

The original documents are located in Box D14, folder “Bond Rally, Houseman Field, Grand Rapids, MI, September 3, 1951” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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House Speeches

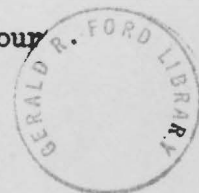
SPEECH BY REPRESENTATIVE GERALD R. FORD, JR. AT BOND RALLY,
SEPTEMBER 3, 1951, HOUSEMAN FIELD, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

Mr. Reagan, distinguished guests--All of us from this part of Michigan are proud that Grand Rapids was designated for the Kick-Off of this nationwide Defense Bond Drive. Our citizens deeply appreciate the honor accorded us by the presence of the many distinguished guests and the remarkable exhibitions of ability and equipment by the various branches of the Armed Forces.

Labor Day, this year as in the past, has been appropriately set aside to permit public tribute to the men and women of our Nation who work in American Industry. This annual holiday in these critical times has even a greater significance because all our citizens, but particularly the thousands of young Americans on the farflung battlefields of the world, are vitally dependent on the skill, the ingenuity and the effort of the millions who work in this free and prosperous country. I am confident, just as you are, that since our cause is just, we who believe in and are fighting for the preservation and expansion of fundamental American principles will triumph over the insidious and Godless forces of Communism. A major factor in the certain and eventual victory will be the magnificent achievements of our working men and women who have and who will continue to far out-produce the slave labor behind the Iron Curtain.

For the Defense of America, for a Victory of American liberty and freedom over the slavery of Communism all citizens must sacrifice, and each one must contribute to the very maximum of his or her ability and resources. The unselfish and patriotic sacrifices made today we hope and believe will bring peace and security in the future.

Tonight the President will call upon us to make an investment in the future of America. For the present protection and future security of our



children, to preserve our homes, our schools, our churches and our American Way of Life, each and every citizen should gladly cooperate in this Program.

We should Remember a Defense-Bond-A-Month will help to provide a better gun for the G.I. in Korea, a faster jet plane for our airmen and a more powerful ship for our sailors. With such equipment and with our unbeatable American spirit, courage and skill, the United States and its allies should have no FEAR as to the outcome of any war, present or future.

In the months ahead, as We put our shoulders to the wheel, as We pull in our belts, as We build and man the guns, tanks and ships, as We invest in the future of America by purchasing Defense Bonds, WE should recall the heroic sacrifices of the 80,000 young Americans who, in the past 14 months, have suffered combat casualties in Korea in our behalf.

Without question, without reservation, it is our solemn obligation and our clear-cut responsibility to match their patriotism with sacrifices of our own. We can; We must; We will for America.

