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"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."—Edmund Burke.

Strong Start

He hauntingly resembled Franklin D. Roosevelt. His thoughts were like a ghostly echo of the thoughts of John F. Kennedy. But even if the voice hadn't identified the speaker, his audience would have known that this was Lyndon B. Johnson—taking firm and confident hold of the reins of presidential power and responsibility.

Opening his first formal address to congress and the nation, President Johnson let it be known that he did not welcome the role that fate had thrust him into. But then, in an address that was basically a rededication to the ideas and ideals of President Kennedy, Mr. Johnson clearly conveyed the impression that he will not shrink from the challenges of acting as chief executive and commander in chief.

This is reassuring to the nation. More importantly, it is of significance to the rest of the world. Under his leadership, Mr. Johnson told the world, America is going "to continue on our course so that we may fulfill the destiny history has set for us."

"Those who test our courage will find it strong," Mr. Johnson declared, "and those who seek our friendship will find it honorable. We will demonstrate anew that the strong can be just in the use of strength—and the just can be strong in the defense of justice." Thus has Mr. Johnson served notice—particularly, we think, to Premier Khrushchev, about testing courage—of what his continuation of the Kennedy foreign policy will be like.

As for domestic affairs, Mr. Johnson outlined his political philosophy in these words:

"We will serve all of the nation, not one section or one sector, or one group, but all Americans. These are the United States—a united people with unity of purpose. Our American unity does not depend upon unanimity. We have differences. But now, as in the past, we can derive from these differences strength, not weakness; wisdom, not despair. Both as a people and as a government we can unite upon a program which is wise, just and constructive."

Specifically, Mr. Johnson called for "the earliest possible passage of the civil rights bill" and passage of a tax bill "without delay." These, of course, confront him with the greatest immediate challenge to his skill as a unifier. How he meets these two tests will largely determine what sort of record he makes.

Thus has the tone been set for the Johnson administra-

tion, at home and abroad. The new president sounds a note of harmony with the administration of his predecessor. At the same time, in Mr. Johnson's first message to congress, there are to be heard the overtones of a man who intends to act with vigor, to accomplish progress on his own.