

INAUGURAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

THE American way of life, won for us by our ancestors under conditions similar to those that confront the world today, is very dear and precious to us. We may come and go as we please, express our opinions, worship according to our belief, and do many other things that are prohibited in some countries. The liberties which we now enjoy must be re-won by the present generation, as was necessary by the previous generation a few years ago. It is hoped that the people who participate in the Peace Conference following the present war will have sufficient wisdom and vision to make adequate adjustments and spare future generations of this grim task.

When our great nation, with its immense wealth becomes soft, a condition which existed just two years ago, it invites attack from without. Practically every war in which we have been engaged has found the nation unprepared in a military sense. In the past, we have always been fortunate enough to have sufficient time available in which to arm and train military forces. This, however, is no guarantee that sufficient time will always be available. Our recent and most devastating wars have fortunately been fought on foreign soil, however, this is no assurance that any future war in which we may become involved will not be fought here in the United States. The need for military preparedness has been repeatedly stressed, from the days of George Washington on, but following each war we have allowed our military and naval strength to deteriorate. Will this be repeated again? It is true that a nation becomes weary of war, but surely as a nation, we should now have learned through bitter and costly experience that weakness invites attack.

Many changes will necessarily be made in this country after hostilities have ceased. There will no longer be the need for producing many of the items required for waging a successful war. However, there are some few of the necessities of war that are equally necessary for peace-time operations of government and private enterprise. Among these items are good up-to-date aerial photographs, maps, and charts. When we think of the small portion of the United States of which adequate maps and charts were available on December 7, 1941, we can be thankful that this country was not invaded. Since then, however, Aeronautical Charts have been compiled of practically all of the United States, and topographic maps, with funds made available by the War Department, have been compiled of many thousands of square miles of strategic coastal areas. These maps were compiled under definite specifications, and before being reproduced, were tested for compliance to the requirements of the specifications. Obviously a large percentage of this work was initiated for defense purposes, and now that we are no longer threatened with an invasion in the present war, the majority of this work is scheduled for an early termination. Practically every mapping organization in the United States has been utilized to some extent on the Defense Mapping and Charting work. In addition, a large percentage of the mapping facilities of this country are engaged in preparing maps and charts of various areas outside of the United States. In order to accomplish the required defense and foreign mapping, such facilities have been greatly expanded. For the first time in history we now have mapping and charting facilities capable of producing the maps and charts needed for efficient peace-time operations of this country, in a reasonably short period of time. Are these mapping organizations to be allowed to disintegrate at the close of the war, or will they be assigned to producing adequate maps and charts of the United States? When some of the men and women who control the destinies of our country,

advocate the weakening of our national defense and the curtailment of all war-time projects, in the name of economy and peace, it is entirely probable that unless some concerted effort is made, the present mapping and charting organization may be greatly reduced or eliminated without realizing the necessity of preparing adequate maps and charts for peace-time operation.

The preparation of adequate maps of this entire country will probably never be completed. Changes are continually being made in map information, and our need for more detailed and more accurate information is steadily increasing. Map makers realize the need for good up-to-date maps much more than any other group of people, because they have made it their business to find out why such maps are required. However, many map users are inclined to accept available maps and supplement them with various other data which may, or may not, represent true conditions. It should be our responsibility to acquaint the map users and the people who develop nation-wide programs, appropriate money, and administer its expenditure, with the necessity and economy of having good maps and charts available. In other words, we must sell a product which will help keep our country strong and save it millions of dollars.

A little more than two years ago a series of conferences were started to determine the map needs of this country. Since the Federal Government is the largest single map user, these conferences were first held with Government representatives to determine the type, scales and accuracies of maps required by the Federal Government. The outbreak of the war necessitated a temporary delay in determining our national map needs. However, information available indicates that action is being resumed to establish federal map needs and in addition to assemble information regarding the needs of States and Local Governments as well as private industry.

At the present time a substantial portion of this country is covered by topographic maps at a scale of 1 inch equals 1 mile with a contour interval of 20 feet or more. Some of these maps are of recent date, however, many of them are more than 25 years old and are inadequate for many present uses. It is agreed that an up-to-date map of this type will meet the needs of many map users, however, there are probably as many or more map users who require a scale considerably larger than 1 inch equals 1 mile. Other map users may require a smaller scale. It would be most interesting to see the final tabulation of our recent national map needs. The assembling of these data is only the first step. The second, and probably the difficult step, will be to obtain appropriations and start the production of the required maps.

A part of the objectives of this Society, as set forth in the Constitution and in the Certificate of Incorporation are, "To advance knowledge in the science of photogrammetry and to act as a clearing house for the distribution of information pertaining to the science. . . ."

Since the organization of this Society, it has in my opinion accomplished a great deal in advancing the science of photogrammetry from a purely technical standpoint. The society has made possible the exchange of ideas at various meetings and its members have, through "Photogrammetric Engineering," published the results of their experience, together with detailed information on new developments. It has failed, however, in my opinion to disseminate the proper type of information to the map user and to the people for whom the map users expend their efforts.

During the coming year it is proposed that the Society continue with its technical work and do everything possible to contribute to the war effort and, in addition, embark on a program of an educational nature. Such a program will

be directed entirely at the need for up-to-date aerial photographs, maps, and charts with the intention of acquainting the public and private industry together with officials of the Federal, State, and Local Governments with the advantages of having these materials available. I do not believe that the objectives of the Society go beyond this point. The organizations and appropriations necessary to produce these materials may be of considerable interest to the individual members of this Society, but it is not believed that they are a function of the Society. Once the country becomes map and chart conscious, the organizations and appropriations will take care of themselves. Only a start can be made on such a program during the short span of one year; however, it is hoped that it will be continued until we have up-to-date aerial photographs, maps, and charts that are sufficient for our national needs.

The membership of this Society consists almost entirely of photogrammetrists who apply the science of photogrammetry to mapping and charting. If we are to be the American Society of Photogrammetry we must broaden our present field to include other applications of photogrammetry such as applied to astronomy, geology, radiology, and many other fields. It is proposed to initiate action during the coming year, which it is hoped, at some future date will broaden the activities of the Society to include all phases of photogrammetry.

As a third and last proposal for the coming year, an intensive drive to increase the membership of the Society is planned. It is only by building up our membership that funds will be available to improve our publication and do many other things that are necessary to advance photogrammetry. In this interest, every member of the Society should consider himself as a member of the membership committee.

The views that have been expressed here are my personal opinions, and are not intended to reflect in any way the attitude of any branch of the Government with respect to any of the subjects mentioned.