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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. 1346**

**1940 November 11**

**Arlington National Cemetery – Address  
[Armistice Day]**

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON ARMISTICE DAY  
NOVEMBER 11, 1940

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On this day which commemorates the end of fighting between human beings in a World war, it is permissible for me to search far back in the history of civilization in order to visualize important trends.

On the Great Seal of the United States which, for a century and a half, has reposed in the loving care of a long line of Secretaries of State of the United States appear these words:

"NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM"

which means: "a new order of the ages".

In almost every century since the day that recorded history began, people have thought that they were creating or establishing some kind of "new order of the ages".

But in the scheme of civilization from which ours descends I suppose that we can properly recognize that in 2,500 years there have been only a very few "new orders" in the

development of human living under a thing called government.

Without question, the philosophy of orderly government in which the governed had some form of voice in a civilized society goes back to the days of ancient Greece. We must remember, however, that while the philosophy of democracy was there first expressed in words and on paper, the practice of it was by no means consistent, and was confined to a relatively small number of human beings and to a relatively small geographical area.

We came to the age of Rome -- an age of a strange admixture of elections and laws and military conquest and personal dictatorship. It was an age which extended the civilization of the period to the greater part of the then known world. It was an age which forced its own conception of laws and ways of life on millions of less civilized people who previously had lived under tribal custom or centralized direction. Definitely, Rome was an age.

With Rome's collapse and the overrunning of Europe by vast population movements from farther east, orderly progress deteriorated and the sword drove learning into hiding. That dark period could hardly be called an age because it was an interim between ages.

Then, with the reawakening of a thousand years ago, with the Crusades, the Feudal System, the Guilds, the Kings and the Renaissance, that Age which immediately preceded our own was born and grew and flourished. That was an era of enormous distinction -- arts and literature and education and exploration -- marching armies, barons and empires. Human security was still non-existent -- democracy was not permitted.

Towards its close, however, the appearance of tiny movements in tiny places, led by tiny people forecast the next vast step forward -- the era of 1776 -- the age in which, thank God, we still live.

Those beginnings originated, it is true, in the old world -- among the philosophers, among the seekers of many kinds of freedom forbidden by those who governed.

Those beginnings found their freest development in the colonies that were organized along the seaboard of North America. There, by the processes of trial and error, democracy as it has since been accepted in so many lands, had its birth and its training.

There came into being the first far-flung government in all the world whose cardinal principle was democracy -- the United States of America.

We must accept that as fact because, truly and fundamentally, it was a new order -- nothing like it had ever been seen before. We must accept it because the new order spread into almost every part of the civilized world. It spread in many forms -- and over the next century almost all peoples had acquired some form of popular expression of opinion, some form of election, of franchise, of the right to be heard. The Americas and the British Isles led the world in spreading the gospel of democracy among peoples great and small.

And the world as a whole felt with much right that

it had discarded feudalism, conquest and dictatorship.

People felt that way until 1914, when a definite effort was made in a part of the world to destroy this existing "new order of the ages", -- to destroy it after its relatively short trial, and to substitute for it the doctrine that might makes right. The attempt failed 22 years ago today.

You and I who served in the period of the World War have faced in later years unpatriotic efforts by some of our own countrymen to make us believe that the sacrifices made by our own Nation were wholly in vain.

A hundred years from now, historians will brand such efforts as puny and false.

A hundred years from now, historians will say rightly that the World War preserved the new order of the ages for at least a whole generation -- a full twenty years -- and that if the axis of 1918 had been successful in military victory over the associated nations, resistance on behalf

of democracy in 1940 would have been wholly impossible.

America, therefore, is proud of its share in maintaining the era of democracy in that war in which we took part. America is proud of you who served -- and ever will be proud.

