

**The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “San Diego Council, Navy League of the United States, San Diego, CA, April 1, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*Minority Leader House* *Gov. Virginia Dale* *Billy Graham*

*Invitation*  
*Substructure*

SAN DIEGO COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE  
UNITED STATES, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.,  
8 P.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1970.

*Navy - Monterey*  
*Committee - San Diego*  
*Wilson Murphy*

*Wilson Murphy*

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN:

WHEN I ADDRESS YOU AS REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE HOUSE, YOU PROBABLY EXPECT ME TO TALK POLITICS. TONIGHT I AIM TO STAY AS CLEAR OF POLITICS AS ~~IT~~ IS POSSIBLE FOR A POLITICIAN TO DO.

*With your indulgence, I will*  
~~WHAT I AM GOING TO DO IS TALK~~

*In San Diego*  
NAVY. THAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE APPROPRIATE. I AM GOING TO TALK NAVY...FROM THE WASHINGTON ANGLE AND FROM A NATIONAL ANGLE.

INCIDENTALLY, I FEEL VERY MUCH AT HOME HERE. *I've been my good friend Bob Wilson's guest a number of times. And, I've attended several dinners in honor of George Murphy.* IT'S NOT THAT I HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME IN SAN DIEGO BUT I DID SPEND TWO YEARS AS A DECK OFFICER ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER U.S.S. MONTEREY DURING WORLD WAR I. SO I DON'T FEEL AT ALL OUT OF PLACE HERE



NOT LIKE THE YOUNG MAN OF DOUBTFUL ORIGIN  
WHO SHOWED UP AT A FAMILY REUNION.

I MIGHT MENTION THAT IN A FEW DAYS MY 12-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, SUSAN, IS GOING TO BE CHRISTENING A NAVY PATROL GUNBOAT--THE U.S.S. GRAND RAPIDS--AT TACOMA, WASHINGTON. WHEN I GOT THE INVITATION FOR SUSAN TO BE THE SPONSOR, I TOLD HER ABOUT THE GUNBOAT LAUNCHING AND ASKED HER IF SHE HAD ANY QUESTIONS. "YES," SHE SAID, "HOW HARD DO I HAVE TO HIT IT TO KNOCK IT INTO THE WATER?"

SERIOUSLY, IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY -- ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

AND IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE WITH A GROUP OF AMERICANS WHO ARE DEEPLY DEVOTED TO THE IDEALS THAT HAVE MADE THE UNITED STATES FOREMOST AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

WHEN I THINK OF SAN DIEGO, I SEE

*When I see  
all the things  
you look - you heard  
see me?  
love lady!  
partners*



A CITY WHICH HAS GIVEN MUCH TO THIS COUNTRY. I THINK OF PEOPLE LIKE THE 60 SAN DIEGANS WHO ARE WIVES AND PARENTS OF FIGHTING MEN MISSING OR IMPRISONED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

MORE THAN 1,450 U.S. SERVICEMEN ARE PRISONERS OF WAR OR ARE MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE IN WASHINGTON CARE ABOUT THOSE MEN, MEN WHO WE KNOW HAVE BEEN TORTURED AND ABUSED. AND SO WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO BRING THE PRESSURE OF WORLD OPINION TO BEAR ON THEIR NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG CAPTORS.

CURRENTLY ONLY ABOUT 430 OF THE 1,450 MEN ARE BELIEVED TO BE PRISONERS OF WAR. THERE REMAIN MORE THAN 1,000 MEN WHO ARE MISSING IN ACTION. AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER ANY OF THESE MEN ARE DEAD OR ALIVE. SOME HAVE BEEN LISTED AS MISSING FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.



OF THE TOTAL WHO ARE MISSING OR CAPTURED, NEARLY 800 WERE DOWNED IN NORTH VIETNAM; 450 LOST IN SOUTH VIETNAM; AND NEARLY 200 IN LAOS.

LITTLE WAS SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT THE PRISONER ISSUE PRIOR TO 1969. TAKING THAT APPROACH PRODUCED NO PROGRESS. AS A RESULT, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS ADOPTED A NEW POLICY OF PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, THE VIETCONG, AND THE PATHET LAO FOR THEIR INHUMANE TREATMENT OF OUR PRISONERS OF WAR.

IT IS NOT ONLY PEOPLE AT HOME WHO HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THESE DEMANDS FOR HUMANE TREATMENT OF OUR PRISONERS. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT SUCH SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN VOICED BY THE OFFICIALS OF MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

RECENTLY, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING



FOR PROPER TREATMENT OF THESE MEN. THIS WAS A GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR THE THOUSANDS OF RELATIVES WHO LIVE IN CALIFORNIA AND IN EVERY OTHER STATE OF THE UNION. AND A FEW WEEKS AGO THE PRESIDENT SIGNED A BILL WHICH PERMITS PRISONERS AND MISSING SERVICEMEN TO ACCUMULATE AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES IN SPECIAL 10 PER CENT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

