

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1964 - 9:30 a.m. EST

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

I have had a delightful morning traveling over the lovely autumnal Virginia countryside. It is easy to see why Virginians love this land so much. To me, Virginia means beautiful rolling country, exquisite gardens, and love of family. My husband had an ancestor, Leonard Barnett, from New Kent County. I can understand the Virginia mother who told her son never to volunteer the information that he was a Virginian. She said: "Your friends know it and you don't want to embarrass those others not so fortunate."

After the War Between the States, Robert E. Lee advised his fellow-Southerners: "Make your sons Americans." It was advice Virginia had taken long before it was given. Virginia holds the national record for supplying native sons for the Presidency and also for Secretaries of State.

Here in Virginia, and particularly in Richmond, there are hundreds of historic reminders of our country's proud beginnings along with hospitality that is legendary. Over 100 years ago William Makepeace Thackeray called Richmond the "merriest and most picturesque place in America."

I am personally delighted that Richmond's hospitality extends to women in public life, that it has a councilwoman whose ability is such that she formerly served as your mayor, Mrs. Elinor Sheppard.

Richmond is truly a barometer of the new South as well as the old with abundant evidence of our country's prosperous present and promising future. Virginians earn \$205 per capita more now than they did in 1960. That testifies to the commercial and industrial growth of the area.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that these were Democratic years. Certainly it fits with my husband's premise that this region's future will be more vitally served by the Democratic Party in the years ahead.

My main reason for coming here today was to say to you that to this Democratic candidate for President and his wife, the South is a respected and valued and beloved part of the country.

My husband, the President, asked me to bring you greetings. He would like to be here himself, but the massive job of the Presidency doesn't stop day by day, and it is what he must put first.

So, I am coming to visit some of the states I know best, in many of which I spent summer-times and vacation-times of my childhood.

Ten months ago on a dreadful day that shook our country, my husband became your President. Since then he has tried with all that is in him to keep our country on a steady course of economic prosperity, to face the world with firm strength, and to seek practical ways to help those Americans still in need.

There are many things in which we can all take satisfaction. This October is the 44th straight month in which the economy has remained strong. The once frightening headlines about Panama, Guantanamo, and Zanzibar have been overcome by tireless, patient effort, and now we almost forget them.

There are problems ahead, and he promises no easy answers, but the President's years of working for the people of this country -- 12 years in the House of Representatives -- 12 years in the United States Senate -- three years in the Vice Presidency -- plus what a wife can only describe as a lot of determination, energy and devotion to his job -- these will all help solve the problems that face our country.

I am proud of this record. I hope you will want to continue it.

#####