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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**

**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR  
and the New Deal**

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**File No. 1286**

**1940 June 11**

**Request for Appropriations to Relieve Civilian  
Distress in War-Torn Areas**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

May 29, 1940.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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From the Powers of  
HENRY L. Stimson

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The following is submitted for possible inclusion in your Message to Congress:

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 impulse for our military program. 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 Department to submit to me an urgent recommendation that increased appropriations for the National Defense be secured before the adjournment of the present Congress. *And Many*

Over and beyond these requests for material is the evident requirement for the immediate creation of additional production facilities to meet present deficiencies in facilities for the manufacturing of munitions, such as guns, ammunition and fire control equipment, since they 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 following supplemental estimates are therefore submitted to the Congress: For tanks and mechanized equipment - \$90,000,000; for additional bombs and other ammunition for planes - \$26,900,000; for storage facilities for additional bombs and ammunition - \$2,900,000; for 105 mm guns and ammunition - \$8,640,000; for antiaircraft material to equip eight additional regiments - \$30,400,000; for 2,850 combat airplanes completely equipped to speed up existing production facilities and to provide for the further increase of the GHQ Air Force - \$300,000,000. For further research and development of all airplanes and all types of munitions - \$23,700,000; for the erection of additional production facilities for guns, ammunition and fire control equipment - \$200,000,000.

*Henry St.rodovich*

DRAFT 5-30-60

*Musson & Company  
Atty's*

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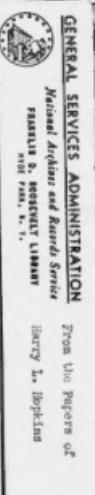
consequences of further developments, necessitate another investigation of our military program. An investigation into manufacturing resources since my message of May 16th, to determine the practicability of placing additional orders with industry for special materiel, both to provide an early expansion 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

*and authorization* *main*  
that increased appropriations for the National Defense be secured

before the adjournment of the present Congress.

*Execution of this action*  
Over and beyond the ~~desire~~ ~~desire~~ for material is the



evident requirement for the immediate creation of additional production facilities to meet present deficiencies in ~~facilities~~  
~~the making of~~  
~~and the delivery of~~ munitions, such as guns, ammunition and fire control equipment. ~~This~~ <sup>possible future</sup> ~~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 ~~is that~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~involves~~ this determination 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



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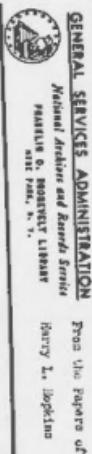
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From the Papers of  
Henry L. Hopkins

employment in industry and 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 ~~very~~ great. We do not have such 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~~ <sup>large</sup> number of persons 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 the training of skills must be, not the existing distribution of workers among skilled fields, but the distribution that ~~would~~ <sup>is</sup> required ~~when~~ <sup>if</sup> our industrial machine and our defensive forces ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> fully mobilized.

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 youth. Here as yet



*A little well*  
undeveloped lie the ~~strength~~ 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 *defence*  
~~work~~ 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. *R.D.*

*Therefore*, suggest the speedy enlargement of the  
*existing and* program for training *instructors* in the light of our defense  
needs.

I earnestly hope that your Committee can find it  
possible to include the appropriation required for a training  
program in a pending bill which can be considered by Congress  
at the earliest possible moment.



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Harry L. Hopkins

I have instructed the representatives of the War

and Navy Departments and the representatives of the several  
<sup>also</sup> agencies dealing with the training of young men to make

available to the appropriate committees of Congress the plans  
and proposals which they have <sup>for non combatant troops</sup>  
<sup>said before</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>3</sup>  
and proposals which they have <sup>already made to me.</sup>

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

The amounts involved are large -  
over a billion dollars - but I  
believe that for national safety  
the needs are urgent.

DRAFT



In order to help meet the pressing needs in the grave emergency resulting from the brutal warfare in Europe, the American Red Cross is now conducting a national drive for a War Relief Fund of at least twenty million dollars.

