

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1964 - 2:30 p.m. MST

MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S REMARKS AT
CROW-CHEYENNE WELCOMING CEREMONY
TRIBAL COMMUNITY BUILDING, CROW RESERVATION

Friends:

In this land of picturesque country and picturesque names, I feel a special kinship. At last, I'm among people who probably won't find my name of Lady Bird unusual!

Thank you so much for inviting me here today. The pageantry of this gathering; the pageantry of this land is thrilling indeed. Any visitor can well understand why you love your part of the world.

My husband asked me to bring you his warm personal greetings, and to convey to you his concern for the problems you have. You do not carry them alone. In a meeting with a group of Indians last January, he promised that your needs and concerns would be a primary part of the agenda concerned with the war on poverty. I assure you he has not forgotten.

As you know, Secretary Udall has directed the Interior Department to chart a ten-year plan to combat the want that exists in many reservations. It will be ready by October 1.

You will be expected to take a primary role in the planning for your better future. You must help make the plan work.

I salute all that you are already doing. This very center is an inspiration to communities and Indians everywhere. I know that the Crow Tribe pooled its recent judgment funds to use for housing, for industrial development, for this community center. I understand the Cheyenne people are planning to do the same. I salute this endeavor.

Indians have long written -- and are still writing a proud chapter in our history.

In taking tourists to Arlington Cemetery Museum, I am proud to point to the robes of the great Crow Chief, who represented all Indians at the burial of the Unknown Soldier.

The stories of Dull Knife and Little Wolf are part of the saga of the West. Their belief in the future of their people is exemplified in the very name of the Cheyenne Tribe -- The Morning Star People.

The national roll call of great Americans -- artists, writers, jurists, soldiers -- is filled with Indian names.

Only recently the President and I invited the exquisite ballerina, Maria Tallchief, to dance at the White House at a dinner for Chancellor Erhard of Germany. A year ago when we traveled to Denmark, it was the handiwork of sculptress, Amanda Crowe -- the wood carvings of the three bears -- that were our gifts to the three princesses of Denmark.

I can see -- in your children here today -- future Maria Tallchiefs, Kay Starrs, John Joseph Matthews (the Rhodes Scholar and author), Jim Thorpes (the great Olympic athlete), Will Rogers.

I shall never forget this day and I shall always be grateful.

###