

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1964 -- 8:15 a.m. EST

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Friends:

I used to spend -- in all the years when my husband was in Congress -- happy summer weekends driving over the countryside to come here.

One of my favorite visiting places was elegant Kenmore, so laden with history, eating gingerbread as I strolled across the lawn.

Often I walked down to James Monroe's law office, stopping by Mary Washington's home where you feel the presence of America's beginnings.

A day like that reminds you of Ralph Waldo Emerson's words: "The true test of civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops -- no, but the kind of man the country turns out."

Measured by such standards, Virginia has no peer among states. That golden roll call of the great: Washington, the Great Stabilizer; Thomas Jefferson and George Mason, the Voices of Liberty; Madison, the Great Constitutionalist; John Marshall, the Towering Chief Justice; Monroe, the Great Exponent of Strength in an Expanding World.

But there are great Virginians now as well as in the days of the Founding Fathers.

I have seen that high calibre in the Congress. I have enjoyed visiting with many of them on this train this morning.

I do not need to tell you who blend together so well the graciousness of the 18th century with the challenge of the 20th that history is still happening -- and happening to us.

I admire the way the people of Fredericksburg and nearby counties are looking to future needs -- and preparing to meet them in time.

I heard with interest of your Salem Church Dam Project which will conserve that resource that every Texan appreciates -- water.

With two daughters in school and college, I can't help having a special warm spot for women's education. I have heard much about Mary Washington and its program -- both what is accomplished right here in Fredericksburg and the participation of faculty and students in exchanges with other countries. After all, the junior year abroad was invented in Virginia when Miss Meta Glass was president of Sweet Briar.

And now as we go on traveling through your beautiful Virginia, I just want to leave with you this thought.

In his acceptance speech the President said, "This is a dangerous and a difficult world in which we live. I promise no easy answers. But I do promise this: I pledge the firmness to defend freedom, the strength to support that firmness, and a constant, patient effort to move the world toward peace instead of war."

It is our privilege to choose our leader. In doing so, we make a conscious choice in shaping our personal destiny. Your own Thomas Jefferson said, "Let the people know the facts and they will decide wisely." History has proven him right.

I believe in our President. And I believe in your right to choose and in your wisdom to do so wisely.

Thank you.

####