May 21, 1941

"We await your address on May 27 in the belief that you will tell what we must do to insure the security of the United States by hastening the defeat of the aggressors. We pledge to you our loyal support in the performance of this historic task.

"Some of us have been your political adherents, some your opponents, but all of us are united on this firm basis: we are Americans, you are our elected President. We acknowledge the eternal truth of that fine old American principle that political differences end at the water's edge. It is at the water's edge that our people now stand, facing to eastward and westward the frightful reality of world war and world revolution.

"We have prayed that we might be spared from involvement in the war. But we cannot close our eyes to the wholesale murder of liberty. Most of all we cannot ignore the threats to our own security uttered and progressively enforced by those tyrants who are dedicated to the proposition that democracy must die.

"The dictators have extended their world war and world revolution from continent to continent - farther and farther out into the Atlantic Ocean - nearer and nearer to the lifeline of the Western Hemisphere. With their propagandists and saboteurs they have begun their invasion of this hemisphere.

"The challenge is inescapable. We cannot meet it with mere words nor with mere dollars. We know that strong action, even armed action, entailing greater sacrifices will be required of us.

"With firm determination to carry through at whatever cost the policies necessary to defeat tyranny, we await the facts and leadership which the Commander-in-Chief alone can give. We repeat to you, Mr. President, the final words of the Declaration of Independence: 'With a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.'"