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"Proclamation of Universal Military Training Week."

Strom Thurmond

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As a veteran of the last war, I saw what happens when hastily-trained men are thrown into combat. The waste is criminal.

A preponderance of machinery and well-trained men, in the final analysis, seems to have been the deciding factor in bringing victory to the Allied cause. The importance of proper training cannot be over-emphasized. This statement has been proved on a hundred battlefields.

I believe the only way to train enough men is through Universal Military Training. Aggressor nations respect only one thing -- force. If we do not have that force ready for use at any time, we cannot maintain peace except by surrendering. As we all know, the peace of the world is most seriously threatened now.

Will war come? We all hope not. But we must be prepared for it. And we must be prepared for a new type of war. The experts forecast that the next war will open up like this:

First, the war will come with lightning swiftness. There will be no buildup. The Japanese gave the world an elementary object lesson on how modern war will begin. The next time, there will be even less warning than Japan gave.

Second, the United States will undoubtedly be the first target. Twice before, nations bent on aggression have failed to take the United States into accounting soon enough. In both of those wars, the industrial
productivity of the United States turned the tide. No nation will make such a mistake again.

Third, the weapons will be vastly more devastating than those we know now. Guided missiles will streak over oceans and the poles. Pre-concealed explosives will boom in a hundred American cities. Biological weapons, more thorough killers than the atom bomb, will be let loose to ravage the land. Saboteurs and fifth-columnists, organized with an efficiency hitherto unknown, will spring up like dragon's teeth. Air invasion forces will come down at strategic places all over the nation.

In order to survive such an attack, and in order to take the offensive in a war which may be won or lost in perhaps a few weeks, we must have millions of citizens trained before war begins. It would be national suicide for us to think that we can again, as we have in all our wars of the past, take months and years to get ready for action.

We must institute Universal Military Training immediately. We cannot depend upon volunteers or a draft. By the time their hasty, incomplete training would get under way, the war could well be over.

The citizens of our country have many privileges. But the continued enjoyment of those privileges requires the assumption of definite obligations. The foremost is the obligation to preserve, protect, and defend our nation. They can best be fitted for this duty through the agency of Universal Military Training. It is the most orderly plan yet presented for employing our manpower resources most fully.
The regular military establishments, the Organized Reserves, and the National Guard, are obviously inadequate for modern war without Universal Military Training.

Let's consider a few of the major reasons why we must have Universal Military Training.

1. **A strong America is the world's best guarantee of peace.** Two world wars have been fought because America was weak. We know now that Hitler advanced his schedule of conquest **five years** because he thought America and the other democracies had not the strength to resist.

2. **All of our major wars have been fought chiefly by civilians.**

   Our Regular forces made up less than 10 per cent of the men involved. This being the case, we owe it to ourselves to give our citizens adequate training well in advance of the time they may be called upon. An untrained soldier is very likely to become a dead soldier.

3. **The fact that the United States will be the first target requires millions of trained citizens always ready.** We must be ready to deal with devastation in many cities, and many simultaneous air invasions. Unorganized, untrained citizens would be helpless in the face of multiple disasters. Even though men may have undergone Universal Military Training many years before, and may not then be qualified for offensive service, they will be absolutely essential for civilian defense. The value of such a trained reserve cannot be overestimated in time of need. They will be scattered all over the nation, and the entire nation will be the enemy's target.
We cannot gamble with our nation's security. That is why we must have Universal Military Training without delay.

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