

The original documents are located in Box D13, folder “Jamestown Spring Grove Speech, Labor Day, September 4, 1950” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Jamestown Spring Grove Speech
Labor Day, Sept. 4, 1950

I. Introduction

- a) Q's — 1. Why War?
2. Why Unprepared?

II. Should we review the record?

III. How "Past" should be examined?

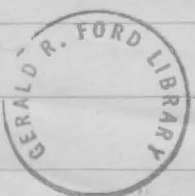
Johnson
Autopsy — who to blame?
What " " ?
Doctor
Farmer
Worker
Government Officials

IV. Sec. of Defense Johnson

How do I know?
Loss of Confidence Importance of "faith"

Why Johnson chosen for position

"Speaking loudly & carrying a feather duster"



Jan 12th

Feb. 3rd

March 3rd

March 13th

April 17th

April report

June 6th

"Gag" rule policies

"Cutting muscle instead of fat"

Super aircraft carrier

Navy ships - CVs - 8 to 6
Cruisers - 18 to 13
DD - 155 to 140

Marines - 11 to 6 battalions

Tanks - Forward program cut by J.

Air Force -

Conclusion - Disregard all other Viewpoints

SPEECH BY REPRESENTATIVE GERALD R. FORD, JR. AT THE JAMESTOWN SPRING GROVE
LABOR DAY MEETING, SEPTEMBER 4, 1950

For release 2:00 P.M.
September 4, 1950

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, we are assembled here in a critical hour in our nation's history. The developments in recent months are discouraging to say the least. Yes, our citizens are heartsick and rightly so.

Why is it that within 5 years after the end of hostilities in World War II American military forces are again locked in bitter combat? Where and why did our diplomats stumble along the way?

Why is it that the United States forces are again suffering casualties in battle in order to protect our American principles? Is it because of inadequate and insufficient equipment or through the lack of proper training? Or, maybe both?

Questions of this sort are uppermost in your minds and doubtlessly in the minds of most citizens. Some answers are expected from public officials. Unfortunately too often what you hear in explanation is tainted by partisanship leaving the listener still more perplexed and confused.

This afternoon I should like to stick to the record and to the facts, not only in the interest of correctly informing you who are here but in the sincere hope that this nation can remedy the follies of the past by applying the experience of our misfortunes to the formulation of wiser policies in the future. Some conscientious and well-intentioned citizens will contend we should not spend time searching for those responsible for past disasters.

Common horse sense dictates, however, that in order to protect America in the critical weeks, months and years ahead we must determine who in positions of trust and responsibility failed to meet the test. Where the record shows a lack of



competence we must act or should expect those of higher authority to act to remedy the situation. Under no circumstances should incompetence or irresponsibility be condoned for such individuals might well tip the scales for disaster and against ultimate victory for this nation.

My remarks this afternoon will refer principally to the record of the present Secretary of Defense, Mr. Louis A. Johnson. It is an unpleasant but nevertheless a necessary obligation to bring you the facts. I should like to approach the situation much as a doctor approaches the body of a patient at the autopsy table. This is never a pleasant task; yet every physician knows that practically all progress made in the field of medicine came from an honest examination of the mistakes previously made. The doctor may have been ever so careful in the examination which led him to the diagnosis that the patient's trouble was, for example, in the stomach. He may have called in half a dozen expert consultants who also decided after careful examination that the trouble was in the stomach. He may even have had a propaganda agency to convince all the relatives that the trouble was in the stomach. But if, when the man is dead and the doctor examines him at the autopsy table, he finds that the trouble was in the liver - then that is all there is to it, it was in the liver.

A doctor conducts an autopsy to determine who and what was to blame. The doctor as the result of an autopsy learns what signs he missed or misinterpreted. The doctor wants to know so that in the next similar case he will not make the same errors in the future.

Also the farmer who one season plants a crop which fails to produce must conduct before the next year an exhaustive examination of all the factors involved or he too will likely repeat his previous mistakes. The worker at the



bench or on the production line, if he is to overcome inefficiency or poor workmanship, must constantly analyze the past to derive benefits in the future.

Likewise in the field of government, both as to men and methods, we need to conduct an autopsy, yes a thorough re-examination, in order to discover if possible how the United States made the grave miscalculations that reduced our military might and led us unprepared to the brink of a third world war for the second time in a single decade.