I, for one, do not believe that the era of democracy in human affairs can or will be snuffed out in our lifetime. I, for one, do not believe that mere force will be successful in sterilizing the seeds which had taken such firm root as a harbinger of better lives for mankind. I, for one, do not believe that the world will revert either to a modern form of ancient slavery or to controls vested in modern feudalism or modern emperors or modern dictators or modern oligarchs in these days. The very people under their iron heels will, themselves, rebel.

What are a few months or even a few years in the lifetime of any of us? We, alive today, live and think

in terms of our grandparents, and our own parents, and ourselves, and our children -- yes, and our grandchildren. We, alive today, -- not in the existant democracies alone but also among the populations of the smaller nations already overrun, are thinking in the larger terms of the maintenance of the new order to which we have been accustomed and in which we intend to continue.

We recognize certain facts of 1940 which did not exist in 1918 -- a need for the elimination of aggressive armaments -- a need for the breaking down of barriers in a more closely knitted world -- a need for restoring honor in the written and spoken word. We recognize that the processes of democracies must be greatly improved in order that we may attain those purposes.

But over the above the present, we recognize and salute the eternal verities that lie with us in the future of mankind.

You, the men of 1917 and 1918, helped to preserve

those truths of democracy for our generation.

We still unite, we still strive mightily to  
preserve intact that new order of the ages founded by the  
Fathers of America.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
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*Orig. reading copy*

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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November 11, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered in the Amphitheatre, Arlington National Cemetery, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 11:10 A.M., E.S.T., November 11, 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.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT

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On this day which commemorates the end of fighting between human beings in a World war, it is permissible for me to search further in the history of civilization in order to visualize important trends.

On the Great Seal of the United States which, for a century and a half, has reposed in the loving care of a long line of Secretaries of State of the United States appear these words:

"NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM"

which means: "a new order of the ages".

In almost every century since the day that recorded history began, people have thought that they were creating or establishing some kind of "new order of the ages".

But in the scheme of civilization from which ours descends I suppose that we can properly recognize that in 2,800 years there have been only a very few "new orders" in the development of human living under a thing called government.

Without question, the philosophy of orderly government in which the governed had some form of voice in a civilized society goes back to the days of ancient Greece. We must remember, however, that while the philosophy of democracy was there first expressed in words and on paper, the practice of it was by no means consistent, and was confined to a relatively small number of human beings and to a relatively small geographical area.

We came to the age of Rome -- an age of a strange admixture of elections and laws and military conquest and personal dictatorship. It was an age which extended the civilization of the period to the greater part of the then known world. It was an age which forced its own conception of laws and ways of life on millions of less civilized people who previously had lived under tribal custom or centralized direction. Definitely, Rome was an age.

With Rome's collapse and the overrunning of Europe by vast population movements from farther east, orderly progress deteriorated, and the sword drove learning into hiding. That dark period could hardly be called an age because it was an interim between ages.

Then, with the reawakening of a thousand years ago, with the Crusades, the Feudal System, the Guilds, the Kings and the Renaissance, that Age which immediately preceded our own was born and grew and flourished. That was an era of enormous distinction -- arts and literature and education and exploration -- marching armies, barons and empires. Human security was still non-existent -- democracy was not permitted.

Towards its close, however, the appearance of tiny movements in tiny places, led by tiny people forecast the next vast step forward -- the era of 1776 -- the age in which, thank God, we still live.

Those beginnings originated, it is true, in the old world -- among the philosophers, among the seekers of many kinds of freedom forbidden by those who governed.

Those beginnings found their freest development in the colonies that were organized along the seaboard of North America. There, by the processes of trial and error, democracy as it has since been accepted in so many lands, had its birth and its training.

There came into being the first far-flung government in all the world whose cardinal principle was democracy -- the United States of America.

We must accept that as fact because, truly and fundamentally, it was a new order -- nothing like it had ever been seen before. We must accept it because the new order spread into almost every part of the civilized world. It spread in many forms -- and over the next century almost all peoples had acquired some form of popular expression of opinion, some form of election, of franchise, of the right to be heard. The Americans and the British Isles led the world in spreading the gospel of democracy among peoples great and small.

