

**The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Christening of the "U.S.S. Grand Rapids", Tacoma, WA, April 4, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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[Photograph in Photo File]

CHRISTENING OF THE GUNBOAT "U.S.S. GRAND RAPIDS" AT TACOMA, WASHINGTON,  
3 P.M., P.S.T., SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1970.

I AM HIGHLY HONORED AND MOST PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH YOU AT THE CHRISTENING OF THIS SPLENDID NEW GUNBOAT, THE GRAND RAPIDS. I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT MY DAUGHTER, SUSAN, WILL PERFORM THE TRADITIONAL CHORE OF BREAKING A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE OVER THE BOW OF THE GRAND RAPIDS.

WHEN THE NAVY SENT SUSAN THE INVITATION TO BE THE SPONSOR OF THE GRAND RAPIDS, I ASKED HER IF SHE HAD ANY QUESTIONS. "JUST ONE," SHE SAID. "HOW HARD DO I HAVE TO HIT THE BOAT IN ORDER TO KNOCK IT INTO THE WATER?"

IT IS SAID THAT A SHIP'S SPONSOR IMPARTS SOME OF HER PERSONALITY TO THE SHIP SHE CHRISTENS. IF THIS IS SO, THEN THE



GUNBOAT GRAND RAPIDS WILL BE A BUSY LITTLE VESSEL, NEVER LACKING IN ENERGY AND DRIVE. SHE WILL HAVE A WILL OF HER OWN, YET SHE WILL SHOW GREAT DEVOTION AND LOYALTY TO THOSE WHO GUIDE HER THROUGH A SEA OF TROUBLES. ABOVE ALL, SHE WILL NEVER BE IDLE. ~~[AS FOR HER CAPTAIN, HE WILL HANDLE HER WITH GREAT CARE AND LOVE.]~~

~~[AS YOU MAY KNOW]~~ PATROL GUNBOATS ARE NAMED FOR CITIES, ESPECIALLY CITIES WHOSE NAMES SUGGEST THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SHIP. IN THE CASE OF PG-98, THE NAME GRAND RAPIDS SUGGESTS SPEED -- AND THAT IS ONE OF THE CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VESSEL WE ARE CHRISTENING HERE TODAY.

THE GRAND RAPIDS HAS A DESIGNED SPEED IN EXCESS OF 35 KNOTS. ~~[THE NAVY SAYS. ON THE "QT," ONE NAVAL OFFICER TOLD ME THE SPEED FOR OUR SHIP IS CONSIDERABLY IN EXCESS OF 35 KNOTS -- AND I AM READY TO TAKE~~

~~HIS WORD FOR IT.~~ CERTAINLY THE GRAND RAPIDS WILL HAVE THE SPEED AND ABILITY TO DO THE JOB FOR WHICH IT WAS BUILT -- TO INTERDICT AND DESTROY COASTAL SHIPPING IN SHALLOW OR RESTRICTED WATERS AND TO DEFEND SMALL CRAFT DURING AN AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION.

WHEN THEN SECRETARY OF THE NAVY PAUL R. IGNATIUS DESIGNATED PG-98 AS THE GRAND RAPIDS I WAS MOST PLEASED. THAT WAS ON JUNE 26, 1968. AND WHEN THE NAVY RECENTLY INFORMED ME OF MY AND MY DAUGHTER'S ROLES IN THE CHRISTENING OF THE GRAND RAPIDS I FELT MOST HONORED -- NOT JUST FOR MYSELF AND SUSAN BUT FOR THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MY HOME TOWN.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW THAT GRAND RAPIDS IS THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN MICHIGAN WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 200,000. IT IS BEST KNOWN AS A FURNITURE TOWN, A CITY WHERE <sup>the</sup> FINEST FURNITURE IS MADE AND MARKETED. LOCATED ON

THE GRAND RIVER, IT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT RAIL, WHOLESALE AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER FOR FRUIT GROWING AND DAIRYING, AS WELL AS AUTOMOTIVE AND OTHER INDUSTRIES. BEST OF ALL, GRAND RAPIDS IS A TOWN WHERE FINE PEOPLE LIVE -- GRAND PEOPLE, IF YOU WILL.

[AND SO I FEEL THAT THE GUNBOAT WE CHRISTEN HERE TODAY IS GETTING A GRAND NAME.]

PG-98 IS THE SECOND SHIP OF THE FLEET TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS.

