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ADDRESS

BY

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Wherever I travel, the question most often asked is - What is the President like?

To attempt a partial answer, I decided to speak to you about this one man who is, at once, many men. My subject is the President of the United States.

There is no mystery about what the President stands for, what he has done, and what he seeks to accomplish. Unlike the slave states of the world, where the people are told only that which the privileged few wish to disclose, and where individual power is might, we are blessed with that most wonderful of many freedoms -- the right to know.

Let us, then, look at the man and the office.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

First, and the nation's security must always come first, let us look at the President as the Commander-in-Chief.

If we were to count our blessings, there is no better point of beginning than the realization that our nation's sanity and security is firmly anchored to the one person, apart and above all others among us, with the military experience, sagacity, leadership, and temperament to plot a course of peace through the turbulent, war-charged waters of our world.

Reflect for a moment upon the forces of extreme pressure at work today and every day upon the President in his position as Commander-in-Chief. He must resist the appeal of those who would create though unwittingly a holocaust of war at the first sign of trouble. With the provocations which so frequently arise, it requires the greatest personal discipline not to respond emotionally.

Others, also large in number, cling to the belief that we can hide behind invisible walls arising from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to insulate us from troubles outside our shores. By a do-nothing policy they would leave us open to ready conquest and destruction.

Amidst the turmoil of this day, a fact has emerged: That this Commander knows what to do, how to do it, when to act, and when not to act. In the most pressing circumstances, he has held fast to the knowledge that we must weigh the interrelated military, economic, diplomatic, strategic, social, and psychological factors which surround each situation. That he has successfully done so is readily conceded even by those who would be most critical for political or personal reasons.

We are familiar with what has happened. Before it is forgotten, recall for a brief moment that the blood of American soldiers no longer flows on the Korean battlefields. And let us not overlook the tremendous influence for peace which is exercised by the President. Still fresh in the minds of the world is the image of the great soldier-statesman of

World War II. The respect he then earned through accomplishments, now a matter of recorded history, has deservedly broadened into global confidence in his leadership. You may allocate credit as you please, but the trouble spots of yesterday did not explode as well they might have -- The Iranian situation, where the infiltration of Communists threatened to create a serious international problem; the peaceful settlement of the Suez Canal difficulties; the resolution of the troublesome Trieste controversy; the curbing of the Communist outcropping in Guatemala; the recent Costa Rica disturbance; and the arming of West Germany as a part of the defense against Communist aggression is rapidly going forward. Directly or indirectly, the influence of the President was felt.

Today, the headlines speak of the Formosa crisis. To this situation, Dwight D. Eisenhower brings the same calm judgment and courage, unshakably rooted in a desire for peaceful solutions with honor.

Conceding, as all do, the effectiveness of the Commander-in-Chief on a global level, what about our military strength today?

The President's simple, factual statement to the Congress in his budget message needs no embellishment: "Never in our peacetime history have we been as well prepared to defend ourselves as we are now."

It is as comforting to us as it is disappointing to those with evil designs upon our free institutions to know that NIKE guided-missile battalions, fighter interceptors, aircraft control and warning

networks, land and water radar systems, and other defensive measures are rapidly going forward to the point where, already, a surprise enemy attack would find us with increasing readiness to resist attack and retaliate with devastating effect.

Our offensive striking power is outstanding in the present world situation. Since 1952, five atomic-cannon battalions, each equipped with six huge cannons capable of firing a larger atom warhead than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima have joined our military units. Others are on the way. The air force fighter interceptor squadrons are 100 percent jet equipped. The atomic submarine, U.S.S. Nautilus, launched in 1954, will be joined this year by the U.S.S. Sea Wolf, an atomic submarine of different design. The building of two atomic-powered attack type submarines is under way and additional submarines of this type are included in the 1956 budget, as is a fifth aircraft carrier of the Forrestal class.

But what of the cost of these and many other defensive and offensive measures designed to give us the greatest protection?