And the world as a whole felt with much right that it had discarded feudalism, conquest and dictatorship.

People felt that way until 1914, when a definite effort was made in a part of the world to destroy this existing "new order of the ages", -- to destroy it after its relatively short trial, and to substitute for it the doctrine that might makes right. The attempt failed twenty-two years ago today.

You and I who served in the period of the World War have faced in later years unpatriotic efforts by some of our own countrymen to make us believe that the sacrifices made by our own Nation were wholly in vain.

A hundred years from now, historians will brand such efforts as puny and false.

A hundred years from now, historians will say rightly that the World War preserved the new order of the ages for at least a whole generation -- a full twenty years -- and that if the axis of 1918 had been successful in military victory over the associated nations, resistance on behalf of democracy in 1940 would have been wholly impossible.

America, therefore, is proud of its share in maintaining the era of democracy in that war in which we took part. America is proud of you who served -- and ever will be proud.

I, for one, do not believe that the era of democracy in human affairs can or will be snuffed out in our lifetime. I, for one, do not believe that mere force will be successful in sterilizing the seeds which had taken such firm root as a harbinger of better lives for mankind. I, for one, do not believe that the world will revert either to a modern form of ancient slavery or to controls vested in modern feudalism or modern emperors or modern dictators or modern oligarchs. In these days the very people under their iron heels will, themselves rebel.

What are a few months or even a few years in the lifetime of any of us? We, alive today, live and think in terms of our grandparents, and our own parents, and ourselves, and our children -- yes, and our grandchildren. We, alive today, -- not in the existant democracies alone, but also among the populations of the smaller nations already overrun, are thinking in the larger terms of the maintenance of the new order to which we have been accustomed and in which we intend to continue.

We recognize certain facts of 1940 which did not exist in 1918 -- a need for the elimination of aggressive armaments -- a need for the breaking down of barriers in a more closely knitted world -- a need for restoring honor in the written and spoken word. We recognize that the processes of democracies must be greatly improved in order that we may attain those purposes.

But over and above the present, we recognize and salute the eternal verities that lie with us in the future of mankind.

You, the men of 1917 and 1918, helped to preserve those truths of democracy for our generation.

We still unite, we still strive mightily to preserve intact that new order of the ages founded by the Fathers of America.

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SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON ARMISTICE DAY  
NOVEMBER 11, 1940  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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On this day which commemorates the end of fighting  
between human beings in a ~~World~~ war, it is permissible for me  
~~search for~~  
to ~~go~~ back in the history of civilization ~~in order to~~  
~~visualize~~ ~~the~~ ~~most~~ ~~important~~ ~~truths~~.

On the Great Seal of the United States which, for a century and a half, has reposed in the loving care of a long line of Secretaries of State of the United States appear these words:

"NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM"

which means, in effect, "a new order of the ages".

In almost every century, since the days of recorded history began, people have thought that they were instituting or creating or establishing some kind of "new order of the ages".

But in the civilization from which we Americans descend I suppose that we can properly admit that in 2,500 years there have been ~~only a few~~ "new orders" in the development of human living under a thing called government.

Without question, the philosophy of orderly government in which the governed had some form of voice in a civilized society goes back to the days of ancient Greece. We must remember, however, that while the philosophy of democracy was the ~~first~~ first expressed in words and on paper, the practice of ~~democracy~~, the philosophy was by no means ~~universal~~ and was confined to a relatively small number of human beings and a relatively small geographical area.

We come to the age of Rome -- an age of a strange admixture of elections and laws and military conquest and personal dictatorship. It was an age which extended the civilization of the period to the greater part of the world, ~~known to the Romans~~. It was an age which forced its own conception and laws and ways of life on millions of ~~uncivilized~~ civilized people who previously had lived under tribal ~~government~~. Definitely ~~it~~ was an era.

