.A., which has been successful in halting the march of the Soviets across Western Europe, needs 3 billion for the next



twelve months. Military public works in this country and overseas require 300 million. These items total 20 billion plus and frankly that is about the maximum America can afford in this day and age.

Despite these vast expenditures, and they have been larger in the past several years, some might argue that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been asleep in the period following the Japanese surrender. The contrary is true. Your military leaders have worked in close liaison with the Congress. The Unification Act, now that the bugs are about eliminated, is producing results. Since demobilization in 1945 and 1946 the Armed Forces by a slow and tedious process have been revitalized. In most instances the fat has been replaced with muscle. As a result today the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are in a better fighting trim for their assigned missions than they were a year ago. The Services are to be congratulated on achieving greater effectiveness on less funds. With the world situation as it is today let's be chary about diminishing further the present potency of our Armed Forces. Unless and until we win some long sought diplomatic successes in Europe and in the Far East I believe we should restrict additional reductions that might destroy the substance of our military forces.

In conclusion, there has never been a time in the history of the World when there was such a heavy responsibility upon, but such a magnificent opportunity for realistic and courageous Americans. We, as a nation and as individuals, seek Peace and Prosperity. Tompson's indomitable Ulysses exhorted his followers, "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." By following the words of Ulysses we today in this great nation can successfully assume our responsibilities and obligations to those who have made the great sacrifice and those in the generations to follow.



Speech by Representative Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

GRANDVILLE MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES

Wyoming Township Cemetery

May 30, 1950

Mr. Chairman and friends - in doing honor to the memory of these valiant men and women who, by their sacrifices, call to our attention that true liberty is beyond price, let us recognize that to such Americans as they the flowers and flags will be but empty tribute if we fail to rededicate our hearts and minds to those sublime truths which they held so dear. It is altogether fitting that we should pause today amid the din and dust of our daily existence but unless we as citizens go forward with the torch of freedom so magnificently carried by them their sacrifices will have been vain.

We are living in urgent times, times in which men search their hearts and minds for at least a few answers to the great and grievous problems with which we are beset. These are, indeed, times which try men's souls. The first half of the 20th century has been critical, difficult, full of change. These to whom we pay tribute today have gone from this worldly tempest of doubt and indecision. They have served their fellow men. Their day on earth is done. They have been tried and not found wanting. They live in the enduring quality of their heroic achievements and in the fond recollections of those who knew and loved them.

We who remain in the City of Man must persevere against those tyrannical individuals, those sinister ideologies which seek to undermine our institutions, sabotage our freedom, and dissipate our convictions.



Ruthless tyrants like Stalin and Hitler with their godless doctrines inevitably point the way to dishonor and despair.

We who are destined to remain for a while in our earthly harness must hitch up our belts, shoulder our packs and strike out for new solutions to the world's night problems. In the words of Winston Churchill:

"We must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes if we are not to fall back."

Each of us at this crucial hour has a responsibility and an obligation which is the heaviest and yet the most glorious in the history of the world.

Prior to December 7, 1941 we in this country, our leaders and our people, were perhaps uncertain as to the proper course. Because of our relative immaturity as a nation this indecision was understandable. In retrospect our previous failures in the diplomatic tugs of war between nations are understandable because in those trying pre-war years the United States was confused by India's long standing plight, China's complex problems, Japan's iniquity, Italy's stupidity, Germany's perfidy and England's Munich philosophy. Despite an almost insoluble combination of circumstances the second great war for freedom in the 20th Century was won by those who believe in the sanctity of the individual. It was a world encompassing struggle that left indelible tragedies and unforgettable memories. However, because the cause was great, the sacrifices, great and small, will not be easily forgotten. Annual Memorial Day Services refresh and rekindle our appreciation of those we honor. Nevertheless, as the days pass by, year in and year out, we should periodically re-examine our consciences to see whether or not we as individuals or as a nation are doing our just share in the never-ending struggle between democracy and totalitarianism.



Literally speaking at this very moment the world is again engaged in a near shooting war. The forces of Soviet Russia and her satellites are arrayed throughout the globe against the United States and our allies. Unfortunately this cold war at the moment hangs on a precipice. Some unexpected, some unpremeditated incident or perhaps a planned coup conceivably could change the cold war to a devastating struggle between the men and war machines of all nations. Only recently that great military leader, General Omar Bradley, said, and I quote - "may I point out again, that the international situation has not improved in the last eight months." This statement by the Chief of Staff was made within the last month and at a time when the General was pleading with the Congress for an extension of the Selective Service Act for another two years.