From the peak of military power in 1945 when the United States was the most formidable nation in the history of the world, today our country finds itself practically unprepared to fight the type of battles now being fought or those which might be fought in the foreseeable future. In the past months grievous errors have been made. In my estimation a large share of the blame rests on Mr. Louis A. Johnson. Consequently I strongly recommend that the Secretary of Defense resign voluntarily but if not the President should request his resignation despite Mr. Truman's previous statement that both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Acheson will stay regardless of the result.

A bill of particulars against Mr. Johnson is not difficult to prepare when a thorough autopsy has been completed. First and foremost is the loss of public confidence in Mr. Johnson personally and his policies generally. America's battle against the forces of communism cannot be won on the battlefields or elsewhere if our citizens have no faith in one entrusted with vital decisions. How do I know the American people have no faith in Mr. Johnson? This answer can best be obtained by talking to the man on the street. By reading letters to Congressmen from men in the service or those from parents who have sons and daughters in the Army or Navy. By analyzing the editorials in our newspapers across the nation. Or, by reading and studying the action



taken by numerous patriotic organizations locally and elsewhere. Those attacking Secretary Johnson are not just Republicans. In fact, the most vitriolic criticism comes from representatives in the Democratic Party. The Democratic whip in the House, Representative Percy Priest of Tennessee, demanded Johnson's dismissal. Representative Tauriello of New York did likewise.

Faith is intangible in a man or in his policies. When it exists it permeates all concerned and as a result the strength of the man and his policies are multiplied manifold. However, when the belief in a person has evaporated, is no longer existent, as is the case with Mr. Johnson, our military forces, our people cannot rise to meet the emergency. Assuredly the United States can and will defeat the North Koreans but the true test will come if and when we meet the forces of Soviet Russia. On that occasion, and the Lord knows I hope that will never be the case, we cannot win with Mr. Johnson as Secretary of Defense.

What were Mr. Johnson's qualifications for the job prior to his appointment on March 28, 1949? It was generally agreed that the principal basis for his selection was purely political. Mr. Johnson during the 1948 Presidential campaign was the most successful "money raiser" for the Democratic Party's campaign fund. His elevation to this high office of trust and responsibility was accepted as Mr. Johnson's reward for this political effort. History will prove this choice by Mr. Truman was a grievous error. Unfortunately this nation is now suffering the consequences of this unwise selection. The President's political obligation has been repaid. It is time for a change for the best interests of our nation. I strongly recommend the appointment of General Dwight Eisenhower in his place.

Secretary of Defense Johnson is guilty of a policy of "speaking loudly



and carrying a feather duster." Let me quote for the record some of the recent utterances of Mr. Johnson.

On January 12, 1950, Secretary Johnson told the House Appropriations Committee that the \$13,000,000,000 military budget was "adequate to defend this Nation in any situation that may arise in the next two years."

This budget had been cut from the \$15,000,000,000 recommended by General Eisenhower, who warned against inadequate defenses. It shaved naval carrier air groups from 24 groups in 1949 to 10 groups in 1950, and projected a further cut to 9 groups in 1951.

On February 3, 1950, Secretary Johnson, in a speech at the University of Virginia, said: "Joe Stalin will know that if he starts something at 4 a.m. the fighting power of the United States will be on the job at 5 a.m."

On March 3, 1950, Secretary Johnson said that the U. S. defense situation is more encouraging than at any time since VJ-Day.

Secretary of Defense Johnson (told) the Senate appropriations subcommittee on March 13, 1950, that "the Army is stronger today than at any time since the end of the war. . . and as for the Air Force, it is in the highest state of combat readiness since the war."

On April 17, 1950, Secretary Johnson at a civilian orientation conference said: "We know that Russia does not plan to conquer the United States by force or war. . . There is complete agreement in the Defense Department as to what the danger is and what we need to meet that danger. . . "

In an April report, Secretary Johnson said: "The United States is in a strong position to take appropriate action in any area of the world where the



cause of peace is involved."

On June 6, 1950, Johnson said in a speech to the Penn. Military College:

"From a military standpoint, we can successfully meet every basic requirement....."

The events in Korea since June 26th unquestionably prove the unreliability and irresponsibility of the Secretary of Defense. From a review of the record, it is perfectly understandable why the American people have lost faith in the civilian head of our military forces.

