

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1965
9:30 A.M. E.D.T.

Office of the Press Secretary
To Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

ARRIVAL REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
NEWARK AIRPORT

Governor, Mr. Mayor, Betty:

This is a day I have been anticipating.

Last February a group of us gathered in the White House to talk about Head Start with Sargent Shriver and to see what we as citizens could do to help the program get moving. All of us felt we were starting with the right age and in the right way to help children catch up before they are left in the backwash of humanity.

Today, 560,000 children have attended Head Start Projects. I wish I could talk with everyone of them and visit each of those 13,400 centers throughout the United States.

I came to New Jersey, Governor, because it would give me an opportunity to see telescoped both urban and rural examples of Head Start. About 51 percent of the projects throughout the nation are like the urban center we will visit at the Cleveland School; the rest are rural, like Lambertville or smaller.

Enthusiastic words have poured into the White House from throughout the country. The recurrent word is "rewarding" -- rewarding, not only for the children but for the parent, the teacher, and the volunteers who together are making this a rewarding national experience.

Head Start children throughout this land are not unlike. Culturally deprived -- yes! Economically depressed -- true! But all eager, curious, and ready to respond to loving care.

It has been a brief time since the start of Head Start. Its measure will be seen years from now when these children have progressed -- most hopefully -- through school toward a happy and self-reliant adulthood.

All of its stories will not be success stories. We are not working with people who have succeeded. But we are going to create some success stories.

And who knows? Out of the noisy, frightening beat of the crowded city, or the desperation of want in some lonely spot may come, my friends, a Sandburg, a Lincoln, a George Washington Carver -- all would have been eligible for Head Start.

Governor, New Jersey was the first state to enlist in the War On Poverty. I know how much of your own leadership you have given it. And so, let's go see it in action and learn from seeing.

#####