

President Eisenhower, that we "must recognize that we could lose" that race. "We must not let ourselves be deceived," said Dr. Killian, "about the increasingly exacting demands upon our will and our resources yet to be imposed by the military and economic, as well as the technological, competition of the Soviet bloc—a competition that may require us to make some hard choices between growing comfort and leisure on the one hand and hard work on the other—that will require, too, a wider recognition that high intellectual achievement is as important to survival as a high standard of living and material prosperity." All these reports, as I have said, are profoundly disturbing to those of us who know the character and the purpose of the Soviet Union and its allies.

There is little doubt in the minds of any of us as to what the Communists will do if they are ever convinced that they are confronted by weakness and not strength. All hope of our national survival will vanish if we ever permit ourselves to cower in weakness before the ruthless leadership of the communist tyranny. The peace of the world depends on our remaining strong, and our strength, to a great degree, lies in the military might of our armed forces. Our country, of course, is everlastingly indebted to veterans like yourselves who fought in its great wars to preserve the freedom we cherish.

But it owes a special debt of gratitude to organizations like the American Legion—and the other great service organizations—for keeping our citizens constantly alert to the dangers we face. Your experience as soldiers, sailors and Marines heightened your awareness of these dangers. With this understanding, you have persistently warned the people of this country of the threats from enemies, and in so doing, you have made an invaluable contribution to the safety of the nation and the peace of the world. I urge you to continue your crusade for a strong nation dedicated to an enduring peace but fully prepared to resist aggression. In peace or at war, we cannot deal with Communism unless we do so from a position of strength. We must not allow ourselves to lag behind in providing the weapons and materials needed for our defense and in training the manpower to use them. If our Army is, in truth, "falling to pieces," we must rebuild it. If we are, indeed, falling behind the Russians in the race to build missiles, we must resist public apathy and double and redouble our effort to overtake them. "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace," said the father of our country in his first annual address to the Congress of the United