There are other serious blemishes on the record of Secretary Johnson. Approximately a year ago Admiral Louis Denfield was literally kicked out of the position as the Navy's representative on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Captain John Crommelin, one of the great naval aviation experts and a combat hero of World War II, was demoted and eventually forced to resign. Rear Admiral Joel T. Boone, war hero medical expert, was relieved of his assignment as the Defense Department's top medical adviser because he opposed Johnson's slashing of *the* military hospital programs. Why? Simply because they expressed their convictions concerning our national defense policies. Mr. Johnson made himself the absolute dictator on all matters pertaining to the Army, Navy and the Air Corps. Mr. Johnson imposed a "gag" rule on all military personnel and when Admiral Denfield spoke his convictions in hearings before the House Committee on Armed Services during the B-36 inquiry, after being assured of immunity by that Committee, the Secretary of Defense fired him summarily. In other words, Secretary Johnson wanted "yes men" who would agree with his policies whether they be right or wrong. The people of this great country should not tolerate dictators in any government department least of all in the Department of Defense. Because of his past record on this score Mr. Johnson's presence as the



head of our Armed Forces is inimical to the best interests of the Republic.

The citizens of the United States should know a few other facts concerning Mr. Johnson's regime as Secretary of Defense. For the past year or two Secretary Johnson has been disregarding Congressional directives in reference to defense matters. He has repeatedly snubbed advice and counsel by long experienced and highly capable members of Congress. The Secretary ignored essential military authorizations by the House and Senate and he flaunted Congress by impounding funds that were specifically available for the strengthening of the Armed Forces.

Defense Secretary Johnson contended he was cutting out the "fat" in military spending. Subsequent developments show that he, during his so-called economy program, was wielding a sharp and ruthless sword on the vital military defenses of this nation. Today Secretary Johnson is back asking Congress to give him all the money he refused to spend and more, too. What Johnson tossed out the window as "fat" only a few short months ago has become "muscle" needed to fight the war in Korea.

Is Congress to blame for our present state of unpreparedness? ~~Em-~~phatically NO for if Congressional policies had been carried out our military strength would be far greater at this crucial hour.

The 80th Congress authorized and appropriated funds for the super aircraft carrier. Johnson over a year ago scrapped the ship after 30 million dollars had been spent to start construction. Former Navy Secretary John L. Sullivan resigned in protest for he knew the importance of this carrier in our defense plans. Wouldn't it be helpful to have this mighty ship nearing completion at a time when we may need air support in distant lands.



Almost at once, however, Johnson announced his "crash" savings program, to cut one billion dollars from the 14 billion dollar defense outlays voted by Congress. Tank modernization was one of the first items to be "crashed," being transformed into a Johnsonian "economy" as early as March, 1949. That is why we now have no tanks - literally, none at all - that can defeat the Russian armor in the field.

This is not all the sad story. The Air Force has also suffered. Congress has repeatedly favored a 70 group air force on the recommendation of the President's Air Policy Commission and the Congressional Aviation Policy Board, yet the Executive branch of the government has repeatedly impounded funds for that vital branch of the Armed Forces. Under Johnson's regime 735 million was impounded from Air Force funds in the appropriation bill approved in 1949. The Secretary withheld 243 million in addition contending that the Air Force program approved by Congress was too large. In other words, almost a billion dollars in Air Force funds in the last nine months was unspent by Mr. Johnson despite the clear directive from Congress that such funds were vitally necessary for our nation's security.

The inevitable conclusion is simply this. Secretary Johnson personally gambled with the military security of our nation. He disregarded the advice of military men whose competence, experience and integrity cannot be questioned. According to Johnson's program his predecessor, the late James V. Forrestal, was wrong. General Eisenhower and others of similar stature were mistaken in their estimates of our basic needs. Representative Carl Vinson, the able and long experienced chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, was in error.

The Congress was wrong. In fact, Secretary Johnson acted as though he was



right and all others out of step. The record shows "boss" Johnson's judgment was unfortunately unsound and the United States is now paying the penalty for his failures.

A fair and honest appraisal of Defense Secretary Johnson's record proves the need for his resignation or dismissal. The situation is too critical, the hour too late for any other answer.

It is obvious that the nation must be united in the dangerous days ahead but there can be no unity of thought and action when there is no public confidence in the Secretary of Defense. In the best interests of our country we need an inspiring leader with experience and knowledge in military problems. Secretary Johnson because of his past record does not qualify for such responsibilities. An immediate change must be made. Too much is at stake. If Mr. Johnson refuses to appreciate the need for a change, the President should forthwith make such a change in his cabinet which will give our citizens new faith and confidence for the future.



