

**The original documents are located in Box 127, folder “Nov. 23, 1973 - Phone-in Remarks, Crispus Attucks Legion Post” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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PHONE-IN TO THE  
CRISPUS ATTUCKS LEGION POST  
FRIDAY NIGHT, NOV. 23, 1973  
(7:30 or 7:45 p.m.)

I am most happy to speak to you tonight. I ~~██████████~~ am myself an American Legion member and so I am fully acquainted with the very large number of worthwhile programs for which the Legion has won well-deserved acclaim.

Members of the American Legion recognize that being an American involves not only our precious rights but our solemn responsibilities to our great Nation.

Your American Legion Post is named after Crispus Attucks--and it is fitting that you have given recognition to a black man who became one of the first heroes of the American Revolution.

History records that Attucks was in the vanguard of marchers protesting the presence of British occupation forces in Boston, and in the Boston Massacre of 1770 he was one of the five colonists who fell before British gunfire. A runaway slave, Attucks was one of the 5,000 blacks who fought in the American Revolution and helped bring about the birth of our young Nation.

As former members of the Armed Forces and as members of the Crispus Attucks Post, all of you listening to me tonight are aware I am sure of the tremendous service to our country rendered by countless valiant black men and women since the shots were fired that killed Crispus Attucks in 1770.

Black Americans have participated in every conflict, wherever and whenever the call to arms was sounded. During the Civil War, for example, one out of every four Union navy men — 29,511 in all — was black. There were 186,000 black combat troops in the Union army, and there were more than 200,000 members of so-called service units. Blacks continued in the military as our Nation moved westward; and at the famous Battle of the Little Big Horn, where three whole U.S. battalions under Colonel George Custer were destroyed, a black cavalryman by the name of Isaiah Dorman fought and fell before the Indian onslaught.

There was the Spanish-American War in 1898, in which black troops were a part of the heroic rush up San Juan Hill under "Rough Rider" Theodore Roosevelt.

World War I saw thousands of black volunteers join America's fighting forces. Their battle contributions were superb; and one unit, the outstanding "Fighting 369th," was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the appreciative French, in addition to their numerous American awards.

When that greatest of all conflicts, World War II, burst upon America, blacks once again took up arms to defend their country. Black troops of the Army's 93rd Division fought in the Pacific and helped to liberate the Philippines. And the 92nd Division fought in Italy as part of the famous Fifth Army. And, of course, other black units were in action in both the Pacific and European Theaters of Operation, with the 99th Pursuit Squadron perhaps the best known of all the black units that fought in the war. By the spring of 1945 it had flown 1,600 combat missions and over 15,000 sorties.

In the Korean War, the black 24th Infantry Regiment gained the first Korean victory for United Nations forces desperately fighting to hold back the invading communist hordes.

With the end of the Korean War, the process of integration in America's armed forces moved into high gear -- and all black units were discontinued, their men redistributed elsewhere throughout the military.

Integration had become an accomplished and proud fact of military life by the time the war in Southeast Asia had drawn the United States to the defense of those countries under communist attack. Blacks were in the heaviest of fighting; indeed, Defense Department statistics show that about 15 percent of the infantrymen serving in Vietnam were black. One crack outfit, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and a unit with heavy black representation, was often called by officers in the U.S. Military Assistance Command "the best performing unit in Vietnam."

And so all America may take justifiable pride in the manner in which black men and women have served our Country in both peace and war, at home and overseas, for so long.

Members of the Crispus Attucks Post know well the meaning of military service and the price we must pay for peace. You know that there can be no peace ~~without~~ unless we are willing to pay the price of a sound national security.

There are those who believe that we should unilaterally disarm. There are those who believe that we should withdraw from the rest of the world and maintain a sufficient force to defend ourselves against nuclear attack.

All of these people are well-meaning individuals but they are woefully wrong. The reason they are wrong is that we must view the world as it is--not as we would like it to be. We cannot leave the security of the United States to wishful thinking. We must live in the real world.

When I talk of a security policy I am not describing a war policy. I am speaking of the only way to find peace. In today's world the route to peace is through strength.

We should never fear to negotiate, but we should never negotiate from   fear. If we ever cut our military  muscle below the danger point, we will--as former Secretary of State and General George Marshall warned us--"be carrying the treasure and freedom of this great country in a paper bag."  We must remain strong if we want to remain free.

We have come far along the road to peace in the last few years. We have come far because we have negotiated from strength. Because we are strong, no American is  fighting on  a foreign battlefield anywhere and we have achieved a cease-fire in the turbulent Middle East.