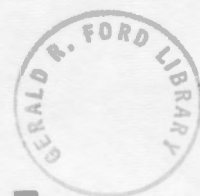
THE PLIGHT OF THESE MEN ALSO HAS BEEN TAKEN UP BY HUNDREDS OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. *I applaud all such demonstrations of concern. And* BECAUSE OF THIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPHASIS, THE PLIGHT OF OUR MEN HAS BECOME AN ISSUE NOT ONLY AT HOME BUT ABROAD. AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT EVEN THOSE NATIONS SYMPATHETIC TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAVE LITTLE PATIENCE FOR THE ENEMY'S CRUEL AND INHUMANE TREATMENT OF OUR MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

TODAY HUMANE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR HAS BECOME A BURNING ISSUE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. TO THAT EXTENT THE *Our government* NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE PROGRESS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON MET THIS PAST DECEMBER WITH 26 WIVES AND MOTHERS WHO REPRESENTED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING AND CAPTURED MEN. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ALSO HAVE DISCUSSED THE PRISONER PROBLEM WITH SCORES OF RELATIVES WHO HAVE WAITED SO LONG TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR HUSBANDS, SONS AND FATHERS.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO EXPLORE EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS ~~TO~~ RESOLVE THE PRISONER QUESTION. WE ARE SEEKING THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RELEASE OF ALL PRISONERS.

THE VIETNAM WAR IS A TERRIBLE HANGOVER FROM THE SIXTIES. WE ARE DEALING



WITH IT IN THE BEST WAY WE KNOW HOW -- IN A WAY THAT I BELIEVE WILL ULTIMATELY PRODUCE A JUST PEACE IN VIETNAM.

THE SIXTIES ARE HISTORY. WE LOOK NOW INTO THE SEVENTIES -- A DECADE OF DECISION -- AND WE GIVE THOUGHT TO SOME OF THE GREAT CHALLENGES THAT FACE US AT HOME AND ABROAD.

WHILE WE CONTINUE OUR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN VIETNAM, WE ALSO ARE ATTACKING A HOST OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS.

WE ARE ENGAGED IN WHAT I CALL A REORDERING OF OUR PRIORITIES -- AND THIS IS A MOST DELICATE TASK. <sup>However,</sup> I AM FEARFUL LEST THOSE WHO ARE SHOUTING ABOUT NEW PRIORITIES WILL SHUT THEIR EYES TO CONTINUING PRIORITIES -- THE CONTINUING NEED, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE LEVELS OF STRENGTH AMERICA MUST HAVE TO PRESERVE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF PEACE IN THE WORLD.





AS PRESIDENT NIXON SAID IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY REPORT TO THE NATION:

"DEFENSE SPENDING...MUST NEVER FALL SHORT OF THE MINIMUM NEEDED FOR SECURITY. IF IT

DOES, THE PROBLEM OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS MAY BECOME MOOT."

*2 for one will never depend on Senatorial rhetoric to preserve the peace, to stave off aggression or WIN a war*  
AS YOU KNOW, THE DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT IS GOING THROUGH A PAINFUL PERIOD OF TRANSITION.

THE FISCAL 1971 DEFENSE BUDGET HAS BEEN CUT TO \$71.8 BILLION. THAT REPRESENTS THE SMALLEST SHARE OF OVERALL GOVERNMENT SPENDING IN 20 YEARS.

*GUBSER  
GNP - 13/7  
Constant \$  
54*

THE NEW DEFENSE BUDGET IS \$5.2 BILLION BELOW THE SPENDING ESTIMATE FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR -- WHICH IN TURN IS \$4.1 BILLION BELOW THE SPENDING LEVEL FOR FISCAL 1970 PROJECTED ORIGINALLY BY THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION.

THAT SHOULD GIVE YOU SOME



CONCEPTION OF THE TREMENDOUS TURNAROUND IN SPENDING THAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON.

WHERE ARE THE CUTS IN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPENDING OCCURRING? A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION IS IN PLANNED REDUCTIONS OF 300,000 MILITARY MEN IN THIS FISCAL YEAR'S BUDGET AND 252,000 MEN IN THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1971. WITH CIVILIAN REDUCTIONS ADDED IN, OUR MANPOWER CUTS TOTAL 682,000 FOR FISCAL YEARS 1970 AND 1971.

AS YOU KNOW, THE REDUCTIONS IN MILITARY SPENDING ALSO HAVE MEANT A CUT IN OUR NAVAL FORCES OF 140 SHIPS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS -- MANY OF THEM HOME-PORTED IN SAN DIEGO.

WE REALIZE THIS HAS HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON SAN DIEGO. YOURS IS A CITY WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE NAVY AND ALSO A CITY WHICH RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A



STRONG NAVY -- AS I DO. LET ME EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SHIPS WE ARE MOTHBALLING ARE 20 TO 25 YEARS OLD. WHAT WE NEED NOW IS MODERNIZATION. THERE IS A DRAMATIC NEED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH FUNDS FOR NEW SHIP CONSTRUCTION.

