

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
OCTOBER 19, 1964  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Governor, Congressman Wright, Friends:

I always look forward to coming to Fort Worth but I confess I looked forward to it more when I thought I was coming with Lyndon and he would do the speaking. I know you did, too. So I did want to come here to say how sorry both he and I are that it did not work out, but I am sure that you who have known him so well and who have given him your loyal support would never expect him, or want him to change his priorities. The country's welfare must come first.

I wanted to come today to say how much we appreciate your combat support.

I thought last night as I sat under the stars at the ranch how it was just eleven months ago -- eleven awesome, arduous months -- when we set out for a gay and happy trip through Texas. I guess the last happy hour of that trip was spent in this city -- in this hotel...with many of you -- before the skies fell in on us.

In those terrible weeks that followed, it was the strength of friends such as you that sustained us.

I have been proud -- and I believe you have been proud -- of the job which the President has done in handling the awesome task of keeping this

great country on a stable course in a restless, changing world.

Recently, I asked Lyndon which accomplishments of the past 11 months he is gladdest about. He paused a moment and then said, "There are many -- tax reduction, civil rights, the education bill, the arbitration of the railroad strike, the poverty bill."

And then -- the telephone interrupted us -- before he could continue. All of these measure<sup>s</sup>/affect people directly.

In terms of dollars and cents, the tax cut, according to Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz means \$11.5 billion of purchasing power injected into the economy where it will do the most good. And in terms of jobs, the tax cut means about 2 million more.

In Texas alone, the economists predict that when the tax reduction is totally effective, it will generate an increase in total income of \$1.4 billion and create 92,000 more jobs.

The poverty bill is helping us conquer old enemies: hunger, disease, ignorance. For the government to attack these problems is no social welfare, soft-headed approach. It is compassionate, yes, but it is just hard common sense for us, as my husband puts it, to turn "tax eaters into tax payers."

It seems to me that what is afoot in this coming election is not really a contest between two political parties but rather a contest between the positive and the negative, between the philosophies of "yes, certainly" and

and "no, never".

Fort Worth which was built and pioneered by people of foresight -- spirited "can-do people -- should understnad this better than anyone. And you say it every time you elect men like John Connally and Jum Wright.

I am a Democrat and proud of it. I am a Democrat from the White House to the courthouse, because I believe -- like Speaker Sam Rayburn used to say -- that it is the party that cares about people.

You know better than anyone else in the U.S. the experience Lyndon has -- 24 years in the Congress, three years as Vice President, 11 arduous months of responsible leadership. He has chosen to stnad beside him a man with 16 solid years of experience in the Senate -- Hubert Humphrey.

You knoe the record of your Governor, your Congressman, your Senator Ralph Yarborough, and all the others in the Democratic column.

I believe they have kept us on a steady course of moving ahead -- meeting problems and not retreating from them. I am proud of that record, and I hope you want it to continue.

I entrust that decision to your hands.