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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. 1329**

**1940 October 29**

**Radio Address at Drawing of Selective Service  
Numbers**

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 29, 1940

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Members of your Government are gathered here in the Federal Building in Washington to witness the drawing of numbers as provided for in the Selective Service Act of 1940.

This is a most solemn ceremony. It is accompanied by no fanfare -- no blowing of bugles or beating of drums.

There should be none.

We are mustering all our resources, manhood and industry and wealth, to make our nation strong in defense. For recent history proves all too clearly, I am sorry to say, that only the strong may continue to live in freedom and in peace.

We are well aware of the circumstances -- the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas -- which have forced upon our nation the need to take measures for total defense.

In the considered opinion of the Congress of the United States this selective service provides the most democratic as well as the most efficient means for the mustering of our man-power.

On October sixteenth, more than sixteen million young Americans registered for service. Today begins that selection from this huge number of the eight hundred thousand who will go into training for one year.

Reports from all over the country attest the quality and the general spirit of the young men who registered for service.

The young men of America today have thought this thing through. They have not been stimulated by or misled by militarist propaganda. They fully understand the necessity for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our country must be, to play their part in it.

They know simply that ours is a great country -- great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice, great in faith that always there can be, must be, will be a better future. They know that in the present world the survival of liberty and justice is dependent on strength to defend against attack.

Briefly and in simplest terms, the processes of selection are these. Each registrant in each of sixty-five hundred local areas has been assigned a number at random by a committee or board of his neighbors. Each man's number in each local board area has been officially and permanently recorded as pertaining exclusively to him in that area. Those numbers run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six. Opaque capsules, each containing a different number, have been placed in a glass bowl in the room where we now stand. These capsule numbers also run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, with a few extra higher numbers to allow for

late registration. One capsule at a time will be drawn from the bowl until none is left in it. As each capsule is drawn it will be opened and its number read over the radio to the listening nation.

The total drawing will be 10% of all those registered. Thus, 90% of those who enrolled will be assured that they can continue in their present private and public occupations. And of the more than sixteen million names which will come out of the bowl, more than half of them will soon know that their Government does not require their active service. In other words, less than 5% of the total of the mustered man-power will be called. Over 95% will not.

I have here three letters from representatives of the three great faiths, Protestant and Jewish and Catholic. They were written to me, in solemn recognition of this occasion, and I wish to read you excerpts from them.

The first is from Dr. George A. Buttrick, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

I quote:

"The twenty-two national communions.....are united in a deep interest in the thousands of men called today to national service. We will give our best assistance in providing the ministries of the Christian faith. They shall be encompassed by friendship.....We assure all men in the Army and Navy of our active comradeship and prayer. We are glad that the rights of sincere conscientious objectors have been recognized in the Selective Service Act, and for them also in their national service we pledge our loyalty.]

The next letter is from Dr. Edward L. Israel, President of the Synagogue Council of America. I quote:

"It is my supreme confidence that you, Mr. President, and the military officials of our nation will be ever mindful of the fact that this peace-time Selective Service System is an extraordinary measure in the interest of

preserving democracy, and that the System will therefore be administered so as to deepen in the minds and hearts of our youth, a love and respect for democracy and our democratic institutions.....And it must never be forgotten that democracies cannot indefinitely endure under a war system -- and that the ultimate goal of a free people rallying to National Defense must ever be to help usher in that day when the prophetic ideal will be realized that 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more!".

And now a letter from the Bishop of the Catholics in the Army and Navy of the United States, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Francis J. Spellman. I quote:

"I do believe; It is better to have protection and not need it than to need protection and not have it. I do believe that Americans want peace but that we must be prepared to demand it; for other people have wanted peace and the peace they received was the peace of death.

"I do feel that our good will and the sincerity of our desire for peace have been demonstrated by our action in sinking many battleships and that no more sincere demonstration of a willingness to lead the way toward universal disarmament could have been given by any people.

"But we really cannot longer afford to be moles who cannot see, or ostriches who will not see. For some solemn agreements are no longer sacred, and vices have become virtues, and truth a synonym of falsehood.

"We Americans want peace and we shall prepare for <sup>a</sup>peace, but not for a peace whose definition is slavery or death".

These three letters give eloquent testimony to the quality of the religious faith which inspires us today and forever.

To these spokesmen for the churches of America --  
to all my fellow countrymen of all races and creeds and ages --  
I give this solemn assurance:

Your Government is mindful of its profound responsibility to and for all the young men who will be called to train for our national service.

Your Government is aware that not only do these young men represent the future of our country; they are the future. They must profit as men by this one year of experience as soldiers. They must return to civilian life strong, and healthy, and self-respecting, and decent and free.

