

May 31, 1940

[Message to Congress - Additional Defense Appropriation]

FDR Speech File

May 21-1940

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

The almost incredible events of the past two weeks in the European conflict, particularly as a result of the use of aviation and mechanized equipment, together with the possible consequences of further developments, necessitate another enlargement of our military program.

No individual, no group can clearly foretell the future. As long, however, as a possibility exists that not one continent or two continents but all continents may become involved in a world wide war, reasonable precaution demands that American defense be made more certain.

An investigation into manufacturing resources since my message of May 16th, to determine the practicability of placing additional orders with industry for special material, both to provide an early expansion of existing production facilities, and to obtain increased quantities of the special weapons concerned, has caused the War and Navy Departments to submit to me an urgent and new recommendation that increased appropriations and authorizations for the National Defense be made before the adjournment of the present Congress.

Over and beyond the acquisition of this actual material is the evident requirement for the immediate creation of additional production facilities to meet possible future

emergencies as well as present deficiencies in the making of munitions, such as guns, ammunition and fire control equipment. These facilities require a long time to create and to reach quantity production. The increased gravity of the situation indicates that action should be taken without delay.

The problem of defending our national institutions and territorial integrity is no longer a problem for men equipped simply with an indomitable determination. Modern defense requires that this determination be supported by the highly developed machinery of our industrial productive capacity.

The expansion of our defense program makes it necessary that we undertake immediately the training and retraining of our people, and especially our young people, for employment in industry and in service in the Army and Navy.

The requirements of industry and the expanded armed forces for persons with experience in mechanical and manual fields are obviously going to be great. We do not have such trained persons in the number that will be required for the tasks that lie ahead of us if our defense is to be assured. We have, therefore, the task of training a large number in the skills and semi-skills required by modern production in industry and by a highly mechanized defense force in the Army and Navy. A primary consideration in

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In the national effort for defense upon which we are now engaged, it is imperative that we make full and effective use of the mighty capacities that lie in our population. Here as yet undeveloped lie the ability and the strength needed in the building up of our armaments to provide a sure industrial foundation for the meeting of any and all defense requirements. Without the full development of these skills, our national defense will be less than it must be in the critical days which lie ahead. Without the full contribution of our people, our defense cannot attain the invulnerability which the nation demands and which we are determined it shall have.

The one most obvious lesson of the present war in Europe is the value of the factor of speed. There is definite danger in waiting to order the complete equipping and training of armies after a war begins.

Therefore, I suggest the speedy enlargement of the program for equipping and training in the light of our defense needs.

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dealing with the training of young men for non-combatant services to make available to the appropriate committees of the Congress the plans and proposals which they have laid before me.

These plans call for immediate appropriations to carry forward Congressional decisions in bills already pending, for immediate appropriations to add to the program and for authorizations to enter into contracts which it will take some time to complete.

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STEPHEN EARLY

Secretary to the President

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Therefore, I suggest the speedy enlargement of the program for equipping and training in the light of our defense needs.

I have instructed the representatives of the War and Navy Departments and also the representatives of the several agencies dealing with the training of young men for non-combatant services to make available to the appropriate committees of the Congress the plans and proposals which they have laid before me.

These plans call for immediate appropriations to carry forward Congressional decisions in bills already pending, for immediate appropriations to add to the program and for authorizations to enter into contracts which it will take some time to complete.

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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

May 31, 1940.

June 1940

THE PRESIDENT'S DRAFT # 1

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

It is necessary that the people of this Nation view the problem of national defense with wholly dispassionate realism. Never have we as a nation been able to define the word "defense" in terms of a specific probable attack on us at a given point and with known land and sea forces. Always we have had to take into consideration not only the probabilities but also the possibilities of attacks by unspecified nations or combinations of nations with the use of unpredictable forces.

Since 1913, partly in order to replace obsolete World War materiel and partly because of growing unrest in various parts of the world, we have steadily built up our Army and Navy forces.

The Congress during the first half of 1939 appropriated large increases which, however, in the light of later events, were not large enough.

During the autumn and early winter the course of the war in Europe provided ^{few} startling developments. By Executive Order, I increased the strength of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard within statutory authorizations and in January, 1940 I submitted a Budget which included provisions for a substantial expansion of personnel and for large increases in order to procure essential equipment for a larger Army and Navy.


