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ADDRESS

BY

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM B. SAXBE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

KEEL LAYING CEREMONY
FOR
U.S.S. CINCINNATI

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA
APRIL 6, 1974

IT IS AN HONOR FOR MRS. SAXBE AND ME TO BE HERE TODAY, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS HISTORIC CEREMONY.

AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, I FEEL SAFER AND MORE SECURE KNOWING THAT OUR SUBMARINES ROAM THE OCEANS AND THE SEAS OF THE WORLD TO PROTECT US, AND OUR WAY OF LIFE.

AS AN OHIOAN, BY BIRTH AND BY RESIDENCY, I AM PROUD THAT THIS NEW BOAT WILL BE NAMED FOR ONE OF OHIO'S AND ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT CITIES, CINCINNATI.

I WAS INTERESTED TO FIND THAT THIS WILL BE THE FOURTH U.S.S. CINCINNATI IN AMERICAN NAVAL HISTORY. EACH OF THE OTHER THREE HAVE RENDERED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE NATION.

BUILT AT THE OUTSET OF THE CIVIL WAR AND COMMISSIONED AT MOUND CITY, ILLINOIS, ON THE 16TH OF JANUARY, 1862, THE FIRST CINCINNATI WAS A STERN-WHEEL CASEMATE GUNBOAT AND WAS INITIALLY ASSIGNED TO DUTY WITH THE UNION ARMY.

IT PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF BATTLES DURING THE WAR, AND THE INTENSITY OF THESE BATTLES IS REFLECTED BY THE FACT THAT THE CIVIL WAR CINCINNATI WAS SUNK TWICE BY CONFEDERATE FORCES.

AFTER BOTH SINKINGS, SHE WAS RAISED AND REPAIRED AND SENT BACK INTO ACTION BEFORE BEING TAKEN OUT OF COMMISSION IN AUGUST OF 1865.

THE SECOND U.S.S. CINCINNATI -- A PROTECTED CRUISER -- WAS LAUNCHED IN 1892 BY THE NEW YORK NAVY YARD. THIS GREAT SHIP, WHICH WAS TO REMAIN IN THE AMERICAN FLEET UNTIL 1919, SAW A LOT OF ACTION DURING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR IN CARIBBEAN WATERS.

THEN, BETWEEN MAY, 1902, AND JANUARY, 1903, THE CINCINNATI PROTECTED AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PROPERTY DURING POLITICAL DISTURBANCES AT HAITI, SANTO DOMINGO AND PANAMA, AND BROUGHT RELIEF SUPPLIES TO MARTINIQUE AFTER THE DEVASTATING ERUPTION OF MOUNT PELEE.

THE THIRD U.S.S. CINCINNATI, A LIGHT CRUISER, WAS LAUNCHED IN MAY, 1921, IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON AND COMMISSIONED IN JANUARY, 1924. THIS VESSEL SPENT HER EARLY YEARS SAILING ON FLEET MANEUVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD DURING THE PEACEFUL DAYS OF THE 1920'S AND 1930'S.

SHORTLY BEFORE WORLD WAR II, THE CINCINNATI WAS STATIONED AT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, BUT HAD LEFT ON CONVOY ASSIGNMENT IN THE ATLANTIC BEFORE THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON DECEMBER 7, 1941.

UPON AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO THE WAR, THE CINCINNATI WAS USED FOR PATROLS AND CONVOY ESCORT ASSIGNMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE ATLANTIC WATERS CLOSE TO AMERICAN SHORES.

OVERHAULED IN EARLY 1944, THE CINCINNATI SERVED OUT THE REST OF THE WAR AS AN ESCORT FLAGSHIP ON THE ROUTE FROM NEW YORK TO BELFAST, AND ON PATROL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.

HAVING SERVED HER COUNTRY AND THE NAVY WELL, THE THIRD CINCINNATI WAS DECOMMISSIONED IN NOVEMBER OF 1945 AND SCRAPPED IN FEBRUARY OF 1946.

SO IT HAS BEEN NEARLY THREE DECADES SINCE THE CITY OF CINCINNATI HAS HAD ITS NAME ON A SHIP OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, AND I KNOW THE PRIDE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE QUEEN CITY IN KNOWING THAT A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE WILL BE CALLED THE CINCINNATI.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE WILL CARRY THE NAME, BECAUSE THE MODERN SUBMARINE FORCE -- DEVELOPED UNDER THE INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP OF ADMIRAL RICKOVER -- HAS REALLY BECOME AMERICA'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AS WELL AS ONE OF THE MOST FLEXIBLE AND EFFECTIVE ATTACK ARMS AVAILABLE TO US IN TIME OF NEED.

