

Remarks of Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
Fund Raising Dinner
Chicago, Illinois
April 23, 1964

When I first received your invitation, my husband suggested that I might come out and speak in his place. But I told him that I thought that was carrying the policy of women in government too far.

It is always good to come to the town where Mayor Daley is host. Starting out on this trip, I was apprehensive we might be hit by lightning -- for reasons you can understand. But Lyndon said, "Don't worry, I've telephoned Dick Daley and he's taken care of it."

I am glad to be here, especially because Mayor Daley is one of the warmest and closest friends we have ever had and I certainly don't need to tell you here in Chicago he is one of the best friends the people of this country have ever had.

There are other members of my family who are better at making speeches than I am. But I hope you won't mind -- I hope my husband won't mind -- if I tell you some of the things he might find it hard to say --

Any leader who has been in public life for 30 years tries to look down the decade to the future of his country.

Some of the things which are closest to his heart are that every child in this country should be able to use all the abilities God gave him. We want him to grow up with a fair chance to provide a decent life for his family and for his children.

In a country as free and rich as America no one should be held back because he was born to a poor family, or in a poor neighborhood, or because of the color of his skin.

This is not an idea which belongs to any one party or any one part of the country. It is as true and important here in your great city as it is on the plains of Texas.

It is simply what the America you and I believe in -- the America Lyndon believes in -- is all about.

And I am glad to be here, just to let you know how grateful my husband is for your support in his effort to build that kind of America.