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It is good to be back in Beaumont. I'm happy to be here with your distinguished Congressman Jack Brooks who has worked tirelessly and effectively for you during his 12 years in Washington. The President and I count him and his wife, Charlotte, among our close friends.

Beaumont has always had a boom spirit. We have only to look around us to see the evidences of this spirit; the massive McGee Ben Dam and reservoir dedicated to our beloved Sam Rayburn, the improved ports and waterways, the advances in hurricane protection.

I am proud that my husband as your Senator, played his part in bringing this about and that your Senior Senator, Ralph Yarborough, continues to lend a hand to this region as he does to all of Texas.

Just a few days ago, the President and I, following the custom of many Presidents since Thomas Jefferson, planted commemorative trees on the White House lawn. We chose one of the evergreen Darlington oaks almost identical to the live oaks which abound in Texas country where my husband grew up, and a willow oak native to Southeast Texas.

Although it was not a formal occasion, the President said a few words to the friends and White House staff gathered around. He underlined the drama of that day when he said that although the Russians changed leadership and the Chinese had detonated a nuclear device, it was fitting for the President of the United States to take a few minutes to plant a tree. He said that when this tree grew to maturity it would shade generations yet unborn and that a President's daily work, like this tree, should be for more than his own time on earth.

As Americans we have so much to be grateful for. Many of us have homes, jobs, cars and vacations, but we have a ways to go before we reach the summit. For not all of us have jobs and not all of us even have a chance at an education.

The Poverty Bill is helping us conquer old enemies: Hunger, disease and ignorance. For government to attack these problems is not soft-headed. It is compassionate, yes, but it is just hard common sense for us as my husband puts it to turn "tax eaters into taxpayers."

This is working for the future, just as some friends I brought along today work for the future. They are the wives of three Cabinet officers who are typical of the hard-working wives of members of this administration and women everywhere who give time to their communities.

They have also given help to possible school drop-outs by sitting hour after hour with youngsters of low-income and sometimes broken families, helping them with remedial reading so that they have a better chance to become self-sustaining, useful citizens. They have worked in the Widening Horizons program to help teenagers find summertime jobs and part-time jobs.

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But what I especially want to tell you about today is how they have broken through the pomp and protocol of official Washington to give some of our most important foreign visitors a realistic glimpse of how Americans live.

Margie McNamara, wife of our Secretary of Defense, gave a luncheon for the wife of the President of Costa Rica, Mrs. Orlich. That was not unusual, but the guests were. Since Mrs. Orlich was interested in social work, the guests were all women active in that field who were given an opportunity to chat informally with the Costa Rican First Lady about their work.

When the Japanese Cabinet wives came with their husbands to visit the United States, Jane Wirtz, wife of our Secretary of Labor and Jane Freeman, wife of our Secretary of Agriculture invited them to a progressive luncheon with the main course at one hour and dessert and coffee at the other.

The Japanese wives could hardly believe their eyes when they saw that their hostesses did not keep a houseful of servants. And, they could hardly believe their ears when they were told that Mrs. Wirtz and Mrs. Freeman do their own grocery shopping, often do the cooking for their families and that Jane Wirtz makes most of her own clothes. I'm sure they will never forget this visit.

Standing with all of you here in this state that is my home, I feel I cannot leave without speaking to you of the things that are closest to my heart. I have shared my husband's political hopes and dreams for 29 years, and although these are tumultuous, complex, crowded times, I know him to be resolute, with a steady hand. As I have often said, he is a mighty good man to have around in an emergency. He can properly be described as a man who fills the office of the Presidency-- and by fill, I do not mean with slogans and rhetoric, I mean with ideas and experience.

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 eleven arduous, demanding months as your President. I believe it can be said of these 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.

Not long ago, he told a delegation of visitors: "Every night when I go to bed, I ask myself what did we do today that we can point to for generations to come, to say that we laid the foundation for a better and more peaceful and more prosperous world?"

It is not the sort of thought that sends a man off into a dreamless sleep. But it is a question we must all ask ourselves for the challenges to our free society ring out with the unmistakable clarity of a striking clock. It is the kind of question pondered by Senator Humphrey who has stood beside my husband for the 16 years he has been a Senator and who my husband believes will be a wise and helpful Vice-President.

It is our privilege to choose our leaders. In doing so, we make a conscious choice in shaping our personal destiny. Thomas Jefferson once said: "Let the people know the facts and they will decide wisely." History has proved him right.

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

I cannot come here, too, without telling you how much we appreciate your support in the past. In the next eight days you can do much for your country for you realize, I know, that what happens in this election will affect you, your lives, the lives of your children-- and you want to be part of that decision.

There are many things you can do-- telephoning friends and neighbors to see that they, as well as you, vote on election day. Anything less than full participation means that we have fallen down on the job.

I know you will not let that happen.

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