

our strength, for the most part, is determined by the military might of our armed forces.

After each of the great world wars of this century, the citizens of the United States succumbed to a state of complacency regarding military preparedness, with the result that our country had to resort to crash programs when threatened with foreign aggression. To their everlasting credit, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the other great veterans' organizations, strove with great diligence and great persistence to shake the people out of their lethargy and to warn them of the dangers they faced. You have the deep personal satisfaction of knowing that, by following this policy, you have served your nation bravely and well, just as you did when you served on battlefields in the wars of your country. You of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and your comrades in the other veteran's organizations have painstakingly reminded the people of this country that we cannot deal with Communism and the forces of aggression, in peace or in war, unless we maintain our military strength. We know now that we must never allow ourselves to lag in providing the weapons and materials needed for our defense and in training the manpower to use them.

A nation is grateful to patriots like yourselves who fought at a great sacrifice in the great wars of our country to safeguard the freedom we cherish. A nation is grateful to you, also, for keeping us at constant alert as to the grave dangers which threaten us. I encourage you, therefore, to continue your crusade for a strong nation, dedicated to peace but fully prepared to resist aggression. We all pray for the day when we may be able to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning-hooks. But we acknowledge, with sadness and disappointment, that that day has not yet arrived. And so, we must heed the words of the father of our country, who advised us that the best means of preserving the peace is to be prepared for war.

Once again, let me say that it is a great honor and a great pleasure to be your guest here this evening. The people of this city and this State greet you and welcome you, and we hope that all of you may be able to visit us often in the future.