

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1966 -- 7:00 p.m.

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION CONFERENCE BANQUET  
STATLER-HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you for your generous words and for this whooping crane. Your organization is literally doing a great deal to keep whooping cranes in circulation in one form or another.

Texas is, as you know, the winter home of the whooping crane and you can be sure this one will have a treasured spot at the ranch -- indoors.

Thank you, too, for the check which accompanies the whooping crane. I know just the place to use it. When our children were small, we spent many a Saturday and Sunday afternoon taking them to the National Zoo -- a mecca in Washington for two million visitors each year, usually with wide-eyed children eagerly in the vanguard.

Because the zoo is so closely associated with the interests of people who care about wildlife, I plan to use your contribution in landscaping the new entrance to the zoo.

I know the trees and the flowering shrubs which will be purchased for the new Connecticut Avenue automobile entrance to the zoo, with your \$1,000 check, will add to the pleasure of the visitors.

Sitting here tonight and hearing the citations to the award winners reminds us all, I think, of how much needs to be done -- and how much one person can do in creating and resurrecting the beauty of this earth.

It takes citizen starters, legislative scouts, business research, and education of the public.

What is it that prompts us all?

Since the beginning of time, man turned to nature -- for inspiration, for joy, for solace. The psalms and the poetry throughout our history recount the strength from the hills and the peace from the waters which comes to all.

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Today, I do not believe we are faced simply with a salvage operation in the onrush of populations and mushrooming cities, frantically holding onto a bit of greenery here and there.

I believe we are coming into a renaissance of appreciation for the beauty of the earth -- and we are finding many, many people who will do something about it in a wise and lasting way.

Thank you for being part of that renaissance.

And may the earth we leave to our children be a more pleasant place than we found it.

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