

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1964 - 5:30 p.m.

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Good evening!

It is a real pleasure for me to make a return trip to Vermont. Lyndon and I so thoroughly enjoyed our visit to your beautiful Green Mountain State last October. I wish the President could have joined me here tonight for I know he would have loved seeing you all!

A few months ago, I had the pleasure of welcoming to the White House, Mrs. Hoff, the gracious wife of your Governor, to attend one of the luncheons for "women doers" -- a cross section of prominent women in business, public life, education, the professions and arts.

Mrs. Hoff and I talked of the Governor's interest in equal rights for women. We are delighted that the Governor has established the first Vermont State Commission on the Status of Women.

I salute the members of the Commission and its leader, Mrs. Rhea Stark. In this age of change and challenge, women have an opportunity to move their part of the world forward faster. Taking their place alongside of men, they must measure up.

The fact is that we need all the talent and inspiration we can muster. Fifty percent of the population -- that is the women -- must pour in their strength. We are engaged in an ideological struggle which we must win. A free society is the window through which the world watches us and every one of us is onstage. The argument about whether the United States is a man's world or a woman's world is out of date. It is a people's world. It is a country where all of us can stand on our own two feet.

My husband has increased our opportunity to make our voices heard and our contributions count. Your Governor has followed his lead. I hope you will accept the challenge. Your Governor is the kind of public servant this State and nation can be proud of. He is the kind of young forward-looking leader my husband depends on.

May I repeat my thanks to all of you for asking me to join with you tonight. I wish I could stay longer but, as your beloved New England poet Robert Frost said, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep."

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