

JANUARY 20, 1974
SPEECH TO WIVES OF WAR COLLEGE
STUDENTS

I would like to just talk a little about my thoughts on National Defense and foreign affairs and then maybe try to field some questions from you, because I think will I/learn~~ed~~ more from your questions than I could possibly If I have one criticism of ~~the~~ members of the Congress - and of course I have several - but if I have one criticism of members of the Congress it is that they don't converse enough with the people themselves. For instance too many of my colleagues stayed in Washington during the recess and if they go back to their home states for a relatively short period of time, it there are many of them. And then too often we go home to make talks such as I am going tonight, but when I get there I will be running a tight schedule, somebody will meet me and take me directly to the hotel where I will be speaking from. I'll hardly have time to check with anybody and then when the speech is over I will be rushed back to the Airport in Charlotte and I will come back here. So you see I will not have earned anything then So ~~then~~ I come back to Washington and we talk with each other. I am not sure that we are always representing the will of the people. I was reading yesterday morning ~~that~~ to one of my friends ~~who~~ when my aid was driving me to Charlotte, in U. S. News and World Report that the mood

of the country seems to be turning conservative. And I certainly found that in North Carolina during the month that I was there. I traveled all across the state and met with Chambers of Commerce, I met with various groups and we had free exchange. I commented to Mike that I was not sure that the members of the Senate will ever know better. Because you know we talked to each other and I believe the people of this country believe in a strong military posture. I'm sure I do, I advocated this throughout all of 1974 and the campaign back and forth across North Carolina, I spoke on college campuses and many places where you would not expect support

And some how or other I was elected, so I think I could not be too much out of step with the people. That's not to say, of course, that I don't think that there is waste in the military. Of course there's waste in the military. There is waste in Congress; there is waste in any organization where you have the vast operations as you would have I wish we could have a leaner military. I think we probably could have improvements in many areas. The only hope I think we can be rightly and justly proud of military establishment. I don't believe that any President of the United States was ever out to bargain or negotiate any foreign leader from a position of weakness. He can only negotiate from a position of friendliness. Without a strong military posture, he can not negotiate in

from that position. There has been and still is
..... in some areas and in Congress. A
feeling of anti-military feeling, that is there seems
to be a feeling that if we could just cut the military,
we could solve all of the social problems in the world.
Yet we never would get involved
and we never want to be able to, but that doesn't mean
that of course we can't try. So you see, there is some
people who say if we did away with foreign aid to all
countries, and if we could help the poor. Well we are
helping the poor in almost every ~~poss~~/ way conceivable
..... There has to be a judgement on the distribution
of our government..... and I think we are doing a
pretty good job of it. I am concerned about the feeling
of what I call neo-isolationism that seems to dwell in
the Congress and I will be ^{frank} ~~frank~~ with you, I was one of
those who would have been considered a in Vietnam.
I'm not sure that we were ^{there improperly} ~~envious~~..... or not. I am
inclined to think that we were. But whether we were
there ~~improperly~~ or not, the Congress of the United
States or the Senate of the United States asked the
..... add they had every resource at their command to
ascertain the fact that we were not satisfied. But be
that as it may, we were in a ~~difficult~~ difficult situation.
And we lost the war. I personally can't help but feel

that many of our losses were incurred because we discussed too many strategic matters publicly in Congress. I said so during 1972 campaign

..... I don't believe you can tell the enemy what day you are going to or when you want or how far you can go - suspense, the unknown - and I think that in Vietnam. But because we made a mistake in Vietnam I think that it does not, in my opinion, justify us in withdrawing to the warrior eggs and becoming isolationists in this and I am worried. I am sincerely worried because the question of Angola came up prior to the Christmas holidays, I heard some disturbing arguments. Angola, it could be argued, is a valuable

..... the United States, but I don't think that argument could even relay whether the country had really as far as I am concerned is immaterial. But whether it has coffee or other natural resources is immaterial. What is material is And I remember standing right over here in front of the Capitol on January 1961 and hearing John F. Kennedy make I remember him saying words to this effect. I can't quote them verbatim, but it said something like this, Let every nation know whether it wishes us or wealth that we will bear any burden, endure any hardship, and so forth to preserve the blessing of liberty around the world. We were proud

of those words and we cheered for him, but there seems to be a loss of luster because what we were trying to do in Angola was to provide some aid, not comment because of more power.... But to try to provide some assistance for those freedom loving Angolians who were trying to resist Russia from and that's all it was. Now how can you do that? Now this is not done in secret. I knew about it. I happened to be on one of the committees that was by the executive branch. There were six committees in Congress that were ^{briefed} ----- about. We knew about it. But how can you carry on that kind of operation you've got to tell the world about it and I would be the first to argue that every American is entitled to know as much about his government as is compatible to national security. In fact I would argue that if it weren't/compatible with national security that every individual and every American would be entitled to know it all, but unfortunately we can't tell you everything that is going on, without telling our potential adversaries also. And because we can't those of us who have been entrusted by the election to carry on must hold certain of this information in trust. But unfortunately your..... seems to be some of the Congress aren't able to hold that image or information in control. And I think if

constitutes a real real thrill to the American people.

.....One very distinguished gentleman
other than two or three other arguments were made...

We were on the sign-out of South Africa.....

.....But then one of the argument
stated that if I've got to choose between being on
side of South Africa and being on the side of the
Russians, then I'll make my choice with Russia. Now
I can't understand that argument.

Then the argument was also made ~~that~~ and this is the
exact statement, "So what if the Russians are able
to dominate, we still have the Atlantic ocean ~~and it~~/
and it just so happens that that Senator who made that
statement I had on my because I had researched
..... The statement was made by Senator Robert Taft...
on January 22, 1939.....But remember that the
against furnishing arms to our allies in Europe and
Senator Roosevelt was trying to get that embargo lifted
so that he could ~~send~~/ send arms and aids to England
and France and our allies. And he was confronted with the
same situation that we now find ourselves in. Senator
Taft was able to and again this is almost ver-
batim, he said that while we were isolated in ~~Russia~~/ if
we're going to remain isolated in no matter how
much ~~they~~/ improvement is made in to our regret and
the thousands and thousands of human lives

We can never be isolated. I don't understand the philosophy of people who in one breath will say I am not an isolationist and who in the same breath will say that he is a controlled American. I have some rather strong thoughts about our military problems. Unfortunately I am not on the Armed Forces committee nor the Foreign Affairs Committee, but that doesn't mean that my vote is cast on the floor of the Senate that it doesn't mean just as much as the vote of the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. There is one fallacy and I hope that I can bring this to the President's attention and the Secretary of State's attention, every member of the Senate or most of us certainly welcome a broader cross-sector of ~~my~~ an opinion in my opinion to be kept informed of world ~~affairs~~ affairs in military But unfortunately in the debate on Angola there was no member of armed services committee that was willing to get the side of the President in presenting arguments in aiding Angola.