

Commencement

My first thought is that of deep appreciation for the help and cooperation which the Congress has given me, and my associates in the Executive branch. The past eight years have been without precedent in the history of our government. At no time during that period did the party in control of the Executive branch have what could be called a clear working majority in the Congress. For the ~~month~~ ^{last} six years the Administration faced Congresses dominated by the opposition in both houses. Yet ~~the business of the country went forward.~~ ^{party} ~~We did not fall~~

~~out into bitter, unreconcilable~~ Each made its share of mistakes, and each suffered its share of failures and rebuffs. ~~But in the business of the country went forward.~~ But

We did not fall out into bitter, unreconcilable factions which in other nations have paralyzed the democratic process. ^{Despite our differences} We worked together, and the business of the nation went forward, and the fact that it did so is in large measure a credit to the ^{wisdom,} forbearance, and sense of duty displayed by the gentlemen of the Congress. For all this I am deeply grateful.



By January 20, my service in the Government of the United States will have come to a little less than half a century. To any mortal, this is a great period of time, and vast changes have been wrought upon the landscape of history.--changes both internal and external which go to the very roots of ^{our} society. ~~internal~~ ^{concerns}

One of the deepest ~~preoccupations~~ ^{concerns} of the framers of our constitution ~~was that no military group~~ ^{was} ~~was permitted to~~ ^{was} arise to challenge the civil authority, and that no segment of industry be allowed to develop which was permanently and exclusively concerned with building the weapons of war.

make swords as well.

→ The makers of plowshares could, when required,

For a hundred and sixty years, our military posture was characterized very quickly by a small regular establishment, ~~nomina~~ bolstered in time of emergency by large contingents of militia and reserves, and quickly reduced ~~in~~ ~~on~~ the return of peace. There was no arms industry armaments. The same companies which provided the plowshares of peace also built the industry. The Army which I joined in 1911 numbered 84,000, --one tenth its present strength.

has

For many reasons, this ~~is~~ all changed. A great and continuing threat to our security made it impossible for us to demobilize after the Korean War in the way we had previously done. 3 1/2 million Americans continue to be directly and fully engaged in defense. In seven and a half years of nominal peace we have spent ~~over~~ a sum substantially greater than the cost of World War II, and our ~~defense~~ budget annually exceeds the net income of all U.S. corporations. And the direct result of this continued high level of defense expenditures ~~from~~ has been to create a permanent armaments industry, of vast proportions, where none had existed before.

each of these

The conjunction of a large and permanent military establishment and a large and permanent arms industry is something totally new in American experience. No thinking citizen would deny the ~~necessity~~ need for such a commitment in ~~the~~ ~~present~~ today's perilous world; yet none can fail to read its grave implications. For this is power -- economic and political power -- with a ~~direct~~ ~~specific~~ and tangible interest in both national policy and national strategy. Billions of dollars in purchasing power, and the livelihood of millions of people, are directly involved. Its influence is felt in every city, in every state house, and by every responsible official in the Federal government. We can take comfort in the knowledge that none of our basic safeguards has given way. But let us take nothing for granted. We shall need all the organizing genius we possess to mesh the huge



machinery of our defenses with our peace-oriented economy so that liberty
and security are both well served. ^{It requires} Constant vigilance, and a jealous
precaution against any move~~s~~ which would weaken the ~~authority~~ ~~of~~ control
of civil authority over the military establishment. We must be especially
careful to avoid ~~any~~ measures which would enable any segment of this vast
military-industrial complex to ~~sharpen~~ sharpen the focus of its own power at the
expense of the sound balance which now prevails. The potential for disastrous
abuse of power in this area is great. Let us watch it carefully.

