

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1964 - 3:15 p.m. CST

REMARKS BY MR. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

It's really great to be in San Angelo where I just feel in the air the zest of the West.

The President and I never lose touch with San Angelo because my husband like most cattlemen reads the San Angelo Standard Times. I am glad to see San Angelo looking so prosperous and busy.

It has taken teamwork in the Congress and White House to achieve this, and I know you appreciate your hard-working Congressman O.C. Fischer.

You folks who have driven over from the neighboring district have a challenge. West Texas should be showing the true spirit of the West through the men who represent it. And, I see here today Richard White, the kind of young man our Party can be proud of and who could so ably represent the adjoining district.

I have brought some of my closest and ablest friends from Washington along today and I want you to meet them. They are the wives of three Cabinet members and they go far beyond their official duties to give service to their community.

First, a woman who somehow finds time to teach remedial reading to boys and girls whose reading handicap cuts them off from educational opportunities and could easily cause them to drop out of school, and blight their entire lives -- the wife of the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara -- Margie McNamara.

Second, a woman who takes a warm, friendly interest in the newly arrived diplomatic families in Washington and in all kinds of foreign visitors. She introduces them to such American institutions as supermarkets and laundromats and informal buffet suppers at her home, and taking both 4-H Club members and foreigners to see the Department of Agriculture's model kitchen -- Jane Freeman, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman.

Next, a woman whose diverse interests keep her busy in seeking out summertime and part-time jobs for teenagers -- Jane Wirtz, the wife of our Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirtz.

I hope you will have a minute to visit with them before we leave.

Your Governor John Connally and my husband started in politics in the depression years and neither of them 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 to the White House many lessons of the past, learned in depression and war and handed down from his 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.

John Connally has brought many of the same lessons with him to the statehouse. Together, I know, they will work tirelessly to bring solid progress and continued prosperity to all parts of Texas and the nation.

Eleven 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.

MORE

There are problems ahead and he promises no easy answers. Russian leadership has changed, China has exploded a nuclear device--but I've always said, Lyndon is a good man to have around in an emergency and I know he is equal to running that race with racing time that all men and nations must run if they do not wish to be left in the slack waters of history.

He has chosen to help him a man whose career parallels his own--a Senator of 16 years, Senator Hubert Humphrey. Neither is a man to turn away when there are hard choices to be made. In much of what they have accomplished in the past they have been joined by their colleague and your Senator Ralph Yarborough. His experience is needed to assure the continuation of forward-looking legislation.

The experience my husband offers is 24 years in Congress, evenly divided between the House of Representatives and the Senate, three years as Vice-President and 11 arduous, demanding months as President. Who should know it better than all of you for Texas has lived through these years with us. I believe it can be said that he has brought stability and progress to this country and lifted our faces to the challenge of the future. It is a record I am proud of, I believe you approve of, and I hope you will want to continue.

#####