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THE CITADEL, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA,
MARCH 15, 1974

I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE HONOR YOU HAVE ACCORDED ME HERE TODAY. I HAVE LONG BEEN AN ADMIRER OF THE CITADEL, ITS CADET CORPS, AND ITS GRADUATES. IT GIVES ME A DEEP SENSE OF PRIDE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH AN ACADEMY WHICH HAS SUCH A HIGH AND SUCH A UNIQUE PLACE IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY, AND WHICH PLAYS SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING TO TRAIN THE LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRY.



MY ADMIRATION FOR THE CITADEL IS STRENGTHENED BY THE OUTSTANDING RECORD ITS GRADUATES HAVE ACHIEVED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS -- NOT ONLY IN MILITARY CAREERS, BUT IN EVERY FIELD TO WHICH THEY HAVE APPLIED THEIR TALENTS. EXCEPT, PERHAPS, TO THE ART OF STREAKING. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY REPORTS OF EXCEPTIONAL CITADEL PERFORMANCE IN THAT SPORT.



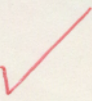
AFTER SEEING PHOTOS OF SOME OF THE FLABBY, SAGGY STREAKERS AT SOME OTHER INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY, I'LL BET THAT IF CITADEL CADETS EVER DO START STREAKING, THEY'LL BE THE ROUGHEST, TOUGHEST STREAKERS IN THE NATION. I EXPECT THAT, LIKE ALL FADS, STREAKING WILL FADE AWAY AS DID SWALLOWING LIVE GOLDFISH IN MY DAY.





WHAT ENDURES ARE THE VALUES AND THE CHARACTER BUILT BY INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE CITADEL -- INSTITUTIONS WHICH MAINTAIN TOUGH STANDARDS AND ARE PROUD OF THOSE STANDARDS AND THEIR TOUGHNESS, INSTITUTIONS WHICH BELIEVE THAT INSISTENCE ON HIGH REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL PERFORMANCE IS THE BEST PREPARATION THEIR STUDENTS CAN HAVE FOR THE FUTURE.





I SAID I HAVE GREAT ADMIRATION FOR
YOU CADETS ASSEMBLED HERE. JUST BEING IN
THE CITADEL UNIFORM PROVES YOU HAVE AN
EXCEPTIONAL DESIRE AND AN EXCEPTIONAL
WILLINGNESS TO PUT YOUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL
ABILITIES TO THE TOUGHEST TEST.



THE RECORD OF THE CADETS WHO
PRECEDED YOU, AND WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY
SURMOUNTED THE TESTS YOU ARE MEETING HERE,
SHOWS CLEARLY THAT WHEREVER THE CITADEL
GRADUATE DECIDES TO APPLY HIS TALENTS HE
IS ALREADY WELL AHEAD OF THOSE WHO CHOOSE
AN EASIER PATH OF PREPARATION.



AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS RECORD OF PERFORMANCE ON THE PART OF CITADEL GRADUATES APPLIES IN AREAS FAR FROM THE MILITARY. I LEARNED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A NATIONALLY PROMINENT NEWSPAPER EXECUTIVE IS A CITADEL GRADUATE. SO ARE SOME SUCCESSFUL AUTHORS. CITADEL GRADUATES ARE DOING OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE.



WE EVEN FIND CITADEL GRADUATES IN THE PROFESSION WHICH IS ENDOWED WITH ONE OF THE LOWEST NATIONAL POPULARITY RATINGS OF ALL, RIGHT NOW -- POLITICS. GOVERNOR WEST, SENATOR HOLLINGS, AND CONGRESSMAN MANN -- THREE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES -- ALL ARE CITADEL GRADUATES.

THAT IS A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT HARD TO MATCH.



FROM A PURELY PARTISAN STANDPOINT,
OF COURSE, IT IS TILTED A LITTLE BIT TOWARD
THE DEMOCRATS.

PERHAPS THE GOVERNOR, THE SENATOR
AND THE CONGRESSMAN WILL FORGIVE ME FOR
DARING TO HOPE THAT THE YEAR HE SPENT AT
THE CITADEL MAY PROVE HELPFUL TO THE NEWLY-
LAUNCHED POLITICAL CAREER OF GENERAL
WESTMORELAND.



