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The privilege of reading Washington’s Farewell Address by designation of Vice President Nixon, flown by the same opportunity in 1956 when, as a Member of the House of Representatives, I read it by designation of Anna Rayburn. Often quoted as an admonition against foreign entanglements, it re-emphasizes a golden thread running through the fabric of the United States, the call for national address in the call for national security. North against South or slavery. North against South. West against a union of East against West. Against a union of black and white. Washington, who did all. The Union is to preserve the union admonished against any destruction of it. In times of strife and Civil Rights, our Constitution is above this wise advice. The wisdom of Washington is a constant reminder of the good fortune our nation in having great leaders at the time of our nation’s birth.

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