

FOR RELEASE AT 11:00 A.M.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1968

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT THE STATEWIDE DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON/FASHION SHOW
INTRODUCING MRS. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, AUSTIN, TEXAS

My friends:

It lifts my heart to look out over this array of friendship from many years, many campaigns, many events -- large and small -- which have brought us together. For 34 years, we have shared so many milestones.

And today, I see victory in your faces. No one knows better than Lyndon and I do how much you have meant to victories in the past -- and how much you can help Texas lead the way in the election of Hubert Humphrey and Edmund Muskie on November 5.

I appreciate your coming here more than I can say. You have two treats in store, in the delightful show you will be seeing shortly. I had a preview of it in Washington, and I am anticipating it again. And you have another treat, in meeting Muriel Humphrey.

But before I introduce her, I want to say a word about her candidate for office, who is my candidate, too.

I have been concerned because the high noise-level of this campaign must not drown out the real issue at stake in America this November.

I believe that issue is simply this: Will America, having forged so far ahead under President Kennedy and President Johnson, toward a more just and compassionate society, now turn back? Will we lose heart because there is difficulty and challenge? Or will we continue on the upward, hopeful road?

You and I have watched, and helped, so many worthwhile programs come about and grow -- Headstart, Medicare, the Job Corps, many educational programs which place a better opportunity within the reach of everyone.

None of these programs is perfect, but they are vital and they mean a fuller life for many, many people born with the odds stacked against them.

These programs were not easily achieved and will not easily be protected. But if the opposition wins in November, they may see their victory as a mandate to turn back and to end all these beginnings.

I believe, and I feel all citizens, who truly care, believe that would be a tragedy.

Hope and progress and compassion can be kept alive in America if we choose in November the man who himself symbolizes hope and energy and compassion.

His name is Hubert Humphrey.

I will vote -- and I will work -- for Hubert Humphrey because I know him to be a leader of enormous intelligence and crativity. The stamp of his vision and labor is upon most of the progressive programs of recent years: Medicare, The Peace Corps, Civil Rights and the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. Programs which help every American family.

His opponents cannot claim one achievement of this magnitude.

I will vote -- and work for Hubert Humphrey because I know his character. He and my husband were sworn into the Senate on the same day in 1949 -- and I have seen him as Senate leader, as Vice President, and as warm personal friend. He is a man of deep personal convictions, and yet of great personal tolerance. He is a builder and unifier who does not try to set American against American. He does not pander to the fears of our people. He calls on the best that is in us.

I will vote, and work, for Hubert Humphrey because he chose as a running mate a man of candor and integrity and broad understanding: Ed Muskie. The tragic history of recent years has taught us that the Vice President must be a man of presidential timber, a man of unquestioned strength and wisdom. We simply must have someone in that office on whose judgment we can depend. You have come to know Ed Muskie, and I believe you agree he is such a man.

And then, I will vote and work for Hubert Humphrey because he has at his side, Muriel, who shares his deep sense of public responsibility.

I like constructive people. Muriel took one of life's cruelest blows -- the birth of a grandchild who was mentally retarded -- and translated it into help for all who bear that handicap.

I am devoted to Muriel for many reasons -- and I am proud to introduce her to you -- my friends in Texas -- today, a day which I know will give us all that extra determination to help carry Texas strong for her husband.....

Muriel.....

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