With its collapse and the overrunning of Europe by vast population movements from further east, orderly progress deteriorated and the sword drove learning into hiding. That dark period could hardly be called an age because it was an interim between ages.

Beginning with the reawakening a thousand years ago,  
the Crusades, the Feudal System, the Guilds, the Kings and the  
*Age*  
Renaissance, the ~~era~~ that preceded our own was born and flourished.

That was an era of enormous distinction -- arts and literature  
and education and exploration -- marching armies, barons and

*Human security was still non-existent - Democracy was not yet*  
empires. ~~A~~ Towards its close, the appearance in tiny places,  
of tiny movements led by tiny people ~~which~~ forecast the era of  
1776 -- the era in which, thank God, we still live.

Those beginnings originated, it is true, in the  
old world -- among the philosophers, <sup>and</sup> the seekers of many kinds  
of freedom ~~from~~ <sup>forbidden by</sup> those who governed, ~~in the~~  
~~world~~.

Those beginnings found their freest development  
in the colonies that were organized along the seaboard of North  
America. There, by the processes of trial and error, democracy  
as it has since been accepted in so many lands, had its birth  
and its training.

There came into being the first far-flung government  
*in all the world*  
whose cardinal principle was democracy -- the United States of  
America.

We must accept that fact because truly and fundamentally,  
it was a new order -- nothing like it had ever been seen before.

We must accept it because the new order spread into almost  
every part of the civilized world. It spread in many forms --  
but over the next century almost all peoples had acquired some  
form of popular expression of opinion, some form of election,  
~~of franchise, of the right to be heard, through in many cases~~  
~~British John led a world movement.~~  
~~Practice gave restraint from above.~~

And the world as a whole felt with much right that it  
had discarded feudalism, conquest and dictatorship.

~~People~~ <sup>1</sup> felt that way until 1914, when a definite  
effort was made in many parts of the world to destroy the ~~existing~~  
<sup>1</sup> existing new order of the ages, after its relatively short trial,  
and to substitute ~~for it~~ the doctrine that might makes right. ~~The~~  
~~attempt failed 22 years ago Today.~~

You and I who served in the period of the World War

have faced in later years unpatriotic efforts by some of our  
own countrymen to make us believe that the sacrifices made by  
~~our~~  
our Nation were wholly in vain.  
A

A hundred years from now, historians will brand such efforts as puny and false.

A hundred years from now, historians will say rightly that the World War preserved the new ~~order~~<sup>order of the ages</sup> for at least a whole generation -- a full twenty years -- and that if the axis of 1918 had been successful in military victory over the associated nations, resistance on behalf of democracy in 1940 would have been wholly impossible.

America, therefore, is proud of its share in maintaining the era of democracy in that war in which we took part.

America is proud of you who served ~~and~~ and ever will be ~~brand~~.

SECOND DRAFT

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON ARMISTICE DAY  
NOVEMBER 11, 1940  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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In almost every century since the day ~~that~~ recorded history began, people have thought that they were ~~instituting~~ creating or establishing some kind of "new order of the ages".

But in the civilization from which ~~we Americans~~ descend<sup>I</sup> I suppose that we can properly ~~admit~~ <sup>recognize</sup> that in 2,500 years there have been only a very few "new orders" in the development of human living under a thing called government.

Without question, the philosophy of orderly government in which the governed had some form of voice in a civilized society goes back to the days of ancient Greece. We must remember, however, that while the philosophy of democracy was there first expressed in words and on paper, the practice of ~~the philosophy~~ was by no means consistent, and was confined to a relatively small number of human beings and to a relatively small geographical area.

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*Rome's*  
With ~~the~~ collapse and the overrunning of Europe by vast population movements from farther east, orderly progress deteriorated, and the sword drove learning into hiding. That dark period could hardly be called an age because it was an interim between ages.

