

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1964 - 10:00 a.m. CST

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Thank you, Senator Monroney. It is a great pleasure to be here with you and Mary Ellen.

To the next-Senator-from-Oklahoma, Fred Harris, I would like to say, thank you for welcoming me to Tulsa. I would like nothing better than to be able to return the favor and welcome you to Washington next January.

I am counting on the good folks of Tulsa to see to it we are both there for the ceremony.

Not so long ago, my husband enjoyed a warm welcome in Oklahoma. He left word in this state that both Oklahoma and the nation need Fred Harris in Washington.

Tulsans have another rare opportunity this fall -- an opportunity to send to Congress a young man who traces his ancestry to chiefs of the Osage and Cherokee nations. I hope you will arrange matters so young Doug Martin's descendants will also trace their ancestry to a United States Congressman.

Over the years any mention of Oklahoma has brought to my mind vivid images of Indians and the frontier, of Will Rogers and cowboys, of oil -- that black gold flowing from the red earth.

Your native poet Jennie Harris Oliver issued an appropriate warning of the spell Oklahoma casts when she wrote: "Oh do not seek this red land unless it be for staying," and when Lynn Riggs' "Green Grow the Lilacs" became the basis for that wonderful musical, "Oklahoma", a spell was cast on the nation and the world.

From all my good Oklahoma friends, I have learned a great deal about the cultural variety of Tulsa with its opera, philharmonic concerts, long-established little theater, its marvelous collection of Indian handicrafts from all the Americas. -- and many other forms of art at your world-famous Gilcrease and Philbrook Art Centers.

In fact, present day Tulsa draws visitors from both coasts. Easterners looking for a national treasure can find here the famous Charles Willson Peale 1792 portrait of James Madison, and Westerners need go no farther to see an original, certified copy of the Declaration of Independence. Tulsa has indeed become a cultural center for the central United States.

When I planned my visit here, I wondered what possible gift I could bring to a city already so richly endowed. I finally decided to bring with me three friends whose acquaintance I feel sure you will want to add to your treasures.

They are the wives of Cabinet members and each of them goes far beyond her official duties to share her special talents with the community where she lives. In short, they all are what the President fondly calls "women doers."

In Washington they have gone far beyond their official duties to do outstanding work acquainting newly arrived diplomatic families with the marvels of the supermarkets and the mysteries of the coin machines in the laundromats, as well as showing them the glistening

MORE

white Capitol and the splendid National Gallery of Art, or Beltsville to see a model kitchen. And they have given special attention 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.

I'd like them to take a bow right now: wife of the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara -- Margie McNamara; wife of the Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirtz -- Jane Wirtz; and wife of the Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman -- Jane Freeman.

Their husbands, together with mine, have faced the awesome task of keeping this great country on a stable course in a restless changing world. Recently, I asked my husband 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, arbitration of the railroad strike, the poverty bill, the farm bill."

All these are measures that affect people directly. As Mrs. Wirtz's husband pointed out not long ago, "The tax cut act of 1964 means 11.5 billion dollars of purchasing power injected into the economy where it will do the most good." He estimated the tax cut means two million more jobs than there otherwise could have been.

In Oklahoma alone, when the tax reduction is totally effective, it will generate an increase in total income of \$315,000,000 and create 21,000 new jobs.

The poverty bill is helping us conquer the old enemies: Hunger, disease, crime, poverty 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."

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 philosophies of "yes, certainly" and the philosophy of "no, never!" Oklahomans ought to understand that better than anybody. This state was built by Sooners -- not people who said, "later" or "no, never."

We are testing whether as a nation we shall move forward with understanding of each other and each other's needs, ever increasing our total power -- economic, social, military -- in common trust and faith; or whether we shall move backward toward a denial of each other's needs into a national climate of fear, distrust and dislike.

This is, I believe, a contest between the positive and the negative. Between the yes and the no.

The experience my husband offers for the Presidency is 24 years in the Congress, evenly divided between the House and Senate, three years as Vice President and these last 11 arduous, demanding months as your President. He has chosen to stand beside him a man with 16 years of solid experience in the Senate -- Hubert Humphrey.

Certainly there are problems ahead and my husband offers no easy answers. But, he and Senator Humphrey are men who feel problems are there to be solved, not simply deplored.

I believe the President has kept us on a progressive course -- meeting problems, not retreating from them. I am proud of that record, I think you approve of it, and I hope you want it to continue.

As this Administration is dedicated to peace, so it is dedicated to the concept that peace must be the concern of every man and woman.

As the President has said, "We know that the people of the world prefer reasoned agreement to ready attack... They know we envy no neighbor, covet no territory, and look for no satellites."

We work to enlarge the lamp of liberty in the world. Such a policy must be the work of many hands. Together -- with patience and determination -- we will secure the foundations of a peaceful world.

####