BUT IN LOOKING OVER THE PROUD RECORD
OF THE CITADEL GRADUATES I FIND THE MOST
IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THEY HAVE MADE HAS
BEEN IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY IN TIMES OF
CRISIS.



THE CITADEL CLAIMS ONE OF THE
LARGEST -- IF NOT THE LARGEST --
PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES SERVING IN THE
MILITARY DURING THE TIMES WHEN OUR NATION
WAS MOST SEVERELY TESTED.



EVEN NOW, IN PEACETIME, THE
NUMBER OF CITADEL GRADUATES IN MILITARY
SERVICE APPROACHES 50 PER CENT OF THE
GRADUATES OF THE PAST TEN YEARS. I FIND
THAT TO BE A TRULY IMPRESSIVE RECORD, A
RECORD THAT I HOPE YOU CADETS HERE AND
THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW YOU CAN MAINTAIN --
OR EVEN SURPASS.



I CAN THINK OF NO MORE DEDICATED WAY
TO BE OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND -- IN
THE MOST IMPORTANT SENSE -- TO BE OF
SERVICE TO YOURSELF, THAN TO HELP US
MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE.



✓

ONE OF MY DEEPEST AND STRONGEST
CONVICTIONS IS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO A TRUE
PEACE LIES IN A STRONG DEFENSE. THAT
CONVICTION COMES FROM YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
AND STUDY. AT YOUR AGE I LIVED IN A
CLIMATE THAT WAS STRONGLY ANTI-MILITARY --
AN ATMOSPHERE THAT KEPT OUR MILITARY FORCES
BELOW ADEQUATE LEVELS, AN ATTITUDE THAT
FOUND THIS NATION PLUNGED INTO WORLD WAR II
LACKING JUST ABOUT EVERY VITAL DEFENSE NEED.



I NOW SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF A RETURN TO SUCH AN ATTITUDE -- AN ANTI-MILITARY ATTITUDE WHICH CAN DESTROY OUR BEST CHANCE IN DECADES FOR A TRUE WORLD PEACE. AND THEREIN LIES GREAT DANGER FOR OUR NATION.

ONLY IF OUR DEFENSE FORCES ARE STRONG CAN WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF PEACE WE ARE NOW PURSUING SO SUCCESSFULLY.



PRESIDENT NIXON'S BOLD INITIATIVES
AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S SUPERB
NEGOTIATING ABILITIES HAVE OPENED A DOOR TO
CHINA, HAVE PRODUCED NEW ARMS LIMITATIONS
NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIA, AND HAVE HELPED
LAUNCH NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MAY LEAD TO A
PERMANENT SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.



BUT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, THE FIRST
TENTATIVE STEP ON THE ROAD TO A LASTING
WORLD PEACE. WE NEED TO KEEP MOVING ALONG
THAT ROAD. AND IN ORDER TO DO SO, WE MUST
HAVE AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE.



✓

THAT IS WHY OUR DEFENSE BUDGET FOR THE COMING 12 MONTHS HAS INCREASED -- THIS EVEN THOUGH FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS NO FUNDS IN THAT BUDGET ARE EARMARKED FOR SUPPORT OF AMERICAN FORCES IN COMBAT.

THE NEED FOR INCREASED SPENDING TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSE IS IMPERATIVE. IT IS A NEED THAT IS GROWING BY THE WEEK.



WHILE WE HAVE BEEN REDUCING OUR DEFENSE MANPOWER AND CUTTING BACK ON OUR SHIPS AND PLANES, MOSCOW HAS BEEN INCREASING ITS FORCES AND ITS MILITARY SPENDING. THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING A MAJOR INCREASE IN THEIR NAVAL POWER. WE NOW SEE SOVIET NAVAL FORCES OPERATING IN NEW AREAS OF SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONCERN.



THAT IS ONE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE
NEED FOR MORE DEFENSE DOLLARS.

THERE ARE MANY OTHERS. AMONG THEM:

THE NEED FOR MORE AIRLIFT
CAPACITY, REVEALED DURING THE
MIDDLE EAST CRISIS LAST FALL.



