

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY - 2:30 P.M. MST
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1965

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
OPENING OF MARY REECE HARPER HUMANITIES GARDEN
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
DENVER, COLORADO

Chancellor Alter:

I am impressed and delighted to have a part in opening this lovely garden. And I am glad to know that the American student of tomorrow is not doomed to cement campuses, but will have always this jewel of greenery, flowing water, and fountains set in the center of things.

I liked what your chancellor said when he was asked, "When will the gardens be completed?" He replied, "Never, I hope."

For we hope the great ideas of mankind which will be portrayed here through statuary and symbolic planting will never be completed.

I daresay that years from now, this will be the place on campus that your graduates most remember. It is the gardenspots of our lives that we do remember.

Cowley said: "God, the first garden made, and the first city, Cain."

We are a nation that is moving to town. Our cities are growing at a frightening rate; 75 percent of us live on 1 percent of the land.

It is going to take real planning and real imagination and training to cope with these facts of our future, or we shall find ourselves stifled by the uglification of a once splendid nation.

Giving a garden is giving life.

I hope that more philanthropists -- like Dr. Harper -- will make such wise and lasting donations to the beauty of the land, and the joy of its inhabitants.

What a remarkable woman Mary Reece Harper must have been to inspire this gift! I am sorry I did not know her. But, in this garden, I feel I do -- and am the better for it.

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