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veracity + Defense spending

REMARKS ON FLOOR OF HOUSE BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Monday, August 28, 1960

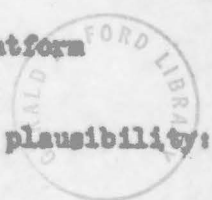
Mr. Speaker.

I feel that it is disturbing and demoralizing to the American public for a political party to write a platform containing inaccurate statements. We find fourteen such inaccurate statements incorporated into the Democrat Platform as adopted recently at Los Angeles.

Is this an example of the "New Frontiersmanship" to which Democrats hope to attract forward-looking Americans? Perhaps it might be better described as an example of a "New Gamesmanship" to hoodwink Americans.

Republican Congressmen have united in OPERATION-VERACITY in order to purge the record of the Democrat platform of 14 inaccurate statements. We heard the Gentleman from Arizona expose the first inaccuracy today by pointing out balanced budgets in fiscal years 1956, 1957 and 1960, thus exposing the inaccuracy of the Democrat claim that over the past 7½ years the Republicans had failed to balance the budget. This claim just does not hold up in light of factual analysis.

I would like to call your attention to another Democrat platform statement which even more lacks authenticity, accuracy and even plausibility:



"They (the Republicans) have also admitted that our conventional military forces, on which we depend for defense in any non-nuclear war, have been dangerously slashed for reasons of 'economy'--and that they have no plans to reverse this trend."

Mr. Speaker, I challenge the authors of the Democratic platform to produce the Administration statements which admit that our conventional military forces have been slashed for reasons of economy. If no such statements are available, then why place this distorted claim in their platform?

Because, obviously, they did not want to insert in their partisan document a correct statement, which might have read instead:

"They (the Republicans) have ended the peaks and valleys characteristic of the preparedness program of previous administrations and have developed both our conventional and nuclear capabilities as well as aided in development of over 200 allied divisions and 250 global bases. Our military posture, in conjunction with our alliance system, has deterred both nuclear and conventional war, a deterrence of which our military posture and alliance system was not capable in 1950."

Mr. Speaker, now I will address myself to the question of whether our conventional military forces, on which we depend for defense in any non-nuclear war, have been dangerously slashed.

First, let us take AIRPOWER.



Our bombers have the capability of conventional bombing as well as nuclear bombing. Since 1953 our heavy bomber force has almost doubled, while in effectiveness their capabilities have increased many-fold. For in 1953 our mainstay was the old B-36 and the still older B-29's. Perhaps the Democrat platform means to complain that we slashed production of B-36's in order to produce B-47's, B-52's and B-58's, as well as nearly doubling our bomber force. If so, they criticize progress leading to greater airpower for our dollars.

Next, let us consider NAVAL POWER.

When President Eisenhower took office, not one single modern first-line ship had joined the Fleet since the end of the World War II construction program, with the exception of a few destroyer-type vessels. Since 1953, however, this Administration has provided for approximately 50 new guided missile ships and approximately the same number of nuclear-powered vessels. The aircraft carrier, one of the mainstays of both our conventional and nuclear war capabilities, is a complete void in the Soviet arsenal of naval power. In contrast, we presently have fourteen carriers, with more on the way.

How can the Democrat platform framers complain that this naval buildup



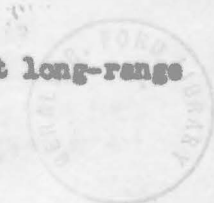
represents a slash of conventional war forces?

Finally, let us examine LAND POWER.

Our forward strategy aimed at repelling any Soviet or Red Chinese aggression directed at any part of our free world alliance system is in refreshing contrast with a fortress America approach, which would result in disengagement from both our alliance obligations and our determination to resist Soviet aggression--in Korea, in Formosa, in Berlin or in any other portion of the Free World.

Certainly our Administration has not been satisfied with merely maintaining our 870,000-man Army, our 175,000-man Marine Corps, our 300,000-man Army Reserve, our 45,000-man Marine Reserves and our 400,000-man Army National Guard. Since our reaction must be quick and since ground-power must be generated at the spots of potential aggression, we have augmented our forces with the world-wide collective defense of over 5 million men, 25,000 planes and 2,200 combat ships.

Mr. Speaker, all of these forces become a part of our conventional war deterrent. They have been built up since 1953, at which time we lacked SEATO alliance in the Far East, and when we not only lacked a consistent long-range



defense policy but also were pinned down in the wrong war, at the wrong place and at the wrong time.

I submit that anyone who feels that our 900 ships, 35,000 planes and over 2 million men are mere byproducts of nuclear deterrence and that they make no great contribution to conventional forces simply do not understand the strategy of a flexible deterrent policy. As General Taylor stated, "If one regards the force structure of our three services, one finds that nearly all the Army and Marine Corps, much of the Tactical Air Force, some of the Navy's carriers, and large parts of our strategic air and sea lift must be associated with limited war forces and are available in any emergency."

In further consideration of the Democrat charge that our conventional military forces have been dangerously slashed for reasons of economy, I would like to insert in the Record at this point a statement from a recent publication of the Institute for Strategic Studies in London, entitled, "The Soviet Union and the NATO powers: The Military Balance." The statement points out the weakness of NATO ten years ago, and its great comparative strength today:

"Ten years ago, when the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington, the military position of the Western powers was very weak. Most of the ground forces available were badly equipped



and were deployed not for defence but for occupation duties. Less than 1,000 operational aircraft were available in Europe, and only about 20 airfields. Now, as the facts below indicate, the defensive position of the NATO powers in Europe, although in certain respects it leaves much to be desired, has changed out of all recognition. The ground forces in the Central area have been built up to about 2/3 of the planned goal of 30 divisions, and equipped with nuclear ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missiles. The air forces in Europe of the NATO powers can now muster about 5,000 tactical aircraft (strategic bombers remain under national control) which operate from some 220 operational bases. Joint production in NATO countries of modern weapons such as the Hawk and Sidewinder is about to begin, while a project for a NATO tank is under discussion."

