
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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~~(This identification was obtained by comparison of
this draft with Ross and Grobin, "This Democratic
Roosevelt," (New York, 1932), p. 122. The identity
thus established is not positive.)~~

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In the general problem of a plan for national defense, the Navy is not faced with a task of anything like the magnitude of that of the Army. We have our problems nevertheless and it ought to be worked ^{out} as far as possible along the same lines as the Army.

~~During~~ Before the war I tried in every way possible to call attention to the need of a Naval Reserve. I said we would need at least 150,000 men additional, and I was ~~totally~~ smited at not only by civilians but by many regular naval officers. ^{When war came} We actually increased the Navy by more than 400,000 new men, and we were still growing when the ~~war~~ ^{it} ended.

Today with hostilities over we cannot afford to drift back either in Army or Navy to prewar lack of a trained reserve. It is true that for perhaps 10 years to come we can count on a large proportion of those who have been honorably discharged.

But practical steps should be taken now to build up a system of training for the future. We still need in the Navy a competent organized reserve of 150,000 officers and men, just as much as we did three years ago.

Of course it is well known that I have always favored universal training for the young men of the nation. Quite aside from its military and naval value it is bound to come for the very simple reason that it produces better citizens. It matters little whether you stress its value because ~~it~~ gives better physical bodies, or because it does away with illiteracy, or because it Americanizes the foreigners, or because it eliminates sectionalism ^{or} narrow partisanship. These and a hundred other reasons all point in the same direction.

I go so far as to say that any system of universal training should concern the Navy as well as the Army. The two services

should march hand in hand. More than
 that the two services must in the future
 become far more intimately connected with
 the general life of the nation than they
 have been in the past. Two bogeys have
 faced us heretofore: one the bogey of
 militarism, of a military caste or class;
 the other the bogey of the untrained, un-
 disciplined citizens army which "springs
 to arms in a night". The war has taught
 us that both of these are dangerous in
 themselves, but that ~~they may be made~~
 out of the elements of each can be created
 a system of proper national defense which
 will at the same time be an asset in time
 of peace.

I hope that the American Legion will
 enunciate clearly the principles of such
 an organization. Details of a definite
~~this~~ measure are more the concern of
 the Congress than if two or three million
 American men will ~~not~~ ~~not~~ themselves on.

record, men who base their opinions on personal experience, I believe the great principle will prevail.

If the Legion will leave politics alone, and also questions ~~of~~ which ~~are~~ are not in any way connected with the Legion itself, and confine itself to the really great national questions of defense, of better citizenship, of Americanism, then and then only will it as an organization become a powerful factor for the good of the United States.

The field of usefulness is a ~~wide~~ broad one, bounded only by selfishness and partisanship and petty jealousies. Let us by remaining in that broad field and never overstepping the line show in the present and in the years to come that we care first of all and above all for the continued well being of the ~~country~~ nation in times of peace as well as in times of war.