THE ONLY WAY WE CAN MODERNIZE THE NAVY IS TO DO SOMETHING AFFIRMATIVELY ABOUT THE BLOCK OBSOLESCENCE PROBLEM. WE CANNOT SOLVE THIS HANGOVER OF PAST ERRORS, INDECISION, AND NEGLECT IN ONE YEAR, BUT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE A START AND HOPEFULLY THE NEW BUDGET IS SUCH A BEGINNING.


I AM NOT BEMOANING OUR SHIFT IN NATIONAL EMPHASIS TO THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS WHICH OUR PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING BE TACKLED. WE MUST ATTACK WITH GREATER VIGOR THE PROBLEMS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, POVERTY, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THE THREATS TO OUR ENVIRONMENT POSED BY AIR AND WATER POLLUTION.



BUT I MAKE THE POINT THAT WE ARE BEING SHORTCHANGED ON MODERNIZATION OF OUR MILITARY BECAUSE OF ATTACKS NOW BEING MADE ON DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE NAME OF THE NEW PRIORITIES. I SAY THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP TO SEE TO IT THAT OUR FORCES ARE PROPERLY EQUIPPED IN THE FUTURE -- WHATEVER THEIR NUMBER.

BASICALLY, THE CUTS WE HAVE MADE IN MILITARY SPENDING HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE VIETNAMIZATION OF OUR STRUGGLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE HAVE GRADUALLY BEEN TURNING MORE OF THE BURDEN OVER TO OUR SOUTH VIETNAMESE ALLIES, AND WE HAVE REDUCED OUR ARMED FORCES ACCORDINGLY.

~~AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE STRUCK A HEAVY BLOW AGAINST THE FORCES OF INFLATION~~  
BY HOLDING DOWN THE OVERALL LEVEL OF FEDERAL SPENDING. *we have attacked one of the basic causes of inflation* WE HAVE MAINTAINED A BALANCED BUDGET AND LIMITED THE EXTENT



TO WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS HAD TO GO INTO THE MONEY MARKETS.

WHAT I RESENT IS THAT THE SAME INDIVIDUALS WHO VOTED FOR THE HUGE MILITARY BUDGETS OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION NOW ARE WIELDING THE AXE IN AN IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER AGAINST NIXON ADMINISTRATION DEFENSE BUDGETS ALREADY CUT TO THE BONE.

THESE ARE ALSO THE PEOPLE WHO FUNDED PRIOR-YEARS WEAPONS PROJECTS NOW SHOWN TO HAVE HUGE COST OVERRUNS -- PROJECTS PROPOSED BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. THESE SAME INDIVIDUALS TREAT THE COST

OVERRUNS AS THOUGH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WERE TO BLAME FOR THEM.

*I resent the Sec. of Defense <sup>reference that</sup> ~~and~~ who has to pay the bills request the contracts that caused the problem.*

IT OCCURS TO ME THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR GROSS MISMANAGEMENT BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION, RESULTING IN THESE COST OVERRUNS, THERE WOULD BE FAR MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME FOR SUCH URGENT



PROGRAMS AS MODERNIZATION OF OUR FLEET.

THINK BACK, IF YOU WILL, TO WHAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S CIVIL MANAGERS OF THE SIXTIES -- THE SO-CALLED WHIZ KIDS -- HATH WROUGHT.

WE HAVE THE F-111, FOR INSTANCE, TROTTED OUT BY THE WHIZ KIDS AS THE GREAT COMMON PURPOSE AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD SUPERBLY SERVE BOTH THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE AND SAVE THE NATION A LOT OF MONEY.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE F-111 HAS BEEN GROUNDED FOR WING FAILURE. ~~BUT ITS FAILURES EXTEND FAR BEYOND ITS WING FLAW.~~ ~~THE STORY OF THE F-111 IS A SAGA OF TRAGIC MISMANAGEMENT.~~ <sup>by the Dept. of Defense</sup> AND THE MESS ALL BEGAN WITH THE INSISTENCE OF THE WHIZ KIDS THAT THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE EMPLOY A SINGLE MULTI-PURPOSE AIRCRAFT.

THE NET RESULT WAS AN AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD NOT MEET ANYONE'S MILITARY



MISSION REQUIREMENTS. THERE WAS TOO GREAT AN ORIENTATION TO COMMONALITY AND NOT ENOUGH EMPHASIS ON MILITARY SERVICE NEEDS. THE NAVY WAS LUCKY. THE NAVY VERSION OF THE F-111 WAS CANCELLED AFTER \$200 MILLION WAS SPENT ON IT.

NOW THE AIR FORCE IS STUCK WITH A PLANE THAT IS SADLY DEFICIENT BOTH AS A FIGHTER AND A BOMBER AND IS COSTING NEARLY FOUR TIMES AS MUCH AS THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

THE ORIGINAL PER UNIT COST OF THE F-111 HAS RISEN FROM JUST UNDER \$4 MILLION EACH TO NEARLY \$14 MILLION APIECE. AND IF YOU ADD IN NON-ACQUISITION COSTS LIKE GROUND FACILITIES THE UNIT PRICE GOES UP TO NEARLY \$16 MILLION.

