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Thursday, May 21, 1964

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
WOOD UTILIZATION CENTER

Dr. Oswald, Dr. Martin, Mr. Kelley and Friends:

I am proud and excited by what I have seen here today in Eastern Kentucky! We who come from other states think of its great pioneers of the past when we think of Kentucky -- of bold and hardy folk, braving dangers, surmounting difficulties. But, now we can see equally bold pioneers of today learning to work the forests of the Cumberland area -- learning to process your timber and turn it into many wood products to improve the daily life of the people of your state and the nation.

Timber is one of this region's most valuable potential natural resource, which can provide the basis for a large increase in vitally needed jobs in the region for years to come.

The Wood Utilization Center is one of the many steps being taken to develop a future for Kentuckians which is worthy of their illustrious past. The dignity and independence of the people who live in the Appalachian mountains is known throughout the nation. Yet circumstances have forced some of them into unemployment, and dependence on government welfare. Now we have the prospect of new jobs to be provided through this center, as it helps businessmen to make greater use of Kentucky's valuable timber.

This center built by so many hands -- the Area Redevelopment Administration, the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, and the U.S. Forest Service -- a truly joint effort -- represents the kind of putting together that will grow and grow and succeed in bringing hope and economic vitality to this region.

I understand that the first graduation from this school will take place tomorrow. Perhaps we've then realized you, who are graduating from this center, represent the hope and one future of this area. May many follow in your footsteps. I congratulate each and every one of you.