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

File No. 1329

1940 October 29

Radio Address at Drawing of Selective Service Numbers
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 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
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 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.

[Signature]

[Note: Original 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
fanfare -- 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 cir-
cumstances 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 Amer-
icans 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.
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 or phrases which were added extemporaneously 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.
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 men power of sixteen million will be called. Over 95% will not be called.

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 recognised 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."

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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 ex-
isted 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 850,000 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.

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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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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.

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You will be members of an army which first came togetherto 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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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.\[defend\] against attack.\[defend\]

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 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.

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 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 the radio to the listening nation.

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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 enlist the services of all Americans -- the task of keeping the peace in this New World.
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.

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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 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
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, 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 lies have become virtues and truth a synonyme 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.
HOLD FOR RELEASE

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 ap-
plies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISBD TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Members of your Government are gathered here in this
Federal Building in Washington to witness the drawing of num-
bers 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 in-
crustry 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 de-
ocratic as well as the most efficient means for the mustering
of our manpower.

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 higher numbers to allow for late registration. One capsule at a time will be drawn from the bowl until none is left. 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 1% of all those registered. Thus, 99% 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 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.

"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.

"It is in 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"
The importance of a good hygiene and on how to practice it will be the
commander-in-chief of the medical services. I should like to speak


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of our company, the command of the depot...
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 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.
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 SALUTE — NO BLOWING OF BUGLES OR BEATING OF DRUMS.

THERE SHOULD BE NONE.

WE ARE MASTERCING THE MAJORITY 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 SELECTIVE DRAFT PROVIDES THE MOST DEMOCRATIC AS WELL AS THE MOST
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.

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
I wish to read you excerpts from them.

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

"The twenty-two national commissions.....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 loyal help."

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
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 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 aloes 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 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.

be behold on the Government, I conclude they are determined
To
will be

that the young men who are finally selected for service shall be given
training worthy of the highest traditions of our Army. They will profit, as soldiers and as men, by this year's experience.

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.
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. Kyron 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. This bespeaks providential help which we acknowledge with grateful joy and increased confidence."
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 for training. We are mustering all our resources of industry and wealth to make our nation strong in defense. For recent history proves 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, 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.

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
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
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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 peacetime army will be the inheritors of a proud history and an honorable tradition.

You will be members of an army which first together to achieve independence and to establish certain fundamental rights for 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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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.

CAPF 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 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 mastering of our man-power.

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