
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 76

1918 May 29

Annapolis, MD

May 29, 1918

[Annapolis, Maryland]

FDR Speech File

0076

MORE WARS ARE STILL TO COME.

This Is The Prediction Of Assistant Secretary Of The Navy
F. D. Roosevelt.

ADDRESSES RESERVE MEN.

Duties Will Include Education Of American People To The Need Of Preparedness Says Speaker.

The present world conflict is not going to be the last war America will have to fight, and because of their touch with civilian thought being closer than can be gotten by the strictly service man, the duty of the Reserve Engineers will be to see that there is no falling back into the old ways of unpreparedness. This was the message of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt to the class of young officers who today completed their course of intensive training at the Naval Academy.

With very simple ceremonies, four hundred and fifty young men who four months ago were in college, business houses and professional offices, this morning after fifteen weeks of application to the practical side of the naval officer's duties received their certificates of satisfactory completion of their preparation.

The assistant secretary, with Rear Admiral Leigh C. Palmer, of the Bureau of Navigation, arrived shortly after 10 from Washington in an automobile. After a brief stop at the residence of Rear Admiral Eberle, the party proceeded to Mahan Hall, where the official reception by the Naval Academy Band and a company of U. S. Marines was tendered.

Entering the auditorium of Mahan Hall, about the galleries of which were grouped the friends and families of the Reserves while the young officers themselves occupied the main floor, the ceremonies opened with a brief prayer by the Rev. Sydney K. Evans, chaplain at the Academy. In his invocation the Chaplain asked that God be with, keep and bless all sent forth today in God's name from the Academy.

Calling attention to the fact that they were the third class of young officers to complete the Reserve Officers preparatory course at the Academy, Admiral Eberle said he thought there was no place so fitting to hold such ceremonies as Mahan Hall, where anciently preserved over their heads hung the old and battle-scarred flags which stand for the best traditions of the American Navy. Complimenting the men of the class on their quick grasp of their duties and the traditions of the Navy, the Superintendent said reports show that members of the other

the old and battle-scarred flags which stand for the best traditions of the American Navy. Complimenting the men of the class on their quick grasp of their duties and the traditions of the Navy, the Superintendent said reports show that members of the other classes of Reservists are making good in every sense of the word. "That Reserves will maintain the "do or die" spirit of the Navy and if necessary make the "supreme sacrifice" Admiral Eberle said he felt confident.

Mr. Roosevelt, in a voice remarkably clear and distinct, told first of his particular interest in the workings of the Naval Reserve.

"Why, when I started out a few years ago for a bigger navy and for a reserve corps my plans were called but the wild imaginations of an over-confident young man," said he. He then gave, however, a history of the 1916 summer cruise of four weeks aboard naval vessels for civilians. "Out of the 2,000 men who took that cruise, which some people referred to as a 'joy ride,' fourteen hundred, upon this country's entry into the war, entered the navy, three hundred went into the army, and from this 1700 over 50 per cent are now commissioned officers in one or the other branch of the service," he announced, amid great applause.

The speaker paid a tribute and a compliment to the splendid guiding hand of Rear Admiral Eberle. "You cannot have had this training under such an officer without acquiring realization of what the Navy today stands for," he declared.

"The Assistant Secretary then reminded the graduates that they have not a duty but an opportunity to render the nation now and for all the rest of their lives a great service. "I want to impress this duty to the nation, now and after the war is over, upon you. Through your closer touch with the civilian life and the life of the country outside the navy, you will have a splendid opportunity to spread the need of America, being at all times prepared. You have and will have for this purpose access to civil thought in a way the regular officers of the navy do not have."

The danger to America after the war will, in the opinion of Mr. Roosevelt, be the kind of apathy that succeeded the civil war. After pointing out that America had been a pacifist nation, the speaker predicted that almost inevitably there will spring up after the war a party claiming there will be no more wars; and one that will make the old predictions about "a million men springing to arms in a night." "It will be part of your opportunity," said the Assistant Secretary, "to bring home to the people the thought that America must have

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 3.)

MORE WARS ARE STILL TO COME.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5.)
hereafter a body of men always ready for use in time of war."

"That the men who come back from this war do not go into politics, to pile up pension lists, and do not boast only a dress uniform to be brought out for parades on July 4th and Memorial Day was the plea of the speaker. "Come back," said he, "to the country to let the people who do not know, realize that preparedness is worth while. Then we will never be faced again with the same situation that confronted America in April, 1914."

After the graduation ceremonies most of the young officers made a dash for trains heading homeward for a brief leave of absence prior to reporting to their ships for duty afloat.

The present class will, on June 11th, be succeeded by the Fourth and largest class of Reservists yet to start training at the Academy.

HALL OF RECORDS

Date.. *April 24, 1953..*

.....
Copy from: *Evening Capital*

Libr..... Fol.....
Speech of F. D. Roosevelt