THE FIRST U.S.S. GRAND RAPIDS WAS A PATROL FRIGATE. SHE WAS LAUNCHED SEPT. 10, 1943, BUT DID NOT COMPLETE HER SHAKEDOWN UNTIL DEC. 2, 1944. THE FIRST GRAND RAPIDS OPERATED AS A WEATHER PICKET SHIP FROM JAN. 6, 1945, UNTIL JAN. 15, 1946 -- JUST A LITTLE OVER A YEAR. SHE WAS SCRAPPED SEPT. 21, 1947.

I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING

SIGNIFICANT IN THE SCRAPPING OF THE FIRST GRAND RAPIDS -- SOMETHING MOST MEANINGFUL FOR US TODAY IN THE EXTREMELY BRIEF SERVICE OF THE PATROL FRIGATE GRAND RAPIDS.

IT SPEAKS TO US OF THE FRANTIC RUSH TO DISARM THIS COUNTRY AFTER WORLD WAR II -- THE SAME IRRATIONAL TEARING DOWN OF OUR DEFENSES THAT OCCURRED AFTER WORLD WAR I <sup>World War II</sup> AND MOST RECENTLY AFTER THE KOREAN WAR. AND I TELL YOU THAT THIS SAME MADNESS -- I DELIBERATELY AND PURPOSELY CALL IT THAT -- THIS SAME MADNESS IS APPEARING IN MANY QUARTERS IN AMERICA TODAY.

I UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY AS WE ENTER THE DECADE OF THE 70'S. WE ARE EXPERIENCING A REVULSION AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR AND AGAINST ALL WARS. THIS REVULSION IS TRANSLATED INTO ABHORRENCE NOT ONLY OF WAR BUT OF ALL THINGS MILITARY AND OF ALL

DEFENSE-ORIENTED INDUSTRY. IT 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 THE 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.

IN 1945 GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL SAID:

"WE FINISH EACH BLOODY WAR WITH A FEELING OF ACUTE REVULSION AGAINST THE SAVAGE FORM OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR. AND YET ON EACH OCCASION WE CONFUSE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS WITH THE CAUSES OF WAR AND THEN DRIFT ALMOST DELIBERATELY INTO ANOTHER CATASTROPHE."

IT IS MOST IRONIC THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO TODAY ARE ATTACKING WHAT THEY CALL THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WERE AMONG THE MOST ZEALOUS SUPPORTERS OF THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THEM THAT IN JANUARY OF 1961 PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAID IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS:

"WE DARE NOT TEMPT THEM WITH WEAKNESS. FOR ONLY WHEN OUR ARMS ARE SUFFICIENT BEYOND DOUBT CAN WE BE CERTAIN BEYOND DOUBT THAT THEY WILL NEVER BE EMPLOYED."

I SUBMIT THAT THOSE WHO LOOK AT THE BARE-BONES DEFENSE BUDGETS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND SHOUT THAT WE CAN CUT MILITARY SPENDING BY \$10 OR \$20 BILLION MORE ARE OPERATING IN A FOG -- A MENTAL FOG GENERATED BY PIOUS HOPES THAT OTHERS OF US BELIEVE CAN NEVER BE REALIZED.



OF COURSE THE ANTI-MILITARISTS AND THE NEO-ISOLATIONISTS OF TODAY INSIST THAT THERE IS NO COMPARISON BETWEEN THEM AND THE PACIFISTS AND ISOLATIONISTS OF THE 1930'S. BUT ~~I THINK~~ THE PARALLELS ARE UNMISTAKABLE.

MANY OF YOU REMEMBER THE 1930'S. REMEMBER WHEN HITLER WROTE HIS BOOK, "ME IN KAMPF?" FEW PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TOOK HIM SERIOUSLY.

*the United States in the 1920s + 30s*  
WE HAD ENGAGED IN UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT. WE WERE LIVING IN A DREAM WORLD. WE SAID WAR JUST COULDN'T HAPPEN. AND IF IT DID HAPPEN TO SOMEBODY ELSE WE WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED. THE MENTALITY OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WAS ATTUNED TO WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS THE "FORTRESS AMERICA" CONCEPT.

I AM NOT BEING PARTISAN. IT WAS A REPUBLICAN, SEN. GERALD P. NYE OF NORTH

DAKOTA, WHO LED THE FORTRESS AMERICA FORCES IN THE 30'S. BUT IT IS ONLY FAIR TO POINT OUT THAT THE ISOLATIONISM BEING PREACHED TODAY BY CERTAIN LEADING DEMOCRATS IN THE SENATE IS STRONGLY REMINISCENT OF SEN. NYE'S.