THE NEED TO MODERNIZE AND
IMPROVE OUR AGING WEAPONS
SYSTEMS.

THE NEED TO MAKE DECISIONS THIS
YEAR TO START ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE WEAPONS AND THE SYSTEMS
WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE
1980'S.



ALL OF THESE REQUIRE MORE DEFENSE DOLLARS THAN WE HAVE BEEN SPENDING. IF WE DON'T SPEND THOSE DOLLARS, WE WILL SLIP BADLY IN RELATION TO THE RUSSIAN MILITARY POSTURE. IF WE DO SLIP IN THAT REGARD, WE WILL SLIP IN OUR ABILITY TO PERSUADE THE SOVIETS TO LIMIT THEIR ARMS OR TO STAY OUT OF SOME AREA OF WORLD TENSION. IF WE SLIP BADLY IN RELATION TO THE RUSSIANS, DOWN GO CHANCES FOR WORLD PEACE.



A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO, JUST
AFTER WORLD WAR II, A NOTED AMERICAN
SCIENTIST, DR. VANNEVAR BUSH, PUT INTO A
VERY FEW WORDS THE PHILOSOPHY WHICH SHOULD
BE A GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF OUR NATION.



WROTE DR. BUSH: "IF DEMOCRACY KEEPS AND
ENHANCES ITS STRENGTH, NO GREAT WAR NEED
COME AGAIN." FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS OUR
GREAT DEMOCRACY HAS KEPT AND ENHANCED ITS
STRENGTH. AND I BELIEVE THAT IF WE
CONTINUE TO KEEP AND ENHANCE OUR STRENGTH
WE CAN IMPROVE OUR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A
LASTING PEACE.



I BELIEVE THE THINKING CITIZENS OF
OUR COUNTRY AGREE. I SINCERELY HOPE THEY
DO. BECAUSE YOU CITADEL CADETS WHO CHOOSE
TO MAKE THE MILITARY YOUR CAREER WILL HAVE
TO WORK WITH THE DEFENSE THAT OUR DECISION
THIS YEAR WILL PROVIDE YOU. YOU WILL NEED
SUFFICIENT POWER TO PROTECT -- THE POWER TO
PROTECT THAT ONLY AN ADEQUATE, BALANCED
DEFENSE SYSTEM CAN PROVIDE.



I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF YOU ARE GIVEN THE POWER TO PROTECT, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO USE IT TO PURSUE PEACE AS WELL -- A TRUE WORLD PEACE, A GOAL WHICH SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO. BUT I THINK WE IN MY GENERATION HAVE PROVED TO YOU THAT A REAL WORLD PEACE IS POSSIBLE. IT CAN BE REACHED BEFORE THOSE OF YOU IN THE RANKS HERE REACH MY AGE.

Appreciate "warm welcome"
Admire great traditions
Awed by great facilities
Enjoy your great opportunities
Respect your education &
capabilities



BUT IT WILL TAKE YOUR DEDICATION
TO THAT GOAL, PLUS THE NECESSARY DEFENSIVE
STRENGTH TO ACHIEVE IT.

YOU MUST DEVELOP THE NEW IDEAS, THE
DIFFERENT APPROACHES, THE PERSUASIVE
ABILITIES TO HELP BRING A SENSE OF BROTHER-
HOOD TO A DIVIDED WORLD.



YOU MUST DEVELOP THE ABILITIES TO
COOL THOSE STRONG EMOTIONS THAT CONTINUE
TO STIR CONFLICT.

IT IS NOT AN EASY TASK THAT LIES
BEFORE YOU. BUT WHO IN THE CITADEL WANTS
AN EASY TASK?



IF I KNOW ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD, I
KNOW THE GRADUATES OF THE CITADEL EAT UP
THE DIFFICULT, AND POLISH OFF THE
IMPROBABLE FOR DESSERT.

I SEE YOU AS THE PIONEERS IN A NEW
WORLD. YOU WILL BE THE LEADERS ON THE PATH
TO A REAL AND FULLY PEACEFUL PARTNERSHIP
OF NATIONS.



