National Unity

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. WALTER F. GEORGE
OF GEORGIA
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
Friday, November 8 (legislative day of Wednesday,
September 18, 1940

ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON

Mr. GEORGE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to
have printed in the Record an address delivered by Hon.
Robert H. Jackson, Attorney General of the United States, at
the American United program, sponsored by the Council for
Democracy, in cooperation with the Columbia Broadcasting
System, at Carnegie Hall, New York City, November 6, 1940.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be
printed in the Record, as follows:

Perhaps I may be pardoned for speaking tonight on the ground
that I agreed before the election to come here and speak, whether
we should win or lose. I agreed to do so because I believe that a
sportsmanship which ungrudgingly accepts the decision of the ma-

ority is an essential part of our democratic system.

The victors in this election should find humility and a high sense
of responsibility in the very magnitude and difficulty of the prob-

lems which face our next administration.

This election has vindicated the strength and unity which underlie
our political contests—a strength so well described by Lord Balfour
when he said:

“Our alternating Cabinets, though belonging to different parties,
have never differed about the foundation of society, and it is evident
that our whole political machinery presupposes a people so funda-
mentally at one that they can afford to bicker, and so sure of their
own moderation that they are not dangerously disturbed by the
never-ending din of political conflict.”

The American people are united in defending the fundamental
institutions of democracy at home and, short of war, in sustaining
democracy abroad. They are united to support national defense,
for we have seen that there is no security for a half-defended
nation. And we are united to maintain back of our lines of defense
a society that is democratic in substance as well as in form. These
great objectives constitute a vast area of agreement compared to the
areas in which we may differ.

The objectives on which we are agreed cannot be attained, how-
ever, without inconvenience, without cost, without sacrifice. Arma-

ment for the Nation is a net burden on our national economic life.
One of our gravest internal problems is to adjust the burden of our
national defense so that it will not gall or divide our society. We
must adjust its cost as between today and tomorrow—that is, as
between taxation and borrowing. We must adjust its burden as
between labor and capital, and we must adjust its requirements so
that opportunity for youth in peacetime pursuits will not be en-
dangered by their service for national defense. On any of these
things we are likely to think differently, for they will bear differ-
ently upon our interests.

Unity—an intelligent and realizable unity—comes through a
recognition that common agreement on certain high principles
transcends minor differences over method. It does not imply the
singleness of viewpoint which could be achieved only by regimenta-
tion. It does not even imply an end of criticism. But it does mean
that we bear our differences as we bear the infirmities of our friends
and keep our sense of proportion between the large things we have
in common as against the smaller things where our interests, our
temperaments, or our experiences divide us.