NYE BLAMED WAR ON THE INTERNATIONAL BANKERS AND THE ARMS MANUFACTURERS.

*Today the villains are the military & our industrialists who gave us the leaders to defeat Hitler & today we see militant youths the weapons to destroy the Nazis*  
TODAY WE SEE MILITANT YOUTHS BURNING DOWN OR DAMAGING BANK BUILDINGS, LOOTING THE FILES OF A NAPALM MANUFACTURER, AND PREVENTING COLLEGE CAMPUS APPEARANCES BY RECRUITERS FOR DEFENSE INDUSTRIES.

THERE WERE PROTESTS IN THE 30'S 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.

AS A RESULT OF ANTI WAR HEARINGS IN THE EARLY 30'S BY A COMMITTEE SEN. NYE HEADED, THE CONGRESS IN 1935 APPROVED WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS THE NEUTRALITY ACT. THAT LEGISLATION WAS SIMILAR TO A RECENTLY-ENACTED SENATE RESOLUTION LIMITING THE USE OF U.S. GROUND TROOPS IN LAOS. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NO INTENTION OF USING GROUND TROOPS IN LAOS, BUT SEN. FULBRIGHT PUSHED FOR THE RESOLUTION JUST THE SAME.

IN THE 30'S HITLER BUILT A TREMENDOUS WAR MACHINE, JUST AS THE SOVIET UNION TODAY IS AMASSING THE MOST HORRIBLE AND THREATENING ARRAY OF ARMAMENTS.

IN THE 30'S AMERICA SLEPT. AND SO DID ENGLAND. THOSE OF YOU OF MY GENERATION REMEMBER A GAUNT-LOOKING BRITISHER WHO JOURNEYED TO MUNICH TO MEET WITH ADOLF HITLER AND AGREED THAT PART OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOULD GO TO NAZI GERMANY.

IT WAS NEARLY 32 YEARS AGO THAT

THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WITH THE WING COLLAR, /MOUSTACHE /AND UMBRELLA/ RETURNED TO ENGLAND DECLARING THAT HE HAD ACHIEVED "PEACE WITH HONOR...PEACE FOR OUR TIME." YOU REMEMBER...HE STEPPED OFF A PLANE AT HESTON AIRDOME OUTSIDE OF LONDON AND WAVED A "PEACE FOR OUR TIME" MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY ADOLF HITLER.

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN'S "PEACE FOR OUR TIME" LASTED LESS THAN ONE YEAR. IT CULMINATED IN A WAR WHICH ENGULFED THE WORLD AND RESULTED IN 1,078,162 AMERICAN CASUALTIES, WITH 292,131 G.I. COMBAT DEATHS AND 115,185 AMERICAN DEATHS DUE TO NON-COMBAT CAUSES.

CHAMBERLAIN WAS WELL-INTENTIONED. YET ALL WHO CHEERED HIM WHEN HE WAVED HIS MEMO FROM HITLER ON SEPT. 30, 1938 DECLARED YEARS LATER, "WE SHOULD HAVE STOPPED HITLER AT MUNICH."

THERE ARE CURIOUS PARALLELS BETWEEN 1938 AND 1970. THE PACIFISTS

AND NEO-ISOLATIONISTS OF 1970 ARE  
WELL-INTENTIONED TOO.

I AM NOT ADVOCATING REVIVAL OF THE  
COLD WAR. ~~I WOULD BE THE LAST PERSON IN  
THE WORLD TO URGE THAT.~~ BUT TO ABANDON  
PRINCIPLE IN PURSUIT OF PEACE IS TO TAKE  
THE SUREST ROAD TO ULTIMATE DISASTER.

~~I BELIEVE~~ WE SHOULD SEEK A DETENTE  
WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I STRONGLY BELIEVE  
IN NEGOTIATION, BUT ONLY IN NEGOTIATION  
FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. WE DO NOT  
HAVE TO SCRAP OUR PRINCIPLES TO ACHIEVE A  
DETENTE.