THIS F-111 FIASCO IS ~~UTTERLY~~ *a story book problem.* ~~FANTASTIC.~~ INITIALLY, PLANS CALLED FOR A BUY OF 1,750 PLANES. NOW THE FIGURE IS DOWN TO 547, WITH 493 UNDER CONTRACT.



THE MOST FANTASTIC FACT OF ALL IS THAT THE THEN-SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND HIS WHIZ KIDS KNEW AS EARLY AS 1963 THAT THE F-111 COULD NOT MEET ITS PRIMARY AIR FORCE MISSION -- THAT THE PLANE WOULD NOT DELIVER THE SPECIFIED MANEUVER CAPABILITIES AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS AND THAT ITS DIRECTIONAL STABILITY WAS EXTREMELY LOW AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS.

THEN WE HAVE THE C-5A GALAXY AIR TRANSPORT, WHICH IS CURRENTLY RESTRICTED BECAUSE OF A STRUCTURAL DEFECT. *Critics on this score are unfair because* THAT PLANE WAS INTENDED TO BE A BREAKTHROUGH IN COST SUPPRESSION. INSTEAD THE PLANE HAS BECOME A PROCUREMENT *problem of major magnitude* SCANDAL. ON THE BASIS OF THE ORIGINAL ORDER OF 121 PLANES, THE UNIT COST WOULD NOW BE \$42.7 MILLION INSTEAD OF THE ORIGINAL \$28.1 MILLION A PIECE. ~~THANK GOODNESS~~ THE ORDER HAS BEEN CUT BACK TO 81 PLANES. WITH THE CUTBACK, THE UNIT COST IS \$48.2 MILLION



AS COMPARED WITH \$33 MILLION APIECE BASED ON THE ORIGINAL COST ESTIMATE FOR THAT VOLUME OF PROCUREMENT. WHAT IT ADDS UP TO IS A \$1.6 BILLION COST OVERRUN EVEN WITH THE CUTBACK IN ORDERS. *Bad contracting*

AS FOR THE NAVY, WE HAVE INHERITED AN OVER-AGE FLEET WHILE THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN STREAMLINING ITS NAVAL STRIKE FORCES.

LET ME ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS CONCENTRATING ON QUALITATIVE PREPAREDNESS. VINTAGE COMBATANT SHIPS ARE BEING REPLACED WITH NEW, MORE FLEXIBLE AND MISSION-ORIENTED SHIPS.

DURING THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR, U.S. SHIPS HAVE TWICE CONDUCTED MANEUVERS IN THE BLACK SEA. THIS PROVEN TECHNIQUE OF SHOWING THE FLAG IS BEING EMPLOYED AS A USEFUL INSTRUMENT OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY.



UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION WE WILL MOVE TOWARD A NAVY THAT IS MODERN, POWERFUL, BALANCED AND FLEXIBLE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES THAT WE ARE SUFFERING FROM A MODERNIZATION DEFICIT -- THAT WE NEED A REGULAR UPDATING OF OUR FORCES BY THE INTRODUCTION OF MODERN SHIPS INTO OUR FLEET, BY THE ORDERLY REPLACEMENT OF OUR OLDER SHIPS.

THE MODERNIZING OF OUR NAVY HAS BEEN POSTPONED FAR TOO LONG. IN THIS TIME OF TIGHT BUDGETS, IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP ABREAST OF TECHNICAL ADVANCES AND MAKE THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE USE OF WEAPONS AND FORCES.

WHAT IS MOST DANGEROUS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AT THIS MOMENT IS THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE ATTACKING OUR BARE-BONES DEFENSE BUDGET AS THOUGH \$10 OR \$20 <sup>BILLION</sup> COULD BE CHOPPED FROM IT WITH



IMPUNITY. THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE FAILED TO THINK THROUGH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY NEEDS FOR THE SEVENTIES.

TO THEM I SAY WE CANNOT MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE BY ALLOWING AMERICA TO BECOME WEAK.

TO THEM I SAY IT IS NOT ONLY FOOLHARDY BUT SUICICAL FOR AMERICA TO RISK BEING CAUGHT MILITARILY SHORT IN THE SEVENTIES AS WE WERE IN THE THIRTIES.

*Churchill  
Chamberlain*

LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY AS WE ENTER THE DECADE OF THE SEVENTIES.

~~ONLY~~ WE ARE EXPERIENCING A REVULSION NOT AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR BUT AGAINST ALL THINGS MILITARY AND AGAINST DEFENSE-ORIENTED INDUSTRY. THIS HAS LED TO ATTACKS AGAINST THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, OUR MEN IN UNIFORM, AND WHAT IS GENERALLY LUMPED TOGETHER AS "THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX."




IT HAS PRODUCED A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO SLASH OUR DEFENSE BUDGET WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION FOR WHAT THIS COUNTRY MUST POSSESS IN THE WAY OF ARMAMENTS TO GUARANTEE ITS NATIONAL SECURITY AND TO MAINTAIN SOME DEGREE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD.