This is a world fraught with danger. But our beloved land now enjoys peace--and with the continued help of fine Americans like yourselves the whole world will come to know peace as we do.

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over well.



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CRISPUS ATTUCKS LEGION POST  
FRIDAY NIGHT, NOV. 23, 1973

~~(7:30 - 7:45 p.m.)~~  
(8 p.m.)

*Legions programs -*

*Youth - athletics / govt  
Prop State*

*Patriotism -*



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As former members of the Armed Forces and as members of the Crispus Attucks Post, all of you listening to me tonight are aware I am sure of the tremendous service to our country rendered by countless valiant black men and women since the shots were fired that killed Crispus Attucks in 1770.

Black Americans have participated in every conflict in which the United States has been involved. They have responded whenever the call to arms was sounded. They fought on the side of the Union in the Civil War, were among the Rough Riders who charged up San Juan Hill led by Teddy Roosevelt and performed superbly in America's fighting forces during World War I. They also distinguished themselves in that greatest of all conflicts, World War II. Black troops of the Army's 93rd Division fought in the Pacific and helped to liberate the Philippines. The 92nd Division fought in Italy as part of the famous Fifth Army. The 99th Pursuit Squadron was perhaps the best known of all the black units that fought in World War II. By the spring of 1945 it had flown 1,600 combat missions and over 15,000 sorties.

In the Korean War the black 24th Infantry Regiment gained the first Korean victory for United Nations forces desperately fighting to hold back the invading Communist hordes.

Blacks were in the heaviest fighting in Vietnam, too. Indeed, Defense Department statistics show that about 15 per cent of the infantrymen serving in Vietnam were black. One crack outfit, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, a unit with heavy black representation, was often called "the best performing unit in Vietnam."



✓ And so all America may take justifiable pride in the manner in which black men and women have served our Country in both peace and war, at home and overseas, for so long.

Members of the Crispus Attucks Post know well the meaning of military service and the price we must pay for peace. You know that there can be no peace ~~without~~ unless we are willing to pay the price of a sound national security.



There are those who believe that we should unilaterally disarm. There are those who believe that we should withdraw from the rest of the world and maintain a sufficient force to defend ourselves against nuclear attack.

All of these people are well-meaning individuals but they are woefully wrong. The reason they are wrong is that we must view the world as it is--not as we would like it to be. We cannot leave the security of the United States to wishful thinking. We must live in the real world.

And the facts are that the quarter century of clear ~~US~~ U.S. strategic superiority has ended. There has been a dramatic shift in the balance of power. The Soviet Union has moved significantly ahead of the United States in Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, the principal weapons system of the nuclear age.

There are, of course, other elements in the equation of strategic military power. And this is why we must proceed as quickly as possible to bring these elements into our defense ~~arm~~ arsenal. I refer to the new Trident submarine and the B-1 bomber. We need the Trident as an invulnerable under seas missile system for ~~any~~ possible nuclear war. And we need the B-1 bomber as a replacement for the subsonic B-52 bomber force which is relatively obsolete. The Trident, for instance, will go a long way to assure the survival of the U.S. as a first-rate power in the 1980s. The Poseidon will be well worn by the late 1970s. We must replace it with the ultra-modern, long-range ~~is~~ Trident.



It is the first right of ~~to~~ every American to be protected against foreign attack, and the first duty of our government is to keep our Nation alive. Given the world situation, this means we must maintain a ~~defense~~ x defense capability adequate to discourage all potential ~~aggr~~ aggressors.

That is why I repeatedly call for a defense policy which assures the national security of the United States. And ~~xxx~~when I talk of a security policy I am not describing a ~~warm~~ policy. I am speaking of the only way to find peace--because in today's world the route to peace is through strength.

Congress and the American people have wisely rejected the views of those who would dangerously slash national security programs.

Our experience in the SALT negotiations and the record of other negotiations with ~~xxx~~ the Soviet Union since World War II show clearly that the Soviet leaders respect power and ~~will~~ will bargain seriously only if the ~~xx~~ U.S. bargains from a position of strength.

We should never fear to negotiate, but we should never negotiate from ~~we~~ ~~we~~ fear. If we ever cut our military ~~muscle~~ muscle below the danger point, we will--as former Secretary of State and General George Marshall warned us--"be carrying the treasure and freedom of this great country in a paper bag." ~~we~~ We must remain strong if we want to remain free.

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