

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

I am delighted to be standing in Johnson Park. It is easy for me to feel at home here in the Southland. Georgia strains run strong in my family and my husband's great grandfather, Jesse Johnson, lived in Oglethorpe County.

I've heard it said -- and I agree -- that the South is not a matter of geography, but a place of the heart. And Georgia is not only a state, it is a distinctive part of all America.

America grows up smacking its lips over Georgia broiler-chicken and Georgia peanut butter, drinking Coca Cola and, I certainly don't want to leave out Talmadge hams.

Even the World Series that started yesterday depends on Georgia for bats made of Georgia hardwood.

Savannah itself is typical of the American melting pot. It grew from the English under Oglethorpe, Salzbugers under Baron von Reck, a colony of wealthy and cultivated Jews, a body of New England Puritans, French refugees from San Domingo and waves of Irish fleeing famine. All have contributed their eager, fearless blood to the children of Savannah.

The texture of American life is woven here. John Wesley preached here. Woodrow Wilson married here. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin near here, and Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, is buried here.

The future is here, too. The eleven dams approved by Congress will give the Savannah river basin immense power resources and as you well know the Clark Hill project will soon mean year-around navigation between Augusta and Savannah, giving the interior of Georgia direct trade routes to the ports of the world.

Georgia is a state of tall men. It is the state of men of strength like Congressman Carl Vinson and Senator Dick Russell and men of peace like Secretary of State Dean Rusk. In all my husband's years in Congress, he relied on the friendship and counsel of Carl Vinson. From your own Senator Russell he learned the complex mechanics of the Senate which made it possible for him to serve as Democratic leader.

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Among our most valued friendships, personal and political, were those with Senator George and Miss Lucy. If dear Miss Lucy were alive today, I wonder what she would think of my standing up here talking to you. In her day candidates' wives were seen but not heard.

But times are changing and I'm happy to have moral support today from Mrs. Sanders, the wife of your Governor, and Betty Talmadge, wife of your Senator Herman Talmadge. It is comforting to have them with me to advise me and help me make the acquaintance of so many wonderful Georgians.

My main reason for coming here was to say to you that to this Democratic candidate for President and his wife, the South is a respected and valued and beloved part of the country.

My husband is widely known to be a busy and active man -- yes, even a rather urgently active man. But he is also something else. In this campaign he is a tomorrow-man, a builder-man, a going-ahead man; a man unafraid to run that race with racing time that must be run by all men and all nations who do not wish to be left in the slack waters of history like solitary, grounded ships in the restless, unstayable flow and flood of change.

In his acceptance speech the President said, "This is a dangerous and a difficult world in which we live. I promise no easy answers. But I do promise this: I pledge the firmness to defend freedom, the strength to support that firmness, and a constant, patient effort to move the world toward peace instead of war."

It is our privilege to choose our leader. In doing so, we make a constant choice in shaping our personal destiny. Thomas Jefferson said, "Let the People know the facts and they will decide wisely." History has proven him right.

I believe in our President and I believe in your right to choose and your wisdom to do so wisely.

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