

Strike Against War

Helen keller

This is a speech given by Helen Keller (1880-1968) protesting the preparedness of the U.S. government to join the First World War. Helen Keller was the first deaf-blind person to graduate from college. She was a strong opponent of human crimes whether in the name of industrialization or production of nuclear weapons or war.

First of all, she justifies her independent identity in spite of her auditory as well as visual disability. She says that she is as competent as other people in all life skills.

She says that she is fighting against the U.S. government's preparedness and against the capitalist economic system. She wants to end selfishness and exploitation that causes war for the sake of the future of America and the future of its citizens. America has no enemy. Japan and Germany also need to think about the impact of the war on their citizens at present and in the future. She tells a fable with the message that it is foolish to fight a war for trivial matters. Both the sides lose it. Preparation for war will benefit the manufacturers of military weapons and war machines not the nation and its people. It is an indirect way of exploiting the labours. Every war has its root in exploitation. It is an unfortunate fact that government invests on production of weapons on the one hand and the cost of living is high, wages are low and employment is uncertain on the other hand. The workers will not get ready to fight war. They know no enemy except their own masters. They are never selfish; they always work for others. But they are the ones who suffer most. The modern civilization has not improved their life. They have become parts of machines. The type of preparedness the workers want is reorganization and reconstruction of their whole life. If the government is willing to do, it can do anything. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure every fundamental human right. At the end of her speech, she has raised some slogans against war related activities and productions. She makes a very serious appeal not to become slaves in an army of destruction but to become heroes in an army of construction.