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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

After two days on a train, it is nice to be standing on solid ground. And this is very solid ground, for this historic city has been a center of commerce for more than 200 years. But how it has changed and grown since I first saw its beautiful azalea gardens in 1938.

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.

These last two days on the train and the stops we have made have given me a chance to look at the South from a new perspective. I am refreshed by what I have seen.

The South -- and the whole Nation in this election -- are at a crossroads between past and future. Your wonderful city tells the story of what is happening. I see great strength in Charleston. It has its roots in the traditions and beauty of the past; but it also has the will to move forward and take part in the future. That is what makes Charleston such an exciting city.

There is no better symbol of this strength than the city's historic restoration. It preserved for the future the beauty and charm of Charleston; and it stimulated economic growth as well. It symbolizes, too, the partnership between local, State and Federal governments, between private organizations and public action. This is what took Charleston out of the dark days of the depression. President Roosevelt didn't do that job alone. He had many partners. Back in 1938, he asked my husband, then a young Congressman, to help prepare a report on economic conditions in the South -- in those days the Nation's number one economic problem. Today many parts of the South present one of the Nation's proudest pictures of progress.

President Roosevelt had a trusted friend and partner in Burnett Maybank who served this city well as Mayor and served South Carolina well as Governor and Senator. He understood that cooperation between Washington and South Carolina was the key to progress.

So with your leaders today. Our good friend, Olin Johnston, has never wavered in forging that partnership since he arrived in the Senate, four years before my husband did. I am proud to be on this platform with Governor Russell, and his wife, my good friend, Virginia. And you know a Democratic victory means that Mendel Rivers will become Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. The President served for eight years with Mendel Rivers on those committees of the House charged with maintaining the Nation's defenses. Just as Charleston has been the "watchdog of the Atlantic," my husband, with Mendel Rivers, served as watchdog of our defenses.

The partnership I have been talking about works both ways. It means economic vitality for this area and it means strength for the Nation. The new support facility for Polaris missiles puts you on the front line of our defenses and our effort to maintain a stable peace.

We share your pride in being the home port of the USS BAINBRIDGE, one of the Navy's three nuclear surface ships, and in the men who were part of its historic voyage around the world.

Today, many of your husbands are working on the ALBEMARLE at the Navy Yard. So the partnership means jobs and a better community to live in. It spells prosperity for Charleston, and at the same time greater economic and defense strength for the whole country.

This partnership takes Federal resources. And it takes men in Washington who care about the people of the South, their problems and their hopes. And it takes citizens here at home with a vision of the future.

We face many problems together. Peace is one and economic prosperity is another. We have reached good and workable solutions in the past through this partnership.

Ten months ago, on a most awful day, Lyndon Johnson became your President. Behind him lay the experience of 12 years in the House of Representatives, 12 years in the Senate, and three years in the Vice Presidency. Into these last ten 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 a President he will make because you have lived through these ten months with us.

A Democratic victory means we will face new challenges together with imagination and zeal. We draw on the past for strength, but we do not plan to turn back. President Roosevelt said: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with a strong and active faith."