The original documents are located in Box 24, "3/5/76 - Remarks at Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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STUDENTS, FACULTY AND GUESTS OF BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

- FRIENDS OF THE EVER ETT MAKINE
- MAYOR CARVER
- CONG MADIGAN
- CONG RAILSBACK
- CONG MICHELS
- THANK YOU DR. A BEGG

.

REMARKS AT BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1976

LET ME SAY FIRST OF ALL THAT IT IS A

GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE AT BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

AND IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF PEORIA THIS EVENING.

for Carve

THE TRUSTEES OF THIS UNIVERSITY HAVE HONORED

ME IN A VERY PERSONAL WAY WITH THIS HONORARY APPOINTMENT

TO THE EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN CHAIR OF GOVERNMENT

AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

2 am most gratiful.

EVERETT DIRKSEN WAS ONE OF THE FINEST PUBLIC SERVANTS I HAVE EVER KNOWN AND HISTORY WILL RECORD HIM AS ONE OF THE MOST GIFTED AND BELOVED MEN

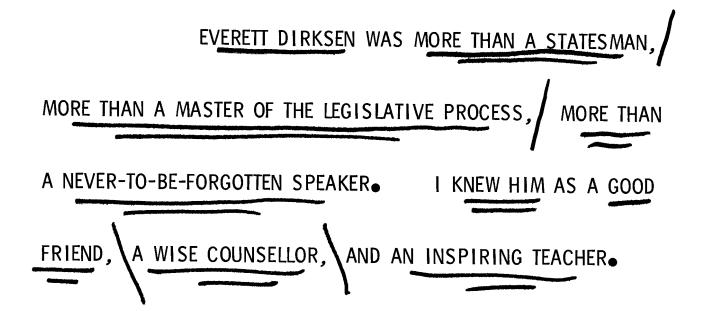
EVER TO SERVE IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

EV AND I BECAME ESPECIALLY CLOSE

DURING THE YEARS WHEN HE SERVED AS REPUBLICAN LEADER

OF THE SENATE, AND I WAS HIS COUNTERPART IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



HE TAUGHT US ONE OF HIS MOST UNFORGETTABLE LESSONS ON THE MEMORABLE DAY IN 1963 WHEN THE SENATE WAS DEBATING RATIFICATION OF THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY.

.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THAT TREATY, SENATOR DIRKSEN SAID, "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WITH BIGGER AND MORE DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS BEING BUILT ALL THE TIME, WITH ARMAMENT BURDENS UPON EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, UNLESS WE TAKE A STEP IN THE WHOLE DOMAIN OF FAITH, WHAT WILL BE LEFT EXCEPT GLOOM AND DEFEATISM AGAINST THE DAY WHEN SOME CARELESS PERSON WILL PULL THE TRIGGER?" EVERETT DIRKSEN KNEW THAT SOMEHOW THE PEACE OF THE WORLD MUST BE MADE MORE SECURE, THAT IF MEN HAD MADE THE WORLD DANGEROUS, MEN COULD ALSO MAKE IT SAFE, AND HAD AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE THAT EFFORT. TWICE IN THIS CENTURY THE WHOLE WORLD HAS GONE TO WAR. TWICE THE UNITED STATES HAS JOINED THE GLOBAL STRUGGLE, BELIEVING WITH WOODROW WILSON THAT "THE RIGHT IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN PEACE," AND AGREEING WITH FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT THAT "WE ARE WILLING TO FIGHT

TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM."

TWICE MORE WE HAVE HONORED OUR COMMITMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL NATIONS WHERE THE PEACE WAS BROKEN BY ACTS OF NAKED AGGRESSION AND BY ARMIES BENT ON DESTRUCTION AND TERROR AND CONQUEST. AMERICA HAS SEEN TOO MUCH OF WAR IN THE

TWENTIETH CENTURY, TOO MUCH OF SUFFERING AND DYING ON

BLOOD-STAINED FIELDS OF BATTLE.

WE CHERISH THE PEACE THAT AMERICA ENJOYS

THE PEACE THAT FINDS NO AMERICAN IN COMBAT ANYWHERE IN

THE WORLD TONIGHT.

AND YET WE KNOW THAT THE FREEDOMS WE <u>HAVE DEFENDED SO OFTEN ARE STILL BEING CHALLENGED TODAY</u>. <u>WE KNOW THAT OUR STRENGTH</u>, OUR <u>POWER</u>, OUR <u>CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND OUR RESOLVE</u> ARE THE FOUNDATION OF MANKIND'S HOPE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE WORLD. IF WE SHOULD EVER RELINQUISH THAT ROLE,

IF OUR CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE SHOULD BE DIMINISHED BY

AND TRAGIC FOR ALL THE WORLD.

FOR THIS REASON, THE UNITED STATES MUST PURSUE <u>A POLICY OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH</u>. THAT IS THE POLICY WHICH <u>MY ADMINISTRATION WILL ALWAYS PURSUE</u>. <u>I HAVE TAKEN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO ENSURE</u> THAT AMERICA'S ALLIANCES ARE STRONG, OUR COMMITMENTS ARE WORTHWHILE, AND OUR DEFENSES ARE WITHOUT EQUAL IN THE WORLD.