OUR EXPANDED SUBMARINE FORCE HAS ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO THE NATION'S DEFENSE SYSTEM, PROVIDING THE ABILITY TO STRIKE FROM MOBILE POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

NOW, OF COURSE, ALL-OUT WAR IN THE ATOMIC AGE IS UNTHINKABLE. BUT WE KNOW FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE THAT, WHILE WE PRAY FOR THE BEST, WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST.

THIS IS WHY WE MUST HAVE A DEFENSE CAPABILITY THAT IS SECOND TO NONE. THE REALITY OF THE WORLD WE LIVE IN DEMANDS THAT WE KEEP OUR DEFENSES SO STRONG THAT NO POTENTIAL ENEMY EVER MISJUDGES OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND TO ANY CHALLENGE.

OUR STRENGTH SERVES ANOTHER HIGH PURPOSE. IT ENABLES US TO BE A FORCEFUL ADVOCATE FOR PEACE.

THE GREAT AND IMPORTANT STRIDES THAT WE ARE MAKING IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WERE IT NOT FOR THE FACT THAT WE CAN BARGAIN FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH.

NO OTHER NATION IN THE FREE WORLD CAN TAKE ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE REST OF THE WORLD KNOWS THAT.

EVEN THOSE NATIONS WHICH CRITICIZE US THE MOST KNOW HOW WE HAVE HELPED THEIR COUNTRIES TO SURVIVE IN A HOSTILE WORLD. AND DESPITE THEIR COMMENTS, I HAVE NOTICED THAT MANY OF THEM ARE STILL ANXIOUS TO COME TO AMERICA.

SOMETIMES, THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE APPRECIATION FOR THE THINGS WE HAVE TRIED TO ACCOMPLISH, AND FOR THE SACRIFICES WE HAVE MADE, TO HELP OTHER COUNTRIES AND OTHER PEOPLES AROUND THE WORLD.

SOMETIMES, WE MUST WONDER WHETHER IT ALL HAS BEEN WORTH IT.

BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS. WHEN THINGS GO WRONG IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD OR ANOTHER, YOU KNOW WHO GETS THE CALLS FOR HELP AND ASSISTANCE. WE DO.

AND WE SHOULD NOT INTERPRET THAT AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS IN OURSELVES. IT IS NOT. IT IS A MARK OF STRENGTH, AND IT SHOULD BE A BADGE OF HONOR TO US.

FOR IF THE DAY EVER COMES WHEN OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER NATIONS STOP CALLING FOR OUR HELP AND OUR GUIDANCE, WE WILL KNOW THAT WE HAVE LOST THE RESPECT AND THE LEADERSHIP THAT WE HAVE EARNED OVER A PERIOD OF MANY YEARS.

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF OUR NATION, WE CAN TAKE PRIDE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL PEOPLE.

WE HAVE MADE MISTAKES, YES, AND WE ARE NOT PERFECT. BUT WHERE WOULD THE REST OF THE WORLD BE TODAY IF THERE HAD BEEN NO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND NO AMERICAN CONCEPT OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL -- A CONCEPT THAT HAS STIRRED THE WORLD'S IMAGINATION FOR TWO CENTURIES.

AND I MIGHT SAY THAT THE WORD, JUSTICE, HAS BEEN THE KEY TO IT ALL.

JUSTICE IS WHAT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WORKED SO LABORIOUSLY TO ASSURE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT A NATION CAN BE STRONG AND POWERFUL, BUT THAT, UNLESS IT IS JUST -- TO ITS OWN CITIZENS AND TO ITS NEIGHBORS -- IT WILL NOT LONG PREVAIL.

HISTORICALLY, I THINK WE HAVE ATTEMPTED AS A PEOPLE TO USE OUR STRENGTH WISELY, AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO SO. DESPITE OUR FAULTS AND OUR SHORTCOMINGS, WE HAVE THE GREATEST SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT EVER DEvised UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. AND AMERICA IS STILL THE BEACON OF HOPE FOR ALL MANKIND. MAY WE ALWAYS BE SO WORTHY.

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