SECOND DRAFT

-3-

Then, beginning with the reawakening a thousand years ago,<sup>with</sup> the Crusades, the Feudal System, the Guilds, the Kings and the Renaissance, ~~the~~ <sup>that</sup> Age ~~which immediately~~ preceded our own was born and flourished. That was an era of enormous distinction -- arts and literature and education and exploration -- marching armies, barons and empires. Human security was still non-existent -- democracy was not permitted.

Towards its close, however, the appearance of tiny movements in tiny places, led by tiny people forecast the ~~next~~ <sup>Vast Step forward - the</sup> era of 1776 -- the age in which, thank God, we still live.

Those beginnings originated, it is true, in the old world -- among the philosophers, ~~and~~ <sup>Ancient</sup> the seekers of many kinds of freedom forbidden by those who governed.

Those beginnings found their freest development in the colonies that were organized along the seaboard of North America. There, by the processes of trial and error, democracy as it has since been accepted in so many lands, had its birth and its training.

There came into being the first far-flung government in all the world whose cardinal principle was democracy -- the United States of America.

SECOND DRAFT

-4-

We must accept that as fact because, truly and fundamentally, it was a new order -- nothing like it had ever been seen before. We must accept it because the new order spread into almost every part of the civilized world. It spread in many forms -- <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ over the next century almost all peoples had acquired some form of popular expression of opinion, some form of election, of franchise, of the right to be heard. The Americas and the British Isles led *the world movement in spreading the gospel of democracy among peoples great and small.* And the world as a whole felt with much right that it had discarded feudalism, conquest and dictatorship. People felt that way until 1914, when a definite effort was made in ~~many~~ <sup>Q</sup> party of the world to destroy <sup>To destroy it</sup> this existing "new order of the ages", after its relatively short trial, and to substitute for it the doctrine that might makes right. The attempt failed 22 years ago today. You and I who served in the period of the World War have faced in later years unpatriotic efforts by some of our own countrymen to make us believe that the sacrifices made by our own Nation were wholly in vain.

SECOND DRAFT

-5-

A hundred years from now, historians will brand such efforts as puny and false.

A hundred years from now, historians will say rightly that the World War preserved the new order of the ages for at least a whole generation -- a full twenty years -- and that if the axis of 1918 had been successful in military victory over the associated nations, resistance on behalf of democracy in 1940 would have been wholly impossible.

America, therefore, is proud of its share in maintaining the era of democracy in that war in which we took part. America is proud of you who served -- and ever will be proud.

I, for one, do not believe that the era of democracy in human affairs can or will be snuffed out in our lifetime. I, for one, do not believe that mere force will be successful in sterilizing the seeds which had taken such firm root as a harbinger of better lives for mankind. I, for one, do not believe that the world will revert either to a modern form of ancient slavery or to controls vested in modern feudalism or modern emperors or modern

SECOND DRAFT

-6-

dictators or modern oligarchs. *In these days.* The very people today under their iron heels will, themselves, rebel.

What are a few months or even a few years in the lifetime of any of us? We, alive today, live and think in terms of our grandparents, ~~and~~ our own parents, ~~and~~ ourselves, ~~and~~ our children -- yes, ~~and~~ our grandchildren. *exist* ~~of the smaller nations~~ *also* We, alive today, -- not in the democracies alone but among the populations already overrun, are thinking in the larger terms of the maintenance of the new order to which we have been accustomed and in which we intend to continue.

We recognize certain facts of 1940 which did not exist in 1918 -- a need for the elimination of aggressive armaments -- a need for the breaking down of barriers in a ~~playground~~ more closely knitted world -- a need for restoring honor in the written and spoken word. We recognize that the processes of democracies must be greatly improved in order that we may attain those purposes.

But over and above the present, we recognize the *and salute* *eternal* verities that lie with us in the future of mankind.

SECOND DRAFT

-7-

You, the men of 1917 and 1918, helped to preserve  
~~those in the~~  
~~the war-time~~ ~~of democracy for our~~ generation.