BY PLACING ME AMONG YOUR RANKS TODAY,
YOU HAVE DONE ME HONOR.

MY THANKS -- MY PRAYERS FOR YOUR
SUCCESS.

~~##~~ ~~##~~ ~~##~~



REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
THE CITADEL
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
3:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1974



FOR RELEASE at 3:00 p.m., FRIDAY

I deeply appreciate the honor you have accorded me here today. I have long been an admirer of the Citadel, its cadet corps, and its graduates. It gives me a deep sense of pride to be associated with an academy which has such a high and such a unique place in our Nation's history, and which plays such an important role in helping to train the leaders of our country.

My admiration for the Citadel is strengthened by the outstanding record its graduates have achieved throughout the years--not only in military careers, but in every field to which they have applied their talents. Except, perhaps, to the art of streaking. I haven't heard any reports of exceptional Citadel performance in that sport.

After seeing photos of some of the flabby, saggy streakers at some other institutions around the country, I'll bet that if Citadel Cadets ever do start streaking, they'll be the roughest, toughest streakers in the nation. I expect that like all fads streaking will fade away, as did swallowing live goldfish in my day.

What endures are the values and the character built by institutions like the Citadel -- institutions which maintain tough standards and are proud of those standards and their toughness, institutions which believe that insistence on high requirements for physical and mental performance is the best preparation their students can have for the future.

I said I have great admiration for you Cadets assembled here. Just being in the Citadel uniform proves you have an exceptional desire and an exceptional willingness to put your mental and physical abilities to the toughest test.

The record of the Cadets who preceded you, and who have successfully surmounted the tests you are meeting here, shows clearly that wherever the Citadel graduate decides to apply his talents he is already well ahead of those who choose an easier path

(more)

of preparation.

And it is clear that this record of performance on the part of Citadel graduates applies in areas far from the military. I learned, for example, that a nationally prominent newspaper executive is a Citadel graduate. So are some successful authors. Citadel graduates are doing outstanding work in the field of medicine.

We even find Citadel graduates in the profession which is endowed with one of the lowest national popularity ratings of all right now -- politics. Governor West, Senator Hollings, and Congressman Mann -- three of South Carolina's leading political figures -- all are Citadel graduates.

That is a record of achievement hard to match.

From a purely partisan standpoint, of course, it is tilted a little bit toward the Democrats.

Perhaps the Governor, the Senator and the Congressman will forgive me for daring to hope that the year he spent at the Citadel may prove helpful to the newly-launched political career of General Westmoreland.

But in looking over the proud record of the Citadel graduates I find the most important contribution they have made has been in service to our country in times of crisis.

The Citadel claims one of the largest -- if not the largest -- percentage of graduates serving in the military during the times when our nation was most severely tested.

Even now, in peacetime, the number of Citadel graduates in military service approaches 50 per cent of the graduates of the past ten years. I find that to be a truly impressive record, a record that I hope you Cadets here and those who will follow you can maintain -- or even surpass.

I can think of no more dedicated way to be of service to our country and -- in the most important sense -- to be of service to yourself, than to help us maintain an adequate defense.

One of my deepest and strongest convictions is that the only way to a true peace lies in a strong defense. That conviction comes from years of experience and study. At your age I lived in a climate that was strongly anti-military -- an atmosphere that kept our military forces below adequate levels, an attitude that found

(more)

this nation plunged into World War II lacking just about every vital defense need.

I now see the possibility of a return to such an attitude -- an anti-military attitude which can destroy our best chance in decades for a true world peace. And therein lies great danger for our Nation.

Only if our defense forces are strong can we continue to follow the course of peace we are now pursuing so successfully.

President Nixon's bold initiatives and Secretary of State Kissinger's superb negotiating abilities have opened a door to China, have produced new arms limitations negotiations with Russia, and have helped launch negotiations which may lead to a permanent solution in the Middle East. But this is only the beginning, the first tentative step on the road to a lasting world peace. We need to keep moving along that road. And in order to do so, we must have an adequate defense.

That is why our defense budget for the coming 12 months has increased -- this even though for the first time in ten years no funds in that budget are earmarked for support of American forces in combat.

