

The original documents are located in Box D13, folder “Veterans Speech, ca. 1948” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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I. Introduction

A. Frequency of War--In 4000 yrs only 268 yrs of peace. In spite of 8,000 peace treaties.

B. Cost of War

1. U.S. expenditures in W/W II. 300 billion

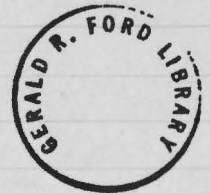
2. Caesar--75¢

30 Yrs War--\$50.

Civil War--\$5,000

World War I.--\$25,000

World War II.--\$200,000



II. THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS BLOC AND ITS PRIME

OBJECTIVE

A. 20 million men & women served between 1939 and 1947.

B. "Peace" always the objective.



III. VETERANS LACK OF UNITY ON MANNER OF ACHIEVING

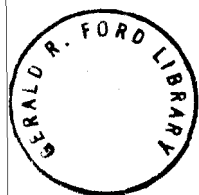
OBJECTIVE

- A. Heterogeneous make-up of our citizens Army.
- B. Bi-partisan foreign policy influence.
- C. Should "Veteran Organizations" be the unifying influence?



IV. PRE-WAR ATMOSPHERE (1920-1941)

- A. Education (text-books & educators) showed futility of War.
- B. Passing events demonstrated futility of War.
- C. Post World War I trend:
 - 1. Failure of U.S. to join League of Nations.
 - 2. Disarmament Conferences
 - 3. Kellogg-Briand Treaty--"outlawing War."
 - 4. Increasing of National Defense appropriation
 - 5. Great Britain--U.S. old-age destroyers for Western Hemisphere bases.
 - 6. Selective Service Act.



V. "TO BE G.I." PRE-WAR ATTITUDE.

A. Emphasis on "Appeasement."



VI. "TO BE G.I." 1942 ATTITUDE (Roper Poll)

A. 91% said, "keep on fighting this war and don't make peace as things stand now."

B. Enlistments following "Pearl Harbor."



VII. "TO BE G.I." WHAT WERE WE FIGHTING FOR IN 1942?

A. Freedom & liberty	45.1	} 90.7
B. Democracy-American ideals	26.9	
C. To stop Fascism, Nazism	18.7	
D. Peace	9.0	} 16.9%
E. To Protect our country	7.9	



VIII. ATTITUDE OF FIGHTING MEN--WINNING WAR OR WINNING PEACE?

- A. Until 1944? *War an all occupying occupation.*
- B. Following Germany's capitulation--U.N. organization conference.



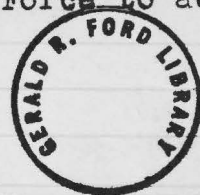
IX. The VETERAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD WORLD PEACE

A. As Expressed by Veteran Organizations

I. AMERICAN LEGION***We reaffirm our approval of the United Nations organization."

National Executive Committee--proposed strengthening amendments to the U.N. charter.

- a) greater representation on Security Council.
abolishment of veto power in cases of aggression. Majority vote.
reorganization of World Court.
- b) authority in Security Council to suppress aggression and a World Police Force to accomplish the same.



IX (continued)

2. AMERICAN VETERAN'S COMMITTEE (AVC)

"We support a strong United Nations as the basis for world understanding. We further urge, as a means of enforcing this authority, the creation of a world armed Force recruited from individuals of the United Nations who will owe exclusive allegiance to the United Nations."



IX.(continued)

B. Individual Attitude--Polls of Public Opinion.

American Institute of Public Opinion--Gallup Poll

Q--Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the progress that the United Nations has made to-date?

	<u>Satisfied</u>		<u>Dissatisfied</u>	
	<u>Genl/Public</u>	<u>Veterans</u>	<u>Genl/Public</u>	<u>Veterans</u>
July 46	26%	27%	49% 25	60% 13
Jan. 47	39%	41%	33% 28	38% 14

Roper Poll

Q--America should continue to count on the U.N. organization and do all it can to make it work

	<u>Veterans</u>	<u>Non-veterans</u>
January 1947	62.9%	54.5%



IX (continued)

American Institute of Public Opinion

Q--Do you approve or disapprove of the bill asking for 250 million dollars to aid Greece?

<u>April 2, 1947.</u>	<u>Genl/Public</u>	<u>Veterans</u>
YES	56%	57%
NO	32%	36%
NO OPINION	12%	7%



IX. (continued)

Roper--Fortune Poll

1946 December

Presidential Choices by Veterans.

Dewey
Stassen
Truman
Wallace
Taft

"Significant differences in foreign policy"



X. MEANS OF SECURING ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR U.S.

A. Universal Military Training

1. American Legion stand.
2. Poll of servicemen while still in service.

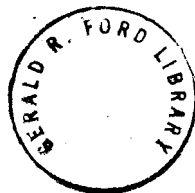
70% in favor of.

