

#1400

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
BROADCAST FROM THE CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
December 8, 1941 -- 12.30 P.M., E.S.T.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, AND MR. SPEAKER, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES: (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 the American Island of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to (the) our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or 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 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. I regret to tell you that 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 and today 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.

But always will (we) our whole nation 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 (loud and prolonged cheers and applause) absolute victory.

I believe that 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 it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again (endanger us) 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)

- 3 -

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire. (loud and prolonged cheers and applause).

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.

DRAFT No. 1

December 7, 1941.

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in ~~world history~~ ^{infamy}
 the United States of America was ~~suddenly~~ ^{suddenly} and deliberately attacked
 by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan, ~~with that intention~~

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was
~~still in~~ ^{still in} conversations 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 ~~the Philippines~~ ^{Oahu}

the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered
 to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a ~~former~~ ^{recent American} message, ~~from the~~

~~secretary.~~ ^{While} This reply contained ~~a statement~~ ^{started} that diplomatic negotiations
~~must be considered at an end,~~ ^{it} but contained no threat ~~and~~ ^{or} hint of ~~an~~ ^{or}
 armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance ~~between~~ ^{of} Hawaii from Japan make ^{it} obvious that the ~~attack~~ ^{was} deliberately
 planned many days ^{or 1000 weeks} ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Govern-
 ment has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false
 statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

Japan's deliberate attack on the U.S.

The attack ^{the Hawaiian Islands} yesterday on ~~Manila and on the Island of Guam~~ ^{has}

caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ~~ships~~ 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. Japan has, therefore, undertaken a "surprise offensive" extending throughout the Pacific area. The Philippines Islands

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~~ ^{to} ~~on~~ the safety of our nation.

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

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

A No matter how long it may take us to overcome this permitted invasion, the American people will in their righteousness 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 ^{has} ~~exists~~ ^{and} between the United States and the
 Japanese Empire.

*Our people in
 full confidence of our right*

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

From the Papers of
Harry L. Hopkins

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
HYDE PARK, N. Y.

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 ^{that} 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.

From the Papers of

Harry L. Hopkins

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
4102 PARK, N. Y.

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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Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

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MIDE PARK, N. Y.

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.

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.

Deity

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.

Deity

*With supreme confidence in our
Divine Source - with faith in our people -
- with ~~the~~ ~~unshakable~~ ~~confidence~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~
- we will ~~surely~~ ~~gain~~ ~~the~~
so help us God.
unwavering triumph*

DRAFT NO. 2

December 7, 1941.

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

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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.

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

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

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 has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

10-24
David Wright

MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

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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.

to assure I interpret
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 *make very certain* ~~see to it~~ that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no ^{blinking} ~~mincing~~ the fact
that our people, our territory and our interests are in
grave danger.

A  I, ~~therefore~~, ask that the Congress declare that
since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on
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Final Draft

MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

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