~~We~~  
~~we~~ still ~~assume~~ ~~duty~~ we strive mightily to

preserve intact that new order of the ages founded by the  
Fathers of America.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

Delivered in the Amphitheatre  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Armistice Day, November 11, 1940, 11.10 A.M.

VETERANS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES:

On this day which commemorates the end of fighting between human beings in a World War, it is, I think, permissible for me to search far back in the history of civilization in order to visualize important trends.

On the Great Seal of the United States which, for a century and half, has reposed in the loving care of a long line of Secretaries of State of the United States, there appear these words:

"NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM"

which means: "A new order of the ages."

In almost every century since the day that recorded history began, people have thought, quite naturally, that they were creating or establishing some kind of "new order of the ages."

But in the scheme of civilization from which ours descends I suppose that we can (properly) recognize that in approximately 2,500 years there have been only a very few "new orders" in the development of human living under a thing called government.

Without question, the philosophy of orderly government in which the governed had some form of voice in a civilized society goes back to the days of ancient Greece. We must remember, however, that while the philosophy of democracy was there first expressed in words and on paper, the practice of it was by no means consistent, and was confined to a relatively small number of human beings and to a relatively small geographical area.

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 or sentences 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.

or another administration. When I did it, and this was applied most

enthusiastically at the time of our neutrality in World War II, and not during

the current budgetary

question, it was decided not to hold off to the last moment until

after election to wait over a bit until after the budget had been passed, and this has

obviously caused some trouble, because it will not be right to

"REVENGE ON ENEMY"

"...was not to make war on" - Senator Goldwater

proposed balance of power and Senate majority leader

said "over your head," extension of time (disputed over vigorous, argued

"...was not to take over" to make your guidelines as

balanced two days apart sufficiently to provide not at all

extension of time (disputed) and we had enough to

say all of "balance over" not give a clear and unambiguous one day

extension of time against a number of bills coming to recognize

an international currency by specifying not, unless you find

balance between a number of bills when had been very odd

number, indicating from all concerned nations to what sort of deal may

be necessary before you can get back to recognizing and others that

balance situation of one to two billion dollars, which no has action

of his action taken to reduce them down to one billion now has

one hundred and fifty thousand down to one billion a

Then we came to the age of Rome -- an age of a strange admixture of elections and laws and military conquest and personal dictatorship. It was an age which extended the civilization of the period to the greater part of the then known world. It was an age which forced its own conception of laws and ways of life on millions, literally millions of less civilized people who previously had lived under tribal custom or centralized direction. Yet, definitely, Rome was an age.

With (Rome's) the collapse that followed, (and) with the overrunning of Europe by vast population movements from farther east, orderly progress deteriorated for a number of centuries, and the sword drove learning into hiding. That dark period could hardly be called an age because it was essentially an interim between ages.

And then, with the reawakening of a thousand years ago, with the Crusades, the Feudal System, the Guilds, the Kings and the Renaissance, that age which immediately preceded our own was born and grew and flourished. (That) It was an era of enormous distinction -- arts and literature and education and exploration -- marching armies, barons and empires. Human security was still non-existent -- democracy was not permitted.

But toward(s) the close of that great age, (however) the appearance of tiny movements in tiny places, led by tiny people forecast the next vast step forward -- what we like to think of as the era of 1776 -- the age in which, thank God, we still live. (Applause)

It is true that those small beginnings originated (it is true) in the old world -- among the philosophers, among the seekers of many kinds of freedom that were forbidden then by those who governed.

Those beginnings found their freest development in the colonies that were organized along the seaboard of North America. There, by the processes of trial and error, democracy as it has since been accepted in so many lands, had its birth and its training.