IN MY PRESIDENCY, I HAVE PROPOSED THE

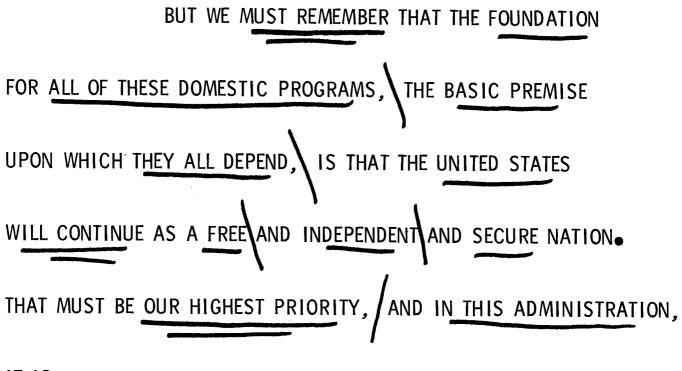
TWO LARGEST PEACETIME DEFENSE BUDGETS IN AMERICAN HISTORY --

AS THE BEST INSURANCE OF DETERRING AGGRESSION AND MAINTAINING

OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

THERE ARE SOME VERY SINCERE AND THOUGHTFUL AND PATRIOTIC AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE THAT THESE DEFENSE PROPOSALS TAKE TOO MUCH OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES AWAY FROM THE DOMESTIC PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

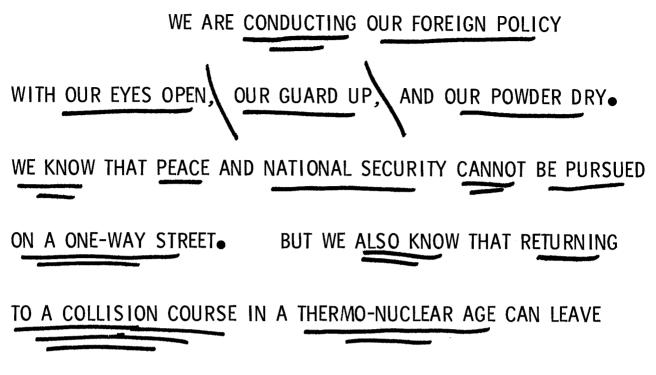


IT IS.

BEYOND <u>SECURING OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE</u>, AMERICA'S DEFENSIVE STRENGTH $-\sqrt{}$ BY THE VERY FACT OF ITS EXISTENCE $-\sqrt{}$ ENABLES US TO DETER AGGRESSION IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. AND THAT STRENGTH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO NEGOTIATE FOR PEACEFUL PROGRESS FROM A POSITION THAT COMMANDS RESPECT AND INVITES COOPERATION. BECAUSE B<u>OTH SIDES</u> OF THE <u>MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT</u> RESPECT OUR STRENGTH AND OUR WORD AND OUR COMMITMENT TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE, WE HAVE WON THE ROLE OF PEACEMAKER IN THAT VERY STRATEGIC AND VOLATILE PART OF THE WORLD.

OUR AIM IS TO MAKE PEACE SECURE THROUGHOUT

THE WORLD.



THE HUMAN RACE IN ASHES.

I WILL NOT LEAD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

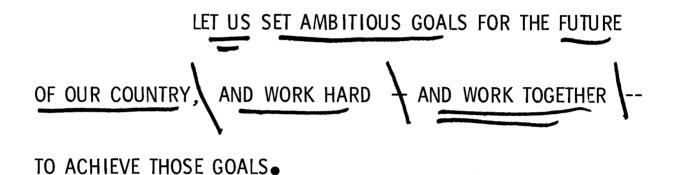
DOWN THE ROAD TO NEEDLESS DANGER AND SENSELESS DESTRUCTION. I WILL LEAD THEM ON THE PATH OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH, AND WE WILL LIVE IN PEACE AND FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

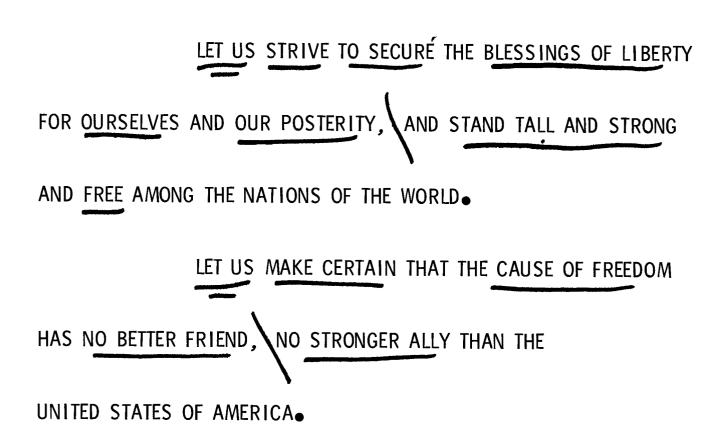
IT IS OUR DUTY AND OUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE PEACE AND THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY IN AMERICA TODAY. LET US SHOW OURSELVES WORTHY IN BLOOD, OF THE PRICE WE HAVE PAID FOR THEM -/ IN SACRIFICE, IN TREASURE.

LET US TAKE MORE SERIOUSLY AND MORE

PERSONALLY OUR PRECIOUS RIGHT OF FREE POLITICAL EXPRESSION

IN THIS ELECTION YEAR.





AND LET US RESOLVE, AS THE GREATEST SON OF ILLINOIS DID A CENTURY AGO, THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE

EARTH•

NOW I WOULD BE HAPPY TO RESPOND TO

ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

END OF TEXT

(CLOSING TO Q AND A)

I'VE ENJOYED BEING AT THIS OUTSTANDING

UNIVERSITY TONIGHT, AND TALKING WITH THE WONDERFUL

PEOPLE OF PEORIA.

BUT BEFORE I LEAVE, LET ME PAY MY

RESPECTS TO ANOTHER GREAT PRODUCT OF PEORIA - - -

THE BASKETBALL TEAM AT RICHWOODS HIGH SCHOOL.

AND LET ME JUST SAY THAT I WOULD LIKE

NOTHING BETTER THAN TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE - - -

AND GO UNDEFEATED IN ILLINOIS IN 1976.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH, AND GOOD NIGHT.