26% against.

3% don't know.

3. American Veterans Committee.

Not in platform.



NAME

First

Initial

Last

ADDRESS - Home

Business

PHONE - Home

Business

PRECINCT

PETITION - Circulated

Checked

Filed

(For additional information see other side)

Conclusion

(W/W II)

Important to know Veterans' attitude
because of long service & contacts
with horrors of war.



Veterans Speech:

I Introduction

A - Frequency of War

B. Cost of War:

- 1). Caesar - 75¢
- 2). 30 years - \$50.
- 3). Civil - \$5,000.
- 4). World War I - \$28,000.
- 5). " " II - \$200,000.

Total Expenditure in World War II - 300 billion

II The World War II veterans bloc & its prime objective

A. 20 million served between 1939 & 1947.

B. Peace - always the objective

III Veterans lack of unity on how to achieve objective.

A. Heterogeneous make-up of citizens army.

B. Bi-partisan foreign policy influence.

C. Perhaps Veteran Organizations should be unifying influence.



IV. Pre-War atmosphere (1920-1941)

- A. Education showed futility of war
- B. Passing events showed futility of war.
- C. Trend -

- 1). Failure to join League of Nations - (extreme isolationism)
- 2). Disarmament Conferences -
Kellogg-Briand Treaty - outlawing war.
- 3). Increased National Defense appropriations
- 4). British-G.A. base & destroyer deal
- 5). Selective Service

V. "To be G.I." pre-war attitude

A. Appeasement

VI. "To be G.I." 1942 attitude (Roper Poll)

A - 91% said "keep on fighting this war & don't make peace as things stand now."

VII. "To be G.I." What were we fighting for in 1942 (Roper Poll)

A - Freedom & liberty - 45.1

Democracy - American ideals - 26.9

To stop Fascism, Nazism - 18.7

Peace - 9.0

To protect our country - 7.9

VIII. Attitude of Fighting men - Winning War or Winning Peace.

A - Until 1944

B - Following Germany's capitulation
U.N. organization conference.



IX The Veterans Attitude toward World Peace

A. As expressed by Veteran Organizations

- 1) American Legion - "We reaffirm our approval of the United Nations organization."
 - National Executive Committee - proposed strengthening amendments to U.N. charter.
 1. a) greater representation on Security Council.
 - b). abolishment of veto power in cases of aggression. Majority vote.
 - c). Reorganization of World Court.
 - 2. Authority in Security Council to suppress aggression.
 - 3. World Police Force.

- 2) A.V.C. - "We support a strong United Nations as the basis for world understanding. We further urge, as a means of enforcing this authority, the creation of a world armed force recruited from individuals of the United Nations who will owe exclusive allegiance to the United Nations."

B. Individual Attitude - Polls of public opinion.

1.) American Institute of Public Opinion

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the Progress that United Nations has made to-date?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>
May 1946	37%	37%
July "	26%	49%
Nov. "	27%	43%
Jan. 1947	39%	33%

	<u>Satisfied</u>		<u>Dissatisfied</u>	
	<u>General Public</u>	<u>Veterans</u>	<u>General Public</u>	<u>Veterans</u>
July 1946	26%	27%	49%	60%
Jan. 1947	39%	47%	33%	38%

1(a) America should continue to count on the U.N. organization & do all it can to make it work - Jan. 1947

<u>Veterans</u>	<u>Not a veteran</u>
62.9%	54.5%

Roper Poll.

2.) American Institute of Public Opinion

April 2, 1947.

Do you approve or disapprove of the bill asking for 250 million dollars to aid Greece?

	<u>General Public</u>	<u>Veterans</u>
Yes.	56%	57%
No.	32%	36%
No opinion	12%	7%



3). Open Polls - Fortune Magazine.

Presidential Choices

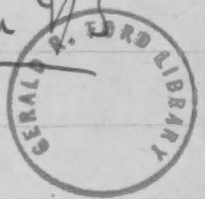
Dewey, Stassen, Truman,
Wallace + Taft.

- a). Significant differences in
foreign policy of each.

X Means of Securing Adequate Protection for U.S.

- a). Universal Military Training.

- 1). American Legion -
- 2). Poll D.



Roosevelt record - March 20, 1933 ^{Veterans - Legislature} Economy act. ①
[1948]

1. Repealed all laws granting etc.
2. Bonus - 1935 - vetoed
1936 - " } adjusted compensation act
Passed over his veto

I. National Level - legislation primarily non-partisan
Vote -

G.I. Bill: For _____ Against _____
Terminal Leave " _____ " _____

G.I. Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944)
Public Act 346. (see also Public Act 16)

A. Educational Benefits

1. Elementary, high school + college.

2. On the Job + Apprenticeship Training Programs

B. Loans

1) Homes, Farms, Business property.