WHENEVER ANYONE TODAY ASKS WHO  
HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST MEN IN THE WORLD IN  
THE 20TH CENTURY, ONE NAME LEAPS MOST  
QUICKLY INTO THE CONSCIOUSNESS. THE NAME  
~~[IS THAT OF]~~ WINSTON CHURCHILL. HIS NAME  
STANDS FOR ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE HEROISM, THE  
BRAVERY THAT CARRIED ENGLAND THROUGH THE

BATTLE OF BRITAIN WITH ITS PLAGUE OF BUZZ-BOMBS. IT STANDS TOO FOR THRILLING AND UNQUENCHABLE ORATORY THAT HELPED TO CARRY ENGLAND THROUGH THE MOST TRYING TIMES IN ITS GLORIOUS HISTORY.

WHEN MILLIONS CHEERED NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN FOR BRINGING "PEACE FOR OUR TIME" BACK FROM MUNICH, CHURCHILL ROSE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND DECLARED: "IT IS THE MOST GRIEVOUS CONSEQUENCE WHICH WE HAVE YET EXPERIENCED, OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE, AND OF WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS -- FIVE YEARS OF FUTILE GOOD INTENTIONS, FIVE YEARS OF EAGER SEARCH FOR THE LINE OF LEAST RESISTANCE."

DOES ANY AMERICAN TODAY REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE LINE OF LEAST RESISTANCE IS THE PATH OF LASTING PEACE?

CHURCHILL CALLED THE APPEASEMENT OF HITLER AT MUNICH "A DISASTER OF THE

FIRST MAGNITUDE." TRAGICALLY, HE PROVED AN EXCELLENT PROPHET.

LET US NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TODAY WE MADE IN THE 1930'S. 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.

THE WORLD IS TOUGH. IT IS POWER THAT COUNTS. YET MANY AMERICANS TODAY BELIEVE THAT THE PATH TO PEACE IS FOR AMERICA TO ALLOW ITS POWER TO WANE AND TO INVITE (with hope) THE SOVIET UNION TO EMULATE ITS EXAMPLE.

TODAY THE GREAT OCEANS ARE NO LONGER SEAWALLS BEHIND WHICH WE CAN HIDE. THERE IS NO TIME LAG IN WARFARE TODAY GIVING AMERICA

THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITY TO ARM ITSELF WE ENJOYED IN 1941. WE ARE CONSTANTLY STARING AT THE TIP OF A NUCLEAR MISSILE -- AND WE *better be constantly alert* ~~HAD BETTER NOT BLINK.~~

THE SEVENTIES WILL BRING GREAT DECISIONS -- AND A TEST OF OUR SURVIVAL.

OUR DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT IS BEING ATTACKED BY THE WELL-INTENTIONED.

*However* WE MUST BE EVER MINDFUL OF THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT NIXON AS SET FORTH IN HIS RECENT 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."

I ~~SUBSCRIBE TO THOSE WORDS.~~ I SUBSCRIBE TO THE IDEA THAT MAINTAINING ADEQUATE AND CAPABLE ARMED FORCES IN THIS COUNTRY IS OUR BEST ASSURANCE OF MAINTAINING THE PEACE AND PRESERVING OUR PRECIOUS



HERITAGE OF FREEDOM.

AS REGARDS THE NAVY, THIS MEANS KEEPING THE FLEET MODERN AND UP-TO-DATE. IT MEANS THE ORDERLY REPLACEMENT OF OLDER SHIPS. IT MEANS ADAPTING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY TO NAVAL USE AND EMPLOYING THE WONDERFUL NEW TECHNIQUES SCIENCE IS PRODUCING. AND IT MEANS THAT WE MUST MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF ALL THE SHIPS AT OUR COMMAND, INCLUDING GALLANT ~~ATTLE~~ PATROL GUNBOATS LIKE THE GRAND RAPIDS.

TODAY AS WE CHRISTEN THE GRAND RAPIDS WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF A VESSEL THAT COUNTS BUT HER CAPABILITY OF FULFILLING HER ROLE. WE KNOW THAT THE GRAND RAPIDS WILL MEASURE UP TO HER MISSION. AND SO WE TAKE PRIDE IN THIS SPLENDID ~~ATTLE~~ SHIP. [A SHIP OF A TYPE WHICH IS OLDER THAN OUR COUNTRY ITSELF.] WE TAKE PRIDE IN THE GRAND RAPIDS

AND WE SALUTE HER BUILDERS, THE TACOMA  
BOATBUILDING COMPANY, AND THE UNITED STATES  
NAVY. WE TAKE PRIDE IN KNOWING THAT IN  
TODAY'S COMPLEX WORLD THE U.S.S. GRAND  
RAPIDS WILL BE OPERATING ON THE SIDE OF  
FREEDOM.

