This is the 6th time in as many years that the Mass. A F of L. have has done me the high honor of inviting me to address their annual convention.

I came here first in 1947 as a new member of Congress. [2]

II

1947 was a year of great expectations; We looked forward to a world at peace – at home we hoped that the industrial gains of war would make a better life for the people of this Country.

Now six years later all of that has changed and many of our glittering hopes have turned to ashes around us and we continue to pay heavily for the years til I was to]

And the dread problems that march across our horizons in one endless column try our ingenuity and tax our imaginations.

4 Abroad, we are faced by an enemy, power less, unrelenting and implacable who seeks to dominate the world by subversion and conspiracy and when all else fails to military force – of which he now possesses through productively far poorer a substantial superiority. In 1952 or 1953 while that superiority lasts he may choose to plunge the world into the most destructive a war in the human race’s long history. Or he may, believing that time is a friend, continue his efforts to seize control by the more subtle methods which have proved so successful in the past.

All problems are dwarfed by the necessity of the West to maintain against the Communists a balance of power – and we note with concern the crumbling away of our defenses in many areas of the Middle & Far East.

[strikeout]

[strikeout]
But in our efforts to contain the tide of Communist expansion, it would be a mistake to judge the Communist threat as primarily military, although it is Russian military prestige that gives persuasion to its political & economic doctrines. Certainly we must devote all our available energies to the task of rebuilding our military strength and we should use every means at our disposal to persuade our friends in the West to do likewise.

[10] But the Communists also seek to move a head by exploiting by more subtle means – more subtle but equally dangerous – they exploit the resentment of those people too long deprived of their fair share of a nation’s income – of those who desiring to work – but who cannot find it – by those who live on the marginal edge of starvation – who see little hope for their children – by those who seek to see their nation free & independent – and are dominated by an ancient master –

Notes: The word “powerless” on page four was probably meant to be “powerful.” Written on stationary of the House of Representatives.