

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1967

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON AT THE
CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST -
SHOREHAM HOTEL - FEBRUARY 1, 1967

Mrs. Jordan and friends:

This breakfast is always one I look forward to very much for I know, from the moment the invitation arrives, that I will come, see many longtime acquaintances, and leave with spirit lifted.....and a feeling of refreshment.

The President said in his State of the Union message that this is a time of testing --

So many foundations of our daily life are on trial.

One of these foundations which I believe is most important, and too likely to be swept away in busy, urban life is simply the quality of joy, the habit of finding joy in the things.....and the people around us.

Joy is importantly different from mere pleasure. Joy has in it the real recognition of the contrasts and depths and problems of life. Joy is an act of courage because it can carry you through anxieties and sorrow.

On the memorial to Robert Louis Stevenson in St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, there is this inscription quoting his Prayer:

"Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind, spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies. "

He asks for courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. It seems to me that a man finds courage and a quiet mind within himself, but gaiety must be drawn from others.

It always seemed significant to me that Thomas Jefferson equated the pursuit of happiness with life and liberty itself. Men were born to be happy -- just as they were born to be free.

It is given mostly to soldiers and statemen to broaden liberty, but it is given to all of us to broaden happiness. I think the qualities of gaiety, of joy, of happiness are especially meant to be found in women. These qualities are like smiles -- they satisfy both those who wear them and those who see them.

I think we do the Lord's work well when we display these bright qualities, not only for our own sakes, but so that we may share them with those we love.

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