

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY  
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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

I am pleased to be here in the queen city of Charlotte, the crown jewel of the Piedmont Crescent. I bring you greetings from my husband. He wanted to come himself, but the consuming and arduous tasks of the Presidency make a long day's work. And that must come first.

The surge of growth in North Carolina is thrilling to see. I find an aliveness, a spark here. I am convinced that it is the rich soil of history and tradition which nurtures this growth, here and all over the South.

I, too, have deep roots in this history. And so I am proud to honor here the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The words of that Declaration give a sense of the power behind the drive for freedom. The same power helped free our whole country. General Cornwallis found your city a "hornet's nest of resistance."

Your goals do not end with economic development. I feel here a concern for the development of people as well. You are making this city a representative of the Great Society my husband likes to talk about with the oldest symphony orchestra in the South, your opera and the Mint Museum. You are striving to create an environment in which people may live happily and bring up their children soundly.

But you know and I know that we cannot breathe easily or raise our children unafraid unless we are sure that all possible steps are being taken to build a stable and lasting peace.

There are many stones in this mosaic of peace. You, in Charlotte, have carried out an important exchange of high school students. The increased understanding that comes from these programs helps the growth toward peace. So does cultural exchange. Many of our deepest values are best expressed through our music, art, and drama. The same is true of the exchange of community leaders -- farmers, doctors, mayors.

Building for peace is day-by-day work. It takes patience and a steady hand at many levels of government. But finally you get to the ultimate responsibility which rests upon the President. My

husband has said: "The true courage in this nuclear age lies in the quest for peace ... Our guard is up, but our hand is out."

Ten months ago, on a most awful day, he became your President. Behind him lay the experience of 12 years in the House of Representatives, 12 years in the Senate, and 3 years in the Vice Presidency. Into these last 10 months he has poured all the energy, intellect and heart he has, to try to keep our country prosperous, to preserve peace, and to plan for a greater America.

You can tell what sort of President he will make because you have lived through these ten months with us.

North Carolina has given much to this Administration -- your splendid delegation in Congress and your dedicated and far-sighted Luther Hodges as Secretary of Commerce. I believe the Administration has returned good for all you have done for it. I hope you will vote to continue this partnership.

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