Your Government will devote its every thought, its every energy, to the cause that is common to all of us -- the maintenance of the dignity, the prosperity and the peace of our country.

To the young men themselves I should like to speak, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army:

You who will enter this peace-time army will be the inheritors of a proud history and an honorable tradition.

You will be members of an army which first came together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for all men. Ever since that first muster, our democratic army has existed for one purpose only: the defense of our freedom.

It is for that one purpose and that one purpose only, that you have been asked to answer the call to training.

You have answered that call, as Americans always have, and as Americans always will, until the day when war is forever banished from this earth.

You have the confidence, and the gratitude, and the love of your countrymen. We are all with you in the task which enlists the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping the peace in this New World.

*Franklin Roosevelt*  
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*Orig reading copy*

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

Delivered in the Departmental Auditorium  
Department of Labor Building, Washington, D.C.  
On occasion of the drawing of numbers under the  
Selective Service Training Act of 1940  
October 29, 1940, 12:00 M.

Members of your Government are gathered here in (the) this  
Federal Building in Washington to witness the drawing of numbers as  
provided for in the Selective Service Act of 1940.

This is a most solemn ceremony. It is accompanied by no fanfares -- no blowing of bugles or beating of drums.

And there should be none.

We are mustering all our resources, manhood and industry and wealth to make our nation strong in defense. For recent history proves all too clearly, I am sorry to say, that only the strong may continue to live in freedom and in peace.

We are well aware of the circumstances -- the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas -- which have forced upon our nation the need to take measures (for) of total defense.

In the considered opinion of the Congress of the United States this selective service provides the most democratic as well as the most efficient means for the mustering of our man power.

On October sixteenth, more than sixteen million young Americans registered for service. Today begins that selection from this huge number, the selection of (the) eight hundred thousand who will go into training for one year.

Reports from all over the country attest the quality and the general spirit of the young men who registered for service.

The young men of America today have thought this thing through.

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 prepared 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.

as related to animals and mankin or migratin of animals I think

that to me activit evinced and not behivin

at the behivin of all the animals which seem to me

much to unisit to begin to unisit on -- certain

time of year early fall

general has become, because the life pattern etc of  
various creatures caused at least seven two spes of review but  
you know we also have one or two as I think out the country

seeing at the subcrit of evil of animal

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They have not been stimulated by or misled by militarist propaganda. They fully understand the necessity for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our country must be, to play their part in it.

They know simply that ours is a great country -- great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice, great in faith that always there can be, and must be, (will be) a will to a better future. They know that in the present world the survival of liberty and justice is dependent on strength to defend against attack.

Briefly and in simplest terms, the processes of the selection are these: Each registrant in each of sixty-five hundred local areas has been assigned a number at random, assigned to him by a committee or board of his neighbors. Each man's number in each local board area has been officially (and permanently) recorded as pertaining exclusively to him in that area. Those numbers run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six. Opaque capsules, each containing a different number, have been placed in a glass bowl in the room where we now stand. These capsule numbers also run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, with a few extra higher numbers to allow for late registration. One capsule at a time will be drawn from the bowl until none is left (in it). As each capsule is drawn it will be opened and its number read over the radio to the listening nation.

I would emphasize this also: The total drawing will be 10% of all those registered. Thus, 90% of those who enrolled will be assured that they can continue in their present private and public occupations. And of the more than sixteen million names which will come out of the bowl, more than half of them will soon know that their

Government does not require their active service - - - I made a mistake there; I am afraid it is the fault of the copy. Of the more than one million, six hundred thousand, more than half of that one million, six hundred thousand will soon know that their Government does not require their active service. In other words, less than 5% of the total of the mustered man power of sixteen million will be called. Over 95% will not be called.

here

I have three letters -- because I think that a great deal of the spiritual power of our nation is represented here today -- three letters from representatives of the three great faiths, Protestant, (and) Jewish and Catholic. They were written to me, in solemn recognition of this occasion, and I (wish) want to read you brief excerpts from them.

The first is from Dr. George A. Buttrick, the President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. (I quote:)

He says:

"The twenty-two national communions.....are united in a deep interest in the thousands of men called today to national service. We will give our best assistance in providing the ministries of the Christian faith. They shall be encompassed by friendship.....We assure all men in the Army and Navy of our active comradeship and prayer. We are glad that the rights of sincere conscientious objectors have been recognized in the Selective Service Act."