The need for increased spending to strengthen our defense is imperative. It is a need that is growing by the week.

While we have been reducing our defense manpower and cutting back on our ships and planes, Moscow has been increasing its military spending. The Soviets are making a major increase in their naval power. We now see Soviet naval forces operating in new areas of serious international concern.

That is one important factor in the need for more defense dollars.

There are many others. Among them:

The need for more airlift capacity, revealed during the Middle East crisis last fall.

The need to modernize and improve our aging weapons systems.

The need to make decisions this year to start on the development of the weapons and the systems which will be available in the 1980's.

All of these require more defense dollars than we have been spending. If we don't spend those dollars, we will slip badly in relation to the Russian military posture. If we do slip in that

(More)

regard, we will slip in our ability to persuade the Soviets to limit their arms or to stay out of some area of world tension. If we slip badly in relation to the Russians, down go chances for world peace.

A quarter of a century ago, just after World War II, a noted American scientist, Dr. Vannevar Bush, put into a very few words the philosophy which should be a guiding principle of our nation. Wrote Dr. Bush: "If democracy keeps and enhances its strength, no great war need come again." For the past 25 years our great democracy has kept and enhanced its strength. And I believe that if we continue to keep and enhance our strength we can improve our effort to achieve a lasting peace.

I believe the thinking citizens of our country agree. I sincerely hope they do. Because you Citadel cadets who choose to make the military your career will have to work with the defense that our decision this year will provide you. You will need sufficient power to protect -- the power to protect that only an adequate, balanced defense system can provide.

I am confident that if you are given the power to protect, you will be able to use it to pursue peace as well -- a true world peace, a goal which seemed impossible a few short years ago. But I think we in my generation have proved to you that a real world peace is possible. It can be reached before those of you in the ranks here reach my age.

But it will take your dedication to that goal, plus the necessary defensive strength to achieve it.

You must develop the new ideas, the different approaches, the persuasive abilities to help bring a sense of brotherhood to a divided world.

You must develop the abilities to cool those strong emotions that continue to stir conflict.

It is not an easy task that lies before you. But who in the Citadel wants an easy task?

If I know anything in this world, I know the graduates of the Citadel eat up the difficult, and polish off the improbable for dessert.

I see you as the pioneers in a new world. You will be the leaders on the path to a real and fully peaceful partnership of nations.

(more)

By placing me among your ranks today, you have done me
honor.

My thanks -- my prayers for your success.

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But it will take your dedication to that goal, plus the necessary defensive strength to achieve it.

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(more)

By placing me among your ranks today, you have done me honor.

My thanks -- my prayers for your success.

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.



PRESS MANIFEST FOR S.C. TRIP...3/15/74

1. ~~Clare Crawford, People Magazine (Time, Inc.)~~
2. ~~Stanley Tredick, People Magazine (Time, Inc.)~~
3. Phil Jones, CBS
4. Ron Nessen, NBD
5. George Sozio, NBC
6. John Levy, NBC
7. Ray Anderson, NBC
8. Marjorie Hunter, N.Y. Times
9. ~~Bob Shogan, L.A. Times~~
10. Bill Anderson, Chicago Tribune Rm 230.

Steve Delaney
Bob Leonard - VOA.

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Notes:

We will pick up a CBS crew in Charleston. They will fly Charleston to Columbia and Columbia back to Charleston and then off the plane. The names are: Wendell Hoffman (cameraman); Al Maldonado, sound man; and Warren Ferguson, electrician.

Ron Nessen will drop off Sat. a.m. The NBC crew will go all the way.

Miss Crawford will drop off Sat. a.m.

Mr. Tredick will drop off ~~on Saturday~~ if not, then Sunday.

#####

Steve Delaney - Rm 224
Golden Eagle

Bill Anderson
Center of Rm 919

785-3333

Hilton Hotel
785-5111
Ed Rowlands

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESS MANIFEST FOR S.C. TRIP...3/15/74

1. Clare Crawford, People Magazine (Time, Inc.)
2. Stanley Tredick, People Magazine (Time, Inc.)
3. Phil Jones, CBS
4. Ron Nessen, NBC
5. George Sozio, NBC
6. John Levy, NBC
7. Ray Anderson, NBC
8. Marjorie Hunter, N.Y. Times
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Mr. Tredick will drop off "sometime Saturday."
If not, then Sunday.

