PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was continuing the conversations with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after the Japanese attack, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While the message stated that diplomatic negotiations must be continued, it contained no threat or hint of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.
The attack yesterday on Honolulu and on the Island of Oahu has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications of these attacks on the safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Long will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this fanatical invasion, the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.
I speak the will of the Congress and of the people of this country when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no mincing the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

I, therefore, ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war exists between the United States and the Japanese Empire.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM:

This is the first draft of the message dictated by the President to Congress. The pencilled notes are mine.

HARRY L. HOPKINS
December 8, 1941

MEMORANDUM

I saw the President at 8:30 this morning and attached is the last draft of the speech.

I suggested that he take out "at the moment" in the fourth line on page 1 and "minor menace" on page 3. I also wrote the next to the last paragraph for him.

The speech is going to be given at 12:30 and I am going down with Mrs. Roosevelt to hear it.

The President was receiving the latest despatches this morning and the news is surely not good. But, as ever, he had a good night's sleep, although someone woke him up at 7:30.

He dictated to Steve a long news release to be given out at once.

I told him I thought he should invite the Supreme Court and he readily agreed. This has been done.

HARRY L. HOPKINS
MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS
DECEMBER 8, 1941

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.
It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.
Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and will understand the implications to the very safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Long will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.

I speak the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.
Hostilities exist. There is no mincing the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

I, therefore, ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

***************

Lest with such confidence and

Faith in our God, and

Our people - we will

Conquer - we will make you see

As help we seek.

Yours truly.
PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Hawaii and the Philippines, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. This reply contained a statement that it seemed useless to continue the diplomatic negotiations, but it contained no threat nor hint of war nor of an armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to
deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

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This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

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Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces -- with the unbounding determination of our people -- we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

**************************************************
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

amendment (Rept. No. 1467). Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. RANDOLPH: Committee on the District of Columbia. H. R. 6083. A bill to amend an act entitled "An act providing for the zoning of the District of Columbia and the regulation of the location, height, bulk, and uses of buildings and other structures of the uses of land in the District of Columbia, and of other purposes," approved June 20, 1938; without amendment (Rept. No. 488). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XXII, report of committees was delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MEAGHER: Committee on Claims. H. R. 1335. A bill for the relief of the estate of John J. Murray; with amendment (Rept. No. 1476). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. EDMISTON:

H. R. 6181. A bill to extend eligibility for appointments to the West Point and Annapolis Academies to the sons of service-connected World War veterans and for other purposes; to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. STEAGALL:

H. R. 6182. A bill to amend the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act, as amended, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

By Mr. PLOGO:

H. Res. 378. Resolution requesting the President and the Secretary of State to negotiate for the purchase of a part of the Dominion of Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XXII, private bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. CARTER:

H. R. 6182. A bill for the relief of James Theodore Helm; to the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

By Mr. HARIBI of Arkansas:

H. R. 6183. A bill for the relief of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Ball; to the Committee on Claims.

By Mr. MARCANTONIO:

H. R. 6185. A bill for the relief of Frederick Rush; to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH:

H. R. 6186. A bill for the relief of Henry Tachudy and family; to the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

By Mr. HULL:

H. R. 6188. A bill for the relief of Robert E. Dennis; to the Committee on Claims.

PETITION, ETC.

Under clause 1 of rule XXII, petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

2122. By Mr. CULKIN: Resolution of the National Orange, favoring application of economic devices as best means for holding down inflationary tendencies and opposing arbitrary price fixing unless necessary. If price fixing becomes necessary, demands that all groups be included, action be taken to prevent profiteering, standards be provided to assure equity, and that Congress retain control; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

2123. Also, resolution of the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, approving House bill 5912, for relief of agricultural producers whose crops were reduced by reason of drought or other uncontrollable causes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2124. By Mr. LAMBERTSON: Petition of the Carpenters' Local Union, 1445, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Topeka, Kan., requesting the immediate enactment of a just and adequate old-age pension law; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2125. By the SPEAKER: Petition of the General Welfare Federation, Patawa, Wetc., petitioning for consideration of their resolution with reference to House bill 1416; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

On motion of Mr. McCormack, by unanimous consent, the Journal of the proceedings of Friday, December 4, 1941, was approved without reading.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive communications, pursuant to clause 2, rule XXIV, were referred as follows:

1121. A letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a draft of proposed additional legislation that is needed in connection with the settlement of damage claims and the acquisition of easement rights in connection with the operation of the Fort Hall Irrigation project, Fort Hall, Idaho; to the Committee on Claims.

1122. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a draft of a proposed bill to further amend the act approved June 23, 1938 (52 Stat. 944), as amended; to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. McCormack, by unanimous consent,

Ordered, That it may be in order at any time today for the House to stand in recess, subject to the call of the Speaker.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. McCormack submitted the following concurrent resolution, which was considered and agreed to (H. Con. Res. 61):

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Monday, the 5th day of December, 1941, at 12:00 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communications as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. McCormack, by unanimous consent,

Ordered, That it may be in order at any time today for the Speaker to recognize Members to move a suspension of the rules.

RECESS

At 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p. m., the House stood in recess, subject to the call of the Speaker.

AFTER RECESS—12:15 P. M.

THE SPEAKER called the House to order.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Fauster, its legislative clerk, announced that the Senate had agreed, without amendment, to a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of both Houses on Monday, December 8, 1941, for the purpose of receiving such communications as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make.

Then,

JOINT SESSION TO RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Doorkeeper announced the Vice President and Members of the Senate, who entered the Chamber and took seats assigned them.

