Our shortage of naval officers.

The statements presented to the committee by Admiral Schley, by Admiral Bristow, and by Rear Adm. Evans, have so clearly enunciated the situation that the pictures of the difficulty under which the Navy operates and its inability to meet its training problems without the assistance of the Congress is practically self-evident. The President has also been compelled, in a final and decisive manner, to emphasize the present critical situation of the United States by his own eloquent and moving plea before the Senate. Admiral Preble, in his final and most courageous statement, has given evidence of the great responsibility which rests upon him and has reminded all of us that the results of the struggle depend upon the result of the present campaign. It is evident, therefore, that the Congress must face the facts and must provide a solution which is essential to the preservation of our national honor and our national life.

The measures which have been taken since the organization of the present administration in order to meet the exigencies of the present situation are of great importance. The President has, in his speeches, emphasized the necessity of our armament and the importance of our naval forces. He has also emphasized the necessity of the United States Navy in the present international situation. He has appealed for the support of the Navy and has emphasized its importance to the nation.

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