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THE CITADEL, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

MARCH 15, 1974



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My admiration for the Citadel is strengthened by the outstanding record its graduates have achieved throughout the years. ~~Not~~ only in military careers, but in every field to which they have applied their talents.

~~Except, perhaps, to the art of streaking. I haven't heard any reports of exceptional Citadel performance in that cool exhibition area. Perhaps that's because streaking seems to be mostly an undergraduate exercise.~~ *spot.*

~~Maybe the Upper Classmen will require streaking as a new Knob Year test — one of the easier ones.~~

~~But~~ *A*fter seeing photos of some of the flabby, saggy streakers at some of the other institutions around the country, I'll bet that if Citadel Cadets ever do start streaking, they'll be the *roughest, toughest* best looking streakers in the nation.

~~But I don't want to waste your time talking about such triviality — no matter how popular it may be at this moment.~~

← I expect that like all fads streaking will fade away as did ~~the childish~~ swallowing ~~the telephone booth stuffing~~ *Give yourself in* and ~~all the similar public spectacles which we have smiled at~~ *my* *my* in the past.

What endures are the values and the character built by institutions like the Citadel. ~~Institutions~~ which maintain tough standards and are proud of those standards and their toughness,

2 Institutions which believe that insistence on high requirements for physical and mental performance is the best preparation their students can have for the future. ~~the~~

I said I have great admiration for you Cadets assembled here. Just being in the Citadel uniform proves you have an exceptional desire and an exceptional willingness to put your mental and physical abilities to the toughest test.

The record of the Cadets who preceded you, and who have successfully surmounted the tests you are meeting here, shows clearly that where~~ever~~ the Citadel graduate decides to apply his talents, he is already well ahead of those who choose an easier path of preparation.

And it is clear that this record of performance on the part of Citadel graduates applies in areas far from the military. I learned, for example, that a nationally prominent newspaper executive is a Citadel graduate.)

So are some successful authors.

Citadel graduates are doing outstanding work in the





field of medicine.

We even find Citadel graduates in the profession which is endowed with one of the lowest national popularity ratings of all right now ~~Politics~~. Governor West, Senator Hollings, and Congressman Mann -- three of South Carolina's leading political figures -- all are Citadel graduates.

That is a record of achievement hard to match.

From a purely partisan standpoint, of course, it is ~~disappointingly heavy Democratic record of achievement~~ *tilted a little bit toward the Democrats*.

Perhaps the Governor, the Senator and the Congressman will forgive me for daring to hope that ~~(although he spent only a year at the Citadel)~~ *the year he spent* some of the mystique it imparts may prove helpful to the ~~newly-launched political~~ *career* of General Westmoreland.

But in looking over the proud record of the Citadel graduates ~~it seems to me that~~ *I find* the most important contribution they have made has been in service to our country in times of crisis.

~~I learn that~~ *CLAIMS* The Citadel ~~has~~ one of the largest ~~not the largest~~ percentage of graduates serving in the military during the times when our nation was most severely tested.

~~And I learn that~~ *to be* Even now, in peacetime, the number of Citadel graduates in military service approaches 50 per cent of the graduates of the past ten years. I find that ~~a truly~~ *and* impressive record, ~~A~~ record that I hope you Cadets here ~~and~~ those who will follow you can maintain -- or even surpass.

~~I~~ I can think of no more dedicated way to be of service

to our country and -- in the most important sense -- to be of service to yourself, than to help us maintain an adequate defense.

One of my deepest and strongest convictions is that the only way to a true peace lies in a strong defense. That conviction comes from years of experience and study. At your age I lived in a climate that was strongly anti-military. ~~An~~ atmosphere that kept our military forces below adequate levels, ~~An~~ attitude that found this nation plunged into World War II lacking just about every vital defense need.

now the possibility
I see ~~the possibility~~ of a return to such an attitude. ~~An~~ anti-military attitude which can destroy our best chance in decades for a true world peace. *And therein lies great danger for our Nation.*

Only if our defense forces are strong can we continue to follow the course of peace we are now pursuing so successfully.

