

# President Roosevelt's Address to Congress

**Editor's Note:** The revised draft of the first page of President Roosevelt's address to Congress following the attack on Pearl Harbor is seen at right. The finished address asking for a Declaration of a State of War between the United States and Japan, Dec. 8, 1941, is printed around it in its entirety.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government had deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives were lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

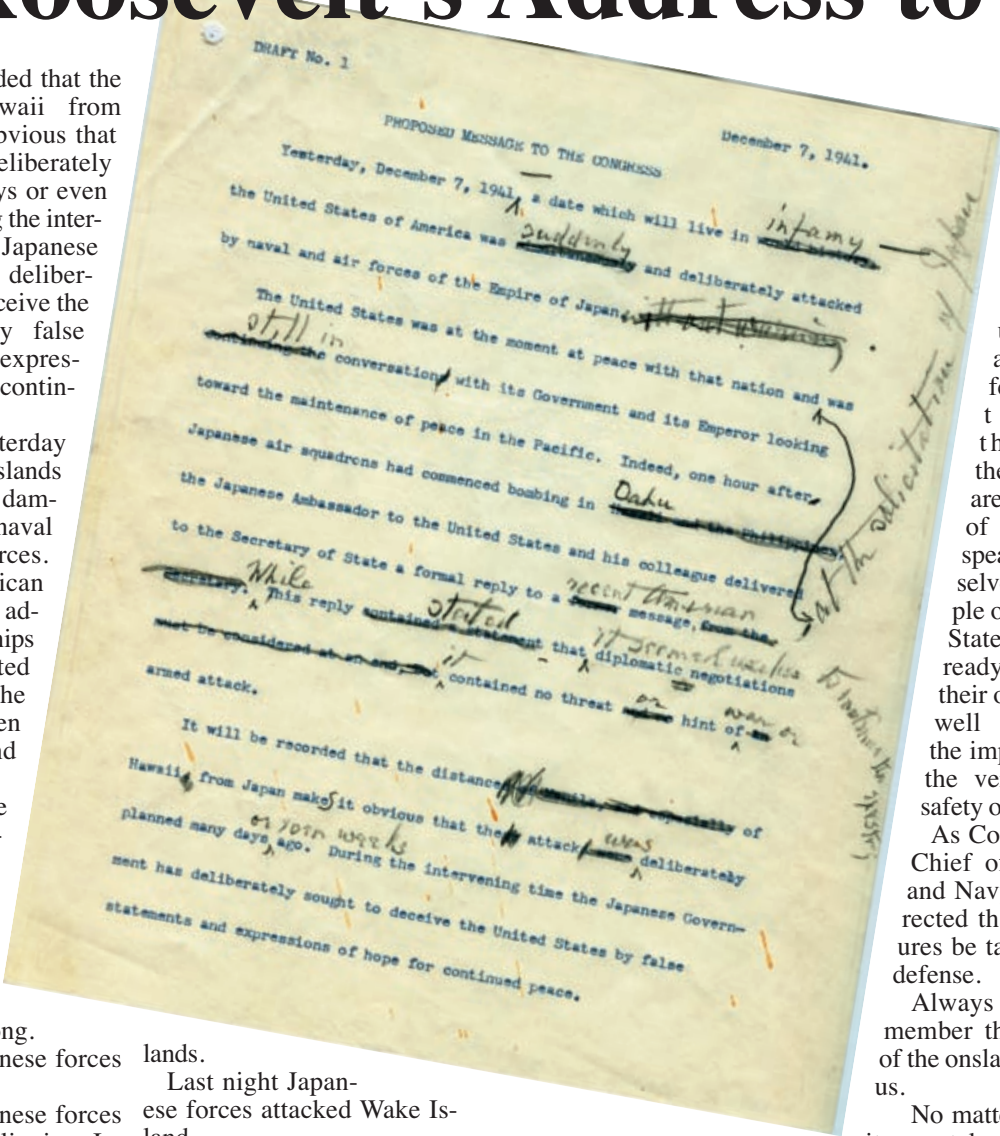
Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Is-

lands. Last night Japanese forces attacked Wake Island.



This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to over-

come this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces-with the unbounded determination of our people-we will gain the inevitable triumph-so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, 7 December, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

Source: Pamphlet No. 4, PILLARS OF PEACE; Documents Pertaining To American Interest In Establishing A Lasting World Peace: January 1941-February 1946. Published by the Book Department, Army Information School, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., May 1943

Yesterday, 7 December 1941-a day which will live in infamy-the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message.

While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

## Local farmer served in Roosevelt's cabinet during attack

Claude R. Wickard was born Feb. 23, 1893 on the family farm in a one-room house in Carrollton Township in Carroll County. In 1915 he began his long career as an agriculturist upon graduation from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry. With the completion of these studies, Wickard took over the management of the family farm. He distinguished himself by initiating improved farming methods and feeding policies thus winning numerous medals and awards which led to his selection as a Master Farmer of Indiana in 1927.

Bill Pickart of rural Camden is the grandson of Claude Wickard. Pickart reported that Wickard did not talk about Pearl Harbor or the events of WWII in his presence.

"He was my grandpa," Pickart said.

