

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Nearing the end of a long trip that has been a journey of the heart through a part of the country I love, I want to say how many memories have been stirred. I have had happy encounters with old friends and joyful reunions with kinfolks. I have been looking forward to reaching Biloxi -- the beautiful resort city with its old world charm, its lovely gardens and its delicious seafood.

In all my travels through the South, I have been impressed by the economic gains. I know what a good neighbor and a strong economic help Keesler field is with its population -- civilian and military -- of more than 17,000. The average Mississippian is receiving \$270 additional spendable income per year now than he did at the beginning of 1961.

Of course, this is an average and not everyone's income has gone up that much but it is also dollars and cents evidence of good economic management by this Democratic administration, whose objectives and programs -- including the poverty program -- has been to help assure that all Americans share more equitably in these gains in the future.

Throughout my travels in the South I have been thinking of some words spoken by President Franklin Roosevelt. He told us, "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubt of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

I have found doubts in the South, but I have also found faith. I made this journey because I wanted to say to you that to this Democratic President and his wife, the South is a respected, valued and beloved part of the country.

The men of the South have been close advisors and trusted friends of my husband's during his 12 years in the House of Representatives and his 12 years in the Senate.

Ten months ago on a dreadful day that shook our country, my husband became your President. Since then he has tried with all that is in him to keep our country on a steady course of economic prosperity, to face the world with firm strength and to seek practical ways to help those Americans still in need.

In his acceptance speech, the President said, "This is a dangerous and 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 in your wisdom to do so wisely.

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