-- END --

*Distribution: 10 copies Mr. Ford only*

*Office Copy*

AN ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.  
REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AT THE CHRISTENING OF THE GUNBOAT "U.S.S. GRAND RAPIDS"  
AT TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
AT 3 P.M., P.S.T., APRIL 4, 1970

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY EXPECTED AT 3 P.M., P.S.T.

I am highly honored and most pleased to be here with you at the christening of this splendid new gunboat, the Grand Rapids. I am especially pleased that my daughter, Susan, will perform the traditional chore of breaking a bottle of champagne over the bow of the Grand Rapids.

When the Navy sent Susan the invitation to be the sponsor of the Grand Rapids, I asked her if she had any questions. "Just one," she said. "How hard do I have to hit the boat in order to knock it into the water?"

It is said that a ship's sponsor imparts some of her personality to the ship she christens. If this is so, then the gunboat Grand Rapids will be a busy little vessel, never lacking in energy and drive. She will have a will of her own, yet she will show great devotion and loyalty to those who guide her through a sea of troubles. Above all, she will never be idle. As for her captain, he will handle her with great care and love.

As you may know, patrol gunboats are named for cities, especially cities whose names suggest the characteristics of the ship. In the case of PG-98, the name Grand Rapids suggests speed -- and that is one of the chief characteristics of the vessel we are christening here today.

The Grand Rapids has a designed speed in excess of 35 knots, the Navy says. On the "QT," one naval officer told me the speed for our ship is considerably in excess of 35 knots -- and I am ready to take his word for it. Certainly the Grand Rapids will have the speed and ability to do the job for which it was built -- to interdict and destroy coastal shipping in shallow or restricted waters and to defend small craft during an amphibious operation.

When then Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius designated PG-98 as the Grand Rapids I was most pleased. That was on June 26, 1968. And when the Navy recently informed me of my and my daughter's roles in the christening of the Grand Rapids I felt most honored -- not just for myself and Susan but for the City of Grand Rapids, my home town.

(more)



You may not know that Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan with a population of over 200,000. It is best known as a furniture town, a city where fine furniture is made and marketed. Located on the Grand River, it is also an important rail, wholesale and distribution center for fruit growing and dairying, as well as automotive and other industries. Best of all, Grand Rapids is a town where fine people live -- grand people, if you will. And so I feel that the gunboat we christen here today is getting a grand name.

PG-98 is the second ship of the fleet to be named in honor of the City of Grand Rapids.

The first U.S.S. Grand Rapids was a patrol frigate. She was launched Sept. 10, 1943, but did not complete her shakedown until Dec. 2, 1944. The first Grand Rapids operated as a weather picket ship from Jan. 6, 1945, until Jan. 15, 1946 -- just a little over a year. She was scrapped Sept. 21, 1947.

I think there is something significant in the scrapping of the first Grand Rapids -- something most meaningful for us today in the extremely brief service of the patrol frigate Grand Rapids.

It speaks to us of the frantic rush to disarm this country after World War II -- the same irrational tearing down of our defenses that occurred after World War I and most recently after the Korean War. And I tell you that this same madness -- I deliberately and purposely call it that -- this same madness is appearing in many quarters in America today.

I understand what is happening to our great country as we enter the decade of the 70's. We are experiencing a revulsion against the Vietnam War and against all wars. This revulsion is translated into abhorrence not only of war but of all things military and of all defense-oriented industry. It 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 the 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.

In 1945 General George C. Marshall said:

"We finish each bloody war with a feeling of acute revulsion against the savage form of human behavior. And yet on each occasion we confuse military preparedness with the causes of war and then drift almost deliberately into another catastrophe."

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It is most ironic that many of those who today are attacking what they call the military-industrial complex were among the most zealous supporters of the late President John F. Kennedy.

I would like to remind them that in January of 1961 President Kennedy said in his inaugural address:

"We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed."

I submit that those who look at the bare-bones defense budgets of the present Administration and shout that we can cut military spending by \$10 or \$20 billion more are operating in a fog -- a mental fog generated by pious hopes that others of us believe can never be realized.

Of course the anti-militarists and the neo-isolationists of today insist that there is no comparison between them and the pacifists and isolationists of the 1930's. But I think the parallels are unmistakable.