Pickart said he learned from the papers written by his grandfather in pencil on lined yellow paper and kept in the FDR Library in Washington D.C. that after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor there were blackouts and air raid drills in D.C. He said towers were constructed across the United States to watch the skies for Japanese attack airplanes.

of the Cabinet in the President's study in the White House proper at 8:30 that evening. I had been writing all afternoon and Louise had been busy so we had not listened to the radio, but I immediately concluded that the Japanese situation had taken a turn for the worse. Within a few minutes after the White House call we were able to get from radio reports that Honolulu



Louise and Claude Wickard in the early 1900s on their Carroll County farm

and perhaps Manila had been attacked. Later, the announcers said that Manila had not been attacked but that three or four-hundred lives had been lost in attacks on Hawaii. The cabinet members were ushered into the President's study at 8:40. Harry Hopkins was present. The President began by saying that this was the most important cabinet meeting since 1861. He then told of the attack today in Hawaii. He said the attack was a serious one which he would describe

later. Dec. 8, 1941: Yesterday afternoon about four o'clock, I was informed by telephone from the White House that there would be a special meeting of the cabinet in the President's study at 8:30 last night. I had not listened to the radio because I was busy writing but I immediately told Louise that evidently the Japanese

situation had become critical and we soon learned by radio that I was correct because the White House had announced the attack on Hawaii a couple hours earlier. The meeting in the President's study was no doubt an historic one. The President said it was the most important meeting of the cabinet since 1861. Details of the meeting have been written in a separate memo. Today I attended the joint session of Congress assembled for the purpose of hearing a message from

the President. It was another historic occasion discussed elsewhere. This afternoon, I addressed my bureau chiefs on the war.

Dec. 8: At 12 noon:

I left to go to the Capitol. The President arrived in the Speaker's room at 12:15. His son, James, accompanied him. He looked as serious as I have ever seen him. Yet, he showed no signs of nervousness. All cabinet members were present as we filed our way into the House Chamber and took our places in the front row to the left of the Speaker's stand, the Supreme Court being on the right. When the President came in on the arm of his son he was given a tremendous ovation. The usual announcement, "The President of the United States" was almost unheard. As the President faced the audience, I saw tears well in his eyes. With out question he was not only struck by the ovation but impressed by the seriousness of the task before him. He read slowly and distinctly the same message, with only slight change which he had read to us last evening. The one change that I noticed was the sentence suggested by the Vice President (John N. Garner) last night which was very similar in thought to the one read today as follows, "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteousness will win through to absolute victory." I looked at the Vice President as the greatest cheer for the speech arose and saw tears in the eyes of



### Here's Wickard Home Farm Plan

Claude R. Wickard, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, is shown making out his "farm defense plan for 1941," joining thousands of other American farmers in increasing production of dairy, poultry and pork products. In the background is the appropriate USDA poster, "Your Farm Can Help." On his 380-acre home farm in Carroll County, Indiana, Sec. Wickard is reducing his beef herd, increasing his dairy herd, maintaining high poultry production and providing for record hog production. To get sufficient feed for his hogs, he expects to plant nearly his full AAA corn acreage allotment. He will reduce his wheat acreage, in like with AAA policy of cutting 1941 wheat production due to large supplies already in storage.

From the January 1, 1942 Delphi Journal

were in the gallery. It was an historic occasion. Churchill was at his best. Lord Beaverbrook told me before the session that Churchill would make a good speech because he had put a lot of personal work on it. I watched Churchill closely. His eyes filled with tears as he mentioned his mother and again when he was given a tremendous ovation during his speech.

Dec. 26, 1941:

At 12:30 today I sat in the left front row seat of the Senate while Winston Churchill addressed the Senate, the representatives present, the Supreme Court, the cabinet and a packed gallery. Louise and Ann

the Vice President for the first time since I had known him. There was a tremendous cheer at the end as the President left.

### Louise Wickard's diary entry...

"I remember December 7, 1941. We happened to be home that day, all day. As I remember, they called from the White House and Claude went down there immediately. It was a terrifying experience and we were just frightened to death. It was horrible. We had met the Japanese ambassadors. Claude stayed quite a while at the White House that night. The next day, President Roosevelt asked both Houses of Congress for a declaration of War and I sat in the executive box for that session. It was a very solemn occasion. I think Claude's thought almost immediately was that we will have to have more food, more of everything and that, I guess, is why there was a reorganization in the Department of Agriculture. Claude went through the wringer on that. I remember only that a lot of people were unhappy about the way he did it, but that's always the case. He was trying to do it for the good of the organization.



### CARROLL FARMERS TO DISCUSS FARM OPERATIONS FOR ECONOMY

Thursday, Jan. 22, all Carroll County farmers are invited to meet at the Delphi Library to discuss operations of their own farm for the production of most needed foods for the United States as well as other allied nations. This session will be sponsored by Carroll County Record Keepers and will include outlook information and hog production. These factors are very important in war time farm operation. All farmers are invited to be present at 10 a.m.

From the Jan. 1, 1942 Delphi Journal

### California burning



The U.S. Navy battleship USS California (BB-44) slowly sinking alongside Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, as a result of bombing and torpedo damage, December 7, 1941. The destroyer USS Shaw (DD-373) is burning in the floating dry dock YFD-2 in the left distance. The battleship USS Nevada (BB-36) is beached in the left-center distance.

The Pearl Harbor 70th Anniversary Remembrance pages were written and information gathered by Comet staff writer Debbie Lowe

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 REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED & SACRIFICED