

000153

Excerpts from Speech on Disarmament
DuPage County, Illinois
December 11, 1959

The arms race in which the major powers
are engaged is a mammoth exercise in futility.

The full extent of the futility becomes clear
when you realize that nations today are spending

\$100 tens of billions of dollars for armaments which
are designed for a war that no one wants, for
a war that no one can win, and for a war that
everyone hopes never to fight.

I believe that the major powers are beginning
to recognize the massive futility of such an
arms race - and this recognition may offer a
golden opportunity to halt or at least slow down
its pace.

Disarmament is possible. Disarmament
is needed. But it must be coupled with inspection
and control adequate to safeguard our security.

Unfortunately, while the Republican
Administration is pushing for political negotiations
L for a disarmament agreement, it is not prepared
with proper technical and scientific studies or
economic planning.

L Progress on disarmament is possible, even
though it may come only by inches. To achieve
a measure of concrete advancement on controlling
the world's arms requires two things: preparation
and patience. We must convince the cynics among
us that arms control and reduction is a goal
worthy of our best efforts. We must persuade
the pessimists that pessimism by itself never
accomplished anything. We must be realistic,

of course, and learn to appreciate and understand the problems confronting disarmament planners and negotiators but our sights must never be limited by the past or the present.

Many people have almost begun to think of the arms race as inevitable, like death and taxes. They are doubtful change can be realized, and they are reluctant to submit new ideas and to expend the necessary funds for arms control preparation.

My efforts to obtain an appropriation for disarmament studies failed in the last session of Congress. Neither the Administration nor the Congress gave the necessary support. Next session I shall try again and perhaps with the help of interested and dedicated citizens we may be successful.

The first step toward the broad goal of arms control may be an agreement to suspend tests of nuclear weapons. There is a better than even chance of obtaining such an agreement - with adequate inspection!

If an agreement is reached and is implemented it will be historic. It will be the first arms control agreement with the Soviets in which they accepted inspection and control. We must do everything we can to encourage our government to continue to press for such an agreement.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org