AS GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL ONCE REMARKED, THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONFUSE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS WITH THE CAUSES OF WAR AND THUS INVITE A NATIONAL CATASTROPHE.

THERE ARE TODAY AMAZING SIMILARITIES BETWEEN 1970 AND THE THIRTIES, A PERIOD WHEN WE BELIEVED THAT THE BEST WAY TO AVOID WAR WAS TO PRETEND IT JUST COULDN'T HAPPEN.

IN THE THIRTIES SEN. GERALD P. NYE OF NORTH DAKOTA PREACHED THE "FORTRESS AMERICA" CONCEPT. THE ISOLATIONISM BEING TALKED IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE TODAY IS STRONGLY REMINISCENT OF THE SENTIMENTS VOICED



BY SEN. NYE.

IN THE EARLY THIRTIES AN INVESTIGATION BY A SENATE COMMITTEE HEADED BY NYE RESULTED IN THE NEUTRALITY ACT OF 1935. THAT LEGISLATION WAS SIMILAR TO A RECENTLY-ENACTED SENATE RESOLUTION LIMITING THE USE OF U.S. GROUND TROOPS IN LAOS. NEVER MIND THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NO INTENTION OF USING GROUND TROOPS IN LAOS.

NYE BLAMED WAR ON THE INTERNATIONAL BANKERS AND MUNITIONS MAKERS -- CALLED *THEM* "MERCHANTS OF DEATH."

TODAY WE SEE MILITANTS BURNING DOWN OR DAMAGING BANK BUILDINGS, LOOTING THE FILES OF A NAPALM MANUFACTURER, AND PREVENTING CAMPUS APPEARANCES BY RECRUITERS FOR DEFENSE INDUSTRIES.

THERE WERE PROTESTS IN THE 30s AGAINST COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING, AND SO



A NUMBER OF LAND GRANT COLLEGES MADE MILITARY DRILL OPTIONAL. TODAY WE FIND STUDENTS FORCING COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIONS TO DROP ROTC FROM THE CURRICULUM. AND TODAY, TOO, WE HAVE DRAFT CARD BURNING AND THE POURING OF BLOOD ON DRAFT CARD FILES.

IN THE THIRTIES, AMERICA SLEPT. LET US NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TODAY WE MADE IN THE 1930s. LET US NOT TEAR DOWN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY BY CONFUSING MILITARY PREPAREDNESS WITH THE CAUSES OF WAR.

LET US ACCEPT THE GREAT CHALLENGE THAT CONFRONTS US -- THE CHALLENGE OF MAINTAINING OUR FREE INSTITUTIONS IN THE FACE OF A COMMUNIST MOVEMENT THAT THREATENS TO DESTROY THOSE INSTITUTIONS.

LET US REMEMBER THAT THE GREAT OCEANS NO LONGER ARE SEAWALLS BEHIND WHICH WE CAN HIDE WHILE WE BELATEDLY PREPARE TO MEET AN ENEMY THREAT. THERE IS NO TIME LAG



IN WARFARE TODAY GIVING AMERICA THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITY TO REARM WE ENJOYED IN 1941. WE ARE CONSTANTLY STARING AT THE TIP OF A NUCLEAR MISSILE -- AND WE HAD BETTER NOT BLINK.

I AM NOT ADVOCATING A REVIVAL OF THE COLD WAR. BUT ABANDON PRINCIPLE IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IS TO TAKE THE SUREST ROAD TO ULTIMATE DISASTER.

LET US SEEK A DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BUT LET US NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. WE CANNOT BUY PEACE WITH A SHOW OF WEAKNESS.

THROUGHOUT AMERICA'S HISTORY, THE SOURCE OF OUR NATIONAL GREATNESS HAS BEEN OUR ABILITY TO SEE WHAT HAD TO BE DONE AND THEN TO DO IT. IN THIS DECADE OF THE SEVENTIES, LET US AS AMERICANS DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE WORLD. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO DO LESS.

-- END --



*Distribution: 10 Copies Mr. Ford only*

*Office Copy*

AN ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.  
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
BEFORE THE SAN DIEGO COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
AT 8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1970

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Good evening, gentlemen:

When I address you as Republican leader of the House, you probably expect me to talk politics. Tonight I aim to stay as clear of politics as it is possible for a politician to do.

What I am going to do is talk Navy. That seems to me to be appropriate. I am going to talk Navy...from the Washington angle and from a national angle.

Incidentally, I feel very much at home here. It's not that I have spent much time in San Diego but I did spend two years as a deck officer aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey during World War II. So I don't feel at all out of place here--not like the young man of doubtful origin who showed up at a family reunion.

I might mention that in a few days my 12-year-old daughter, Susan, is going to be christening a Navy patrol gunboat--the U.S.S. Grand Rapids-- at Tacoma, Wash. When I got the invitation for Susan to be the sponsor, I told her about the gunboat launching and asked her if she had any questions. "Yes," she said, "how hard do I have to hit it to knock it into the water?"