The next letter is from Dr. Edward L. Israel, President of the Synagogue Council of America. (I quote:) He says:

"It is my supreme confidence that you, Mr. President, and the military officials of our nation will be ever mindful of the fact that this peacetime Selective Service System is an extraordinary measure in the interest of preserving democracy, and that the System will therefore be administered so as to deepen in the minds

and hearts of our youth, a love and respect for democracy and our democratic institutions.....And it must never be forgotten that democracies cannot indefinitely endure under a war system -- and that the ultimate goal of a free people rallying to National Defense must ever be to help usher in that day when the prophetic ideal will be realised that 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more.'

And (now) finally a letter from the Bishop of the Catholics in the Army and Navy of the United States, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Francis J. Spellman. (I quote:) He says:

"I do believe: It is better to have protection and not need it than to need protection and not have it. I do believe that Americans want peace but that we must be prepared to demand it; for other people have wanted peace and the peace they received was the peace of death.

"I do feel that our good will and the sincerity of our desire for peace have been demonstrated by our action in sinking many battleships and that no more sincere demonstration of a willingness to lead the way toward universal disarmament could have been given by any people.

"But we really cannot longer afford to be moles who cannot see, or ostriches who will not see. For some solemn agreements are no longer sacred, and vices have become virtues and truth a synonym of falsehood.

"We Americans want peace and we shall prepare for a peace, but not for a peace whose definition is slavery or death."

These three letters give eloquent testimony to the quality of the religious faith (which) that inspires us today and forever.

To these spokesmen for the churches of America -- to all my fellow countrymen of all races and creeds and ages -- I give this solemn assurance:

Your Government is mindful of its profound responsibility to and for all the young men who will be called to train for our national service.

Your Government is aware that not only do these young men represent the future of our country: they are the future. They must

profit as men by this one year of experience as soldiers. They must return to civilian life strong, and healthy, and self-respecting, and decent and free.

Your Government will devote its every thought, its every energy, to the cause that is common to all of us -- the maintenance of the dignity, the prosperity and the peace of our country.

To the young men themselves I should like to speak, to speak as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army:

You who will enter this peacetime army will be the inheritors of a proud history and an honorable tradition.

You will be members of an army which first came together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for all men. Ever since that first muster, our democratic army has existed for one purpose only: the defense of our freedom.

It is for that one purpose and that one purpose only that you (have been) will be asked to answer the call to training.

You have answered that call, as Americans always have, and as Americans always will, until the day when war is forever banished from this earth.

You have the confidence, and the gratitude, and the love of your countrymen. We are all with you in the task which enlists the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping the peace in this New World of ours.



HOLD FOR RELEASE

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OCTOBER 29, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered in the Departmental Auditorium, Washington, D. C., in connection with the drawing of numbers under the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 12:00 noon, E.S.T., OCTOBER 29, 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

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Members of your Government are gathered here in the Federal Building in Washington to witness the drawing of numbers as provided for in the Selective Service Act of 1940.

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We are well aware of the circumstances — the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas — which have forced upon our nation the need to take measures for total defense.

In the considered opinion of the Congress of the United States this selective service provides the most democratic as well as the most efficient means for the mustering of our man-power.

On October sixteenth, more than sixteen million young Americans registered for service. Today begins that selection from this huge number of the eight hundred thousand who will go into training for one year.

Reports from all over the country attest the quality and the general spirit of the young men who registered for service.

The young men of America today have thought this thing through. They have not been stimulated by or misled by militarist propaganda. They fully understand the necessity for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our country must be, to play their part in it.

They know simply that ours is a great country -- great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice, great in faith that always there can be, must be, will be a better future. They know that in the present world the survival of liberty and justice is dependent on strength to defend against attack.

Briefly and in simplest terms, the processes of selection are these. Each registrant in each of sixty-five hundred local areas has been assigned a number at random by a committee or board of his neighbors. Each man's number in each local board area has been officially and permanently recorded as pertaining exclusively to him in that area. These numbers run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six. Opaque capsules, each containing a different number, have been placed in a glass bowl in the room where we now stand. These capsule numbers also run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, with a few extra higher numbers to allow for late registration. One capsule at a time will be drawn from the bowl until none is left in it. As each capsule is drawn it will be opened and its number read over the radio to the listening nation.

While all numbers are called, only the first 10% will be considered as the "first drawn" 1,640,000 out of the total 16,400,000. If your number is drawn after the first 10% of the numbers, you will not be called into this year's service.

If your number is among the first 10%, you may be called but only 800,000 out of the 1,640,000 will be. Thus more than 95% of the grand total are not to be called, and less than 5% are to be.

I have here three letters from representatives of the three great faiths, Protestant and Jewish and Catholic. They were written to me, in solemn recognition of this occasion, and I wish to read you excerpts from them.

