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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
OPENING OF UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ROUND-UP SHOWCASE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Governor Connally, Chairman Heath, Chancellor Ransom and Friends:

Returning to these Forty Acres always is a proud moment for me and the thing that makes me proudest today is the fact that the invitation to open the 1966 Round-Up Showcase came from the students of my University.

It is my University, because the University of Texas always has been and always must be, a highly personal experience to every student. Each of us who have been students here left with a sense of allegiance -- a legacy of "it belongs to me" -- that the years do not dissolve. And so I am especially proud to come back again to open this magnificent Showcase of what our University is contributing to education today, and a preview of the marvels that we may expect of it in the future.

It used to be said of the University that it was the vision of one man, and in many ways, it is. The idea of this great institution was born on December 20, 1838, primarily with Mirabeau B. Lamar, second President of the Republic of Texas.

On September 15, 1883 -- 45 years after Lamar has first proposed it -- the University of Texas opened its doors with its one building still not completed, without any president to administer its affairs and with a faculty of less than a dozen. But even in those early years, the University claimed the lasting devotion and allegiance of its students. Two years later, in 1885, when the first class was graduated, these new alumni got together immediately and organized The Ex-Students' Association, pledging themselves always to give of their time, talent and means to build a greater University of Texas.

Since then, waves and waves of faculty, students and alumni have continued this heritage. Thirty-six years ago this month, this Round-Up was started, primarily to bring alumni back to the campus for class reunions and fellowship and to renew their sense of belonging to these Forty Acres. Indeed, I was here for the Second Round-Up.

The University that was mine as a student was different from the University now. Depression was abroad in the land and our student body was small by today's standards. We came mostly from small towns all over Texas, but we counted ourselves fortunate that we

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could study with a faculty that boasted such a colorful giant as J. Frank Dobie, whose portrait we will see in this exhibit.

What did the University mean to me, a student from a small town in deep East Texas? It seemed then -- and it still seems now -- that all of the doors of the world suddenly swung open to me. Here I discovered that college is only the beginning of learning, and that one new horizon only opens the door to still another.

Today as I look at these displays in this Round-Up Showcase and see the magnificent work that every University, school, college, and department is carrying on, I find myself wishing that I could be a student again. Surely the doors that are opening for you now are to a far different and vastly more exciting world than any of us have ever known, and I envy you the horizons that beckon you.

The University of Texas is doing what I have observed universities all over our nation doing -- moving into a central, pivotal role in the life of the local community, the state, and the nation. Thomas Jefferson, whose name is imperishably associated with the University of Virginia, told us: "Institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times." Today the institution of the American university is advancing with -- and advancing ahead -- of the times.

Today the American university is no longer the school of the privileged few but of the sons and daughters of everyone.

No longer a center only of scholarship and teaching, but a brain reservoir for the nation, lending experts who help make our farms more productive, our cities more liveable, our governments more effective, our physical environment more engaging.

No longer providing extension services for rural areas alone, but rapidly building similar services for the vast metropolitan areas.

No longer cut off, in some side eddy, from the onrushing currents of American life but whirling along with them, taking stimulus from them and returning guidance to them.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to see this exhibition which embodies not only the mind of man, but the whole scope of his experience and the prospect of his future.

For example, the linguistics experiment is a vivid illustration of how the human mentality can keep improving methods of exchanging ideas with new information in a hurry.

The archeological display reveals the long range of man's experience. As a frustrated archeologist, I am anxious to see the evidence of a civilization of 9,000 years ago retrieved before the Amistad Reservoir swallows up the treasures.

The medical research exhibit illustrated by the heart pump suggests the longer future in which man cannot only understand himself better, but also improve the conditions of his own existence and the welfare of other people.

Taken together, this kind of revelation shows how a university becomes a meeting place, not only of minds and ideas, but also the totality of human experience and the sum of human hope.

Rather possessively, and in a proprietary fashion, I want to see my University excel in this new Age of the University. I am delighted to be able to say, what you all know so well, that the University of Texas is more than just a good school. As I travel this land and visit other campuses, I am proud when educators tell me that my University already is one of the best and is constantly becoming even better. This Round-Up Showcase demonstrates -- if any demonstration is needed -- that even greater achievements are to come.

There are 26,000 students now where there were only 5,000 when I was on the campus. For them, and for all of the thousands who will follow in the decades to come, I am sure that my University will be the sort of place it was for me -- where all the doors of the world swing open.

It is with great pride that I open the exhibit Showcase and the University of Texas' 1966 Round-Up.

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