

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
WOMEN DOERS LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 5, 1965

Friends:

On this beautiful sunshiny day, it is so nice to gather together and talk about a favorite subject -- making the world more beautiful.

No one who travels can forget the joy of coming upon a burst of blooming trees or flowers.

I remember so well last year in Eastport, Maine, a town beset with unemployment troubles. Stores were boarded up and closed along once-prosperous streets. But the spark of hope was visible in one bright spot. A miniature ellipse of green grass and brilliant marigolds around a flagpole lifted the spirit in an otherwise bleak atmosphere.

It was there because the Girl Scout Troop in Eastport had taken a look at those closed storefronts and made the park their project in the town.

What a difference a Scout Troop can make!

And what a difference one woman can make!

Our speaker is -- like the Eastport Scouts -- a giver of hope and beauty and self. I would not attempt to recite what she has meant in the field of health research.

Indeed, she embodies the American spirit of promoting life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

To Mary, the pursuit of happiness sometimes involves the pursuit of city fathers.

And in the case of New York City, the pursuit has transformed cement into flowers, trees, lights.

She put it this way: "Flowers in a city are like lipstick on a woman; you have to have some color."

So Mary bought the lipstick -- 20 blocks of tulips and daffodils to start with.

It was contagious. But all of this is her story and I want you to hear it from Mary Lasker of whom it can be said -- "Everything she touches turns to beauty."