

*Speech*

Dear Sir: Throughout our history, Americans from all walks of life have stood with clear voices and courageous actions in defense of our nation, our peoples, and the values we hold dear.

Now, on the brink of a U.S. war on Iraq, we stand in defense once again. It was President John F. Kennedy who said: "The United States, as the world knows, will never start a war." It was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who said, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in a surprise attack: "This is a day of Infamy."

American values do not admit of any plan to start a war where one can be avoided, or to strike first when one cannot. Alongside the Bill of Rights, these values help form the bedrock of our national consciousness and our democracy.

Our present emergency is this, that there are powerful people in this administration who will not act by or defend these most basic and historic principles. As they push for a war in Iraq, no matter what the circumstances or consequences, they violate the American spirit and bring dishonor and danger upon our nation. They endanger our rights, they endanger our cities, and they endanger the lives of our families.

If these people in this administration have their way, those in our armed forces - our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, our dearly held friends - will be placed unnecessarily in harm's way.

If these people in this administration have their way, those in our families will be ever more at risk, for if our foreign adversaries believe they must strike first at us before we strike first at them, neither our homes nor our homeland will ever again be secure.

Finally, President Bush, we remind you that you have sworn on the Bible to defend our Constitution and its Bill of Rights. To do otherwise is a crime under our laws, which no man is above. The full application of the rights enshrined in our Constitution and expanded through its Bill of Rights and other amendments to all the peoples of our nation must be our policy or else there is no freedom worth defending. We are resolved in this New Year to hold you to your sworn duty.

Doris (grannyd) Haddock

1/3/2003

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