President Nixon's bold initiatives ~~and~~ ~~Secretary of State~~ Kissinger's superb negotiating abilities have opened a door to China, have produced new arms limitations negotiations with Russia, and have helped ~~start peace~~ *launch* negotiations *which may lead to a permanent solution* in the Middle East. But this is only the beginning, ~~the~~ *lasting* first tentative step on the road to a ~~true~~ world peace. We need to keep moving along that road. And in order to do so, we must have an adequate defense.

That is why our defense budget for the coming 12 months has increased. ~~This~~ even though for the first time in ten years no funds in that budget are earmarked for support of American forces in combat.

~~to strengthen~~
The need for increased spending ~~for~~ our defense ~~is~~
is imperative. It is a need that is growing by the week.

While we have been reducing our defense manpower, ~~and~~
~~while we have been~~ cutting back on our ships and planes, Moscow
has been increasing its forces and its military spending. The
Soviets are making a major increase in their naval power. We
now see Soviet naval forces operating in new areas of serious
international concern.

That is one important factor in the need for more defense
dollars.

There are many others. Among them:

The need for more airlift capacity, revealed
during the Middle East crisis last fall.

The need to modernize and improve our aging
weapons systems.

The need to make decisions this year to start
on the development of the weapons and the systems
which will be available in the 1980's.

All these require more defense dollars than we have been
spending. If we don't spend those dollars, we will slip badly
in relation to the Russian military posture. If we ~~do~~ slip in that
regard, ~~so will~~ we ^{will} slip in our ability to persuade the Soviets
to limit their arms, ~~or to persuade them not to intervene in~~ ^{stay out of}
some area of world tension. ~~If we slip badly in relation to~~
~~the Russian military posture. If we slip in that regard, so~~
~~will we slip in our ability to persuade the Soviets to limit~~
~~their arms. Or to persuade them not to intervene in some area~~
~~of world tension.~~ If we slip badly in relation to the Russians,





down go chances for world peace. World War Two.
A quarter of a century ago, a noted American scientist, Dr. Vannevar
~~Booth and General Bush were regarded as men of peace. But they~~
Bush, put into a very few words the philosophy which ~~should be~~ a
also ~~are men who think deeply about the relationship of man to~~
~~the~~ guiding principle of our nation. Wrote Dr. Bush: "If Democracy keeps
his world. But James Bush did not put our present situation
and enhances its ~~xxxxxx~~ strength, no great war need come again." For the past 25
in proper perspective with just eighteen words. Here, now:
years our great Democracy has kept and enhanced its strength. And I ~~xxx~~ believe
"If you want peace, the thing you've got to do, is just show
that if we continue to keep and enhance our strength ~~xxxxxx~~ we can ~~continue to~~
improve our effort to achieve a lasting peace."

I believe the thinking citizens of our country ~~will~~
agree, ~~with that~~. I sincerely hope they do. Because
you Citadel cadets who choose to make the military your career
will have to work with the defense ^{that} our decision this year will
provide you. You will need sufficient power to protect ~~the~~
power to protect that only an adequate, balanced defense system
can ^{provide.} ~~xxxx~~

I am confident that if you are ^{given} ~~provided~~ the power to
protect, you will be able to use it to pursue peace as well ~~—~~
/ true world peace, / goal which seemed impossible a few short
years ago. But I think we in my generation have proved to you
that a real world peace is possible. It can be reached before
those of you in the ranks here reach my age.

But it will take your dedication to that goal, plus the
necessary defensive strength to achieve it.

You must develop the new ideas, the different approaches,
the persuasive abilities to help bring a sense of brotherhood to
a divided world.

You must develop the abilities to cool those strong



emotions that continue to stir conflict.

It is not an easy task that lies before you. But who in the Citadel wants an easy task?

If I know anything in this world, I know the graduates of the Citadel eat up the difficult, and polish off the improbable for dessert.

I see you as the pioneers in a new world. You will be the leaders on the path to a real and fully peaceful partnership of nations.

By placing me among your ranks today, you have done me honor.

My thanks -- my prayers for your success.