The first is from Dr. George A. Buttrick, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. I quote:

"The twenty-two national communions.....are united in a deep interest in the thousands of men called today to national service. We will give our best assistance in providing the ministries of the Christian faith. They shall be encompassed by friendship....We assure all men in the Army and Navy of our active comradeship and prayer. We are glad that the rights of sincere conscientious objectors have been recognized in the Selective Service Act."

The next letter is from Dr. Edward L. Israel, President of the Synagogue Council of America. I quote:

"It is my supreme confidence that you, Mr. President, and the military officials of our nation will be ever mindful of the fact that this peace-time Selective Service System is an extraordinary measure in the interest of

preserving democracy, and that the System will therefore be administered so as to deepen in the minds and hearts of our youth, a love and respect for democracy and our democratic institutions.....And it must never be forgotten that democracies cannot indefinitely endure under a war system -- and that the ultimate goal of a free people rallying to National defense must ever be to help usher in that day when the prophetic ideal will be realized that 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more!".

And now a letter from the Bishop of the Catholics in the Army and Navy of the United States, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Francis J. Spellman. I quote:

"I do believe: It is better to have protection and not need it than to need protection and not have it. I do believe that Americans want peace but that we must be prepared to demand it; for other people have wanted peace and the peace they received was the peace of death.

"I do feel that our good will and the sincerity of our desire for peace have been demonstrated by our action in sinking many battleships and that no more sincere demonstration of a willingness to lead the way toward universal disarmament could have been given by any people.

"But we really cannot longer afford to be moles who cannot see, or ostriches who will not see. For some solemn agreements are no longer sacred, and vices have become virtues and truth a synonym of falsehood.

"We Americans want peace and we shall prepare for a peace, but not for a peace whose definition is slavery or death".

These three letters give eloquent testimony to the quality of the religious faith which inspires us today and forever.

To these spokesmen for the churches of America — to all my fellow countrymen of all races and creeds and ages — I give this column assurance:

Your Government is mindful of its profound responsibility to and for all the young men who will be called to train for our national service.

Your Government is aware that not only do these young men represent the future of our country, they are the future. They must profit as men by this one year of experience as soldiers. They must return to civilian life strong, and healthy, and self-respecting, and decent and free.

Your Government will devote its every thought, its every energy, to the cause that is common to all of us — the maintenance of the dignity, the prosperity and the peace of our country.

To the young men themselves I should like to speak, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army:

You who will enter this peace-time army will be the inheritors of a proud history and an honorable tradition.

You will be members of an army which first came together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for all men. Ever since that first muster, our democratic army has existed for one purpose only: the defense of our freedom.

It is for that one purpose and that one purpose only that you have been asked to answer the call to training.

You have answered that call, as Americans always have, and as Americans always will, until the day when war is forever banished from this earth.

You have the confidence, and the gratitude, and the love of your countrymen. We are all with you in the task which enlists the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping the peace in this New World.

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RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 29, 1940.

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Members of your Government are gathered here in the Federal Building in Washington to witness the drawing of numbers as provided for in the Selective Service Act of 1940.

This is a most solemn ceremony. It is accompanied by no fanfare -- no blowing of bugles or beating of drums.

There should be none.

We are mustering the manhood of our nation for training.  
— We are mustering all our resources, ~~and~~ <sup>manhood and</sup> industry and wealth to make our nation strong in defense. For recent history proves, <sup>I am sorry to say,</sup> all too clearly that only the strong may continue to live in freedom and in peace.

We are well aware of the circumstances -- the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas -- which have forced

upon our nation the need to take measures for total defense.

In the considered opinion of ~~our~~ Government and our people,

this selective service provides the most democratic as well as  
the most efficient means for the mustering of our man-power.

On October sixteenth, <sup>more than fifteen</sup> ~~nearly seventeen~~ million young  
Americans registered for service. Today begins that selection  
from this huge number of the eight hundred thousand who will  
go into training for one year.

Reports from all over the country attest the quality and  
the general spirit of the young men who registered for service.

The young men of America today have thought this thing  
through. They have not been stimulated by or misled by  
militarist propaganda. They fully understand the necessity  
for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our  
country must be, to play their part in it.

They know simply that ours is a great country -- great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice, great in faith that always there can be, must be, will be a better future.

They know that in the present world the survival of liberty and

justice is dependent on strength to defend against attack.

I have here three letters from representatives of the three great faiths, Catholic Protestant and Jewish. They were written to me, in solemn recognition of this occasion, and

The young men of America who are subject to this draft have given every indication that they fully understand the necessity for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our country must be, to play their part in it.

