

**The original documents are located in Box 131, folder “Apr. 10, 1974 - Speech, Navy Recruiter Drop-By, Southfield, MI” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

To:

Paul Mitchell

From:

Hiken

Date:

Time

a.m.  
p.m.

Here is a copy of  
Remarks before  
Army Recruitment  
in Wash DC 10/24/74



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

To: Paul Mitchell

From: H/Ken

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time

a.m.  
p.m.

Here is a copy of  
Remarks before  
Army Recruitment  
in La Jolla 10/20/74

FILE



SPEECH OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AT NAVY RECRUITING  
DISTRICT DETROIT RECRUITERS CONFERENCE, 10 April 1974

Thank you very much Admiral Landes, other Navy personnel, your families, guests. First, let me express my appreciation for the opportunities that the Navy gave to me in some forty-seven months in World War II. I am proud of the fact that I was a very small part of the Navy. During that period of time, I met many outstanding people, made many good friends and the opportunities that I had in the Navy will always be indelibly written on my mind. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my Country in the United States Navy.

It's a particular pleasure to be here this morning and to say a few words. You'<sup>HAVE</sup>~~ve~~ got, as recruiters, one of the most important tasks in the Navy today. We're experimenting in our military personnel fields for the first time for, I think, twenty some years. We are not relying in peace time on a selective service or draft program.

I can recall vividly back in 1940 when Congress first passed the Selective Service legislation. I, of course, have watched it in the twenty-five years that I was in the House of Representatives. I was one of those in the House who believed we should not extend it, that we ought to experiment, to try and get an all-volunteer -career military service. It was my feeling that we could accomplish the job for several reasons.

Number one, a lifetime career in the military is a great opportunity. It ought to appeal to fine young men and women. Being a career military officer should make people, officer or enlisted personnel, proud. And there are many many openings and opportunities in the military today that are a great training ground for later or subsequent careers. So those of <sup>us</sup> who felt the time had come for selective service to end are really watching the efforts and the accomplishments of people like yourselves.

We think the program of an all-volunteer military force is good for America but if we don't achieve it then some of us who had this feeling will be condemned and criticized. So I was extremely happy to learn from the Navy, as well as the other services, that they have put a great emphasis on the recruiting of personnel. That the people who are out in the various areas of Michigan: Detroit, Fling, Grand Rapids, Traverse City and elsewhere ~~whether~~ they are officers or enlisted personnel, are selected because they have outstanding military records. It is an assignment that requires excellence; so I congratulate you as top people in your career.

And now if I might, I would like to congratulate you for the results that you have accomplished. It is my understanding that you're virtually 100%; that you have accomplished this fine record of getting people to join the military on a voluntary basis and you haven't sacrificed the quality of people that are joining you in the United States Navy. You have found young people in America who are academically, morally and otherwise qualified to serve with you in the defense of our Country.

I know it is a tough job. You no longer have the threat of Selective Service that use to somewhat push people when the heavy hand of a selective service board was nearing their name. You do it because you can sell the Navy. You can sell the service that you are a part of. I know you have to work long hours, I know you have a tough job to do but we're counting on you and two hundred and eleven million other Americans are also counting on you. It is my firm conviction and belief that if we are to maintain the peace which we have achieved by military strength, good people, good weapons, good leadership, we have to keep our manpower strength up. We have to have the right people in the service, we have to give them the right equipment, weapons systems and we have to develop leadership.

I am optimistic, everything I see about the Navy and your sister services is good. Your total manpower is down but the quality of the manpower today is exceptional, and you who have this great responsibility for recruiting have a particular obligation to maintain that quality. And, why do we want the best people, enough people and all the other things in the Navy and in the other services -- so that we will be strong enough to meet any challenge that the United States of America will be strong enough to convince anybody that they should negotiate for the maintenance of peace rather than to try to provoke a military incident and if we are strong with weapons, strong with people, strong with the quality of people and the

leadership, I think we can achieve what we all want -- not just a decade of peace but a long long long period of peace.

Each of you, as you travel in our State, have a great opportunity to contribute to make this American objective of peace a permanent one and so I congratulate each and everyone of you and wish you well. We're counting on you. Thank you very much.