Seriously, it's a great pleasure to be here with you in this beautiful city--one of the most beautiful in the entire country.

And it's a pleasure to be with a group of Americans who are deeply devoted to the ideals that have made the United States foremost among the nations of the world.

When I think of San Diego, I see a city which has given much to this country. I think of people like the 60 San Diegans who are wives and parents of fighting men missing or imprisoned in Southeast Asia.

More than 1,450 U.S. servicemen are prisoners of war or are missing in action in Southeast Asia. I want you to know that we in Washington care about those men, men who we know have been tortured and abused. And so we are doing everything in our power to bring the pressure of world opinion to bear on their North Vietnamese and Vietcong captors.

(more)





Currently only about 430 of the 1,450 men are believed to be prisoners of war. There remain more than 1,000 men who are missing in action. At this time, there is no way of knowing whether any of these men are dead or alive. Some have been listed as missing for more than five years.

Of the total who are missing or captured, nearly 800 were downed in North Vietnam; 450 lost in South Vietnam; and nearly 200 in Laos.

Little was said publicly about the prisoner issue prior to 1969. Taking that approach produced no progress. As a result, the Nixon Administration has adopted a new policy of public condemnation of the North Vietnamese, the Vietcong, and the Pathet Lao for their inhumane treatment of our prisoners of war.

It is not only people at home who have expressed support for these demands for humane treatment of our prisoners. It is significant that such support has also been voiced by the officials of many foreign countries.

Recently, the Congress of the United States adopted a resolution calling for proper treatment of these men. This was a gesture of support for the thousands of relatives who live in California and in every other state of the Union. And a few weeks ago the President signed a bill which permits prisoners and missing servicemen to accumulate an unlimited amount of pay and allowances in special 10 per cent savings accounts.

The plight of these men also has been taken up by hundreds of non-government organizations and concerned citizens throughout the country.

Because of this public and private emphasis, the plight of our men has become an issue not only at home but abroad. And I can tell you that even those nations sympathetic to the North Vietnamese government have little patience for the enemy's cruel and inhumane treatment of our men and their families.

Today humane treatment of prisoners of war has become a burning issue throughout the world. To that extent the Nixon Administration has made progress on this important issue.

As you know, President and Mrs. Nixon met this past December with 26 wives and mothers who represented all the families of the missing and captured men. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense also have discussed the prisoner problem with scores of relatives who have waited so long to learn about their husbands, sons and fathers.

We are continuing to explore every possible means to resolve the prisoner question. We are seeking the earliest possible release of all prisoners.

(more)

The Vietnam War is a terrible hangover from the Sixties. We are dealing with it in the best way we know how--in a way that I believe will ultimately produce a just peace in Vietnam.

The Sixties are history. We look now into the Seventies--a decade of decision--and we give thought to some of the great challenges that face us at home and abroad.

While we continue our progress toward peace in Vietnam, we also are attacking a host of domestic problems.

We are engaged in what I call a reordering of our priorities--and this is a most delicate task. I am fearful lest those who are shouting about new priorities will shut their eyes to continuing priorities--the continuing need, for example, for the levels of strength America must have to preserve the greatest possible level of peace in the world.

As President Nixon said in his Foreign Policy Report to the Nation: "Defense spending...must never fall short of the minimum needed for security. If it does, the problem of domestic programs may become moot."

As you know, the Defense Department is going through a painful period of transition.

The fiscal 1971 defense budget has been cut to \$71.8 billion. That represents the smallest share of overall Government spending in 20 years.

The new defense budget is \$5.2 billion below the spending estimate for the current fiscal year--which in turn is \$4.1 billion below the spending level for fiscal 1970 projected originally by the Johnson Administration.

That should give you some conception of the tremendous turnaround in spending that has been taking place in Washington.

Where are the cuts in Defense Department spending occurring? A substantial portion is in planned reductions of 300,000 military men in this fiscal year's budget and 252,000 men in the budget for fiscal year 1971. With civilian reductions added in, our manpower cuts total 682,000 for fiscal years 1970 and 1971.

As you know, the reductions in military spending also have meant a cut in our naval forces of 140 ships over the past two years--many of them home-ported in San Diego.

We realize this has had a great impact on San Diego. Yours is a city with close ties to the Navy and also a city which recognizes the need to maintain a

(more)

strong Navy--as I do. Let me emphasize, however, that the ships we are mothballing are 20 to 25 years old. What we need now is modernization. There is a dramatic need to move ahead with funds for new ship construction.

The only way we can modernize the Navy is to do something affirmatively about the block obsolescence problem. We cannot solve this hangover of past errors, indecision, and neglect in one year, but we have an obligation to make a start and hopefully the new budget is such a beginning.

I am not bemoaning our shift in national emphasis to the humanitarian problems which our people are demanding be tackled. We must attack with greater vigor the problems of health, education, poverty, urban development, and the threats to our environment posed by air and water pollution.