SPEECH BY REPRESENTATIVE GERALD R. FORD, JR. AT THE JAMESTOWN SPRING GROVE
LABOR DAY MEETING, SEPTEMBER 4, 1950

For release 2:00 P.M.
September 4, 1950

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, we are assembled here in a critical hour in our nation's history. The developments in recent months are discouraging to say the least. Yes, our citizens are heart sick and rightly so.

Why is it that within 5 years after the end of hostilities in World War II American military forces are again locked in bitter combat? Where and why did our diplomats stumble along the way?

Why is it that the United States forces are again suffering casualties in battle in order to protect our American principles? Is it because of inadequate and insufficient equipment or through the lack of proper training? Or, maybe both?

Questions of this sort are uppermost in your minds and doubtlessly in the minds of most citizens. Some answers are expected from public officials. Unfortunately too often what you hear in explanation is tainted by partisanship leaving the listener still more perplexed and confused.

This afternoon I should like to stick to the record and to the facts, not only in the interest of correctly informing you who are here but in the sincere hope that this nation can remedy the follies of the past by applying the experience of our misfortunes to the formulation of wiser policies in the future. Some conscientious and well-intentioned citizens will contend we should not spend time searching for those responsible for past disasters. Common horse sense dictates, however, that in order to protect America in the critical weeks, months and years ahead we must determine who in positions of trust and responsibility failed to meet the test. Where the record shows a lack of

competence we must act or should expect those of higher authority to act to remedy the situation. Under no circumstances should incompetence or irresponsibility be condoned for such individuals might well tip the scales for disaster and against ultimate victory for this nation.

My remarks this afternoon will refer principally to the record of the present Secretary of Defense, Mr. Louis A. Johnson. It is an unpleasant but nevertheless a necessary obligation to bring you the facts. I should like to approach the situation much as a doctor approaches the body of a patient at the autopsy table. This is never a pleasant task; yet every physician knows that practically all progress made in the field of medicine came from an honest examination of the mistakes previously made. The doctor may have been ever so careful in the examination which led him to the diagnosis that the patient's trouble was, for example, in the stomach. He may have called in half a dozen expert consultants who also decided after careful examination that the trouble was in the stomach. He may even have had a propaganda agency to convince all the relatives that the trouble was in the stomach. But if, when the man is dead and the doctor examines him at the autopsy table, he finds that the trouble was in the liver - then that is all there is to it, it was in the liver.

A doctor conducts an autopsy to determine who and what was to blame. The doctor as the result of an autopsy learns what signs he missed or misinterpreted. The doctor wants to know so that in the next similar case he will not make the same errors in the future.

Also the farmer who one season plants a crop which fails to produce must conduct before the next year an exhaustive examination of all the factors involved or he too will likely repeat his previous mistakes. The worker at the



bench or on the production line, if he is to overcome inefficiency or poor workmanship, must constantly analyze the past to derive benefits in the future.

Likewise in the field of government, both as to men and methods, we need to conduct an autopsy, yes a thorough re-examination, in order to discover if possible how the United States made the grave miscalculations that reduced our military might and led us unprepared to the brink of a third world war for the second time in a single decade.

From the peak of military power in 1945 when the United States was the most formidable nation in the history of the world, today our country finds itself practically unprepared to fight the type of battles now being fought or those which might be fought in the foreseeable future. In the past months grievous errors have been made. In my estimation a large share of the blame rests on Mr. Louis A. Johnson. Consequently I strongly recommend that the Secretary of Defense resign voluntarily but if not the President should request his resignation despite Mr. Truman's previous statement that both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Acheson will stay regardless of the result.

A bill of particulars against Mr. Johnson is not difficult to prepare when a thorough autopsy has been completed. First and foremost is the loss of public confidence in Mr. Johnson personally and his policies generally. America's battle against the forces of communism cannot be won on the battlefields or elsewhere if our citizens have no faith in one entrusted with vital decisions. How do I know the American people have no faith in Mr. Johnson? This answer can best be obtained by talking to the men on the street. By reading letters to Congressmen from men in the service or those from parents who have sons and daughters in the Army or Navy. By analyzing the editorials in our newspapers across the nation. Or, by reading and studying the action



taken by numerous patriotic organizations locally and elsewhere. Those attacking Secretary Johnson are not just Republicans. In fact, the most vitriolic criticism comes from representatives in the Democratic Party. The Democratic whip in the House, Representative Percy Priest of Tennessee, demanded Johnson's dismissal. Representative Mauriello of New York did likewise.