Many of you remember the 1930's. Remember when Hitler wrote his book, "Mein Kampf?" Few people in this country took him seriously.

We had engaged in unilateral disarmament. We were living in a dream world. We said war just couldn't happen. And if it did happen to somebody else we would not become involved. The mentality of the entire country was attuned to what became known as the "Fortress America" concept.

I am not being partisan. It was a Republican, Sen. Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota, who led the Fortress America forces in the 30's. But it is only fair to point out that the isolationism being preached today by certain leading Democrats in the Senate is strongly reminiscent of Sen. Nye's.

Nye blamed war on the international bankers and the arms manufacturers.

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

There were protests in the 30's 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.

As a result of antiwar hearings in the early 30's by a committee Sen. Nye headed, the Congress in 1935 approved what became known as the Neutrality Act. That legislation was similar to a recently-enacted Senate resolution limiting the

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use of U.S. ground troops in Laos. The Administration has no intention of using ground troops in Laos, but Sen. Fulbright pushed for the resolution just the same.

In the 30's Hitler built a tremendous war machine, just as the Soviet Union today is amassing the most horrible and threatening array of armaments.

In the 30's America slept. And so did England. Those of you of my generation remember a gaunt-looking Britisher who journeyed to Munich to meet with Adolf Hitler and agreed that part of Czechoslovakia should go to Nazi Germany.

It was nearly 32 years ago that the British prime minister with the wing collar, moustache and umbrella returned to England declaring that he had achieved "peace with honor...peace for our time." You remember...he stepped off a plane at Heston Airdome outside of London and waved a "peace for our time" memorandum signed by Adolf Hitler.

Neville Chamberlain's "peace for our time" lasted less than one year. It culminated in a war which engulfed the world and resulted in 1,078,162 American casualties, with 292,131 G.I. combat deaths and 115,185 American deaths due to non-combat causes.

Chamberlain was well-intentioned. Yet all who cheered him when he waved his memo from Hitler on Sept. 30, 1938 declared years later, "We should have stopped Hitler at Munich."

There are curious parallels between 1938 and 1970. The pacifists and neo-isolationists of 1970 are well-intentioned too.


I am not advocating revival of the cold war. I would be the last person in the world to urge that. But to abandon principle in pursuit of peace is to take the surest road to ultimate disaster.

I believe we should seek a detente with the Soviet Union. I strongly believe in negotiation, but only in negotiation from a position of strength. We do not have to scrap our principles to achieve a detente.

Whenever anyone today asks who have been the greatest men in the world in the 20th century, one name leaps most quickly into the consciousness. The name is that of Winston Churchill. His name stands for almost unbelievable heroism, the bravery that carried England through the Battle of Britain with its plague of buzz-bombs. It stands too for thrilling and unquenchable oratory that helped to carry England through the most trying times in its glorious history.

When millions cheered Neville Chamberlain for bringing "peace for our time" back from Munich, Churchill rose in the House of Commons and declared: "It is the

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most grievous consequence which we have yet experienced, of what we have done, and of what we have left undone in the last five years -- five years of futile good intentions, five years of eager search for the line of least resistance."

Does any American today really believe that the line of least resistance is the path to lasting peace?

Churchill called the appeasement of Hitler at Munich "a disaster of the first magnitude." Tragically, he proved an excellent prophet.

Let us not make the same mistake today we made in the 1930's. 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.

The world is tough. It is power that counts. Yet many Americans today believe that the path to peace is for America to allow its power to wane and to invite the Soviet Union to emulate its example.

Today the great oceans are no longer seawalls behind which we can hide. There is no time lag in warfare today giving America the kind of opportunity to arm itself we enjoyed in 1941. We are constantly staring at the tip of a nuclear missile -- and we had better not blink.

The Seventies will bring great decisions -- and a test of our survival.

Our defense establishment is being attacked by the well-intentioned. We must be ever mindful of the words of President Nixon as set forth in his recent 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."

I subscribe to those words. I subscribe to the idea that maintaining adequate and capable Armed Forces in this country is our best assurance of maintaining the peace and preserving our precious heritage of freedom.

As regards the Navy, this means keeping the Fleet modern and up-to-date. It means the orderly replacement of older ships. It means adapting the latest technology to naval use and employing the wonderful new techniques science is producing. And it means that we must make the best possible use of all the ships at our command, including gallant little patrol gunboats like the Grand Rapids.