But I make the point that we are being shortchanged on modernization of our military because of attacks now being made on defense spending in the name of the new priorities. I say that the country needs your help to see to it that our forces are properly equipped in the future--whatever their number.

Basically, the cuts we have made in military spending have been directly related to the Vietnamization of our struggle in Southeast Asia. We have gradually been turning more of the burden over to our South Vietnamese allies, and we have reduced our armed forces accordingly.

At the same time we have struck a heavy blow against the forces of inflation by holding down the overall level of Federal spending. We have maintained a balanced budget and limited the extent to which the Federal Government has had to go into the money markets.

What I resent is that the same individuals who voted for the huge military budgets of the previous Administration now are wielding the axe in an irresponsible manner against Nixon Administration defense budgets already cut to the bone.

These are also the people who funded prior-years weapons projects now shown to have huge cost overruns--projects proposed by the previous Administration. These same individuals treat the cost overruns as though the present Administration were to blame for them.

It occurs to me that had it not been for gross mismanagement by the previous Administration, resulting in these cost overruns, there would be far more funds available at this time for such urgent programs as modernization of our Fleet.

Think back, if you will, to what the Defense Department's civil managers of the Sixties--the so-called Whiz Kids--hath wrought.

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Under this Administration we will move toward a Navy that is modern, powerful, balanced and flexible.

This Administration recognizes that we are suffering from a modernization deficit--that we need a regular updating of our forces by the introduction of modern ships into our Fleet, by the orderly replacement of our older ships.

The modernizing of our Navy has been postponed far too long. In this time of tight budgets, it is all the more important that we keep abreast of technical advances and make the most effective possible use of weapons and forces.

What is most dangerous to our national security at this moment is that certain members of Congress are attacking our bare-bones defense budget as though \$10 or \$20 billion could be chopped from it with impunity. They obviously have failed to think through our national security needs for the Seventies.

To them I say we cannot make progress toward peace by allowing America to become weak.

To them I say it is not only foolhardy but suicidal for America to risk being caught militarily short in the Seventies as we were in the Thirties.

Look at what is happening to our great country as we enter the decade of the Seventies.

We are experiencing a revulsion not only against the Vietnam War but against all things military and against defense-oriented industry. This has led to attacks against the Defense Establishment, our men in uniform, and what is generally lumped together as "the military-industrial complex."

It has produced a concerted campaign to slash our defense budget without any consideration for what this country must possess in the way of armaments to guarantee its national security and to maintain some degree of peace in the world.

As General George C. Marshall once remarked, there are individuals who confuse military preparedness with the causes of war and thus invite a national catastrophe.

There are today amazing similarities between 1970 and the Thirties, a period when we believed that the best way to avoid war was to pretend it just couldn't happen.

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In the Thirties Sen. Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota preached the "Fortress America" concept. The isolationism being talked in the United States Senate today is strongly reminiscent of the sentiments voiced by Sen. Nye.

In the early Thirties an investigation by a Senate committee headed by Nye resulted in the Neutrality Act of 1935. That legislation was similar to a recently-enacted Senate resolution limiting the use of U.S. ground troops in Laos. Never mind the fact that the Administration has no intention of using ground troops in Laos.

Nye blamed war on the international bankers and munitions makers-- called "merchants of death."

Today we see militants burning down or damaging bank buildings, looting the files of a napalm manufacturer and preventing campus appearances by recruiters for defense industries.

There were protests in the 30s against compulsory military training, and so a number of land grant colleges made military drill optional. Today we find students forcing college administrations to drop ROTC from the curriculum. And today, too, we have draft card burning and the pouring of blood on draft card files.

In the Thirties, America slept. Let us not make the same mistake today we made in the 1930s. Let us not tear down our national security by confusing military preparedness with the causes of war.

Let us accept the great challenge that confronts us--the challenge of maintaining our free institutions in the face of a Communist movement that threatens to destroy those institutions.

Let us remember that the great oceans no longer are seawalls behind which we can hide while we belatedly prepare to meet an enemy threat. There is no time lag in warfare today giving America the kind of opportunity to rearm we enjoyed in 1941. We are constantly staring at the tip of a nuclear missile--and we had better not blink.

I am not advocating a revival of the cold war. But to abandon principle in the pursuit of peace is to take the surest road to ultimate disaster.

Let us seek a detente with the Soviet Union, but let us negotiate from a position of strength. We cannot buy peace with a show of weakness.

Throughout America's history, the source of our national greatness has been our ability to see what had to be done and then to do it. In this decade of the Seventies, let us as Americans do what has to be done to achieve peace in the world. We cannot afford to do less.

*Distribution: 10 copies Mr. Ford only*

*M Office Copy*

AN ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.  
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
BEFORE THE SAN DIEGO COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
AT 8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1970

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Good evening, gentlemen:

When I address you as Republican leader of the House, you probably expect me to talk politics. Tonight I aim to stay as clear of politics as it is possible for a politician to do.

What I am going to do is talk Navy. That seems to me to be appropriate. I am going to talk Navy...from the Washington angle and from a national angle.