In spite of the increases in our military strength, the 1956 estimated Department of Defense costs are over  $9\frac{1}{2}$  billion dollars less than actual 1953 expenditures. This is not an accident. President Eisenhower has applied his extraordinary knowledge of military affairs and sensitive awareness of the taxpayers' burdens to give us more might at less cost.

These, then, are the capable hands into which we can confidently place our national security.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Turning to another broad area of responsibility -- Foreign Affairs -- we again have ample experience on the basis of which we may appraise the President's abilities as the nation's representative in international affairs.

It is my conviction that Dwight D. Eisenhower, in this field, will be regarded as one of the most nonpartisan Presidents since George Washington. He is prepared and has given assurance of going further than any of his predecessors of either political party in seeking the cooperation of the whole Congress before major decisions are made -- not just informing them of accomplished actions for ratification. No President was ever more sensitive to constitutional requirements for legislative direction and authority as the President's message of January 23 on the Formosa crisis so abundantly shows.

In this age of intercontinental missiles and a jet-atomic atmosphere, there cannot be one foreign affairs policy for Democrats and another for Republicans. You are all aware of the immediate challenges and critical dangers facing all free nations. Spin the world globe and almost anywhere your finger lights will locate a Soviet-inspired menace to peace: In southeast Asia, notably in southern Vietnam; the nationalist foment sweeping North Africa, the site of several of our strategic bases; and Formosa, among others.

But there is a brighter side. President Eisenhower's atoms-for-peace plan offers great promise for international good will and advancement. Not only does the plan embrace a lessening of East-West tensions,

but great promise is offered for tremendous strides forward in the fields of medicine, industrial power, and scientific progress generally for the benefit of all mankind.

In foreign trade, the President has presented to the Congress his plan for a healthy, stimulating course of action calculated to benefit all the cooperating nations of the world, including substantial gains for this nation.

Let us not be driven into a doctrinaire selection of free trade as against protectionism. These can be handy labels for acrimonious debate. The real issue, if we are wise enough to follow the President's leadership, is whether we will recognize that our foreign trade policy is an integral part of our foreign affairs program and also an indispensable aid to our domestic economy. The closer our economic relations with our allies, the more stable will be our political and military relations. And if we do not offer available markets to our friends and to the on-the-fence nations, it is clear that the Soviets will.

The tariff program is grounded upon principles of moderation, selectivity, and reciprocity. It is carefully designed to afford the greatest possible stimulation and protection to our economy while aiding the cause of progress in world trade.

In this important area of our national life, the President brings his studied judgment, honesty of purpose, and devotion to that which is best for the nation as a whole.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Turning to matters closer home, we find many points of reference for this personal analysis.

President Eisenhower's own appraisal of his "stewardship" of two years, given in his speech to the nation of August 23, 1954, makes clear his foremost desire to act and be looked upon as an advocate for the people as a whole. In his own words, "This Administration was pledged to do everything it could for the benefit of 160 million American people and not for any single group, any single area or any single geographic section." These words express Dwight D. Eisenhower's deepest convictions. This is how he has applied them:

Civil Rights There are those who piously speak of equal rights and privileges and others who do something about maintaining the dignity of man. Dwight D. Eisenhower is a doer.

The administration's view, and the President's strong personal feeling, that segregation has no place in our schools has been successfully espoused before the Supreme Court.

Segregation has been abolished in the armed services.

Projects maintaining segregation practices are denied federal financial aid.

Anti-discrimination clauses form a part of all Government contracts. Let me briefly touch upon this phase of civil rights since it may not be as well understood as some of the others mentioned.



The Government requires in all of its contracts a clause whereby contractors agree not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, or national origin. This is familiar language. Let us see exactly what it means.

President Eisenhower holds fast to the determined position that there must be no second-class citizens in this nation. Those who do business with the Government must provide equality of opportunity in employment for all Americans. Ability alone must be the governing standard.