You might ask, and rightly so, what are our civilian and military leaders doing in this hour of crisis. I assure you that the Congress and the top military statisticians are working as a team so that our defenses will be as impregnable as circumstances will permit. The legislative branch of the government must rely on the trained militarists for the necessary plans. In turn the Generals and Admirals depend on the Congress for the wherewithal for equipment, personnel and facilities. However, neither your military leaders nor your legislators can prepare for or win a war unless the people as a whole give their united support to the efforts being made. By sincere and constructive teamwork this tremendous job can be and will be done.

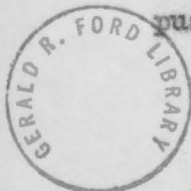
Some here today who have real fears in this Atomic Age may wonder what our state of preparedness really is. We in the middle west should be concerned for the State of Michigan and our surrounding sister states make



up the industrial heart of the United States. The Soviets know that to win a war the industrial strength of America must be destroyed immediately. As a result Michigan will be a prime target if and when attack should come. This very real potential threat to our homes, our factories, our cities, yes, our way of life, must be met. In my humble opinion I believe we will meet the challenge if that horrible hour should ever arise.

The problem, make no mistake, has no easy solution. Those who are now overcome with a war hysteria and who literally see the enemy off our shores and in the sky overhead want us to make the United States an armed camp. Such individuals seek an Army, a Navy, and an Air Force comparable to that which defeated the Nazis, the Fascists and the Japs. The cost for such a peacetime war machine would be prohibitive. The United States even in a cold war era cannot afford 30 to 50 billion dollars annually for national defense. Such expenditures would bankrupt the nation and make us so weak internally an enemy would destroy us with hardly a battle.

Several weeks ago I visited the National Gallery of Art to see some of the excellent exhibits. I observed a number of coats of armor belonging to knights of old. These impressive figures of steel looked tough and formidable. Such is not the case for a small child could push to the ground the coats of mail with the slightest nudge. Shiny armor means nothing in fighting capacity. Such figures lack blood and sinew. They have no life. The United States in time of peace, while we prepare ourselves for any eventuality, must be certain that the industrial blood and sinew is kept strong and virile, that circulation continues to flow, that we are capable of fighting and if pushed aside for a moment to rise and fight again as we did during World War II.



Rather than depend on such defenses, our military strategists say this nation should spend enough each year to prevent us from losing the next war the first day and enough to permit us to win such a war in the long pull. Too much spent now for military hardware that will be outdated within twelve months would be foolhardy although such a program would undoubtedly please those who hysterically seek an iron ring around our shores. Too little spent now would likewise be disastrous and would inevitably lead to another Pearl Harbor.

During the next fiscal year, the United States will spend over 20 billion dollars, directly or indirectly, for national defense. In other words, approximately 50% of our 1951 budget will involve defense projects or programs. Certainly no one can contend that the Congress is neglecting our homeland or forgetting our allies and friends throughout the world. Here in part is an itemized list of the contemplated outlays in fiscal 1951. Department of Defense 14.6 billion. This is for the guns, planes, ships, bases and personnel. The Atomic Energy Commission will receive about 960 million. Would anyone deny that dollars spent for atomic development are purely for national defense? In the early stages of World War II the United States was caught short without adequate supplies of strategic and critical supplies. Our government wants no part of such an experience again. In 1951 the Congress will appropriate about 733 million for that purpose. The National Advisory Committee on Aviation is scheduled to receive 56 million and almost all of this appropriation will be for aviation development of a military nature. United States relief in occupied areas will total 300 million and our military assistance program will cost approximately 650 million. The E.C.A., which has been successful in halting the march of the Soviets across Western Europe, needs 3 billion for the next





twelve months. Military public works in this country and overseas require 300 million. These items total 20 billion plus and frankly that is about the maximum America can afford in this day and age.

Despite these vast expenditures, and they have been larger in the past several years, some might argue that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been asleep in the period following the Japanese surrender. The contrary is true. Your military leaders have worked in close liaison with the Congress. The Unification Act, now that the bugs are about eliminated, is producing results. Since demobilization in 1945 and 1946 the Armed Forces by a slow and tedious process have been revitalized. In most instances the fat has been replaced with muscle. As a result today the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are in a better fighting trim for their assigned missions than they were a year ago. The Services are to be congratulated on achieving greater effectiveness on less funds. With the world situation as it is today let's be chary about diminishing further the present potency of our Armed Forces. Unless and until we win some long sought diplomatic successes in Europe and in the Far East I believe we should restrict additional reductions that might destroy the substance of our military forces.

