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FOR RELEASE At 7:00 P.M.
on Sunday, July 30, 1950

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION BY FIFTEEN
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Korea has exposed the fact that a tragic diplomatic and military inadequacy exists and has crystallized the serious nature of our present position. Americans are quite rightfully looking to Washington for guidance and leadership. Lack of leadership at this time will breed either hysteria or complacency. Both can be avoided by a vigorous program of positive action of which the American public is made aware.

We consider that the present military action in Korea cannot be deemed an isolated event. It is a manifestation of the Communist intent to achieve world domination. The free nations of the world, therefore, can expect a series of such outbreaks at the several points of friction at which the free and Soviet worlds come into physical contact. This conflict will not be resolved either quickly or easily, and will require a large measure of sacrifice by all freedom-loving peoples. Given adequate and trustworthy leadership, they will meet this challenge.

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The problem is two-fold. The immediate objective is the successful repulse of the communist aggression in Korea. The ultimate objective must be peace in a free world. This goal can only be achieved by military strength and a firm and consistent policy both foreign and domestic. Evident Communist aims for world domination make this fact inescapable.

America's responsibility requires foresight and continuity of effort. Military, industrial, and civilian components must be integrated.



NECESSITY FOR SHARING THE BURDEN

Modern warfare requires the equal sharing of the burden of war by all citizens. The possibility of total war requires that plans be drawn now for the utilization of all of the resources of the nation. It is essential that legislation be enacted for an immediate and continuing inventory of these human and physical resources.

The Congress should immediately draft and enact stand-by legislation providing in detail for the total mobilization of American manpower, industry and resources for the civilian and military defense of the nation. Immediate legislation should provide a military training program for all male citizens of military age.¹ Provision should be made for the full utilization of the services of those not qualified for military service.

LEGISLATION IMPERATIVE

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Congress should immediately draft and enact stand-by legislation to establish a system of price, wage, profit and rent controls, rationing of essential commodities in short supply, allocations of critical raw materials and other essential necessities. Legislation in each case should be so drafted as to permit frequent legislative review by the Congress and should contain termination dates in each delegation of authority. The legislation should not become effective until passage of a Resolution by the Congress. The Congress should retain the right to "pull the trigger" or unload the gun.

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SPENDING

To the extent possible, the cost of our security program must be met currently and not deferred to future years. This action is dictated by our responsibility to future generations and by the need to combat the forces of inflation.

Recognizing that taxes today are at an abnormally high rate, first emphasis must be placed upon a diversion of present non-defense spending to meet defense needs. Spending for activities of government that in ordinary times may be desirable must give way to the greater and immediate needs of the national security. This requires the elimination of all spending not essential to the basic civilian and defense requirements of the nation. New legislative proposals both foreign and domestic which do not bear directly upon the defense effort should not be instituted during the period of the present emergency.

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MILITARY

Manpower and equipment mobilization programs for all branches of the Armed Services must be vigorously pursued.

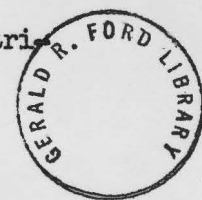
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CIVILIAN DEFENSE

The cities, towns and villages of America today stand almost defenseless in the face of the threat of atomic bombing. Civilian defense has been sorely neglected. The matter of legislation to accomplish the orderly and rapid organization of the civilian defense system is of the most urgent necessity. Immediate steps should be taken by the Congress to encourage and assist vulnerable and strategic areas of the nation, to organize and place in a constant state of readiness such civilian defense components as are considered essential to the safety and security of life and property.

COMMUNISM

Communists should be required to register at once, and the government authorized to place restrictions upon their movements. Increased penalties for sabotage and espionage should be immediately enacted into law. It is folly of the highest order to draft Americans for combat against communism abroad, and at the same time to permit communists unlimited freedom of action at home.

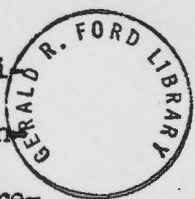
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Administration of any program designed to facilitate the successful prosecution of the defense effort will require the services of men in whom the people of the nation have confidence, without regard to considerations of partisan politics. Public confidence in officials at policy-making levels is essential to cooperation in the mobilization effort. Inept management, lack of foresight, inadequate quantities of weapons of effective nature, ill-trained and



poorly equipped troops thrown into combat against devastating odds, have combined to shake the confidence of the American people in the capabilities of some public officials now in office. These should be replaced by men of vision and determination.

THE SACRED TRUST

Unfortunately, individual liberty becomes the first casualty of mobilization. It will avail us nothing if we destroy dictatorships and totalitarianism abroad, only to find that in the fight we have lost our own sacred freedoms.

Power must be delegated into the hands of a few men and the habit of living in power is a strong one. When a little of the individual's liberty goes to Washington it seldom finds its way home again. For that reason we recommend checks and restrictions upon the exercise of authority to be delegated to the President. So long as the Congress of the United States retains its own constitutional power the liberties of the American people cannot long be held hostage. It is only when the Congress abdicates its duties and responsibilities that a real and terrifying danger comes into being.

The powers delegated for the defense effort must be considered a sacred trust by those who receive them. They must be exercised wisely on an administrative plane above partisan politics for the welfare and safety of every American. But what is of primary importance is the fact that the essential powers must be returned in that moment when the threat against our safety has passed.