Faith is intangible in a man or in his policies. When it exists it permeates all concerned and as a result the strength of the man and his policies are multiplied manifold. However, when the belief in a person has evaporated, is no longer existent, as is the case with Mr. Johnson, our military forces, our people cannot rise to meet the emergency. Assuredly the United States can and will defeat the North Koreans but the true test will come if and when we meet the forces of Soviet Russia. On that occasion, and the Lord knows I hope that will never be the case, we cannot win with Mr. Johnson as Secretary of Defense.

What were Mr. Johnson's qualifications for the job prior to his appointment on March 26, 1949? It was generally agreed that the principal basis for his selection was purely political. Mr. Johnson during the 1948 Presidential campaign was the most successful "money raiser" for the Democratic Party's campaign fund. His elevation to this high office of trust and responsibility was accepted as Mr. Johnson's reward for this political effort. History will prove this choice by Mr. Truman was a grievous error. Unfortunately this nation is now suffering the consequences of this unwise selection. The President's political obligation has been repaid. It is time for a change for the best interests of our nation. I strongly recommend the appointment of General Dwight Eisenhower in his place.

Secretary of Defense Johnson is guilty of a policy of "speaking loudly



and carrying a feather duster." Let me quote for the record some of the recent utterances of Mr. Johnson.

On January 12, 1950, Secretary Johnson told the House Appropriations Committee that the \$13,000,000,000 military budget was "adequate to defend this Nation in any situation that may arise in the next two years."

This budget had been cut from the \$15,000,000,000 recommended by General Eisenhower, who warned against inadequate defenses. It showed naval carrier air groups from 24 groups in 1949 to 10 groups in 1950, and projected a further cut to 9 groups in 1951.

On February 3, 1950, Secretary Johnson, in a speech at the University of Virginia, said: "Joe Stalin will know that if he starts something at 4 a.m. the fighting power of the United States will be on the job at 5 a.m."

On March 3, 1950, Secretary Johnson said that the U. S. defense situation is more encouraging than at any time since W-Day.

Secretary of Defense Johnson (told) the Senate appropriations subcommittee on March 13, 1950, that "the Army is stronger today than at any time since the end of the war. . . and as for the Air Force, it is in the highest state of combat readiness since the war."

On April 17, 1950, Secretary Johnson at a civilian orientation conference said: "We know that Russia does not plan to conquer the United States by force or war. . . There is complete agreement in the Defense Department as to what the danger is and what we need to meet that danger. . ."

In an April report, Secretary Johnson said: "The United States is in a strong position to take appropriate action in any area of the world where the



cause of peace is involved."

On June 6, 1950, Johnson said in a speech to the Penn. Military College:

"From a military standpoint, we can successfully meet every basic requirement....."

The events in Korea since June 26th unquestionably prove the unreliability and irresponsibility of the Secretary of Defense. From a review of the record, it is perfectly understandable why the American people have lost faith in the civilian head of our military forces.

There are other serious blemishes on the record of Secretary Johnson. Approximately a year ago Admiral Louis Denfield was literally kicked out of the position as the Navy's representative on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Captain John Crosselin, one of the great naval aviation experts and a combat hero of World War II, was demoted and eventually forced to resign. Rear Admiral Joel T. Boone, war hero medical expert, was relieved of his assignment as the Defense Department's top medical advisor because he opposed Johnson's slashing of ^{the} military hospital programs. Why? Simply because they expressed their convictions concerning our national defense policies. Mr. Johnson made himself the absolute dictator on all matters pertaining to the Army, Navy and the Air Corps. Mr. Johnson imposed a "gag" rule on all military personnel and when Admiral Denfield spoke his convictions in hearings before the House Committee on Armed Services during the B-36 inquiry, after being assured of immunity by that Committee, the Secretary of Defense fired him summarily. In other words, Secretary Johnson wanted "yes men" who would agree with his policies whether they be right or wrong. The people of this great country should not tolerate dictators in any government department least of all in the Department of Defense. Because of his past record on this score Mr. Johnson's presence as the



head of our Armed Forces is inimical to the best interests of the Republic.

The citizens of the United States should know a few other facts concerning Mr. Johnson's regime as Secretary of Defense. For the past year or two Secretary Johnson has been disregarding Congressional directives in reference to defense matters. He has repeatedly snubbed advice and counsel by long experienced and highly capable members of Congress. The Secretary ignored essential military authorizations by the House and Senate and he flouted Congress by impounding funds that were specifically available for the strengthening of the Armed Forces.

