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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

Thank you for coming out to say hello.

They tell me that one of Petersburg's city founders, Peter Jones, when he left on a long trip, advised his sons not to do anything until he got back.

He never returned.

But his descendants must not have heeded his advice -- Petersburg obviously is a can-do city. If you weren't going places, you wouldn't have the largest trunk factory in the world.

I can understand why Petersburg is proud sometimes to look backward at its heroic history. I wish the train were going to stop long enough for me to look at that history -- that's the trouble with whistle-stopping.

I'd like to visit the expanded Petersburg National Battlefield Park and the Crater. I'd like to see the streets where those jaunty volunteers of 1812 turned out in smart dress uniforms to honor President Madison and won from him for Petersburg the title of "Cockade City of the Union."

I like to think about the accomplishments of more recent history, too. I know that Petersburg is one of Virginia's big tobacco and peanut markets, and that great improvements in farm income and farm family living have come within our lifetime. I've been told about the industries that have been set up here.

It gets clearer every day what a difference better training and higher skills and the lifting of young people's sights can make in the life of a community. This state is to be congratulated when its state legislators see the new opportunities in education and vote their needed support.

For all these reasons the President is proud of you and I came here to say to you that to this democratic President and his wife, the South is a respected, valued and beloved part of the country.

The experience my husband offers for the awesome job of President is 12 years in the House of Representatives, 12 years in the United States Senate, 3 years as Vice-President and 10 arduous, demanding months as President. I believe it can be said of those months that he has brought to this country stability and progress and that he has lifted our face to the expanding horizons of the free world.

It is a record I am proud of, I believe you approve of and I hope you will want to continue.