ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1976
THANK YOU GENERAL VAN STOCKUM
AMBASSADOR COOPER
CONGRESSMAN TIM LEE CARTER
CONGRESSMAN MAZZOLI
CONGRESSMAN SNYDER
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
I AM PROUD TO BE HERE IN LOUISVILLE THIS EVENING

TO ADDRESS THE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE AND THEIR FRIENDS.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP

OF FINE AMERICANS — CITIZENS WHO ARE VITALLY INTERESTED.

AS I AM, IN THE DEFENSE OF THIS COUNTRY.
I was happy to see that even in the midst

of all the excitement of the Kentucky Derby,

one of our National Guardsmen, Sergeant Gary Wall

who is here tonight was on the alert. I salute him

for his quick thinking and quick action in smothering

that smoke bomb thrown onto the track.
WE SURE COULD USE A FEW MORE LIKE SERGEANT WALL

TO SMOTHER SOME OF THE SMOKE THAT IS CLOUDING THE REAL ISSUES

LIKE SERGEANT WALL --

TO SMOTHER SOME OF THE SMOKE THAT IS CLOUDING THE REAL ISSUES

Before the American people in 1976.

IN THE PRIMARY RACES.

BUT I AM NOT HERE TONIGHT TO TALK ABOUT RACES,

HORSE OR POLITICAL

I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU MY FEELINGS ABOUT DEFENSE

AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.
THE FIRST PERSON TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED ORGANIZATION AT ITS FIRST ARMED FORCES DAY BANQUET IN 1919, WAS ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT MILITARY LEADERS, GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING.
Pershing spoke after the end of World War One --

A war that had found America unprepared.

Pershing knew what it meant to go to war unprepared.

He had seen for himself the terrible price it had cost

in American blood, spilled in the trenches and hedgerows

of France.
LIKE ANY MILITARY COMMANDER, PERSHING WANTED HIS FORCES FIGHTING TOGETHER AS A SINGLE AMERICAN UNIT. BUT AT FIRST HE WAS FORCED TO SPLIT OFF SOME OF HIS DIVISIONS TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE BRITISH AND FRENCH FORCES.
AND WHY WAS THAT? ONE VERY IMPORTANT REASON.

THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE HAD NO TANKS.

AND IN 1917 TANKS WERE RAPIDLY CHANGING THE NATURE OF THE

BATTLEFIELD.

TANKS WERE THE DECISIVE PUNCH IN ANY ATTACK.
OUR FIGHTING FORCES HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEN. SPEAKING HERE TONIGHT, NOT 30 MILES FROM THE ARMOR CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AT FORT KNOX,

LET ME SAY TANKS TODAY ARE A CRITICAL ELEMENT OF AMERICAN GROUND COMBAT POWER. AS WE SAW IN THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR, THE TANK PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN GROUND COMBAT.
AND AS PART OF OUR BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977,

WE ARE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT AMERICAN SOLDIERS HAVE NOTHING

BUT THE BEST IN THIS CRUCIAL AREA. THAT BUDGET CALLS FOR

THE PURCHASE OF BETTER THAN THIRTY PERCENT MORE TANKS THAN

WE HAVE GONE FROM FIRST PRODUCTION TO A SECOND

THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1975. AND WE ARE NOW TESTING

ADVANCED NEW TANKS, TO SELECT THE VERY BEST THAT CAN BE

PROVIDED TO THE AMERICAN SOLDIER.
WE CAN ALSO LOOK WITH CONFIDENCE TO OUR SUBSTANTIAL ARSENAL OF THE WORLD'S MOST EFFECTIVE ANTI-TANK SYSTEMS, BOTH AIR AND GROUND.

AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLS HAVE MADE US THE FOUNDATION OF THE FREE WORLD'S MILITARY MIGHT, but we must not think that great progress to stop there. R & D is an important, mixed element in the F.Y. 77 budget, I recommend an 11% increase in Defense Dept. research and development.

