

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY P. M.'S
AUGUST 27, 1964

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT PRESS BREAKFAST IN HONOR OF
MRS. JOHNSON GIVEN BY MRS. RICHARD HUGHES
AND MRS. ~~PHILIP~~ BAILEY
SHELBURNE HOTEL, ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1964 - 10:00 a.m.

Thank you Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Bailey.

Good morning:

As I look out over this group, I see a number of you who are personal friends. We have traveled a long trail together and been through many things -- some of them delightful, some tragic and some hilarious. In fact, I couldn't help but think when I saw so many of my recent traveling companions this morning that we should all feel a little self-indulgent. I'm used to seeing you at 6:00 a.m.

I know that you have worked this week under many pressures-- against many deadlines and I marvel at the remarkable job done by all of the media in covering the great conventions of our national parties. I, for one, have fared mighty well at the hands of the mass media.

As I think most of you know, when I was in college, I was a journalism major. I was going to be where the exciting things were happening with the people who were making them happen. Well, along came a young man named Lyndon and here I am -- furnishing copy instead of competing with you for stories. I envy you a bit, particularly right now.

This morning in Atlantic City is the beginning of a hectic period for me. It is the first of many mornings that will melt into days and weeks in hurried and blurring succession. But let me say to you, that I am glad and grateful to have the opportunity to play a role in this campaign.

The writer, E.B. White, has remarked: "Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time." This is our faith when we go to the people and ask for their support.

Sometimes I wish all the world could just once travel the campaign trail across America in an election year. So much that can never be put into words about America and the meaning of our freedom comes through so clearly from seeing the land and the faces of the people -- from their spirit, their confidence, their strength, and what I can only describe as their goodness.

I enjoy being close to the greatest story of our nation -- the story of 190 million men and women governing themselves.

But let me revert to my college dream of being a journalist. Let me see if I can guess your questions and answer some of them.

Will I be campaigning with the President?

I will be traveling with the President while he campaigns. I will go with him for three main purposes.

To try to give him a link to home life and a quiet moment and a companion.

I will go to try to thank the many people who are working so hard for us -- the sheer hours of volunteer work impress me over and over throughout the land. I want those people to know we care and we thank them.

And, to some extent, I can be a link between the President and the people. In my own way, I will be a reporter -- on a closed circuit -- to a very private editor.

I try to report to him, factually, what I see and hear in the places that I visit. I try to pass along to him, the opinions, the aspirations, the moods and the needs of the people I talk to.

Sometimes I will be taking trips by myself -- to places where, because of the all-consuming nature of the job, the President is unable to go.

I am no orator, as everyone knows who has ever heard me, and I will leave the deeply involved speeches on the issues of the campaign to those charged with the responsibility to talk about them.

Will the girls be campaigning?

They will help their father in the ways that are suitable to their age and without conflict with their schooling. Luci's most important campaign will be completing her senior year in high school. Lynda will be a junior in college. They are intensely interested and very grateful for the work of the Young Citizens for Johnson and have met with them in Wisconsin, California and New York and Washington. I believe that they will be attending meetings and barbecues of these Young Citizens groups as often as they can during the fall.

Will I try to see that the President takes care of himself during the campaign?

Like any wife, I am constantly concerned with his welfare but I remember what one of the President's hardworking staff members told me just the other day. "Please, Mrs. Johnson, don't worry about the President's health -- it's fine. Worry about ours." On Monday, the President did a nine-lap walk around the White House grounds. The only dropouts were in the press corps

What does it all mean to me?

Simply a chance to work for our country. I see this decade of the 60's as a unique time when, as never before, mankind has the tools to make a better life within the next few decades than he has within the last few centuries. My husband is the sort of man who is determined to energize this upward march.

He wants to put his hand to it -- and I want to help.

And now because I want to meet each of you and because you probably have thought of questions that I haven't, Luci, Lynda and I will be visiting your table within the next hour.

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