

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1964 - 12:15 p.m. EST

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

-I am delighted to be spending a day in Virginia. I thoroughly agree with 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."

I also agree with General Robert E. Lee, who in the years following the War between the States devoted his life to education and did everything in his power to dissipate ill feelings and forge a new basis for unity between North and South. He advised his fellow Southerners: "Make your sons Americans."

Here in Virginia, and particularly in Norfolk, there are hundreds of reminders of our country's proud beginnings. Also here in Norfolk, there is abundant evidence of our country's prosperous present and promising future.

There are so many things old and new I would like to see -- one of the world's best natural harbors, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge tunnel that is symbolic of all that is progressive and modern, and your handsome, new library.

I would like to see the General Douglas MacArthur memorial because, as you may know, General MacArthur gave my husband his Silver Star in the South Pacific during World War II. Just last January, General MacArthur said: "If I'd known Lyndon was to become President, I would have looked after his welfare better than I did, but at the time he seemed to be able to take care of himself."

Here in this glistening white civic center, still under construction, Norfolk will have its newest evidence of the past and the present so vividly joined.

No visitor to this lovely Tidewater country can come without sensing the spirit of doing and the energy of the citizens. The Naval vessels are a reminder that while this city is a link to wars past, it is the strength of present peace. You have melded together in the best sense of the word -- old virtues and new visions. And with the looking ahead, it has produced a booming city in the New South.

We need, this one common country of ours needs -- an ever-sustained and ever rising national prosperity.

It requires leadership -- local and national -- prudent but not cheese-paring. It requires a certain creative imagination mixed with a certain practical awareness of the realities of things as they are. It requires a mind and spirit that believes the word "yes" is a richer and fuller -- and more practical word than "no" and "never". It requires faith that the future really can be bright; not devotion to a kind of past that never was.

And so -- it is with a deep sense of appreciation to that kind of spirit I have seen in the Tidewater country -- that kind of spirit embodied here in this new civic center, that I express my admiration for you all.

Of course, no mother of a queen -- an Azalea Queen -- could come here without saying "thank you" to all the people who make this international festival possible. I heard about it firsthand in excited reports and Lynda remembers it as her shining hour. Her father and I want to thank you for all that so many of you did to make her stay in Norfolk the most glowing memory of growing up.

####