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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
TYLER, TEXAS

I love being back in Tyler. This is the part of Texas I know best and it is full of memories for me. I well remember when coming to Tyler was a big thrill for a girl from Karhack. It was usually to attend a hard-fought football game between my own Marshall High School and Tyler. This morning I felt again that sensation of pleasant anticipation.

Tyler has changed, like all the South for the better. Two weeks ago, I whistle-stopped 1682 miles through eight Southern states bustling with activity and prosperity. It was heartening to see the South keeping pace with the rest of the nation, fulfilling an important role in the economy, expanding its schools and colleges, preserving its special brand of gentility and culture.

I saw something else from the moment I arrived in Tyler and it pleased me. Tyler, I saw, has retained its old Southern grace and charm. I saw it in the familiar faces, heard it in the voices and felt it in the welcome.

It is truly wonderful to be here again and see the red dirt hills, pine trees, and especially the roses. I'm so glad you saved some of the rose festival decorations for me and I'm honored to come and plant the White Beauty Rose.

I am always moved by beautiful, natural growing things for they remind me of the serenity and continuity of life that sometimes gets lost in our busy daily rounds. I feel reassured when communities pay tribute to the wonders of nature with parks and gardens and festivals such as your world renowned Rose Festival.

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 the Texas country where my husband grew up and a willow oak native to Southeast Texas.

On this occasion, the President said a few words to the friends and White House staff gathered around. He remarked that it was a historic day with the Russians changing leadership and the Chinese detonating a nuclear device, but even so 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.

This was not the expression of a philosophy new to my husband. It has been part of him all through his years in public life. My husband is widely known to be a busy and active -- yes, even rather urgently active man. But he is 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 -- all men and all nations -- who do not wish to be left in the slack waters of history.

I am an East Texan and proud of it. I am a Democrat and proud of it. I have -- for 29 years -- had a front-row seat on what the government and the men and women who play the hard, daily

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role in it, do about the problems that come before them. And, I know that the Democratic Party tries to solve them, not just deplore them.

The President started his career in Congress in the depression years and neither of us can forget the marks of poverty that scarred Texas and the nation -- hungry children, and men with only despair in their eyes.

These memories of depression may seem part of the past to those who live in prosperous times, but no one who has traveled -- as the President and I have traveled -- can fail to recognize that there are still many places left behind in the march of progress.

The President has brought this lesson of the past to the White House as our Governor John Connally has brought it to the statehouse. Together I know they will bring solid progress and prosperity to all parts of Texas and the nation.

I brought some friends with me today and I want to introduce them to you now, but first I would like to tell you something about them.

They are the wives of the Secretaries of Defense, Agriculture and Labor. They are mothers and homemakers and they all have many official duties. But they go far beyond those in giving service to their communities. Among the things they do are teaching remedial reading to boys and girls who might otherwise drop out of school, they help find jobs for teenagers during the summer and for the physically handicapped. But what I want to tell you about today is the way they have broken through pomp and protocol to give important foreign visitors a better look at how Americans live.

Margie McNamara, wife of our Secretary of Defense, gave a luncheon on the Sequoia 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 Costan Rican First Lady about their work.

When the Japanese Cabinet and their wives visited the United States, Jane Freeman and Jane Wirtz invited them to a progressive luncheon. They served the main course in one of their homes and dessert and coffee in the other, just the way we often do in Texas. It gave the Japanese ladies a chance to see their houses and to meet many more people than they could have if they had been seated at a formal luncheon.

I want them to step up and take a bow so you'll know them and I hope you'll have a minute to shake hands and chat before we go.

And, now before we go on traveling across Texas, I just want to leave you with this thought.

My husband served this state and nation for 12 years in the House of Representatives, 12 years in the Senate, three years as Vice President and for eleven arduous, demanding months as your President with what a wife can only describe as a lot of determination, energy and devotion to the most demanding position in the free world.

I am proud of that record and I hope you will want to continue it.

And I hope you will vote Democratic right down the line from the White House to the courthouse.

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