I have received reports from all over the country on the quality and the general spirit of the young men who registered for service on October sixteenth. Those reports are deeply encouraging.

The young men of America today are intelligent. They have thought this thing through. They have not been stimulated by propaganda to the belief that they are a "master race" and that theirs is a destiny of "world conquest".

They know simply that ours is a great country -- great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice, great in faith that there <sup>always</sup> can be, must be, will be a better future.

We have taken all possible measures to ensure that this drawing of numbers shall be fair for everyone and for all.

A Briefly and in simplest terms, the processes of selection are these. Each registrant in each of sixty-five hundred local

area has been assigned a number at random by a committee or board of his neighbors. Each man's number in each local board area has been officially and permanently recorded as pertaining exclusively to him in that area. Those numbers run from one to 7,836. Opaque capsules, each containing a different number, have been placed in a glass bowl in the room where we now stand. These capsule numbers also run from one to 7,836 with a few extra higher numbers to allow for late registration. One capsule at a time will be drawn from the bowl until none is left in it. As each capsule is drawn it will be opened and its number read over ~~to~~ the radio to the listening nation.

The total drawing will be 10% of all those registered. Thus, 90% of those who enrolled will be assured that they can continue in their present private and public occupations.

And of the ~~more than sixteen~~ million ~~seven hundred thousand~~ names which will come out of the bowl, more than half of them will soon know that their Government does not require their active service. In other words, less than 5% of the total of the mustered man-power will be called. Over 95% will not.

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*End of A*

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"The twenty two national communions .....are united in  
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*D*  
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You will be members of an army which <sup>came</sup> first together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for <sup>all</sup> men.

Ever since that first muster, our democratic army has existed for one purpose only: the defense of our freedom.

It is for that one purpose and that one purpose only that you have been asked to answer the call to training.

You have answered that call, as Americans always have, and as Americans always will, until the day when war is forever banished from this earth.

You have the confidence, and the gratitude, and the love  
of your countrymen. We are all with you in the task which  
enlists the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping  
the peace in this New World.

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RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
OCTOBER 29, 1940

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We are well aware of the circumstances -- the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas -- which have forced upon our nation the need to take measures for total defense.

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Reports from all over the country attest the quality and the general spirit of the young men who registered for service.

The young men of America today have thought this thing through. They have not been stimulated by or misled by militarist propaganda. They fully understand the necessity for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our country must be, to play their part in it.

they know simply that ours is a great country -- great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice, great in faith that always there can be, must be, will be a better future. They know that in the present world the survival of liberty and justice is dependent on strength to defend against attack.

Briefly and in simplest terms, the processes of selection are these. Each registrant in each of sixty-five hundred local areas has been assigned a number at random by a committee or board of his neighbors. Each man's number in each local board area has been officially and permanently recorded as pertaining exclusively to him in that area. Those numbers run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six. Opaque capsules, each containing a different number, have been placed in a glass bowl in the room where we now stand. These capsule numbers also run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, with a few extra higher numbers to allow for

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The first is from Dr. George A. Buttrick, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

I quote:

"The twenty-two national communions.....are united in a deep interest in the thousands of men called today to national service. We will give our best assistance in providing the ministries of the Christian faith. They shall be encompassed by friendship.....We assure all men in the Army and Navy of our active comradeship and prayer. We are glad that the rights of sincere conscientious objectors have been recognized in the Selective Service Act and for them also in their national service we pledge our legal help".

The next letter is from Dr. Edward L. Israel, President of the Synagogue Council of America. I quote:

"It is my supreme confidence that you, Mr. President, and the military officials of our nation will be ever mindful of the fact that this peace-time Selective Service System is an extraordinary measure in the interest of

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preserving democracy, and that the System will therefore be administered so as to deepen in the minds and hearts of our youth, a love and respect for democracy and our democratic institutions.....And it must never be forgotten that democracies cannot indefinitely endure under a war system -- and that the ultimate goal of a free people rallying to National Defense <sup>2</sup> must ever be to help usher in that day when the prophetic ideal will be realized that 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more!'.

And now a letter from the Bishop of the Catholics in the Army and Navy of the United States, His Excellency, <sup>Most</sup> the Right Reverend Francis J. Spellman. I quote:

"I do believe: It is better to have protection and not need it than to need protection and not have it. I do believe that Americans want peace but that we must be prepared to demand it; for other people have wanted peace and the peace they received was the peace of death.

"I do feel that our good will and the sincerity of our desire for peace have been demonstrated by our action in sinking many battleships and that no more sincere demonstration of a willingness to lead the way toward universal disarmament could have been given by any people.