AS I NOTED EARLIER THIS WEEK AT THE OPENING OF ARMED FORCES WEEK AT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT:
-- WE HAVE LAID THE KEEL FOR THE FIRST OF A SERIES
OF NEW MISSILE LAUNCHING SUBMARINES, THE TRIDENT MISSILE FLEET,
WHICH WILL BE THE FOUNDATION FOR A STRONG AND TECHNOLOGICALLY
SUPERIOR FORCE THROUGH THE 1980s.
We are developing new fighters, a new intercontinental ballistic missile for the 1980s, and a new cruise missile for our air and naval forces. The B-1 is approaching its final testing and have. I went on to say that we owe our soldiers and sailors and marines and airmen the finest tools this country can provide.

...recommended the promptest funds for the 200 plane aircraft which will be phased in as we replace our B-52s.
THAT GOES FOR ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR TOTAL FORCE, BOTH ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENTS. THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES ARE A GREAT PART OF AMERICA'S FIGHTING TEAM. AND I INTEND TO CONTINUE IMPROVING THE COMBAT POWER AND THE READINESS OF THAT FORCE.
WITHIN THE LAST TWO HOURS I SIGNED INTO LAW A BILL MAKING OUR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE UNITS AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR TOTAL FORCE. UNTIL TODAY, IT TOOK A NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR AN ACT OF CONGRESS TO PUT THE RESERVES INTO ACTION. UNDER THIS NEW LAW, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO MOBILIZE UP TO 50,000 OF THE SELECTED RESERVE FOR UP TO 90 DAYS.
OF COURSE WE ALL HOPE THAT SUCH AN ORDER WILL NEVER HAVE TO BE GIVEN. BUT IF IT IS, WE CAN NOW COUNT ON THE EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RESERVISTS TO DEFEND OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.
THIS MEANS OUR RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD ARE BEING GIVEN INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY, AND GREATER IMPORTANCE IN OUR TOTAL FORCE. SO IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT THEY BE EQUIPPED AND TREATED AS FIRST-CLASS SOLDIERS, AND SECRETARY RUMSFELD AND I ARE GOING TO SEE THEY GET THE ADVANCED EQUIPMENT THEY DESERVE.
I was glad to hear that the Kentucky Air National Guard has just replaced their outdated R-F 101s with one of our most modern reconnaissance fighters, the R-F-4-C. This is just the type of improvement we are aiming to achieve.
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THOSE REPRESENTED IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT — THE 100th ARMY RESERVE DIVISION, THE KENTUCKY AIR NATIONAL GUARD, THE RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, AND THE RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS — ARE PART OF A GREAT FIGHTING TEAM THAT DESERVES AMERICA'S SUPPORT.
THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, AMERICA HAS SHOWN ITS ABILITY TO RAISE GREAT FIGHTING FORCES ON SHORT NOTICE.

IN WORLD WAR ONE, FOR EXAMPLE, WITHIN 18 MONTHS, GENERAL PERSHING WAS ABLE TO PRODUCE AN ARMY TWO MILLION STRONG, THAT DECISIVELY DEFEATED TROOPS HARDENED BY FOUR YEARS OF WAR.
IN FACT, THE SPEED AT WHICH AMERICA HAS MOBILIZED

HAS BEEN MATCHED ONLY BY THE SPEED WITH WHICH AMERICA

DISMANTLED MUCH OF ITS MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT/TIME AND

TIME AGAIN LEAVING US ILL-PREPARED FOR THE NEXT THREAT

TO OUR FREEDOM.
America today can no longer afford to rely on this roller-coaster approach to our national defense.

The awesome speed and technology of modern warfare mean we would not have 18 months — or even 18 days — to prepare our own defense.

The Atlantic and Pacific oceans cannot provide...
IF WE ARE FORCED TO FIGHT AGAIN, THE NEXT
WAR IS LIKELY TO BE "COME-AS-YOU-ARE," MUTANT MADNESS.

WE ARE STRONG TODAY. WE ARE WELL PREPARED
TO DETER WAR -- BUT IF DETERRENCE SHOULD FAIL, WE ARE
WELL PREPARED TO CONTROL THE CONFLICT AND AVOID NUCLEAR
CONFRONTATION.
OUR JOB NOW IS TO MAKE SURE THAT AMERICA REMAINS STRONG. AND I PROMISE YOU, WE WILL.