C. Employment of Veterans

1) Selective Service Act.

a) "Super-seniority" - Dem. Sup. Ct.

Fishgold v. Sullivan Drydock + Repair Co.
May, 1945

D. Unemployment Compensation
52-20 Club.



Key West incident
Harry Hopkins + Andrew Williams
600 drowned - no identification
made.

Terminal Leave Pay

War Assets Administration (Surplus Properties)

- 1). Original set-up.
- 2). Revisions as Vets come thru.
- 3). Graft etc.

Veterans Housing Program

- I. a) 10 yr program - 225,000 homes per year
- b). 20 yr. program - 500,000 " " "
- Really means 750,000 during Republican period.

c). Report of progress.

1946 - 1,200,000 plan to start & complete.

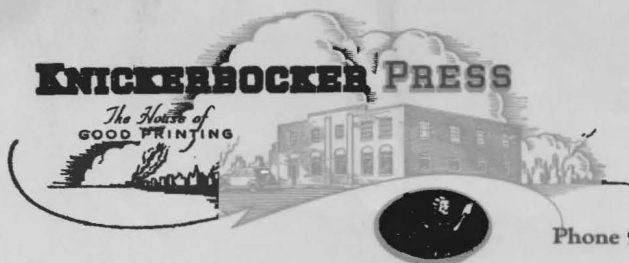
Jan 1, 1946 to July 1, 1946 originally claimed completed 625,000. Corrected to 400,000. Many completed had been started in 1945.

II. New York failure.

1). Turn to Republican controlled legislature.

- 2). In N. Y. results a). State - 2,437 apts. as of Oct. 1, 1946. b). Fed. govt - 812. "

Wilson Wyatt
not a qualified builder.
O.P.A. - acting on lumber
but not on logs.



Phone 9-3309

824 Lake Michigan Drive
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

G.I. Bill
Passed May 18, 1944

No - 0

Ayes - Republican	197
Democrat	187
Progressive	2
American Labor	1
Farm Labor	1

Terminal Leave
Passed June 11, 1946

No - 0

Ayes - Republican	170
Democrats	208
American Labor & Farm Labor	1 each.



II State Level - composition of Michigan legislature.

State Bonus - World War I - 1921, \$15. for each month of service.

Gov. Kelley -

~~Little Legislature~~

Special Session - ~~Senator~~ Representative Higgins.

Amend. - Nov. 5

Kim Sigler - Oct. 16th radio address.

Veteran Organization support.

Veterans Trust Fund - \$50,000,000.

Funds controlled by Vets themselves.

Veterans Facility - Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Detroit,

Veterans Institute

Educational Appropriations - can't use H.I. Bill

Civil Service Preferences -

Dr. Elliott - administration of Fed. Vet. Educational Program

Mississippi kick-back.

Soldiers & Sailors Relief Act. (up to \$2 mills)
Enabling Act.



Homestead Exemption Act.

State Office of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Counseling Centers

III Community Level.

Practical approach - what do local Democratic & Republican leaders actually do?

a) Grand Rapids

1) Housing

a) Vet Housing Project

City Commission

Being built under direction of N. H. A. Originally to be completed Aug. 1946. As yet no one has moved in. No one will until Nov. & then only a few; rest by Feb. 1947.

b) Quonset Hut -

Wyoming Township. Letter.

2) Veterans Institute

3) On the Job Training



I. National Level

Legislation primarily non-partisan.

G.I. Bill - Public Law 346 + Public Act. 16.

Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944.

A- Educational Benefits

1. School, College.

2. On the job & Apprenticeship Training Programs.

B. Loans

1. Homes.

2. Farms.

3. Business property.

C. Employment of Veterans.

1. Super seniority - Dim. Supreme Ct.

Fishgold v. Sullivan Drydock & Repair Co. (May 1946)

D. Unemployment compensation - 52-20 Club

Terminal Leave Pay

War Assets Administration - Sequestration Properties

Veterans Emergency Housing - N.H.A. (N.R. example - Aug. but not rented for)

II. State Level

State Bonus - Gov. Kelley.

"Little Legislature"

Special Session

Amendment - Nov. 5.

Kim Sigler - date of speech & quotation

Veterans Trust Fund - \$50,000,000

Veterans Institute -

Veterans facilities

Educational Appropriations - can't use G.I. Bill unless adequate

State Civil Service Preference for Veterans

Dr. Elliott - administers Fed. educational program.

Mississippi example - kick-back.

Soldiers & Sailors Relief Act. - ~~1944~~ County Relief. (2 mills -

Homestead Exemption

State office Veterans affairs - Veterans Counseling Centers.

Hel Pack

III. Community Level

Practical approach - what do local Democratic & Republican leaders actually do?

a) Grand Rapids

1. Housing

a) City Commission

b) Phoenix Club

2. On the job & Apprenticeship Programs

3) Veterans Institute.