"But we really cannot longer afford to be moles who cannot see, or ostriches who will not see. For some solemn agreements are no longer sacred, and <sup>Y</sup>glories have become virtues and truth a synonym of falsehood.

"We Americans want peace and we shall prepare for peace, but not for a peace whose definition is slavery or death".

These three letters give eloquent testimony to the quality of the religious faith which inspires us today and forever.

To these spokesmen for the churches of America --  
to all my fellow countrymen of all races and creeds and ages --  
I give this solemn assurance:

Your Government is mindful of its profound responsibility to and for all the young men who will be called to train for our national service.

Your Government is aware that not only do these young men represent the future of our country: they are the future. They must profit as men by this one year of experience as soldiers. They must return to civilian life strong, and healthy, and self-respecting, and decent and free.

Your Government will devote its every thought, its every energy, to the cause that is common to all of us -- the maintenance of the dignity, the prosperity and the peace of our country.

To the young men themselves I should like to speak, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army:

You who will enter this peace-time army will be the inheritors of a proud history and an honorable tradition.

You will be members of an army which first came together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for all men. Ever since that first muster, our democratic army has existed for one purpose only: the defense of our freedom.

It is for that one purpose and that one purpose only that you have been asked to answer the call to training.

You have answered that call, as Americans always have, and as Americans always will, until the day when war is forever banished from this earth.

You have the confidence, and the gratitude, and the love of your countrymen. We are all with you in the task which enlists the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping the peace in this New World.

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W. A. S. J. M. V. L.

W. A. S. J. M. V. L.

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STATEMENTS FILE

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OCTOBER 29, 1940

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NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 12:00 noon, E.S.T., OCTOBER 29, 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

Members of your Government are gathered here in the Federal Building in Washington to witness the drawing of numbers as provided for in the Selective Service Act of 1940.

This is a most solemn ceremony. It is accompanied by no fanfare -- no clanging of bugles or bunting of drums.

There should be none.

We are mustering all our resources, manhood and industry and wealth to make our nation strong in defense. For recent history proves all too clearly, I am sorry to say, that only the strong may continue to live in freedom and in peace.

We are well aware of the circumstances — the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas — which have forced upon our nation the need to take measures for total defense.

In the considered opinion of the Congress of the United States this selective service provides the most democratic as well as the most efficient means for the mustering of our man-power.

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The young men of America today have thought this thing through. They have not been stimulated by or misled by militarist propaganda. They fully understand the necessity for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our country must be, to play their part in it.

They know simply that ours is a great country — great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice, great in faith that always there can be, must be, ~~will be~~ a better future. They know that in the present world the survival of liberty and justice is dependent on strength to defend against attack,

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The total drawing will be 10% of all those registered. Thus, 90% of those who enrolled will be assured that they can continue in their present, private and public occupations. And of the more than sixteen million names which will come out of the bowl, more than half of them will soon know that their government does not require their active service. In other words, less than 3% of the total of the mustered men-power will be called. Over this will not.

I have here three letters from representatives of the three great faiths, Protestant ~~and~~ Jewish and Catholic. They were written to me, in solemn recognition of this occasion, and I wish to read you extracts from them.

The first is from Dr. George A. Buttrick, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. I quote:

"The twenty-two national communions.....are united in a deep interest in the thousands of men called today to national service. We will give our best assistance in providing the ministries of the Christian faith. They shall be encompassed by friendship....We assure all men in the Army and Navy of our active comradeship and prayer. We are glad that the rights of sincere conscientious objectors have been recognized in the Selective Service Act".

The next letter is from Dr. Edward L. Israel, President of the Synagoguc Council of Americas. I Note:

"It is my supreme confidence that you, Mr. President, and the military officials of our nation will be ever mindful of the fact that this peace-time Selective Service System is an extraordinary measure in the interest of

preserving democracy, and that the system will therefore be administered so as to do good in the minds and hearts of our youth, a love and respect for democracy and our democratic institutions.....and it must never be forgotten that democracies cannot indefinitely endure under a war system — and that the ultimate goal of a free people rallying to national defense must ever be to help usher in that day when the prophetic ideal will be realized that "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more".

And here a letter from the Bishop of the Catholic in the Army and Navy of the United States, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Francis J. Spellman. Longwood.

"I do believe. It is better to have protection and not need it than to need protection and not have it. I do believe that Americans want peace but that we must be prepared to demand it; for other peoples who wanted peace and the peace they received win the name of death.