Today as we christen the Grand Rapids we should remember that it is not the size of a vessel that counts but her capability of fulfilling her role. We know

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that the Grand Rapids will measure up to her mission. And so we take pride in this splendid little ship, a ship of a type which is older than our country itself.

We take pride in the Grand Rapids and we salute her builders, the Tacoma Boatbuilding Company, and the United States Navy. We take pride in knowing that in today's complex world the U.S.S. Grand Rapids will be operating on the side of freedom.

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It is said that a ship's sponsor imparts some of her personality to the ship she christens. If this is so, then the gunboat Grand Rapids will be a busy little vessel, never lacking in energy and drive. She will have a will of her own, yet she will show great devotion and loyalty to those who guide her through a sea of troubles. Above all, she will never be idle. As for her captain, he will handle her with great care and love.

As you may know, patrol gunboats are named for cities, especially cities whose names suggest the characteristics of the ship. In the case of PG-98, the name Grand Rapids suggests speed -- and that is one of the chief characteristics of the vessel we are christening here today.

The Grand Rapids has a designed speed in excess of 35 knots, the Navy says. On the "QT," one naval officer told me the speed for our ship is considerably in excess of 35 knots -- and I am ready to take his word for it. Certainly the Grand Rapids will have the speed and ability to do the job for which it was built -- to interdict and destroy coastal shipping in shallow or restricted waters and to defend small craft during an amphibious operation.

When then Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius designated PG-98 as the Grand Rapids I was most pleased. That was on June 26, 1968. And when the Navy recently informed me of my and my daughter's roles in the christening of the Grand Rapids I felt most honored -- not just for myself and Susan but for the City of Grand Rapids, my home town.

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You may not know that Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan with a population of over 200,000. It is best known as a furniture town, a city where fine furniture is made and marketed. Located on the Grand River, it is also an important rail, wholesale and distribution center for fruit growing and dairying, as well as automotive and other industries. Best of all, Grand Rapids is a town where fine people live -- grand people, if you will. And so I feel that the gunboat we christen here today is getting a grand name.

PG-98 is the second ship of the fleet to be named in honor of the City of Grand Rapids.

The first U.S.S. Grand Rapids was a patrol frigate. She was launched Sept. 10, 1943, but did not complete her shakedown until Dec. 2, 1944. The first Grand Rapids operated as a weather picket ship from Jan. 6, 1945, until Jan. 15, 1946 -- just a little over a year. She was scrapped Sept. 21, 1947.

I think there is something significant in the scrapping of the first Grand Rapids -- something most meaningful for us today in the extremely brief service of the patrol frigate Grand Rapids.

It speaks to us of the frantic rush to disarm this country after World War II -- the same irrational tearing down of our defenses that occurred after World War I and most recently after the Korean War. And I tell you that this same madness -- I deliberately and purposely call it that -- this same madness is appearing in many quarters in America today.

I understand what is happening to our great country as we enter the decade of the 70's. We are experiencing a revulsion against the Vietnam War and against all wars. This revulsion is translated into abhorrence not only of war but of all things military and of all defense-oriented industry. It 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 the 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.

In 1945 General George C. Marshall said:

"We finish each bloody war with a feeling of acute revulsion against the savage form of human behavior. And yet on each occasion we confuse military preparedness with the causes of war and then drift almost deliberately into another catastrophe."

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It is most ironic that many of those who today are attacking what they call the military-industrial complex were among the most zealous supporters of the late President John F. Kennedy.

I would like to remind them that in January of 1961 President Kennedy said in his inaugural address:

"We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed."

I submit that those who look at the bare-bones defense budgets of the present Administration and shout that we can cut military spending by \$10 or \$20 billion more are operating in a fog -- a mental fog generated by pious hopes that others of us believe can never be realized.

Of course the anti-militarists and the neo-isolationists of today insist that there is no comparison between them and the pacifists and isolationists of the 1930's. But I think the parallels are unmistakable.

Many of you remember the 1930's. Remember when Hitler wrote his book, "Mein Kampf?" Few people in this country took him seriously.

We had engaged in unilateral disarmament. We were living in a dream world. We said war just couldn't happen. And if it did happen to somebody else we would not become involved. The mentality of the entire country was attuned to what became known as the "Fortress America" concept.

I am not being partisan. It was a Republican, Sen. Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota, who led the Fortress America forces in the 30's. But it is only fair to point out that the isolationism being preached today by certain leading Democrats in the Senate is strongly reminiscent of Sen. Nye's.