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HARRY L. HOPKINS

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Beginning in April this year, events in Europe brought startling changes and many new lessons. They brought with them also a possible and even probable extension of war operations to world-wide fields together with potential threats to American defense which a year ago had appeared highly improbable.

Therefore, in addition to the increased Budget of January, I recommended to the Congress ~~to the Congress~~ in May appropriations and contract authorizations for \$1,182,000,000 for equipment, replacements and modernization and for the speeding up of existing defense contracts. On May 31, I informed the Congress that I was submitting additional estimates totalling over a billion dollars to further add to our defense.

As things stand today the Congress has approved a program which may be summarized as follows:

Funds for non-commercial items such as tanks, guns artillery and munitions to equip an organized force of 800,000 men.

Funds for commercial items such as trucks, clothing and similar equipment for at least 600,000 men.

Funds to expand Army aircraft to 10,000 planes and Navy aircraft to 5,700 planes.

Funds ~~and~~ contract authorizations to proceed with



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Harry L. Hopkins

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the Naval expansion program as heretofore authorized.

The principal lesson of the war up to the present time is that partial defense is inadequate defense -- that the speed of American warfare precludes arming after the fact of war -- and that if the United States is to have any defense it might just as well have total defense. We cannot defend ourselves just a little here and a little there; we must be able to defend ourselves all over and at any time.

Our plans for national security, therefore, should envisage total defense -- I believe that the people of this country are willing to make any sacrifice to attain that end.

In consultation with the War and Navy Departments and the Advisory Commission to the National Defense Council, I find substantial agreement that the following be made the policy and the program of the National Government. I call special attention to the fact that the adoption of this program will accomplish two objectives: First, the actual manufacture of the items for Army and Navy for which orders are given and, second, the building up of production facilities which today are wholly inadequate for carrying on a major war in our own defense.

1. ~~Initiate~~ Initiation of the Naval Expansion Program provided for by H. R. 10,100 designed to build up the Navy to meet any possible combination of hostile naval



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forces. Anything less leaves the United States in a position of insecurity.

2. The complete equipment for a ground force of approximately 1,200,000 men, though of course this total of men would not be in the Army in time of peace.
3. The procurement of reserve stocks of critical or non-commercial items such as tanks, guns, artillery, ammunitions, etc., to equip a ground force of 2,000,000 ^{if} men ~~for~~ a mobilization of such a force became necessary.
4. Establishment and development of manufacturing facilities to produce critical items of reserve stocks to maintain in combat 2,000,000 men; and creation of additional production facilities which could not readily be improvised after an attack on us commenced.
5. Procurement of approximately 15,000 additional planes for the Army and 4,300 for the Navy, complete with necessary spare engines, armaments, etc.

I take this occasion to report the excellent progress being made for the procurement of the equipment already ordered by the Congress. The several branches of the Government are working in close cooperation with each other and with private manufacturers.



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As an illustration I indicate briefly the developments of airplane production:

1. January 1, 1939	productive capacity of Military planes /	6,500
	Productive capacity of small commercial craft, which in the event of war would be transferred into training plane production	<u>9,500</u>
	Total	15,000
July 1, 1939	Military planes	9,000
	Small commercial planes	<u>10,000</u>
	Total	19,000
January 1, 1939	Military planes	14,000
	Small commercial planes	<u>11,000</u>
	Total	25,000
July 1, 1940	Military planes	16,000
	Small commercial planes	<u>11,000</u>
	Total	27,000
January 1, 1941	Estimated Military planes	18,000
	Small commercial planes	<u>12,000</u>
	Total	30,000
July 1, 1941	Estimated Military planes	26,000
	Small Commercial planes	<u>12,000</u>
	Total	38,000

Finally, it is estimated by the Advisory Commission to the National Defense Council that if the program continues as outlined the productive capacity of the United States by April 1, 1942 will be at least 40,000 military planes a year plus at least 12,000 small commercial planes.

In other words, this program represents an orderly



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but concentrated effort to prepare the United States for any actuality of defense and the same relative increase in productive capacity can be applied to other critical items such as artillery and ammunition and tanks.

The total amount which I asked of the Congress in order that this program may be carried out with all reasonable speed is \$ which it is estimated would be spent out of the Treasury between now and July 1, 1941 and an additional \$ for contract authorizations. These contracts to be let at the earliest possible moment.



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TO BE WORKED IN AN APPROPRIATE PLACE

I emphasize the fact that the program submitted together with the previous authorizations will give the United States 35,000 Army and Navy airplanes.



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