"I do feel that our road will be the sincerity of our desire for peace backed demonstrated by our action in sinking many battleships and no more sincere demonstration of a willingness to lead the way toward universal disarmament could be given by any people.

"But we really cannot longer afford to be men who cannot see, or detect who will not see, for some reason agreements are no longer sacred and vices have become virtues and truth a synonym of falsehood.

"We Americans must judge and we shall prepare for a peace, but not for a peace whose definition is slavery or death".

These three letters plus eloquent testimony to the quality of the religious faith which inspires us today and forever.

To these spokesman for the church of America — to all my fellow countrymen of all races and creeds and ages — I give this solemn exhortation

Your Government is mindful of its profound responsibility to and for all the young men who will be called to arms for our national service.

Your Government is aware that not only do these young men represent the future of our country, they are the future. They must profit as men by their year of experience as soldiers. They must return to civilian life strong, and healthy, and self-respecting, and tough and true.

Your Government will cover its every thought, its every utterance, to the cause that is common to all of us — the maintenance of the dignity, the prosperity and the peace of our country.

To the young men themselves I should like to speak, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army

You who will enter this peaceful army will be the inheritors of a proud history and an honored tradition,

You will be members of an army which first came together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for all men. Ever since that first muster, our democratic army has existed for one purpose only: the defense of our freedom.

It is for that one purpose and that one purpose only that you ~~have~~ been asked to answer the call to training.

You have answered that call, as Americans always have, and as Americans always will, until the day when war is forever banished from this earth.

You have the confidence, and the gratitude, and the love of your countrymen. We are all with you in the task which enlists the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping the peace in this New World.

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RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 29, 1940

Members of your Government are gathered here in the Federal Building in Washington to witness the drawing of numbers as provided for in the Selective Service Act of 1940.

This is a most solemn ceremony. It is accompanied by no fanfare — no blowing of bugles or beating of drums.

There should be none.

We are mustering the manhood of our nation. The spirit in which we undertake this task is not and should not be a spirit of false enthusiasm.

We are well aware of the circumstances — the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas — which have forced upon our nation the need to take measures for total defense.

In the considered opinion of our Government and our people, the collective draft provides the most democratic as well as the most



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Harry L. Hopkins

efficient means for the mastering of our man-power.

The young men of America who are subject to call have given every indication that they fully understand the necessity for national defense and are ready, as all citizens of our country must be, to play their part in it.

Reports from all over the country attest the quality and the general spirit of the young men who registered for service on October sixteenth.

The young men of America today have thought this thing through. They have not been stimulated by or misled by militarist propaganda.

They know simply that ours is a great country — great in perpetual devotion to the cause of liberty and justice. Great in faith that always there can be, must be, will be a better future. They know that in the present world the survival of liberty and justice is dependent on strength.

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The first is from George A. Bullock, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. I quote:

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The next letter is from Edward L. Israel, President of the Synagogue Council of America. I quote:

"It is my supreme confidence that you, Mr. President, and the military officials of our nation will be ever mindful of the fact that this peace-time Selective Service System is an extraordinary measure in the interest of preserving democracy, and that the System will therefore be administered so as to deepen in the minds and hearts of our



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*Armed Services and Supply Service*

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From U.S. Powers of  
HENRY L. Hopkins

- 6 -

youth a love and respect for democracy and our democratic institutions.....and it must never be forgotten that democracies cannot indefinitely endure under a war system -- and that the ultimate goal of a free people rallying to National Defense must ever be to help usher in that day when the prophetic ideal will be realized that 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more'.

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I do feel that our good will and the sincerity of our desire for peace have been demonstrated by our action in sinking many battleships and that no more sincere demonstration of a willingness to lead the way toward universal disarmament could have been given by any people.

But we really cannot longer afford to be moles who cannot see, or ostriches who will not see. For some solemn agreements are no longer sacred, and vices have become virtues and truth a synonym of falsehood.



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From the Papers of  
Harry L. Hopkins

National Archives and Records Service  
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1941-1945

We Americans want peace and we shall prepare for peace, but not for a peace whose definition is slavery or death<sup>6</sup>.

These three letters give eloquent testimony to the quality of the religious faith which inspires us today and forever.

To ~~the Government~~ will be <sup>I</sup> say that you will meet the young men who ~~government~~ selected for service <sup>will</sup> be given training worthy of the highest traditions of our Army. <sup>You</sup> will profit, as soldiers and as men, by this year's experience.

To the young men who shall be all of twenty years of age -- You are inheritors of a proud history and a brave and honorable tradition.

You are the men and the fathers of the men who will make the America which is to come.

This Government will devote its every thought, its every energy, to the cause of all Americans -- the maintenance of the dignity, the prosperity and the peace of our country.