There came into being the first far-flung government in all the world whose cardinal principle was democracy -- the United States of America. (Applause)

I think we must accept that as fact because, truly and fundamentally, it was a new order -- nothing like it had ever been seen before. We must accept it because the new order spread into almost every part of the civilized world. It spread in many forms -- and over the next century almost all peoples had acquired some form of popular expression of opinion, some form of election, some form of franchise, some form of the right to be heard. And the Americas, all of the Americas in that century and the British Isles, England and Scotland and Ireland and Wales, led the world in spreading the gospel of democracy among peoples great and small. (Applause)

And the world as a whole felt with much right that by that time it had discarded feudalism and conquest and dictatorship.

People felt that way within the memory of many of us who are here today, felt that way until 1914, when a definite effort was made in a part of the world to destroy this existing settled "new order of the ages," -- to destroy it after its relatively short trial, and to substitute for it the doctrine that might makes right. (The) That attempt failed without help twenty-two years ago (today). (Applause)

You and I who served in the period of the World War have faced in later years unpatriotic efforts by some of our own countrymen to make us believe that the sacrifices made by our own nation were wholly in vain.

A hundred years from now, historians will brand such efforts as puny and false.

A hundred years from now, historians will say rightly that the World War preserved the new order of the ages for at least a (whole) generation -- a full twenty years -- and that if the axis of 1918 had been successful in military victory over the associated nations, resistance on behalf of democracy in 1940 would have been wholly impossible. (Applause)

And so America (therefore) is proud of its share in maintaining the era of democracy in that war in which we took part. America is proud of you who served -- and ever will be proud. (Applause)

I, for one, do not believe that the era of democracy in human affairs can or ever will be snuffed out in our lifetime. (Applause) I, for one, do not believe that mere force will be successful in sterilizing the seeds which had taken such firm root as a harbinger of better lives for mankind. I, for one, do not believe that the world will revert either to a modern form of ancient slavery or to controls vested in modern feudalism or modern emperors or modern dictators or modern oligarchs in these days. I, for one, do believe that the very people under their iron heels will, themselves, rebel. (Applause)

After all, what are a few months or even a few years in the lifetime of any of us? We, alive today, live and think in terms of our grandparents, and our own parents, and ourselves, and our children --

yes, and our grandchildren. We, alive today, -- not in the existent democracies alone, but also among the populations of the smaller nations already overrun, we are thinking in the larger terms of the maintenance of the new order to which we have been accustomed and in which we intend to continue. (Applause)

Time has marched on. We recognize certain facts of 1940 which did not exist in 1918 -- a need for the elimination of aggressive armaments -- a need for the breaking down of barriers in a more closely knitted world -- a need for restoring honor in the written and the spoken word. (Applause) We recognize that the processes of democracies must be greatly improved in order that we may attain those purposes.

But over and above the present, over and above this moment, we recognize and salute the eternal verities that lie with us in the future of mankind.

You, (the) young men of 1917 and 1918, you helped to preserve those truths of democracy for our generation.

We still unite, we still strive mightily to preserve intact that new order of the ages founded by the Fathers of America. (Applause)

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# STATEMENTS FILE

## Shorthand By Kannee

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November 11, 1940

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be delivered in the Amphitheatre, Arlington National Cemetery, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 11:10 A.M., E.S.T., November 11, 1940. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio newsmen and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT

On this day which commemorates the end of fighting between human beings in a World war, it is permissible for me to search far back in the history of civilization in order to visualize important trends.

On the Great Seal of the United States which, for a century and a half, has reposed in the loving care of a long line of Secretaries of State of the United States appear these words:

"NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM"

which means: "a new order of the ages".

In almost every century since the day that recorded history began, people have thought that they were creating or establishing some kind of "new order of the ages".

But in the scheme of civilization from which our descendants I suppose that we can properly recognize that in 2,500 years there have been only a very few "new orders" in the development of human living under a thing called government.

Without question, the philosophy of orderly government in which the governed had some form of voice in a civilized society goes back to the days of ancient Greece. We must remember, however, that while the philosophy of democracy was there first expressed in words and on paper, the practice of it was by no means consistent, and was confined to a relatively small number of human beings and to a relatively small geographical area.