Incidentally, I feel very much at home here. It's not that I have spent much time in San Diego but I did spend two years as a deck officer aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey during World War II. So I don't feel at all out of place here--not like the young man of doubtful origin who showed up at a family reunion.

I might mention that in a few days my 12-year-old daughter, Susan, is going to be christening a Navy patrol gunboat--the U.S.S. Grand Rapids-- at Tacoma, Wash. When I got the invitation for Susan to be the sponsor, I told her about the gunboat launching and asked her if she had any questions. "Yes," she said, "how hard do I have to hit it to knock it into the water?"

Seriously, it's a great pleasure to be here with you in this beautiful city--one of the most beautiful in the entire country.

And it's a pleasure to be with a group of Americans who are deeply devoted to the ideals that have made the United States foremost among the nations of the world.

When I think of San Diego, I see a city which has given much to this country. I think of people like the 60 San Diegans who are wives and parents of fighting men missing or imprisoned in Southeast Asia.

More than 1,450 U.S. servicemen are prisoners of war or are missing in action in Southeast Asia. I want you to know that we in Washington care about those men, men who we know have been tortured and abused. And so we are doing everything in our power to bring the pressure of world opinion to bear on their North Vietnamese and Vietcong captors.

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Currently only about 430 of the 1,450 men are believed to be prisoners of war. There remain more than 1,000 men who are missing in action. At this time, there is no way of knowing whether any of these men are dead or alive. Some have been listed as missing for more than five years.

Of the total who are missing or captured, nearly 800 were downed in North Vietnam; 450 lost in South Vietnam; and nearly 200 in Laos.

Little was said publicly about the prisoner issue prior to 1969. Taking that approach produced no progress. As a result, the Nixon Administration has adopted a new policy of public condemnation of the North Vietnamese, the Vietcong, and the Pathet Lao for their inhumane treatment of our prisoners of war.

It is not only people at home who have expressed support for these demands for humane treatment of our prisoners. It is significant that such support has also been voiced by the officials of many foreign countries.

Recently, the Congress of the United States adopted a resolution calling for proper treatment of these men. This was a gesture of support for the thousands of relatives who live in California and in every other state of the Union. And a few weeks ago the President signed a bill which permits prisoners and missing servicemen to accumulate an unlimited amount of pay and allowances in special 10 per cent savings accounts.

The plight of these men also has been taken up by hundreds of non-government organizations and concerned citizens throughout the country.

Because of this public and private emphasis, the plight of our men has become an issue not only at home but abroad. And I can tell you that even those nations sympathetic to the North Vietnamese government have little patience for the enemy's cruel and inhumane treatment of our men and their families.

Today humane treatment of prisoners of war has become a burning issue throughout the world. To that extent the Nixon Administration has made progress on this important issue.

As you know, President and Mrs. Nixon met this past December with 26 wives and mothers who represented all the families of the missing and captured men. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense also have discussed the prisoner problem with scores of relatives who have waited so long to learn about their husbands, sons and fathers.

We are continuing to explore every possible means to resolve the prisoner question. We are seeking the earliest possible release of all prisoners.

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The Vietnam War is a terrible hangover from the Sixties. We are dealing with it in the best way we know how--in a way that I believe will ultimately produce a just peace in Vietnam.

The Sixties are history. We look now into the Seventies--a decade of decision--and we give thought to some of the great challenges that face us at home and abroad.

While we continue our progress toward peace in Vietnam, we also are attacking a host of domestic problems.

We are engaged in what I call a reordering of our priorities--and this is a most delicate task. I am fearful lest those who are shouting about new priorities will shut their eyes to continuing priorities--the continuing need, for example, for the levels of strength America must have to preserve the greatest possible level of peace in the world.

As President Nixon said in his Foreign Policy Report to the Nation: "Defense spending...must never fall short of the minimum needed for security. If it does, the problem of domestic programs may become moot."

As you know, the Defense Department is going through a painful period of transition.

The fiscal 1971 defense budget has been cut to \$71.8 billion. That represents the smallest share of overall Government spending in 20 years.

The new defense budget is \$5.2 billion below the spending estimate for the current fiscal year--which in turn is \$4.1 billion below the spending level for fiscal 1970 projected originally by the Johnson Administration.

That should give you some conception of the tremendous turnaround in spending that has been taking place in Washington.

Where are the cuts in Defense Department spending occurring? A substantial portion is in planned reductions of 300,000 military men in this fiscal year's budget and 252,000 men in the budget for fiscal year 1971. With civilian reductions added in, our manpower cuts total 682,000 for fiscal years 1970 and 1971.

As you know, the reductions in military spending also have meant a cut in our naval forces of 140 ships over the past two years--many of them home-ported in San Diego.

We realize this has had a great impact on San Diego. Yours is a city with close ties to the Navy and also a city which recognizes the need to maintain a

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strong Navy--as I do. Let me emphasize, however, that the ships we are mothballing are 20 to 25 years old. What we need now is modernization. There is a dramatic need to move ahead with funds for new ship construction.

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