To, your relatives and your friends -- and that means all the people of your country -- give to you today our confidence, our gratitude and our love.

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WASH. D. C.

From the Papers of  
Henry L. Stimson

Insert

In many of those steps which I have taken for peace, I have worked in active collaboration with one of the greatest forces for peace in the world, His Holiness the Pope. You will recall my appointment of Mr. Myron C. Taylor as a personal representative to assist me in working for peace in collaboration with the Pope. You will also recall my appointment of a representative of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths to work with me in the cause of peace.

I would like to have His Holiness the Pope speak about these efforts for himself. I read from a letter addressed to me from him last January. He said: "We have been deeply moved by the noble thought contained in your note in which the spirit of Christmas and the desire to see it applied to the great human problems have found such eloquent expression \*\*\* And now, in this hour of world-wide pain and misgiving, / the Chief Magistrate of the great American Nation under the spell of the Holy night of Christmas should have taken such a prominent place in the vanguard of those who would promote peace and generously succor the victims of the war, bespeaks a providential help which we acknowledge with grateful joy and increased confidence".



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National Archives and Record Service  
Washington, D. C.

From the Bureau of  
Harry L. Hopkins

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
OCTOBER 29, 1940.

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We are well aware of the circumstances -- the tragic circumstances in lands across the seas -- which have forced



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National Archives and Records Service  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library  
West Park, N. Y.

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Records of the General Services Administration

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Printed on paper of  
Harry L. Hopkins

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National Archives and Record Service

FRANCIS B. HARRIS, Jr.,  
Acting Director

From the Papers of  
Harry L. Hopkins



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West Park, R. I.

From the Papers of

Barry L. Hopkins

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the peace in this New World.

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HARRY L. HOPKINS

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OCTOBER 29, 1940

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RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
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Briefly and in simplest terms, the processes of selection are these. Each registrant in each of sixty-five hundred local areas has been assigned a number at random by a committee or board of his neighbors. Each man's number in each local board area has been officially and permanently recorded as pertaining exclusively to him in that area. Those numbers run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six. Opaque capsules, each containing a different number, have been placed in a glass bowl in the room where we now stand. These capsule numbers also run from one to seven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, with a few extra higher numbers to allow for

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"The twenty-two national communions.....are united in  
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"It is my supreme confidence that you, Mr. President,  
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preserving democracy, and that the system will therefore be administered so as to deepen in the minds and hearts of our youth, a love and respect for democracy and our democratic institutions.....And it must never be forgotten that democracies cannot indefinitely endure under a war system -- and that the ultimate goal of a free people rallying to National Defense must ever be to help usher in that day when the prophetic ideal will be realized that 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they make war any more'.

And now a letter from the Bishop of the Catholics in the Army and Navy of the United States, His Excellency,  
*Blessed*  
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"I do believe; It is better to have protection and not need it than to need protection and not have it. I do believe that Americans want peace but that we must be prepared to demand it; for other people have wanted peace and the peace they received was the peace of death.

"I do feel that our good will and the sincerity of our desire for peace have been demonstrated by our action in sinking many battleships and that no more sincere demonstration of a willingness to lead the way toward universal disarmament could have been given by any people.

"But we really cannot longer afford to be moles who cannot see, or ostriches who will not see. For some solemn agreements are no longer sacred, and <sup>Y</sup>gives have become virtues and truth a synonymy of falsehood.

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These three letters give eloquent testimony to the quality of the religious faith which inspires us today and forever.

To these spokesmen for the churches of America --  
to all my fellow countrymen of all races and creeds and ages --  
I give this solemn assurance:

Your Government is mindful of its profound responsibility to and for all the young men who will be called to train for our national service.

Your Government is aware that not only do these young men represent the future of our country: they are the future. They must profit as men by this one year of experience as soldiers. They must return to civilian life strong, and healthy, and self-respecting, and decent and free.

Your Government will devote its every thought, its every energy, to the cause that is common to all of us -- the maintenance of the dignity, the prosperity and the peace of our country.

To the young men themselves I should like to speak, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army:

You who will enter this peace-time army will be the inheritors of a proud history and an honorable tradition.

You will be members of an army which first came together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for all men. Ever since that first master, our democratic army has existed for one purpose only: the defense of our freedom.

It is for that one purpose and that one purpose only that you have been asked to answer the call to training.

You have answered that call, as Americans always have, and as Americans always will, until the day when war is forever banished from this earth.

You have the confidence, and the gratitude, and the love of your countrymen. We are all with you in the task which enlists the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping the peace in this New World.

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