IN MY BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1976 AND 1977, I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO ARREST THE DOWNWARD TREND IN AMERICAN MILITARY SPENDING FOR WHICH THE CONGRESS MUST BEAR RESPONSIBILITY.

It is hard to believe but in the last 10 years the Congress has reduced $50 billion from the military budgets it submitted by 3 Presidents.
THAT TREND IN THE CONGRESS HAS REDUCED

THE DEFENSE SHARE OF OUR FEDERAL BUDGET TO ITS LOWEST LEVEL

SINCE FISCAL YEAR 1940 — AND THE LOWEST SHARE

OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT SINCE BEFORE THE KOREAN WAR.
THIS HAS COME TO PASS FOR ONE REASON --

BECAUSE THE CONGRESS, OVER THE LAST DECADE, HAS REDUCED

THE DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSALS OF THREE PRESIDENTS

BY SOME 45 BILLION DOLLARS.

I FOUGHT THAT TREND AS A CONGRESSMAN FOR 25 YEARS.

FOR 14 OF THOSE YEARS I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE

ON THE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE.
FOR 14 YEARS, FOR FIVE MONTHS A YEAR,
I SPENT MANY HOURS EACH DAY LISTENING TO SECRETARIES
OF DEFENSE, CHAIRMEN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
ALL THE SECRETARIES OF THE ARMY, THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE,
ALL THE TOP GENERALS AND ADMIRALS.
WHAT I LEARNED THEN CONFIRMED THE LESSON
OF MY WARTIME EXPERIENCE IN THE NAVY
THE LESSON THAT PEACE DEMANDS PREPAREDNESS,
AND THAT WEAKNESS INVITES WAR.
AND IN MY TWO YEARS AS PRESIDENT, I ASSURE YOU
I HAVE USED ALL THAT I HAVE LEARNED IN PUTTING TOGETHER PROGRAMS
FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE WHICH PRODUCED TWO OF THE LARGEST
PEACETIME DEFENSE BUDGETS IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

This year, we can not let Congress slash our mutiny budget.
I know America needs a strong national defense.
WE MUST KEEP OUR FORCES STRONG TO KEEP THE PEACE.

as they have in the past. Indeed, weeks ago I bluntly warned the
Congress - if the defense budget is
reduced, it will be vetoed. and
I will go to the American
people on the issue.
THAT MEANS HAVING THE BEST SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN AND MARINES, AND GIVING THEM THE FINEST TRAINING AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE EQUIPMENT MONEY CAN BUY.

THAT MEANS SETTING A FIRM COURSE FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT — NOT JUST IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET — BUT IN ALL THE AREAS WHERE WE CAN HELP TO KEEP AMERICA THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH.
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, WHEN HE WAS GENERAL OF THE ARMY, ONCE REMARKED THAT OUR FIGHTING FORCES ARE JUST THE CUTTING EDGE OF A GREAT MACHINE. THE INSPIRATION AND POWER FOR THAT MACHINE, HE SAID, ARE FOUND IN THE HEARTS OF OUR CITIZENS.
AND THE SPIRITUAL POWERS OF A NATION
ITS RELIGIOUS FAITH, ITS SELF-RELIANCE, ITS CAPACITY
FOR INTELLIGENT SACRIFICE - IKE CALLED THESE
THE MOST IMPORTANT STONES IN ANY DEFENSE STRUCTURE.
OUR DEFENSES ARE STRONG, NOT JUST

BECAUSE THEIR CUTTING EDGE IS SHARP, BUT BECAUSE AMERICA'S

SPIRIT IS UNBEATABLE. AMERICA IS PROSPEROUS,

PEACEFUL AND PROUD ON ITS 200th BIRTHDAY.
ALL OF US MUST DO OUR PART TO SEE THAT AMERICA REMAINS STRONG IN EVERY RESPECT. AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL DO OUR PART, AND THAT WE STAND READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OUR THIRD CENTURY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT