

October 16, 1940

[Registration Day Speech]

1317

FDR Speech File

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT
REGISTRATION DAY
OCTOBER 16, 1940

On this day more than sixteen million young Americans are reviving the three hundred year old American custom of the Muster. They are obeying that first duty of free citizenship by which, from the earliest Colonial times, every able-bodied citizen was subject to the call for service in the national defense.

It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. For on this day we Americans proclaim the vitality of our history, the unity of our nation, the singleness of our will and the toughness of our faith.

We prepare -- ~~but not to wage war~~. We prepare to keep the peace in this new world which free men have built for free men to live in. The United States, a nation of one hundred and thirty million people, has today only about ~~one~~ hundred thousand -- half a million -- officers and men in ~~the~~ Army and National Guard. Other nations, smaller in population, have four and five and six million trained men in their armies. Our present program will train ~~one~~ hundred additional ^{eight} thousand men this coming year and ~~about~~ one million men each year thereafter. It is a program obviously of defensive preparation and of defensive preparation only.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with ~~clia~~
determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and
ships — all the tools which modern defense requires. We are
mobilizing our citizenship, for we are calling on men and women
and property and money to join in making ^{per} ~~total~~ defense ^{action} ~~possible~~.
Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone
in the arch of our national defense.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

Our security has been threatened by an ancient evil which wears a modern disguise. It calls itself world revolution. Its purpose is to wipe out all those fundamental civil liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win and fought to defend. It is not revolution to set men free; it is revolution to enslave the world.

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The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war -- those who have created the name and deed of Total War -- have imposed upon us and upon all free peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense.

But this day not only imposes a duty; it provides also an opportunity. ~~A~~ It provides an opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty -- an opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free. ~~Be~~ ^{It} musters our men and all our vast resources of material and mind and spirit, to build still higher and still stronger the citadel of our democracy. The knowledge that free men can build a better world than any yet achieved impels us to make the sacrifices necessary to the security of freedom in this country and the fortification of our faith.

To the sixteen million young men who register today, I say that democracy is your cause -- the cause of youth.

A Democracy is the one form of society which keeps the future open -- the one form of society which guarantees to every man the right to ~~think~~ think and to speak, to dream and to plan a better life for himself and his country. ~~Under the despotisms, where dissent is treason, and even doubt is crime.~~

-Inset 3 A.

PARAGRAPH TO BE SUBSTITUTED ON PAGE #3

Democracy is the one form of society which guarantees to every new generation of men the right to imagine and to attempt to bring to pass a better world. Under the despotisms the imagination of a better world and its achievement are alike forbidden.

We of today with God's help,
can beseech the American to
labor on a nation in which the
ways of robbery & pride can
not be & to become. Such a
nation must be devoted to the
cause of peace. And it is for
that cause that America
comes into

the future will be frozen into the mould of the present, frozen by pressure and propaganda and fear.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your country, but your right to build your future for yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans ^{nation} of tomorrow a ~~country~~, ~~a way of life~~, that will live and think and work in the ways of liberty and justice. Such a nation cannot exist unless it lives in the ways of peace. It is for that cause that America arms itself. It is to that cause -- the cause of peace -- that we Americans today devote our national will and our national spirit and our national strength.



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officers and men in Army and National Guard. Other nations, smaller in population, have four and five and six million trained men in their armies. Our present program will train eight hundred thousand additional men this coming year and somewhat less than one million men each year thereafter. It is a program obviously of defensive preparation and of defensive preparation only.

JTP

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with clear determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- and all the other tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our citizenship, for we are calling on men and women and property and money to join in making our defense effective. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

Start 2.

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STP

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alike forbidden.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your
country, but your ~~want~~ will to build your future for yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans
of tomorrow a nation in which the ways of liberty and justice
will ~~want~~ survive and be secure. Such a nation must be devoted to
the cause of peace. And it is for that cause that America
arms itself.

It is to that cause -- the cause of peace -- that we
Americans today devote our national will and our national
spirit and our national strength.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Big reading copy
8 A.M.!

Draft of five-minute speech to be delivered by the President on

October 16th - Registration Day

MacLeish

I am speaking to the young men of America and to their families and to all those whose thoughts are with them on this day of registration for the national service.

It is a day of tremendous meaning in their lives and in the lives of all of us, for it is the day on which the young men of America affirm, in their own behalf and ours, the wholeness of this nation, and the singleness of its will to live, and the membership in its hopes and in its duties of all who share its citizenship.

In a sense the duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war to satisfy their lust for power -- those who have created the name and the deed of Total War -- have imposed upon all other peoples, and our own not least, the necessity of preparation for total defense.

But in another sense the duty of this day is not a duty imposed upon us from without. It is an opportunity afforded from within. We do not mobilize our manhood only to resist a threatened danger from beyond the seas. We mobilize our manhood and all our vast resources of material and mind and spirit to affirm our dedication to the cause of freedom and to build still higher and still stronger the house of freedom in this land.

The enemies of freedom have imposed the necessity of defense upon us but the necessity of defense affords an opportunity to push still further our deepest purpose as a people: united action in the cause of liberty and the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people shall be master and the people shall be truly free.

Of the families of the young men who register for the national service I ask this:



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WASH. 25, D. C.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

Do not believe that the services which may be demanded by their country of your sons will be an interruption of their lives, a break in your hopes for them. Do not think of the mobilization of America, which their action symbolizes, as time out of their dreams, time out of their plans, time out of their lives -- time out of their essential purposes as a man must take out time to kill a snake. The mobilization of America -- the mobilization of a free people which gathers itself together to be strong in the defense of freedom -- is not an interruption of its life or of the lives of those who are its citizens. The mobilization of America will be, must be, a mobilization of the nation's deepest forces to affirm its noblest hopes; to realize its potentialities as a democratic nation.

Of the young men themselves I ask that they remember this:
Democracy is the cause of youth.

Democracy is the cause of youth because democracy is the one form of society which keeps the future open -- the one form of society which guarantees to every man the right to question and to speak, and to propose a future different from the past.

Under the despotisms, where dissent is treason and even doubt is crime, the future is the frozen past -- the past frozen by fear into the future. Not even the scientist, not even the poet, can dissent or say that something else is better than the thing that is.

Democracy which keeps the future open for the generations as they rise, is your cause. And your act today affirms your loyalty not only to your country but to the hopes and possibilities of your own lives.



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WHITE HOUSE, W. C.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

REGISTRATION DAY

Sherwood

On this day more than sixteen million young Americans are registering for service to our country. It is, for all Americans, a solemn moment -- a moment filled with consciousness of the traditions we have inherited from the past, and of the future that our children will inherit from us. On this day, more than sixteen million young Americans are standing up to be counted.

As President of the United States, I wish to speak to these young men, and to their families, and their friends -- and that means all Americans -- every one of us.

There is no doubt in our hearts as to the reason for today's registration. We are preparing for the defense of our country, our institutions, our homes and our hopes for the good life, the free life. We are preparing not to wage war, not to enforce our national will upon any of our neighbors in the human community. We are preparing simply to keep the peace in this New World which free men have built for free men to live in.

Our security has been threatened by an ancient evil which wears a modern disguise. It is the evil of ruthless aggression inspired by greed. It calls itself world revolution. But it is not revolution as we have known and used that fighting word. It is not revolution to set men free; its purpose is to enslave men, to deprive them of those fundamental civil liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win and fought to defend.

It is the purpose of the Totalitarian revolution to gain for one small group domination of the world. When that is accomplished, they say, the world will be frozen into a master state which will



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman



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1940, N.Y.

Samuel I. Rosenman
from the People to the People

endure unchanged for a thousand years or more.

Opposed to that grim and bloody prospect is our own democratic faith in constant progress, constant improvement, - cultural, political and social. The basis of our democratic philosophy is that all human development is a revolutionary process. That was the challenge which was sounded in Magna Charta seven centuries ago. It was repeated by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. It was repeated by Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. We, the 130,000,000 free people of the United States of America, are repeating it now.

Out of the present historic crisis - this threat of total warfare which compels our total effort for total defense -- out of this tragic era must come a better world, a saner world, a cleaner, fairer world. It must come through that same revolutionary process which has inspired every succeeding generation since the ideals of freedom became a fact.

If we didn't have confidence in the future - our own democratic future - we could not today be making the sacrifices that we deem to be necessary for the security of our country and the future of our faith.

The young men who register today have no romantic illusions about the kind of warfare against which we are preparing. They are fully aware of the methods used by the invaders of Poland, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France. They know that modern warfare is a mechanical monster.

The families of these young men -- the whole civilian population -- have no illusions as to their own immunity from this modern warfare.

3.

They have watched the Battle of Britain, and they know that the real strength of Britain's defense is in the hearts and souls of its civilians.

The American people are realistic about this war. That is why they vehemently reject the enfeebling doctrine of appeasement. The American people refuse to succumb to the strategy of terror.

In the final beautiful words of the Declaration of Independence, the founding fathers pledged to the cause of liberty their "lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor". They kept that pledge. They freely made the sacrifice that was demanded of them, and by it they achieved the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and the Union which has grown and prospered and become the greatest nation on earth.

We today make the same pledge. We today are ready to make the same sacrifice. We today are confident that it is within the genius of the American people to progress bravely, nobly, unselfishly, decently - and Together.

God bless you. God bless the United States of America.



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From the Papers of
S. I. Rosenman

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 16, 1940

REGISTRATION DAY

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We prepare — but not to wage war. We prepare [simply] to keep the peace in this New World, which free men have built for free men to live in. We are preparing our defense, invincible defense, the surest guarantee of peace.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with grim determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships — all the tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our wealth, our industry, our labor. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.

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From the Files of
HARRY L. Hopkins

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

GWJ

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Our security has been threatened by an ancient evil which wears a modern disguise. It calls itself world revolution. But it is not the kind of revolution we Americans have known. Its purpose is to wipe out all those fundamental civil liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win and fought to defend. It is not revolution to set men free; it is revolution to enslave the world.

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From the Papers of
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WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

From the Papers of
Harry L. Hopkins

We of today, with God's help, can
bequeath to America & Canada a
nation ~~that~~
~~country~~ ~~the world's~~ ~~best~~ ~~and~~ ~~most~~ ~~in the~~
~~can be found~~ ~~ways~~ ~~of~~ ~~living~~
ways of living & working. Sudden

~~reform~~ ~~reform~~ ~~is a nation needed~~
~~to re-lease~~ ~~of~~ ~~feud~~ ~~on~~ ~~com~~
the greater



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From the papers of
Harry L. Hopkins

Our recently has been "unveiled" by an ancient lost which wears a modern disguise. It calls itself revolution but its purpose is to strip at all those fundamental and liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win & fought to defend. The word revolution is the long history of our people and ~~the~~ the on-going history of many centuries of time has meant revolution to not even feel. Now for the first time in centuries of ~~cooperation~~ ~~as well~~ the word is claimed by those who mean by revolution not revolution to not even feel let to endear the word.



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ALBANY, N. Y.

From the Projects of

Harvey L. Hopkins

To the oration written young men who
begin today, I say, the Democracy is
your cause - the cause of youth. Democracy
is the one form of society which guarantees
to every generation the right to imagine,
a better life possibly and to attempt to
bring it near, a little world. Under
the leadership Under the leadership
the imagination of a better world and
its achievement are also forbidden.

Your act today affirms not only your
loyalty to your country, but you ~~will~~ will
be linked upon forever for your action.

We Americans of your generation ~~and~~
soon now also ^{and} old, begin now, with the
help, to answer a question that I
have, a country we ~~will~~ ^{are} ~~have~~
~~have~~ ^{are} ~~will~~ ^{have} ~~have~~
~~have~~ ^{are} ~~will~~ ^{have} ~~have~~



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From the Papers of
Henry L. Hopkins

Franklin D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
WHITE PARK, N. Y.

Under the flag of service

Democracy is the one form of society which
guarantees to every man his right to enjoy
a little life of beauty and a little world
for him



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From the Papers of
Harry L. Hopkins

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 16, 1940

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SERIALIZED BY: Harry L. Hause

FROM THE PAPERS OF

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FDR Pres., U. S.

Harvey L. Hopkins

and still stronger the citadel of our democracy.

Out of the present crisis — out of this tragic age,
we know that there must come a better world, a saner world, a
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WILLIAM J. BYRNE, JR.

From the Bureau of
Harry L. Hopkins

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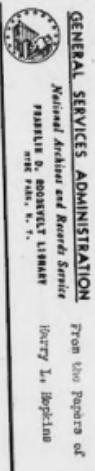
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FRANCIS P. BREWSTER, CHIEF

HARRY L. HOPKINS

From the Papers of

-2-

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Harry L. Hopkins

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OCTOBER 16, 1940

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It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. On this day, we Americans proclaim the unity of our Nation, the singleness of our will, and the toughness of our faith. Registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense. This mustering of man power is the complement of the mobilization of our wealth, our industry, our labor.

We prepare -- but not to wage war. We prepare simply to keep the peace in this New World which free men have built for free men to live in. In 1940, defense, invincible defense, is the surest guarantee of peace.

Our security has been threatened by an ancient evil which wears a modern disguise. It calls itself world revolution. But it is not the kind of revolution we Americans have known. Its purpose is to wipe out all those fundamental civil liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win and fought to defend. It is not revolution to set man free; it is revolution to enslave the world.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with grim determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- all the tools which modern defense requires.

P In the days when our forefathers laid the foundations of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.



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The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war -- those who have created the name and the deed of Total War -- have imposed upon us and upon all other peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense.

This day not only imposes a duty; it provides an opportunity. It is opportunity to push still further our deepest purpose as a people. It is opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty. It is opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free. We muster our men and all our vast resources of material and mind and spirit, to build still higher and still stronger the citadel of our democracy.

Out of the present crisis - out of this tragic era, we know that there must come a better world, a saner world, a cleaner and nobler world. The knowledge that such a world can be achieved impels us to make the sacrifices necessary for the security of our country and the fortification of our faith.

To the 16 million young men who register today, I say that democracy is your cause -- the cause of youth.

Democracy is the one form of society which keeps the future open -- the one form of society which guarantees to every man the right to question and to speak, to dream and to plan a better life for himself and his country. Under the despotisms, where dissent is treason, and even doubt is crime the present has been frozen into the mould of the future, frozen by pressure and propaganda and fear.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your country but your right to build your future for



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yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans of tomorrow a country and a world that will live and think and work in the ways of liberty and justice. Such a world cannot exist unless it lives in the ways of peace. It is for that cause that America arms itself. It is to that cause - the cause of peace - that we Americans today devote our national will and our national spirit and our national strength.



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Harry L. Hopkins

Draft A

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
OCTOBER 16, 1940 REGISTRATION DAY

[On this day, more than 16 million young Americans are standing up to be counted.]

It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. On this day, we Americans proclaim the unity of our Nation, the singleness of our will, and the toughness of our faith.

We prepare -- but not to wage war. We prepare [simply] to keep the peace in this New World, which free men have built for free men to live in. [We are preparing our defense, invincible defense, the surest guarantee of peace.]

Draft B
[Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with grim determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- all the tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our wealth, our industry, our labor. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.]

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

Our security has been threatened by an ancient evil which wears a modern disguise. [It calls itself world revolution. But it is not the kind of revolution we Americans have known.] Its purpose is to wipe out all those fundamental civil liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win and fought to defend. It is not revolution to set men free; it is revolution to enslave the world.



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Harry L. Hopkins



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RECORDS, RECORDERS LIBRARY

HARRY L. Hopkins
Administrator
of
Public Works

The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war -- those who have created the name and the deed of Total War -- have imposed upon us and upon all other peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense.

This day not only imposes a duty; it provides an opportunity. [It is opportunity to push still further our deepest purpose as a people.] It is opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty. It is opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free. We muster our men and all our vast resources of material and mind and spirit, to build still higher and still stronger the citadel of our democracy.

[Out of the present crisis - out of this tragic era, we know that there must come a better world, a saner world, a cleaner and nobler world.] The knowledge that ~~such a~~ world can be achieved impels us to make the sacrifices necessary for the security of our country and the fortification of our faith.

To the 46 million young men who register today, I say that democracy is your cause -- the cause of youth.

Democracy is the one form of society which keeps the future open -- the one form of society which guarantees to every man the right to question and to speak, to dream and to plan a better life for himself and his country. Under the despotisms, where dissent is treason, and even doubt is crime the ^{future will be} present has been frozen into the mould of the ^{frozen} past, frozen by pressure and propaganda and fear.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your country, but your right to build your future for

yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans of tomorrow a country [and a world] that will live and think and work in the ways of liberty and justice. Such a [nation] cannot exist unless it lives in the ways of peace. It is for that cause that America arms itself. It is to that cause - the cause of peace - that we Americans today devote our national will and our national spirit and our national strength.



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From the Papers of
Henry L. Hopkins

The United States, a nation of one hundred and thirty million people, has today [only] about five hundred thousand -- [half a million] officers and men in its Army and National Guard. Other nations, small in population, have four and five and six million trained men in their armies. [During the World War it took us over a year to have two million men sufficiently trained to go into action.]

Our present program will train five hundred thousand men this coming year and about one million men each year thereafter.

In view of these simple figures, and in view of the very small percentage of our population which will be trained even when the program is completed, it is correct and proper to call it a simple but very necessary program of insurance.

It is insurance in the event of attack on us against the killing of great numbers of untrained troops. It is insurance against the killing of brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers in their homes, as in the places they work. It is insurance against the destruction of our democracy and the replacement of it by the form of society in which every man, every woman, every boy and every girl is regimented in such a way that they cannot call their lives their own.



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NEW YORK, N. Y.

HARRY L. HOPKINS
From the "Report of
the Select Committee on

Incident B

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN PARAGRAPH FOUR ON PAGE ONE

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with grim determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- all the tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our citizenship, for we are calling on men and women and property and money to join in making total defense possible. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.



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WHITE HALL, N. Y.

From the papers of
Harry L. Hopkins

Because it is obvious that the United States is less liable
to attack if it is well prepared for defense, ~~it~~ ^{this} mustering
of young Americans into the national service is, therefore,
a definite step toward the maintenance of peace.



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Print the Papers of
Harry L. Hopkins

INSERT A - PAGE #2

The word "revolution" in the history of recent centuries has meant revolution to set men free; today, for the first time, we are faced with a new type -- revolution on two continents for the purpose of enslaving human beings instead of setting them free.



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From the Pages of
Harry L. Hopkins

The mothers and fathers of the country will join the sixteen million sons who enrol today in the knowledge that there is a little difference in modern warfare between the dangers of service at the front and service at home. Older men and younger men, older women and younger women, boys and girls, realize that all of us are in the same boat.



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From the Papers of
Henry L. Hopkins

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN FIRST PARAGRAPH ON PAGE I

On this day, more than sixteen million young Americans
are reviving the three hundred year old American historical
custom of the Muster. Since the earliest Colonial days it
has been a duty of citizenship that all ~~young~~ able-bodied
men are subject to service for the defense of their land.



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WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

From the Papers of

Harry L. Hopkins

SPECH OF THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 16, 1940

REGISTRATION DAY

On this day, more than 16 million young Americans are standing up to be counted. This is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in their lives. It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us.

On this day, we Americans proclaim the unity of this Nation, the singleness of its will, and the toughness of its faith. Registration for training and service is one more [heavy] stone in the arch of national preparation which we are building for defense.

We prepare--not to wage war; we prepare simply to keep the peace in this New World which free men have built for free men to live in.

Our security has been threatened by an ancient evil which wears a modern disguise. It calls itself world revolution. But it is not the kind of revolution we Americans have known. Its purpose is to wipe out all those fundamental civil liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win and fought to defend. It is not revolution to set men free; it is revolution to enslave the world.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with grim determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships--all the tools of death and destruction which modern



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman
1933-1945

defense requires. You, the young men of America, must learn how to use them, so that if attack comes, it will be met by more than blow for blow.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundations of democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Threats, ever present threats from abroad, call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Yours must once again be the spirit of those whose gun was never far from the plow; who went to worship with a Bible in one hand, a gun in the other; who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war--those who have created the name and the deed of Total War--have imposed upon us and upon all other peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense. They have left us no alternative but submission.

This day not only imposes a duty; it provides an opportunity. We do not muster our manhood only to resist a threatened danger from beyond the seas. We muster [our men and women, and] all our vast resources of material and mind and spirit, to build still higher and still stronger the temple of freedom in this land.

Here is opportunity to push still further our deepest purpose as a people. Here is opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty. Here is opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where



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JO MURRAY
Special Librarian
S. I. Rosenman

the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free.

Of the families of the young men who register for the national service, I ask this: Do not believe that the services which may be demanded of your sons by their country will be ~~merely~~ an interruption of their lives, a break in your hopes for them. Do not think of the mobilization of America, which their action symbolizes, as ~~merely~~ time out of their dreams, time out of their plans, time out of their lives. The mobilization of this Nation--the mobilization of a free people which gathers itself together to be strong in the defense of freedom--will be, must be, a mobilization of the Nation's deepest forces to affirm its noblest hopes, to realize its potentialities as a democratic nation.

Out of the present historic crisis--this threat of total warfare which compels our total effort for total defense--out of this tragic era, we know that there must come a better world, a saner world, a cleaner, fairer world. It must come through that same process which has inspired every succeeding generation since the ideals of freedom became a fact.

If we did not have confidence in the future--our own democratic future--we could not today be making the sacrifices so necessary for the security of our country and the fortification of our faith.



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From the Papers of
Samuel L. Rosenman

Of the young men themselves, I ask that they remember
this:

Democracy is the cause of youth.

Democracy is the cause of youth because democracy is
the one form of society which keeps the future open--the
one form of society which guarantees to every man the right
to question and to speak, and to propose a future different
from the past.

Under the despotisms, where difference of opinion is
treason and even doubt is crime, the future is the frozen
past--the past frozen by fear into the future. Not even the
scientist, not even the poet, can whisper that something else
is better than the thing that is.

Democracy, which keeps the future open for the genera-
tions as they rise, is your cause. Your act today affirms
your loyalty not only to your country but to the hopes and
possibilities of your own lives.



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
OCTOBER 16, 1940 REGISTRATION DAY

On this day, more than 16 million young Americans are standing up to be counted.

It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. On this day, we Americans proclaim the unity of our Nation, the singleness of our will, and the toughness of our faith.

We prepare -- but not to wage war. We prepare simply to keep the peace in this New World, which free men have built for free men to live in. We are preparing our defense, invincible defense, the surest guarantee of peace.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with grim determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- all the tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our wealth, our industry, our labor. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

Our security has been threatened by an ancient evil which wears a modern disguise. It calls itself world revolution. But it is not the kind of revolution we Americans have known. Its purpose is to wipe out all those fundamental civil liberties which, for hundreds of years, men have fought to win and fought to defend. It is not revolution to set men free; it is revolution to enslave the world.



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

Draft of five-minute speech to be delivered by the President on

October 16th - Registration Day

MacLeish

I am speaking to the young men of America and to their families and to all those whose thoughts are with them on this day of registration for the national service.

It is a day of tremendous meaning in their lives and in the lives of all of us, for it is the day on which the young men of America affirm, in their own behalf and ours, the wholeness of this nation, and the singleness of its will to live, and the membership in its hopes and in its duties of all who share its citizenship.

In a sense the duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war to satisfy their lust for power -- those who have created the name and the deed of Total War -- have imposed upon all other peoples, and our own not least, the necessity of preparation for total defense.

But in another sense the duty of this day is not a duty imposed upon us from without. It is an opportunity afforded from within. We do not mobilize our manhood only to resist a threatened danger from beyond the seas. We mobilize our manhood and all our vast resources of material and mind and spirit to affirm our dedication to the cause of freedom and to build still higher and still stronger the house of freedom in this land.

The enemies of freedom have imposed the necessity of defense upon us but the necessity of defense affords an opportunity to push still further our deepest purpose as a people: united action in the cause of liberty and the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people shall be master and the people shall be truly free.

Of the families of the young men who register for the national service I ask this:



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WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

Do not believe that the services which may be demanded by their country of your sons will be an interruption of their lives, a break in your hopes for them. Do not think of the mobilization of America, which their action symbolizes, as time out of their dreams, time out of their plans, time out of their lives -- time out of their essential purposes as a man must take out time to kill a snake. The mobilization of America -- the mobilization of a free people which gathers itself together to be strong in the defense of freedom -- is not an interruption of its life or of the lives of those who are its citizens. The mobilization of America will be, must be, a mobilization of the nation's deepest forces to affirm its noblest hopes; to realize its potentialities as a democratic nation.

Of the young men themselves I ask that they remember this:

Democracy is the cause of youth.

Democracy is the cause of youth because democracy is the one form of society which keeps the future open -- the one form of society which guarantees to every man the right to question and to speak, and to propose a future different from the past.

Under the despotism, where dissent is treason and even doubt is crime, the future is the frozen past -- the past frozen by fear into the future. Not even the scientist, not even the poet, can dissent or say that something else is better than the thing that is.

Democracy which keeps the future open for the generations as they rise, is your cause. And your act today affirms your loyalty not only to your country but to the hopes and possibilities of your own lives.



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

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October 15, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be broadcast over a nationwide hookup on Registration Day, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 8 a.m., E.S.T., October 16, 1940. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

SPECH BY THE PRESIDENT
REGISTRATION DAY
OCTOBER 16, 1940

On this day more than sixteen million young Americans are reviving the three hundred year old American custom of the Muster. They are obeying that first duty of free citizenship by which, from the earliest Colonial times, every able-bodied citizen was subject to the call for service in the national defense.

It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. For on this day we Americans proclaim the vitality of our history, the singleness of our will and the unity of our nation.

We prepare to keep the peace in this New World which free men have built for free men to live in. The United States, a nation of one hundred and thirty million people, has today only about five hundred thousand -- half a million --

officers and men in Army and National Guard. Other nations, smaller in population, have four and five and six million trained men in their armies. Our present program will train eight hundred thousand additional men this coming year and somewhat less than one million men each year thereafter. It is a program obviously of defensive preparation and of defensive preparation only.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with clear determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- and all the other tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our citizenship, for we are calling on men and women and property and money to join in making our defense effective. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war -- those who have created the name and deed of Total War -- have imposed upon us and upon all free peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense.

But this day not only imposes a duty; it provides also an opportunity -- an opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty -- an opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free.

To the sixteen million young men who register today, I say that democracy is your cause -- the cause of youth.

Democracy is the one form of society which guarantees to every new generation of men the right to imagine and to attempt to bring to pass a better world. Under the despotisms the imagination of a better world and its achievement are alike forbidden.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your country, but your ^{will} right to build your future for yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans of tomorrow a nation in which the ways of liberty and justice will survive and be secure. Such a nation must be devoted to the cause of peace. And it is for that cause that America arms itself.

It is to that cause -- the cause of peace -- that we Americans today devote our national will and our national spirit and our national strength.

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It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. For on this day we Americans proclaim the vitality of our history, the singleness of our will and the unity of our nation.

We prepare to keep the peace in this New World which free men have built for free men to live in. The United States, a nation of one hundred and thirty million people, has today only about five hundred thousand -- half a million -- officers and men in Army and National Guard. Other nations, smaller in population, have four and five and six million trained men in their armies. Our present program will train eight hundred thousand additional men this coming year and somewhat less than one million men each year thereafter. It is a program obviously of defensive preparation and of defensive preparation only.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with clear determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- and all the other tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our citizenship, for we are calling on men and women and property and money to join in making our defense effective. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war -- those who have created the name and deed of Total War -- have imposed upon us and upon all free peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense.

But this day not only imposes a duty; it provides also an opportunity -- an opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty -- an opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free.

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Democracy is the one form of society which guarantees to every new generation of men the right to imagine and to attempt to bring to pass a better world. Under the despotsms the imagination of a better world and its achievement are alike forbidden.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your country, but your will to build your future for yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans of tomorrow a nation in which the ways of liberty and justice will survive and be secure. Such a nation must be devoted to the cause of peace. And it is for that cause that America arms itself.

It is to that cause -- the cause of peace -- that we Americans today devote our national will and our national spirit and our national strength.

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It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. For on this day we Americans proclaim the vitality of our history, the singleness of our will and the unity of our nation.

We prepare to keep the peace in this New World which free men have built for free men to live in. The United States, a nation of one hundred and thirty million people, has today only about five hundred thousand — half a million — officers and men in Army and National Guard. Other nations, smaller in population, have four and five and six million trained men in their armies. Our present program will train eight hundred thousand additional men this coming year and somewhat less than one million men each year thereafter. It is a program obviously of defensive preparation and of defensive preparation only.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with clear determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships — and all the other tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our citizenship, for we are calling on men and women and property and money to join in making our defense effective. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war -- those who have created the name and deed of Total War -- have imposed upon us and upon all free peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense.

But this day not only imposes a duty; it provides also an opportunity -- an opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty -- an opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free.

To the sixteen million young men who register today, I say that democracy is your cause -- the cause of youth.

Democracy is the one form of society which guarantees to every new generation of men the right to imagine and to attempt to bring to pass a better world. Under the despotisms the imagination of a better world and its achievement are alike forbidden.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your country, but your will to build your future for yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans of tomorrow a nation in which the ways of liberty and justice will survive and be secure. Such a nation must be devoted to the cause of peace. And it is for that cause that America arms itself.

It is to that cause -- the cause of peace -- that we Americans today devote our national will and our national spirit and our national strength.

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October 15, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be broadcast over a nationwide hookup on Registration Day, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 3 a.m., E.S.T., October 15, 1940. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

On this day more than sixteen million young Americans are reviving the three hundred year old American custom of the muster. They are obeying that first duty of free citizenship by which, from the earliest Colonial times, every able-bodied citizen was subject to the call for service in the national defense.

It is a day of deep and purposeful meaning in the lives of all of us. For on this day we Americans proclaim the vitality of our history, the singleness of our will and the unity of our nation.

We prepare to keep the peace in this New World which free men have built for free men to live in. The United States, a nation of one hundred and thirty million people, has today only about five hundred thousand -- half a million -- officers and men in Army and National Guard. Other nations, smaller in population, have four and five and six million trained men in their armies. Our present program will train eight hundred thousand additional men this coming year and somewhat less than one million men each year thereafter. It is a program obviously of defensive preparation and of defensive preparation only.

Calmly, without fear and without hysteria, but with clear determination, we are building guns and planes and tanks and ships -- and all the other tools which modern defense requires. We are mobilizing our citizenship, for we are calling on men and women and property and money to join in making our defense effective. Today's registration for training and service is the key-stone in the arch of our national defense.

In the days when our forefathers laid the foundation of our democracy, every American family had to have its gun and know how to use it. Today we live under threats, threats of aggression from abroad, which call again for the same readiness, the same vigilance. Ours must once again be the spirit of those who were prepared to defend as they built, to defend as they worked, to defend as they worshipped.

The duty of this day has been imposed upon us from without. Those who have dared to threaten the whole world with war -- those who have created the name and deed of Total War -- have imposed upon us and upon all free peoples the necessity of preparation for total defense.

But this day not only imposes a duty; it provides also an opportunity -- an opportunity for united action in the cause of liberty -- an opportunity for the continuing creation on this continent of a country where the people alone shall be master, where the people shall be truly free.

To the sixteen million young men who register today, I say that democracy is your cause -- the cause of youth.

Democracy is the one form of society which guarantees to every new generation of men the right to imagine and to attempt to bring to pass a better world. Under the despots the imagination of a better world and its achievement are alike forbidden.

Your act today affirms not only your loyalty to your country, but your will to build your future for yourselves.

We of today, with God's help, can bequeath to Americans of tomorrow a nation in which the ways of liberty and justice will survive and be secure. Such a nation must be devoted to the cause of peace. And it is for that cause that America arms itself.

It is to that cause -- the cause of peace -- that we Americans today devote our national will and our national spirit and our national strength.

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