Basic concepts of decency and morality alone justify the elimination of odious discriminatory practices. Fullest utilization of the abilities of all of our people is imperative to a strong and healthy economy in times of peace as well as in war.

In another area of civil rights, legislation has been presented to the Congress requesting the establishment of a Public Defender so that all of our people may be provided with full and adequate representation in the courts.

**Schools** The dual impact of steadily increased school enrollments and retarded school construction programs which have failed to keep pace with increased requirements presents an immediate and pressing need. The problem has been present for many years. But it was largely pushed aside to be dealt with "tomorrow."

In Dwight Eisenhower's "book," today's problems are ready for attempted solution today. The proper education of our children is not, in the view of the President, a matter which should be put off any longer.

On this question, the President, in his State of the Union message said:

"It is the right of every American, from childhood on, to have access to knowledge. In our form of society, this right of the individual takes on special meaning. The education of all our citizens is therefore imperative to the maintenance and invigoration of America's free institutions."

The President has forwarded to the Congress a special message dealing with this problem -- again demonstrating his awareness and understanding of the nation's needs at home.

Health, Hospitals The fact that Dwight Eisenhower is close to the common man is demonstrated by his program for health, hospitals, and other matters of such vital concern in striving for a nation of healthy people.

As you well know, the nation's tenth Cabinet post, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was created on April 11, 1953. Its purpose is to develop Federal-State programs to enable us to deal more effectively and efficiently with general health, tuberculosis control, heart disease,

cancer, hospital construction, research in mental health, venereal disease, crippled children, care of the totally disabled, maternal and child health and welfare, vocational education, and vocational rehabilitation, among its other far reaching and beneficial programs.

There is now in operation a three-year hospital construction program calling for expenditures of 182 million dollars. Each year, millions more are allocated to diagnostic centers, chronic disease hospitals, rehabilitation centers and nursing homes. Provision also is being made for diagnosis and treatment in rural areas and in small isolated communities.

The Social Security program, extended last year to 10 million additional persons, is self supporting. Both benefits and administrative costs are paid from a fund to which employers and employees contribute equally.

These and the many other aids to the health, security, and betterment of our national standard of living are being supplemented by new programs. These will continue to demonstrate to the world that even the tragic international tensions of the last few years have not distracted the President from his continuing insistence that there must be better health, better schools, and better protection for our aged -- administered in the American way without regard to race, color or creed.

Domestic Commerce At least two developments in the field of domestic commerce should be mentioned.

Last year, a 170 year-old project was authorized upon the insistence of the President. The long-discussed St. Lawrence Seaway, opening up the middle of the continent to ocean-going commerce, was assured by the 83rd Congress. Every President since Warren G. Harding had urged its approval. Nothing was done, however, until President Eisenhower convinced the Congress that the project was needed for the national defense and for the development of the country.

By 1964, this great, new 1600-mile all-water route from Duluth, Minnesota, to Montreal, Canada, may reach a traffic peak, predicted by some shippers, of 60 million tons a year -- more than four times the traffic carried through the Panama Canal.

At the very least, a rise in the industrialization and general economy of the St. Lawrence -- Great Lakes Basin will result. Other benefits embrace an expansion of foreign trade for both the United States and Canada, lower raw material import costs and lower shipping cost for finished products going to world markets, the generation of tremendous electric power, and a water highway of great significance to the national defense.

Second, the need for progress in our land routes has not been overlooked. Indeed, the President's proposed 10-year highway plan is being hailed as one of the most dynamic, progressive programs of many years. It calls for a modern highway system

essential to meet the needs of our growing population, our expanding economy, and our national security.

These projects will long stand as monuments to enlightened progress.

**Government ownership  
of business**

One of the most frequent criticisms of governmental policies of former years has, for good reason, largely disappeared during President Eisenhower's term of office. The creeping malignancy of Government ownership and control of business has been stopped and the trend is sharply in reverse.

