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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
HENDERSON, KENTUCKY

Governor Breathitt, friends:

It is wonderful to be back in Kentucky. I am beginning to feel like a native. I was here twice in the spring and just a few weeks ago my daughter, Lynda, came back from here full of praise and admiration for Kentucky's famed hospitality.

Of course, we always feel close to Kentucky because your charming native daughter, Bess Clements Abeil, of our staff helps us so much in the White House. She had a lot to do with our visit here tonight, as did her daddy, our old friend Senator Earle Clements from nearby Union County. And I'm happy to be in our good friend William Natcher's district. He is unique among Congressmen, never having missed a roll call. I trust you will keep him answering roll calls.

I'm greatly honored by the distinguished welcoming committee of Kentucky Governors. They are the living example of Kentucky's motto: United We Stand; Divided We Fall. Ever since this group greeted the President in Louisville, a while back we've felt sure Kentucky was really "Standing" in this campaign.

I've had some good friends campaigning with me today and I'd like you to meet them. They are the wives of three Cabinet members who go far beyond their official duties in Washington to do outstanding work acquainting newly arrived diplomatic families with the marvels of the supermarkets and the mysteries of coin machines in 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 or helping during summertime to introduce teenagers to jobs and educational opportunities. They are typical of the women in this administration who are concerned with their country and their community and willing to use their time and talents to do something about it.

I'd like them to stand up and take a bow. The wife of our Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara -- Margie McNamara; the wife of our Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman -- Jane Freeman; the wife of our Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz -- Jane Wirtz. I hope you will have a chance to shake hands with them before we leave.

I'm glad my first visit in Western Kentucky is in Henderson. This is a city that has achieved national fame as the home of John J. Audubon, the patron saint of bird watchers and nature lovers.

Kentucky is known for its Colonels and fast race horses, but what all of Kentucky and especially what Henderson and Henderson County can be most proud of is its commitment to the future. You say it in the way you support your school system.

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 with the wisdom gained in the past.

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The President and the man who shares the Democratic ticket -- Senator Hubert Humphrey -- started their public careers during the depression years and neither of them can forget the marks of poverty that scarred the land -- hungry children, and men with only despair in their eyes who had lost their patch of land or the job they depended upon.

As we stand here we have to ask ourselves some searching questions. Are we to go back to the time when the Federal Government accepted no responsibility for the hungry and the dispossessed? To the time when there was no social security, no unemployment insurance, when bank deposits were uninsured and labor had no right to bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions?

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."

We are testing whether as a nation we shall move forward with understanding of each other and each other's needs, or whether we shall move backward toward a denial of each other's needs into a national climate of fear, distrust and dislike.

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.

The experience he offers for the awesome job of the Presidency is 12 years in the House of Representatives, 12 years in the Senate, 3 years as Vice President, and these 11 arduous, demanding months as your President.

I believe he has kept our country on a course of stability and progress and lifted our eyes to the expanding horizons of the free world.

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

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