In conclusion, there has never been a time in the history of the World when there was such a heavy responsibility upon, but such a magnificent opportunity for realistic and courageous Americans. We, as a nation and as individuals, seek Peace and Prosperity. Tennyson's indomitable Ulysses exhorted his followers, "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." By following the words of Ulysses we today in this great nation can successfully assume our responsibilities and obligations to those who have made the great sacrifice and those in the generations to follow.



Speech by Representative Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

GRANDVILLE MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES

Wyoming Township Cemetery

May 30, 1950

Mr. Chairman and friends---in doing honor to the memory of those valiant men and women who, by their sacrifices, call to our attention that true liberty is beyond price, let us recognize that to such Americans as they the flowers and flags will be but empty tribute if we fail to rededicate our hearts and minds to those sublime truths which they held so dear. It is altogether fitting that we should pause today amid the din and dust of our daily existence but unless we as citizens go forward with the torch of freedom so magnificently carried by them their sacrifices will have been in vain.

We are living in urgent times, times in which men search their hearts and minds for at least a few answers to the great and grievous problems with which we are beset. These are, indeed, times which try men's souls. The first half of the 20th century has been critical, difficult, full of change. Those to whom we pay tribute today have gone from this worldly tempest of doubt and indecision. They have served their fellow man. Their day on earth is done. They have been tried and not found wanting. They live in the enduring quality of their heroic achievements and in the fond recollections of those who knew and loved them.

We who remain in the City of Man must persevere against those tyrannical individuals, those sinister ideologies which seek to undermine our institutions, sabotage our freedom, and dissipate our convictions. Ruthless tyrants like Stalin and Hitler with their godless doctrines inevitably point the way to dishonor and despair.

We who are destined to remain for a while in our earthly harness must hitch up our belts, shoulder our packs and strike out for new solutions to the world's mighty problems. In the words of Winston Churchill:

"We must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes if we are not to fall back."



Each of us at this crucial hour has a responsibility and an obligation which is the heaviest and yet the most glorious in the history of the world.

Prior to December 7, 1941 we in this country, our leaders and our people, were perhaps uncertain as to the proper course. Because of our relative immaturity as a nation this indecision was understandable. In retrospect our previous failures in the diplomatic tugs of war between nations are understandable because in those trying pre-war years the United States was confused by India's long standing plight, China's complex problems, Japan's iniquity, Italy's stupidity, Germany's perfidy and England's Munich philosophy. Despite an almost insoluble combination of circumstances the second great war for freedom in the 20th Century was won by those who believe in the sanctity of the individual. It was a world encompassing struggle that left indelible tragedies and unforgettable memories. However, because the cause was great the sacrifices, great and small, will not be easily forgotten. Annual Memorial Day Services refresh and rekindle our appreciation of those we honor. Nevertheless, as the days pass by, year in and year out, we should periodically re-examine our consciences to see whether or not we as individuals or as a nation are doing our just share in the never-ending struggle between democracy and totalitarianism.

Literally speaking at this very moment the world is again engaged in a near shooting war. The forces of Soviet Russia and her satellites are arrayed throughout the globe against the United States and our allies. Unfortunately this cold war at the moment hangs on a precipice. Some unexpected, some unpremeditated incident or perhaps a planned coup conceivably could change the cold war to a devastating struggle between the men and war machines of all nations. Only recently that great military leader, General Omar Bradley, said, and I quote - "may I point out again, that the international situation has not improved in the last eight months." This statement by the Chief of Staff was made within the last month and at a time when the General was pleading with the Congress for an extension of the Selective Service Act for another two years.

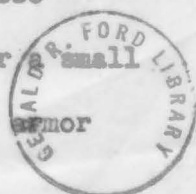


You might ask, and rightly so, what are our civilian and military leaders doing in this hour of crisis. I assure you that the Congress and the top military strategists are working as a team so that our defenses will be as impregnable as circumstances will permit. The legislative branch of the government must rely on the trained militarists for the necessary plans. In turn the Generals and Admirals depend on the Congress for the wherewithal for equipment, personnel and facilities. However, neither your military leaders or your legislators can prepare for or win a war unless the people as a whole give their united support to the efforts being made. By sincere and constructive teamwork this tremendous job can be and will be done.

