

PORTION OF SPEECH BY SENATOR OWEN BREWSTER
BEFORE THE BRUNSWICK ROTARY CLUB, BRUNSWICK, MAINE
MONDAY NOON, MAY 29, 1950

FOREIGN AID

Realistic reexamination of our foreign aid program is essential under the rapidly changing economic conditions at home and abroad.

ECA countries are now producing from 30% to 40% more than they were before the war.

Europe never sent to us more than 50% of what we sent to them. The deficit was made up in large measure from their possessions in the Orient, and from their investments in foreign countries.

With India and Indonesia gone and other areas ravaged by the dislocations of war the whole picture of the European economy is radically changed.

America has contributed very generously to Europe during its period of readjustment but cannot indefinitely supply the deficit.

We were told the British loan of four billion would solve the problem. Mr. Churchill says one-half of it was wasted.

We were told the Marshall Plan with seventeen billion in four years would solve the problem. We are now told that there will be a continuing need of at least two billion a year besides an undetermined amount of many billions for rearming Europe.

Meanwhile Point Four is brought forward to contribute indefinitely in undetermined amounts to the social, economic, and material elevation of living standards of all the world.

At home we are urged to enact a domestic program that is estimated by the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Committee on Expenditures to cost an additional \$25,000,000,000. a year.

With a budget deficit in these allegedly prosperous times of seven billion dollars it seems to many the time has come to stop, look and listen.

We face here in America the same decision that has been forced upon other countries heretofore between guns and butter.

If our peril is as great as some of our leaders allege then it is certainly incumbent on us to decide between welfare and warfare.

Whatever portion of our national production must be diverted to preparedness for war cannot at the same time be used for expanding governmental activities in other fields.

The Communist purpose becomes ever clearer to destroy us from within by our own governmental insolvency.

Tightening our economic belt to meet this Soviet challenge is obviously required if we are not to go down to ignominious defeat.

Buying freedom by appeasement is as futile as buying votes to win elections. The price continues constantly to rise.

Love of liberty at home and abroad must be the greatest weapon in our arsenal. Without it all is lost. With it the free world is invincible.