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REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA

As I drove through the grounds a few minutes ago and saw the gracious lawns, and the trees that enhance the view and offer cooling shade, I find it hard to believe that the site of Old Fort Cook was one of barren prairie.

Years ago someone--many someones--had the foresight to plant these trees. Years from now, other people are going to be grateful that we planted another tree today and continued the enhancement of this handsome place: Offutt Air Force Base.

We live in a fast-moving age, with a mobile population. Military men, officials, workers and specialists of all kinds, and their families, move from one community to another. Home is not a place back over the hill, behind us. It is wherever we are, and I am thrilled to pay tribute to the thousands of people over the years, who have made Offutt their home, and left it a little more lovely every time.

Colonel Reynolds, you are to be commended for the excellent leadership you have given in the beautification program here on your base.

Beauty is a way of life here. It speaks from the trees and tasteful landscaping, from the lake and long-awaited golf-course. It speaks from the fine Strategic Air Command Headquarters and the historic old brick buildings that have been rehabilitated to lead new and useful lives.

I am particularly happy to know that you cherish these visible reminders of long ago days. All over the country Americans are awakening to the richness of their historic heritage. Sometimes the wrecker's ball has already struck, but your solution of blending the old with the new is a much happier one.

A few minutes ago we caught a glimpse of even greater things to come for Offutt--the handsome new Strategic Aerospace Museum. It will be a crowning addition to this place--a testimony of appreciation from the people of Omaha, who hold this base in high esteem.

The museum will be an important focal point for visitors from near and far, and the people of Offutt and people of Omaha are to be congratulated on their vision.

I have been looking forward to this visit--and I thank you for giving me such a warm welcome.

But before I go, I want to plant a tree and leave something of the White House with you.

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