Next, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the Democrat-controlled Congresses for six fiscal years have slashed the attempts of the Republican President to increase further our defense posture. I request unanimous consent to include in the Record at this point a table reflecting the slashes of \$3.4 billion made by Democrat-controlled Congresses in the defense requests of the President from fiscal year 1955 through 1960.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE: PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUESTS AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, FY 1955-60. IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

From chart supplied by Assistant Secretary of Defense Lincoln DOD Hearings, House, FY 1961, III, 115-7.

<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>NET CHANGE</u>
1955	30,942	29,583	-1,359
1956	33,700	33,082	-618
1957	35,197	36,134	plus 937
1958	39,257	36,648	-2,609
1959	40,830	41,232	plus 402
1960	40,811	40,592	-219
<u>OVERALL, 55-60</u>	<u>220,738</u>	<u>217,271</u>	<u>-3,467</u>



Mr. Speaker, to sum up:

The Democrat platform has made an inaccurate statement that Republicans have admitted "that our conventional military forces . . . have been dangerously slashed for reasons of 'economy'." I ask the Democrats this--to what source in this Administration can they attribute such a statement? As a matter of record, a 15-member task force of the House Republican Policy Committee stated on June 20, 1960, that "we can afford all the defense that is needed, if we will soundly finance the full cost." Furthermore, in the Republican platform ratified by delegates at Chicago, our official statement of policy for the future, we affirmed that "there is no price ceiling on America's security."

I would also assert that this Administration has vastly increased the total capability of the free world to resist Communist aggression, conventional or nuclear. In 1953, we and our allies were weak in conventional war capabilities. In Europe and in Asia, our conventional war capabilities were being sucked into the Korean War in a manner that left freedom of action to the Communists. In contrast, I now note that even Senator Kennedy told the VFW last Friday in Detroit that we were first in military power in the world.


~~Art-21*~~ Air Force magazine recently gave an example of how this Administra-



tion changed vacillation to victory in the field of intercontinental ballistic missiles. Dr. Vannevar Bush, wartime Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, said in 1945 that a 3,000 mile rocket was impossible and would be for years to come. He stated that "people have been talking about a 3,000-mile high-angle rocket, shot from one continent to another. . . . I say, technically, I don't think anybody in the world knows how to do a thing. . . . I wish the American people would leave it out of their thinking."

The Eisenhower Administration ended this negative policy. By 1954, Dr. Von Neumann told the Air Force they could achieve an operational ICBM in from 6 to 9 years, provided an all-out development effort was initiated immediately. We not only achieved operational status of the Atlas in 5 years instead of 6-9, but also have vastly improved the 5,500 range set by the Von Neumann committee as well as more than halving their 5-mile accuracy goal.

Mr. Speaker--we have not slashed, we have surpassed. We have not faltered, we have achieved. American strategy and strength is secure today despite the sorry state of our defenses in 1953, despite the budget cuts of a Democrat-controlled Congress, and despite the inaccuracies of the 1960 Democrat platform.



From the office of Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

Defense spend
For 10:30 a.m. release,
Monday, August 29.

Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr., of Michigan, today refuted a statement contained in the 1960 Democratic platform which claimed that "they (the Republicans) have also admitted that our conventional military forces . . . have been dangerously slashed for reasons of economy." Ford, ranking minority member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in the House, asserted in contrast that "we have not slashed--we have surpassed. We have not faltered--we have achieved. American strategy and strength is secure today despite the sorry state of our defenses in 1953, despite the budget cuts of a Democrat-controlled Congress, and despite the inaccuracies of the 1960 Democrat platform."

Congressman Ford was one of 14 Congressmen uniting in "Operation Veracity" in order to purge the record of the Democrat platform of certain inaccurate statements. He enumerated the Republican Administration's record in air, sea and land power, showing how both our own conventional war deterrent and the world-wide collective defense of over 5 million men, 25,000 planes and 2,200 combat ships have vastly increased "the total capability of the Free World to resist Communist aggression, conventional or nuclear."

As for the Democrat claims of economy overriding security, Ford mentioned that a recent task force of the House Republican Policy Committee stated that "we can afford all the defense that is needed, if we will soundly finance the full cost", and also cited the Republican platform for 1960, in which the delegates affirmed that "there is no price ceiling on America's security."

One example of Administration progress given by Rep. Ford was the operational Atlas ICBM. The Von Neumann Committee, in 1954, told the Air Force they could achieve operational status of a 5,500-mile ICBM with a 5-mile accuracy goal within 6-9 years. Instead, we achieved Atlas operational status in 5 years, with a range far greater and an accuracy far more precise than the Committee's predictions. This type of thinking and action, according to Ford, marked a change from that of the Truman Administration. In 1945, for example, Dr. Vannevar Bush stated that a 3,000 mile rocket was impossible, and that "I don't think anybody in the world knows how to do such a thing. . . . I wish the American people would leave it out of their thinking." This, to Ford, illustrates the change from vacillation to victory.

Rep. Ford concluded that despite cuts of \$3.4 billion in the President's defense budget by a Democratic-controlled Congress, our present Administration has "ended the peaks and valleys characteristic . . . of previous administrations. . . . Our military posture has deterred both nuclear and conventional war, a deterrence of which our military posture and alliance system was not capable in 1950."

