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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

I understand from Mrs. Sanders, the wife of your governor, that this is a fisherman's paradise. I just hope I can come back some leisurely time and try it.

This is a campaign visit, but it is also a sentimental journey. From the time I was six until I was twenty-one, my summertimes were spent in Alabama with side trips to Georgia. Georgia strains run strong in my family and my husband's family-- his great grandfather, Jesse Johnson, came from Oglethorpe County.

I wanted to take this trip because I am proud of the South and I am proud that I am part of the South. I am fond of the old ways of keeping up with your kinfolks -- all of your uncles and aunts and cousins, right down to the fifth cousins -- of long Sunday dinners after church -- of hayrides and visiting for weeks with pallets on the floor for all the young cousins.

I've loved this trip because it has brought me back to the kind of town squares and mainstreets I came to know so well as the wife of a young Congressman. A while back my husband asked me to make a tour of Appalachia, the Southern highlands. There once again I saw pinched faces of hunger.

It made me remember the depression years when poverty scarred so much of the Southern countryside. The South has come a long way in my lifetime. We have come through the hard times when Southern farm people could earn an average gross income of only \$186 a year to this new time in which Georgia's per capita income exceeds \$1800. Just since 1960, it has gone up \$255 and that's \$23 more than the national average.

I think I can speak truly and proudly of the advances in the South's economy, its growing interest in the arts and its progress in education. I'm proud my husband had a part in shaping the legislation -- REA, farm to market roads, farm price supports, social security -- that through the years has made life better.

The President has brought with him to the White House many lessons of the past, learned in depression and war and handed down from his Southern forebears who pioneered in the Southwest. It is this more than anything else that lies behind the programs he has fought for, what he calls the requirements of the Great Society.

The real issue is still people and a government in Washington that understands their needs.

Now as we go further on our whistle-stop, I want to leave you with this thought. 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, three years as Vice President, and ten arduous, demanding months as President. I believe it can be said of those, that he has brought to this country stability and progress, and that he has lifted our faces to the expanding horizons of the free world. It is a record I am proud of, believe you approve of, and I hope you will want to continue.

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