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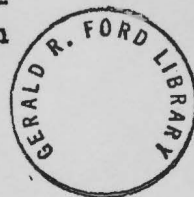
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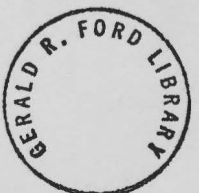
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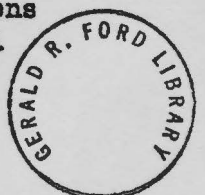
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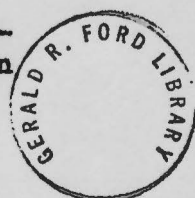
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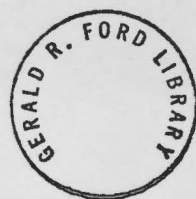
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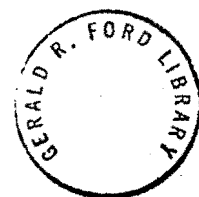
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To the extent possible, the cost of our security program must be met currently and not deferred to future years. This action is dictated by our responsibility to future generations and by the need to combat the forces of inflation.

Recognizing that taxes today are at an abnormally high rate, first emphasis must be placed upon a diversion of present non-defense spending to meet defense needs. Spending for activities of government that in ordinary times may be desirable must give way to the greater and immediate needs of the national security. This requires the elimination of all spending not essential to the basic civilian and defense requirements of the nation. New legislative proposals both foreign and domestic which do not bear directly upon the defense effort should not be instituted during the period of the present emergency.

To avoid current deficits, taxes on income and profits must be immediately increased.

Preparation for total mobilization requires that Congress immediately draft and enact tax legislation to provide against excessive profits and excessive income.

MILITARY

Manpower and equipment mobilization programs for all branches of the Armed Services must be vigorously pursued.

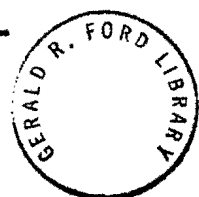
We deem it necessary to remind Defense officials that the Marine Corps always has been and now is America's most effective expeditionary police force. Its maximum effective readiness must be immediately established and its integrity and instant readiness maintained.

The importance of the reserve and National Guard components and individuals has been largely neglected in recent years. In light of the historical fact that our arms have depended for success upon the civilian in our fighting forces, immediate emphasis must be placed upon the expansion, training, and equipping of such units. Efforts should be made to establish Reserve Officer Training Corps programs at all colleges and universities where not now existent.

An adequate number of American ships and shipyards should be kept available to meet transportation requirements on short notice.

Immediate mobilization needs should not obscure or displace research and armament readiness programs.

Censorship should be immediately imposed on all troop and naval distributions and movements.



SURPLUS COMMODITIES

The Federal Government holds great quantities of foodstuffs and other agricultural products acquired through purchase under commodity price support programs. Whenever prices are rising because of scarcity of such commodities, the stocks of the government should be made available for stabilizing purposes through normal distribution channels when and where needed.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE

The cities, towns and villages of America today stand almost defenseless in the face of the threat of atomic bombing. Civilian defense has been sorely neglected. The matter of legislation to accomplish the orderly and rapid organization of the civilian defense system is of the most urgent necessity. Immediate steps should be taken by the Congress to encourage and assist vulnerable and strategic areas of the nation, to organize and place in a constant state of readiness such civilian defense components as are considered essential to the safety and security of life and property.

COMMUNISM

Communists should be required to register at once, and the government authorized to place restrictions upon their movements. Increased penalties for sabotage and espionage should be immediately enacted into law. It is folly of the highest order to draft Americans for combat against communism abroad, and at the same time to permit communists unlimited freedom of action at home.

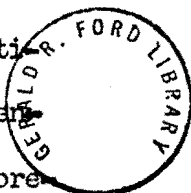
Legislation should be enacted immediately by Congress which will insure adequate public knowledge of communists and their activities.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

In order to carry out the recommendations contained herein the Congress should remain in session during this critical period. Legislation to meet possible future requirements should be prepared so as to be immediately available. Congress must be kept constantly and fully informed on the progress of our defense effort. Constant surveillance should be maintained by the Congress over authorizations and appropriations to insure that the legislative intent is not disregarded nor defense funds again arbitrarily impounded.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

Administration of any program designed to facilitate the successful prosecution of the defense effort will require the services of men in whom the people of the nation have confidence, without regard to considerations of partisan politics. Public confidence in officials at policy-making levels is essential to cooperation in the mobilization effort. Inept management, lack of foresight, inadequate quantities of weapons of effective nature, ill-trained and



poorly equipped troops thrown into combat against devastating odds, have combined to shake the confidence of the American people in the capabilities of some public officials now in office. These should be replaced by men of vision and determination.

THE SACRED TRUST

Unfortunately, individual liberty becomes the first casualty of mobilization. It will avail us nothing if we destroy dictatorships and totalitarianism abroad, only to find that in the fight we have lost our own sacred freedoms.

Power must be delegated into the hands of a few men and the habit of living in power is a strong one. When a little of the individual's liberty goes to Washington it seldom finds its way home again. For that reason we recommend checks and restrictions upon the exercise of authority to be delegated to the President. So long as the Congress of the United States retains its own constitutional power the liberties of the American people cannot long be held hostage. It is only when the Congress abdicates its duties and responsibilities that a real and terrifying danger comes into being.

The powers delegated for the defense effort must be considered a sacred trust by those who receive them. They must be exercised wisely on an administrative plane above partisan politics for the welfare and safety of every American. But what is of primary importance is the fact that the essential powers must be returned in that moment when the threat against our safety has passed.

The American people are rightfully jealous of their liberties. They will hold responsible those to whom they entrust the most sacred of their personal and civil rights.

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