The President has made it crystal clear, time and again, that unnecessary Government business interests must be eliminated. His program looks to the skill, capacity and integrity of private business to assume its rightful place in our economic life. To that end, the Government has sold the Inland Waterways Corporation, liquidated the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, has sold or shut down a number of Department of Defense plants for processing scrap and manufacturing paint, clothing and chlorine. The sale of the nation's 550-million-dollar synthetic rubber industry to private firms is rapidly being completed.

While taking these steps, the President has not been unaware of the need for governmental assistance to small business enterprises, including the allocation of defense contracts to smaller establishments whenever that may be done. In recognition of the fact that the prosperity of this segment of the economy is an indispensable element in our economic strength, the President will recommend to the Congress appropriate measures

to facilitate small business expansion and opportunity for profitable operation.

In this area, however, the President is insistent that a free and competitive environment be maintained. Any resort to monopolistic or other unlawful practices will be acted upon without fear or favor. The President does not overlook or condone violations of law wherever they occur.

To those of us who are charged with a part of the administration of the law, such deep-rooted integrity and uncompromising leadership is an inspiration.

Natural Resources The President's position on natural resources is simple and direct. It is his belief, as laid down in The State of the Union message to the present Congress, that the Nation must adhere to three fundamental policies:

"first, to develop, wisely use, and to conserve basic resources from generation to generation; second, to follow the historic pattern of developing these resources primarily by private citizens under fair provisions of law, including restraints for proper conservation; and third, to treat resource development as a partnership undertaking--a partnership in which the participation of private citizens and State and local governments is as necessary as is Federal participation."

The Congress has already approved such partnership projects as Priest Rapids in Washington, the Coosa River development in Alabama, and the Markham Ferry in Oklahoma. Other projects which,

by reason of size, complexity, or the difficulty of attracting private capital need Federal support and development are going forward. Development of the upper Colorado River Basin falls in that category and the President is seeking Congressional cooperation to put that program in operation.

General It would take an inordinate amount of time merely to mention the vast number of plans which have been proposed during the last two years and those receiving daily attention. You may well wonder, as those closer to the White House so frequently do, how this one man can devote his energies, thought, and leadership to so many things at one time.

The answer does not lie merely in the skill and devotion of carefully-chosen assistants and their staffs. The quality and force of Presidential direction regulates the pulse and character of our governmental progress.

You, here, are undoubtedly beset with varied and difficult problems in your own pursuits. However great these may be, they cannot measure up to the tremendous volume and complexity of matters which come to a President who invites them.

Yes, Dwight Eisenhower does invite them. There have been Presidents who have enjoyed the honors of this, the highest office in the land, without assuming so many of its responsibilities. The exact reverse is true of our present Chief Executive.

He did not covet honor, he seeks no glory. Ever present in his heart and in his mind is a driving, unconquerable will to

serve his fellow Americans and to further the cause of world peace. To those ends, he sets no limits to his capacity.

To each problem, the President brings patience, humbleness, integrity, a desire to learn, moral courage, and the strength to do.

Public Confidence The acid test of national leadership lies in public confidence. Never before in our time have the people of this nation been more self assured. Neither the wild and deceptive prosperity of the 20's nor the war-stimulated economy of the 40's created the sense of progress and well being so evident today.

In 1955, more people will be working at civilian jobs than ever before. Their pay will be the biggest in history. Personal income will be at a record high and people will spend more than in any past year.

In increasing numbers our citizens are boldly and ambitiously planning long-term projects. The investment of capital beyond current needs, a powerful force to continued progress, reflects public confidence.

In wages, in health, in personal security, and in dignity there is no greater champion of a rightful cause than the President.

It is not difficult to understand the ever-growing awareness of our people that this President is indeed a most unusual man. In his quiet, patient, unspectacular way, Dwight Eisenhower



has emerged as a composite of all of those qualities we always hope, as a matter of national pride, to find in our Chief Executive.

Take the full measure of this man. You will find an able leader and devoted servant. He is our greatest national blessing.