Whereupon, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 61, the Speaker called the joint session of the two Houses to order.

The Doorkeeper announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, who entered the Chamber and took seats assigned them.

The Doorkeeper announced the members of the President's Cabinet, who entered the Chamber and took seats assigned them.

The SPEAKER appointed Mr. McCormack, Mr. Donough, and Mr. Martin of Massachusetts as members on the part of the House of the committee to escort the President into the Hall of the House.

The VICE PRESIDENT appointed Mr. Glass, Mr. Barkley, and Mr. McNary members on the part of the Senate of the committee to escort the President into the Hall of the House.

The President of the United States, at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p. m., escorted by the committees on the part of both Houses, entered the Hall of the House.
and at the Clerk’s desk delivered the fol-
lowing:

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate and of the House of Rep-
resentatives:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and di-
liberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking to-
ward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, 1 hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleagues delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic nego-
tiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Gov-
ernment has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false state-
ments and expressions of hope for con-
tinued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas be-
tween San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a sur-
prise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the impli-
cations of the very life and safety of our

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all meas-
ures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I asser-
t that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain

that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounded determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable tri-
umph—to help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly at-
tack by Japan on December 7, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

Following the delivery of the message the Speaker declared the joint session of the two Houses dissolved.

At 12 o’clock and 20 minutes p.m., the President retired from the Hall of the House, accompanied by the members of his Cabinet.

The Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court then re-
tired from the Hall of the House.

The Vice President and the Members of the Senate returned to their Chamber.

The Speaker then called the House to order.

REFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

On motion of Mr. McCormack, the President’s message was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and or-
ded to be printed.

was RESOLUTION

Pursuant to a special order herefo-
re agreed to, Mr. McCormack moved to suspend the rules and pass the Joint resolution as follows (H. J. Res. 254):

Declaring that a state of war exists between the Imperial Govern-
ment of Japan and the Government and the peo-
ple of the United States and seeking pro-
visions to prosecute the same.

Whereas the Imperial Government of Japan has committed repeated acts of war against the Government and the people of the United States;

Therefore be it

Resolved, etc., That the state of war between the United States and the Imper-
ial Government of Japan which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and that the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government of Japan on any war against the Imperial Gov-
ernment of Japan; and to bring the con-

This page is a part of a larger document.
For events surrounding disappearance of Reading Copy (11/24/41) see Grace fully, FDR, My Boss, page 93

(also James Roosevelt. Affectionately, FDR. p. 329.)

[Signature]
11/31/58

J.R. brought reading copy to the white house, left it on coat rack from which it was taken by an unknown person. It has never turned up.
CONFIDENTIAL: To be held in STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis or intimation to be published or given out until delivery of the President's message to the Congress HAS BEEN.

release expected about 12:30 P. M., E. S. T.,
December 8, 1941.

CAUTION: Extreme care must be exercised to avoid premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.
Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan, therefore, has undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and will understand the implications to the very safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces -- with the unbounding determination of our people -- we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.
CONFIDENTIAL: To be held in STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis or intimation to be published or given out until delivery of the President's message to the Congress HAS BEEN. Release expected about 12:30 P. M., E. S. T., December 6, 1941.

CAUTION: Extreme care must be exercised to avoid premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

 Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.
Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and will understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

And always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. (Applause)

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. (Applause)

I believe, I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. (Applause)

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God. (Applause)

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, '41, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire. (Loud and protracted cheers and applause.)

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

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Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Kioyawa Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

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Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — at the cost of so much blood.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.
December 23, 1941

Dear Jimmy:

I have had a howl go up from the Library at Hyde Park and from Grace here that you have taken away with you the war Message to Congress.

Because of your being away and the possibility of Rommie going from place to place, I really thing it would be better for you to put it on deposit at Hyde Park where the Library will, of course, take care of its safety. As a matter of fact, it probably ought to be in the Government permanently because they have everything else and this particular one is just about the equal in importance to the First Inaugural Address. Will you or Rommie send it to me?

All the good luck in the world.

Devotedly,

Captain James Roosevelt,
c/o Mrs. Jerome Schneider,
106 South Orlando Avenue,
Los Angeles, California
Date: May 9, 1984
Reply to: NNFD - L
Subject: Reply to inquiry

To: Mr. Ray Teichman
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
Hyde Park, NY 12538

You will find an answer to your inquiry in the statement(s) checked below.

1. [ ] The enclosed information will help answer your recent inquiry.

2. [ ] The material you ordered [ ] is enclosed [ ] will be mailed in about __________ week(s).

3. [ ] Your order costs $ __________________.

4. [ ] Your refund of $ ________ [ ] is enclosed [ ] will be sent by Treasury check in a few weeks.

5. [ ] Enclosed is the copy of President Roosevelt's message of December 8, 1941, from the records of the U. S. House of Representatives.

Charles South

CHARLES SOUTH
Legislative and Diplomatic Branch
Civil Archives Division
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, the hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.
Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an
attack against Malaya.
Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.
Last night Japanese forces attacked Oham.
Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Is-
lands.
Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.
This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.
Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive
extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday
speak for themselves. The people of the United States have al-
ready formed their opinions and well understand the implications
to the very safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed
that all measures be taken for our defense.
Always will we remember the character of the onslaught
against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this pre-
meditated invasion, the American people will in their
righteous
might win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of
the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves
to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of
treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact
that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave
danger.
With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounded determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

[Signature]

THE WHITE HOUSE,
December 8, 1941.
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.
Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will be remembered the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.
With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.
Dec 8, 1941,
Read in
gouie personne.