I hope that the American people will quickly respond to the appeal of their Red Cross, because every dollar and more will be desperately needed. These funds will be used by the Red Cross for medical and hospital supplies, ambulances, etc., for wounded and sick soldiers and civilians, as well as for clothing and food for the refugees. However, the appalling problem created by the millions of refugees in France, from Holland, Belgium and northeastern France, requires vast quantities of food and other supplies, supplemental to that furnished by the Red Cross.

Under these circumstances I do not believe that our citizens want their government to stand idly by at this hour of critical need, and that they will want to supplement the splendid humanitarian work which their Red Cross is doing, to the extent, therefore, that more supplies will be available to the Red Cross for other urgent purposes, which are not provided for under the government appropriation, which is solely for aid to the refugees.

DRAFT

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Under these circumstances I do not believe that our citizens want their government to stand idly by at this hour of critical need, <sup>their good I am sure</sup> and that they will want to supplement the splendid humanitarian work which their Red Cross is doing. To the extent, therefore, that more supplies <sup>are</sup> available <sup>by the govt</sup> ~~it will be able to meet~~ <sup>needs</sup> the Red Cross ~~for~~ other urgent purposes, which are not provided for under the government appropriation, which is solely for aid to the refugees.

DRAFT

June 11, 1940.

My dear Mr. Vice President:-

World events have made it clear to the American people that in the interest of American defense it is necessary for us to engage in a greatly enlarged program of training and armament.

At the same time our deepest sympathy has gone out to the civilian populations of war-torn areas, and I believe that this sympathy should be expressed by a concrete example of our inherent and decent generosity.

Many millions of dollars have been given to the American Red Cross for relief purposes in Europe, but I feel that the Government itself should greatly add to the assistance that is now being given.

In the pending Relief Bill before the Congress we are making possible the expenditure of over one billion dollars for the relief of the needy unemployed in the United States. And in addition to this, large further sums are being spent from day to day by states and municipalities in the care of the needy who cannot be given employment on work relief projects.

In view of these large sums spent at home, I feel that the Congress would receive nation-wide support if it were to add ~~an~~ appropriation to the Relief Bill in the sum of at least fifty million dollars as a token of our deep-seated desire to help not only Americans but people who are destitute in other lands.

Clearly the greater part of the amount appropriated will be spent in the United States for the purchase and export of food materials -- nearly all of which represent surplus in this country. These surpluses are due principally to the war situation in other lands.

We have used and are using a part of these surpluses for distribution to our own needy families. But there is still an excess which tends, incidentally, to depreciate the prices which American farmers receive for their products. Further export of these surplus food products will help our very large agricultural populations.

There are other things which the destitute refugees need across the seas — medicines and medical and nursing aid; bandages, surgical dressings, hospital garments and even cots and blankets and sheets; ambulances, <sup>transport vehicles</sup> clothing against the winter which will be upon them soon; safeguards against epidemics which could well spread throughout the world.

The appropriation I suggest should, I think, be kept in somewhat elastic form because it is clear that at this time it is impossible to forecast either the exact needs or the exact methods of meeting them.

I call attention to the fact that such an appropriation in no way lightens the burden which the American Red Cross has already assumed. It is necessary that the American Red Cross continue its splendid service for wounded and sick soldiers and civilians. An appropriation by the Congress will supplement the work of the Red Cross to meet the many additional crying needs of the civilian populations who have been driven from their homes.

~~How they~~ The American Red Cross has already set up, in collaboration with the French Govt and the French Red Cross, ~~and~~ ~~to assist~~ ~~the~~ ~~French~~ ~~Govt~~ ~~in~~ ~~its~~ ~~efforts~~ ~~to~~ ~~help~~ ~~the~~ ~~French~~ ~~people~~ ~~in~~ ~~their~~ ~~struggle~~ ~~for~~ ~~independence~~ ~~and~~ ~~sovereignty~~. It is my duty therefore to urge the Govt to supply funds by the Government for refugees,

shall be turned over to America Red Cross  
for prompt distribution.