Nye blamed war on the international bankers and the arms manufacturers.

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

There were protests in the 30's 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.

As a result of antiwar hearings in the early 30's by a committee Sen. Nye headed, the Congress in 1935 approved what became known as the Neutrality Act. That legislation was similar to a recently-enacted Senate resolution limiting the

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use of U.S. ground troops in Laos. The Administration has no intention of using ground troops in Laos, but Sen. Fulbright pushed for the resolution just the same.

In the 30's Hitler built a tremendous war machine, just as the Soviet Union today is amassing the most horrible and threatening array of armaments.

In the 30's America slept. And so did England. Those of you of my generation remember a gaunt-looking Britisher who journeyed to Munich to meet with Adolf Hitler and agreed that part of Czechoslovakia should go to Nazi Germany.

It was nearly 32 years ago that the British prime minister with the wing collar, moustache and umbrella returned to England declaring that he had achieved "peace with honor...peace for our time." You remember...he stepped off a plane at Heston Airdome outside of London and waved a "peace for our time" memorandum signed by Adolf Hitler.

Neville Chamberlain's "peace for our time" lasted less than one year. It culminated in a war which engulfed the world and resulted in 1,078,162 American casualties, with 292,131 G.I. combat deaths and 115,185 American deaths due to non-combat causes.

Chamberlain was well-intentioned. Yet all who cheered him when he waved his memo from Hitler on Sept. 30, 1938 declared years later, "We should have stopped Hitler at Munich."

There are curious parallels between 1938 and 1970. The pacifists and neo-isolationists of 1970 are well-intentioned too.

I am not advocating revival of the cold war. I would be the last person in the world to urge that. But to abandon principle in pursuit of peace is to take the surest road to ultimate disaster.

I believe we should seek a detente with the Soviet Union. I strongly believe in negotiation, but only in negotiation from a position of strength. We do not have to scrap our principles to achieve a detente.

Whenever anyone today asks who have been the greatest men in the world in the 20th century, one name leaps most quickly into the consciousness. The name is that of Winston Churchill. His name stands for almost unbelievable heroism, the bravery that carried England through the Battle of Britain with its plague of buzz-bombs. It stands too for thrilling and unquenchable oratory that helped to carry England through the most trying times in its glorious history.

When millions cheered Neville Chamberlain for bringing "peace for our time" back from Munich, Churchill rose in the House of Commons and declared: "It is the

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most grievous consequence which we have yet experienced, of what we have done, and of what we have left undone in the last five years -- five years of futile good intentions, five years of eager search for the line of least resistance."

Does any American today really believe that the line of least resistance is the path to lasting peace?

Churchill called the appeasement of Hitler at Munich "a disaster of the first magnitude." Tragically, he proved an excellent prophet.

Let us not make the same mistake today we made in the 1930's. 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.

The world is tough. It is power that counts. Yet many Americans today believe that the path to peace is for America to allow its power to wane and to invite the Soviet Union to emulate its example.

Today the great oceans are no longer seawalls behind which we can hide. There is no time lag in warfare today giving America the kind of opportunity to arm itself we enjoyed in 1941. We are constantly staring at the tip of a nuclear missile -- and we had better not blink.

The Seventies will bring great decisions -- and a test of our survival.

Our defense establishment is being attacked by the well-intentioned. We must be ever mindful of the words of President Nixon as set forth in his recent 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."

I subscribe to those words. I subscribe to the idea that maintaining adequate and capable Armed Forces in this country is our best assurance of maintaining the peace and preserving our precious heritage of freedom.

As regards the Navy, this means keeping the Fleet modern and up-to-date. It means the orderly replacement of older ships. It means adapting the latest technology to naval use and employing the wonderful new techniques science is producing. And it means that we must make the best possible use of all the ships at our command, including gallant little patrol gunboats like the Grand Rapids.

Today as we christen the Grand Rapids we should remember that it is not the size of a vessel that counts but her capability of fulfilling her role. We know

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that the Grand Rapids will measure up to her mission. And so we take pride in this splendid little ship, a ship of a type which is older than our country itself.

We take pride in the Grand Rapids and we salute her builders, the Tacoma Boatbuilding Company, and the United States Navy. We take pride in knowing that in today's complex world the U.S.S. Grand Rapids will be operating on the side of freedom.

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