Some here today who have real fears in this Atomic Age may wonder what our state of preparedness really is. We in the middle west should be concerned for the State of Michigan and our surrounding sister states make up the industrial heart of the United States. The Soviets know that to win a war the industrial strength of America must be destroyed immediately. As a result Michigan will be a prime target if and when attack should come. This very real potential threat to our homes, our factories, our cities, yes, our way of life, must be met. In my humble opinion I believe we will meet the challenge if that horrible hour should ever arise.

The problem, make no mistake, has no easy solution. Those who are now overcome with a war hysteria and who literally see the enemy off our shores and in the sky overhead want us to make the United States an armed camp. Such individuals seek an Army, a Navy, and an Air Force comparable to that which defeated the Nazis, the Fascists and the Japs. The cost for such a peacetime war machines would be prohibitive. The United States even in a cold war era can not afford 30 to 50 billion dollars annually for national defense. Such expenditures would bankrupt the nation and make us so weak internally an enemy would destroy us with hardly a battle.

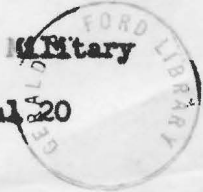
Several weeks ago I visited the National Gallery of Art to see some of the excellent exhibits. I observed a number of coats of armor belonging to knights of old. These impressive figures of steel looked tough and formidable. Such is not the case for a small child could push to the ground the coats of mail with the slightest nudge. Shiny armor



means nothing in fighting capacity. Such figures lack blood and sinew. They have no life. The United States in time of peace, while we prepare ourselves for any eventuality, must be certain that the industrial blood and sinew is kept strong and virile, that circulation continues to flow, that we are capable of fighting and if pushed aside for a moment to rise and fight again as we did during World War II.

Rather than depend on such defenses, our military strategists say this nation should spend enough each year to prevent us from losing the next war the first day and enough to permit us to win such a war in the long pull. Too much spent now for military hardware that will be outdated within twelve months would be foolhardy although such a program would undoubtedly please those who hysterically seek an iron ring around our shores. Too little spent now would likewise be disastrous and would inevitably lead to another Pearl Harbor.

During the next fiscal year, the United States will spend over 20 billion dollars, directly or indirectly, for national defense. In other words, approximately 50% of our 1951 budget will involve defense projects or programs. Certainly no one can contend that the Congress is neglecting our homeland or forgetting our allies and friends throughout the world. Here in part is an itemized list of the contemplated outlays in fiscal 1951. Department of Defense 14.8 billion. This is for the guns, planes, ships, bases and personnel. The Atomic Energy Commission will receive about 960 million. Would anyone deny that dollars spent for atomic development are purely for national defense? In the early stages of World War II the United States was caught short without adequate supplies of strategic and critical supplies. Our government wants no part of such an experience again. In 1951 the Congress will appropriate about 733 million for that purpose. The National Advisory Committee on Aviation is scheduled to receive 56 million and almost all of this appropriation will be for aviation development of a military nature. United States relief in occupied areas will total 300 million and our military assistance program will cost approximately 650 million. The E.C.A, which has been successful in halting the march of the Soviets across Western Europe, needs 3 billion for the next twelve months. Military public works in this country and overseas require 300 million. These items total 20



billion plus and frankly that is about the maximum America can afford in this day and age.

Despite these vast expenditures, and they have been larger in the past several years, some might argue that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been asleep in the period following the Japanese surrender. The contrary is true. Your military leaders have worked in close liason with the Congress. The Unification Act, now that the bugs are about eliminated, is producing results. Since demobilization in 1945 and 1946 the Armed Forces by a slow and tedious process have been revitalized. In most instances the fat has been replaced with muscle. As a result today the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are in a better fighting trim for their assigned missions than they were a year ago. The Services are to be congratulated on achieving greater effectiveness on less funds. With the world situation as it is today let's be chary about diminishing further the present potency of our Armed Forces. Unless and until we win some long sought diplomatic successes in Europe and in the Far East I believe we should restrict additional reductions that might destroy the substance of our military forces.

In conclusion, there has never been a time in the history of the world when there was such a heavy responsibility upon, but such a magnificent opportunity for realistic and courageous Americans. We, as a nation and as individuals, seek Peace and Prosperity. Tennyson's indomitable Ulysses exhorted his followers, "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." By following the words of Ulysses we today in this great nation can successfully assume our responsibilities and obligations to those who have made the great sacrifice and those in the generations to follow.

