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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

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I am enjoying this wonderful day visiting Arkansas and being surrounded by so many old and trusted friends -- your Senators John McClellan and Bill Fulbright, their wives, Norma and Betty, and members of your great delegation to the House of Representatives.

These Arkansas men you send to Washington are men with powerful voices. They are heard with respect from border to border and coast to coast and even around the world. And I can assure you that among their most attentive listeners is the President, himself.

He has worked side by side with the Arkansas delegation through the years to help bring to the Arkansas River basin those projects which are the life blood of this state. Because of their hard work, Arkansas has gone a long way toward fulfilling its slogan: The Land of Opportunity.

When you so kindly invited me here, I thought I ought to do something to add to your opportunities so I decided to provide you with the opportunity to meet three outstanding women, the wives of Cabinet members. 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 white Capitol and the splendid National Gallery of Art. 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.

Today, in Little Rock, they each have a special interest in our visit. First, I would like to present a former school teacher who just loves to get together with other school teachers like all you members of the Arkansas Retired Teachers' Association -- the wife of the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara -- Margie McNamara.

Next, I want to introduce a woman who is tremendously interested in the historic restoration work being done here in the Quapaw Quarter because she is a member of the Committee restoring history-laden Blair House -- out national guest house -- in Washington, wife of the Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirtz -- Jane Wirtz.

My other traveling companion also feels close to school teachers because she has spent so much time in Parent-Teacher Association work, wife of the former Governor of Minnesota, now Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman -- Jane Freeman.

I consider it a special privilege to be able to participate in this dedication ceremony of the Arkansas Retired Teachers' Association because I happen to be married to a "retired" teacher.

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I want to tell you a little story about my husband. When we were first married back in 1934 he had been out of teaching for only about two years. One day he took a carefully folded piece of paper out of his billfold and showed it to me and told me how very important it was to him. It was his leave-of-absence from the head of the Houston school system where he taught. I want you to know he carried that paper around with him until it absolutely wore out.

I sometimes suspect he still cherishes the idea of teaching again someday so I always feel at home among teachers. I suppose all of us can look back and remember someone among our teachers who more than anyone -- except our mothers and fathers -- struck a spark, someone who inspired a course for the years ahead. I know it is true of me.

Our country could not be what it is today without the devotion and dedication of those who have made teaching their life work. Henry Adams said: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

Let's hope that influence never stops because the educated person is more in demand today than ever before. Not only do we need technicians and scientists, we have an even greater need for philosophers and humanists who can teach us how to live with the wonders science and technology create. It is not enough to be able to operate a giant electronic brain, someone must think of ways to put it to work for the good of humanity.

The teacher's role in our society has always been important and now it is more important than ever. We need to attract to the teaching profession many more of our finest minds. We need to do all in our power to make teaching a most respected and honored profession with the promise of retirement with dignity and security.

I want to compliment the Arkansas Retired Teachers' Association on its project here. It is an excellent example of a private organization, a local agency and a federal agency working together to obtain comfortable, pleasant living accommodations at a reasonable price for people who have given so much to their community and country.

Indeed, I want to compliment the city of Little Rock for being the first city west of the Mississippi to participate in the urban renewal program provided for in the 1949 urban renewal law. And I want to congratulate the Central Little Rock Urban Renewal Project for its extensive work. I understand this city with its \$86,000,000, 3,500 acre renewal program in progress is among the most ambitious in the country. Now that's something to be proud of.

When you have finished you will have brought together the beauties of nature, the pleasures of culture and the wonders of history. This will become a city of parks and open spaces, of plazas and walkways. You will have held back the concrete jungle.

You have already given music and art a suitable home here in the center of the city and through your traveling artmobiles found a way to take artistic beauties to the nearby countryside. You have preserved history through the Territorial Restoration, Trapnall Hall and the plans for restoring old homes in the Quapaw Quarter. All this is a heritage future generations will treasure.

You are looking to the future and this is a country that looks to the future. As such it needs the leadership of a political party that looks to the future and acts for the future with the wisdom gained in the past.

This country needs leadership with the courage to draw back the curtain on poverty and fight it, and bolster the economy by tax reduction. As Mrs. Wirtz's husband pointed out not long ago, "The tax cut of 1964 means \$11.5 billion 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 Arkansas alone, when the tax reduction is totally effective, it will generate an increase in total income of \$200,000,000 and create 13,000 new jobs.

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 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 the country -- the hungry children, men with only despair in their eyes, who had lost their patch of land or the job they depended on.

The President has brought with him to the White House many lessons of the past, learned in depression and war and handed down from his forebears who pioneered the Southwest. This more than anything else lies behind the programs he has fought for, what he calls the requirements of the Great Society.

Standing with the President in this campaign is another man -- Senator Hubert Humphrey -- who remembers the depression as my husband does and who has worked along side him for 16 years. in the Senate to make sure it never happens again.

The experience my husband offers for the awesome job of the Presidency is 24 years in Congress, evenly divided between the House and Senate, three years as Vice President and eleven arduous, demanding months as your President during which he has put all the intellect, energy and determination he has into keeping this country on a steady course in a restless and changing world.

I am proud of that record, I believe you approve of it and I hope you want it to continue.

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