Defense Secretary Johnson contended he was cutting out the "fat" in military spending. Subsequent developments show that he, during his so-called economy program, was wielding a sharp and ruthless sword on the vital military defenses of this nation. Today Secretary Johnson is back asking Congress to give him all the money he refused to spend and more, too. What Johnson tossed out the window as "fat" only a few short months ago has become "muscle" needed to fight the war in Korea.

Is Congress to blame for our present state of unpreparedness? Emphatically NO for if Congressional policies had been carried out our military strength would be far greater at this crucial hour.

The 80th Congress authorized and appropriated funds for the super aircraft carrier. Johnson over a year ago scrapped the ship after 30 million dollars had been spent to start construction. Former Navy Secretary John L. Sullivan resigned in protest for he knew the importance of this carrier in our defense plans. Wouldn't it be helpful to have this mighty ship nearing completion at a time when we may need air support in distant lands.



Furthermore, in the case of the Navy, Johnson's alleged "over-all increase in combat capability" consisted in cutting the fleet at sea from 8 heavy carriers to 6; from 18 cruisers to 13; from 155 destroyers to 140; and so on. When the carrier cut was made, the Joint Chiefs of Staff advised Johnson that this would make it impossible to hold the Mediterranean in case of war. But now that the danger in the Balkans is the chief threat of a third world war, we have had to send two carriers to the Mediterranean, leaving horribly inadequate strength in both the Atlantic and Pacific.

The citizens of our country have always been rightfully proud of the Marine Corps. Those of us who served in the last war in the Pacific know first hand the magnificent job done by the Leathernecks. Despite this record Secretary Johnson by various means tried to eliminate entirely the Marines in future military plans and when that failed he sought to reduce their strength materially. The Johnson "strategy" would have cut the Marines to 6 Battalions instead of 11. Thank goodness pressure from Congress prevented this unwise action.

When James V. Forrestal launched his American rearmament program, a vigorous attack on the tank problem was conspicuously included. Even after President Truman sharply cut back the Forrestal program, in November, 1948, appropriations and authorizations were still provided by Congress to give this country a respectable armored force. When Johnson took office the order had already been given for the first step in rebuilding our tank strength. During 1949, hundreds of our medium tanks were to be equipped with heavier armor and more powerful guns, so that they would at least be fit to meet Russian tanks of equal weight.



Almost at once, however, Johnson announced his "crash" savings program, to cut one billion dollars from the 14 billion dollar defense outlays voted by Congress. Tank modernization was one of the first items to be "crashed," being transformed into a Johnsonian "economy" as early as March, 1949. That is why we now have no tanks - literally, none at all - that can defeat the Russian armor in the field.

This is not all the sad story. The Air Force has also suffered. Congress has repeatedly favored a 70 group air force on the recommendation of the President's Air Policy Commission and the Congressional Aviation Policy Board, yet the Executive branch of the government has repeatedly impounded funds for that vital branch of the Armed Forces. Under Johnson's regime 735 million was impounded from Air Force funds in the appropriation bill approved in 1949. The Secretary withheld 243 million in addition contending that the Air Force program approved by Congress was too large. In other words, almost a billion dollars in Air Force funds in the last nine months was unspent by Mr. Johnson despite the clear directive from Congress that such funds were vitally necessary for our nation's security.

The inevitable conclusion is simply this. Secretary Johnson personally gambled with the military security of our nation. He disregarded the advice of military men whose competence, experience and integrity cannot be questioned. According to Johnson's program his predecessor, the late James V. Forrestal, was wrong. General Eisenhower and others of similar stature were mistaken in their estimates of our basic needs. Representative Carl Vinson, the able and long experienced chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, was in error. The Congress was wrong. In fact, Secretary Johnson acted as though he was



right and all others out of step. The record shows "Boss" Johnson's judgment was unfortunately unsound and the United States is now paying the penalty for his failures.

A fair and honest appraisal of Defense Secretary Johnson's record proves the need for his resignation or dismissal. The situation is too critical, the hour too late for any other answer.

It is obvious that the nation must be united in the dangerous days ahead but there can be no unity of thought and action when there is no public confidence in the Secretary of Defense. In the best interests of our country we need an inspiring leader with experience and knowledge in military problems. Secretary Johnson because of his past record does not qualify for such responsibilities. An immediate change must be made. Too much is at stake. If Mr. Johnson refuses to appreciate the need for a change, the President should forthwith make such a change in his cabinet which will give our citizens new faith and confidence for the future.

