

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1964 2:45 P.M. EST

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

It is wonderful to be "Way down upon the Swanee River" or at least nearby, and indeed, this is where my "heart is turning" because I feel at home 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.

It is hard to find a phase of life Georgia does not touch. Even in today's World Series game they are using bats made of Georgia hardwood.

Georgia's leaders have played a key role in keeping America strong. Much of the credit for the nation's defenses belongs to Congressman Carl Vinson and Senator Richard Russell.

In all Lyndon's years in Washington, he relied on the friendship and counsel of Carl Vinson. From Dick Russell he learned the complex mechanics of the Senate which made it possible for him to serve as Democratic leader.

Among our most valued friendships, personal and political, are those with Herman and Betty Talmadge. I am delighted Betty is with me today helping me make the acquaintance of so many wonderful Georgians. I'm happy, too, to have at my side Mrs. Sanders, the wife of your governor, who is proving to be a walking guidebook to Georgia.

Through another Georgian of peace and purpose, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Georgia is reaching out to the world. I know how much Lyndon depends on him. Both of us take special pride in him as an example of the Southern tradition of public service.

In short, Georgia is a vital part of America and a beacon of the new South. A while back the President asked me to make a tour of Appalachia, the Southern highlands. There once again, as in the dimly remembered days of the depression, I heard the cries of hungry babies. I sat down with women who couldn't buy clothes for their children to wear to school. And I talked with desperate men who couldn't make a living off the land or find a job in the mines.

The South has come a long way in my lifetime -- since those depression years when poverty scarred so much of the Southern countryside. 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.

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 -- people who need opportunity and can't get it unless there is a government in Washington that understands their need and has the heart and will to meet it.

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, 3 years as Vice-President and 10 arduous, demanding months as President. I believe it can be said of those months that he has brought to this country stability and progress and that he has lifted our faces to the challenge of the expanding horizons of the free world.

It is a record I am proud of, I believe you approve of and I hope you will want to continue.

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