We came to the age of Rome -- an age of a strange admixture of elections and laws and military conquest and personal dictatorship. It was an age which extended the civilization of the period to the greater part of the then known world. It was an age which forced its own conception of laws and ways of life on millions of less civilized people who previously had lived under tribal custom or centralized direction. Definitely, Rome was an age.

With Rome's collapse, and the overrunning of Europe by vast population movements from farther east, orderly progress deteriorated, and the sword drove learning into hiding. That dark period could hardly be called an age because it was the interim between ages.

" Then, with the reawakening of a thousand years ago, with the Crusades, the Feudal System, the Guilds, the Kings and the Renaissance, that Age which immediately preceded our own was born and grew and flourished. That was an era of enormous distinction -- arts and literature and education and exploration -- marching armies, barons and empires. Human security was still non-existent -- democracy was not permitted.

" Towards the close, however, the appearance of tiny movements in tiny places, led by tiny people forecast the next vast step forward -- the era of 1776 -- the age in which, thank God, we still live.

" Those beginnings originated, it is true, in the old world -- among the philosophers, among the seekers of many kinds of freedom, forbidden by those who governed.

Those beginnings found their freest development in the colonies that were organized along the seaboard of North America. There, by the processes of trial and error, democracy as it has since been accepted in so many lands, had its birth and its training.

There came into being the first far-flung government in all the world whose cardinal principle was democracy -- the United States of America.

" We must accept that as fact because, truly and fundamentally, it was a new order -- nothing like it had ever been seen before. We must accept it because the new order spread into almost every part of the civilized world. It spread in many forms -- and over the next century almost all peoples had acquired some form of popular expression of opinion, some form of election, of franchise, of the right to be heard. The Americas and the British Isles led the world in spreading the gospel of democracy among peoples great and small.

And the world as a whole felt with much right that it had discarded feudalism, conquest and dictatorship.

People felt that way until 1914, when a definite effort was made in a part of the world to destroy this existing "new order of the ages", -- to destroy it after its relatively short trial, and to substitute for it the doctrine that might makes right. That attempt failed, twenty-two years ago today.

You and I who served in the period of the World War have faced in later years unpatriotic efforts by some of our own countrymen to make us believe that the sacrifices made by our own Nation were wholly in vain.

A hundred years from now, historians will brand such efforts as puny and false.

A hundred years from now, historians will say rightly that the World War preserved the new order of the ages for at least a whole generation -- a full twenty years -- and that if the axis of 1918 had been successful in military victory over the associated nations, resistance on behalf of democracy in 1940 would have been wholly impossible.

) America, therefore, is proud of its share in maintaining the era of democracy in that war in which we took part. America is proud of you who served -- and ever will be proud.

I, for one, do not believe that the era of democracy in human affairs can or will be snuffed out in our lifetime. I, for one, do not believe that mere force will be successful in sterilizing the seeds which had taken such firm root as a harbinger of better lives for mankind. I, for one, do not believe that the world will revert either to a modern form of ancient slavery or to controls vested in modern feudalism or modern emperors or modern dictators or modern oligarchs. In these days, the very people under their iron heels will, themselves rebel.

What are a few months or even a few years in the lifetime of any of us? We, alive today, live and think in terms of our grandparents, and our own parents, and ourselves, and our children -- yes, and our grandchildren. We, alive today, -- not in the existent democracies alone, but also among the populations of the smaller nations already overrun, are thinking in the larger terms of the maintenance of the new order to which we have been accustomed and in which we intend to continue.

We recognize certain facts of 1940 which did not exist in 1918 -- a need for the elimination of aggressive armaments -- a need for the breaking down of barriers in a more closely knitted world -- a need for restoring honor in the written and spoken word. We recognize that the processes of democracies must be greatly improved in order that we may attain those purposes.

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