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REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON UPON ARRIVAL  
AT HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

Office of the Press Secretary  
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Governor and Mrs. Brown:

It's wonderful to be here, to see you again, and to have before me an exciting itinerary which will take me to some of the proudest possessions of this state: Your magnificent sea shore; your great opera; your scenic highway.

Any American who flies -- as I did today -- from sea to shining sea is newly impressed with the beauties of this vast country and newly resentful of the scars that mar its surface. They are also grateful to the state that puts a high priority on beauty. I'm glad to join the 7 million tourists who come each year to see the glorious wonders of a state well-governed.

I am particularly glad to be here, Governor, to salute what has been done by this state in the whole field of beautification. I believe it is no secret that I am interested in this subject.

In fact, you, Mrs. Brown, and I have discussed it by word and letter ever since the President called the White House Conference on Natural Beauty.

Mrs. McNamara, the wife of our Secretary of Defense, brought me back a first-hand report on the very effective state conference which you called.

California has tackled problems and is getting results. It is, for instance, the only state to have a state-wide competition for excellence in design -- everything from bus signs to industrial complexes.

Your 150-million dollar bond issue for parks is the largest of any state -- and speaks well for the far-sighted citizens who voted it.

The willingness to build a rapid transit system in San Francisco -- the first built in the United States in 50 years .... the program for scenic trails and roads, the determination to help keep the waters of Lake Tahoe clear and blue, to save the scenery of the Santa Monica mountains, and to save the redwoods..... All of these label this state as a front-runner in the natural beauty movement.

I know, for another reason, too. I get more mail from mayors, conservation leaders and garden clubs, from California than any state in the union -- not just perfunctory notes, but letters of what has been accomplished and what needs to be accomplished.

None of these "just happen." It takes foresight and leadership on the part of its governor and a rallying of effort on the part of its citizens.

So I have come here today -- to say thank-you to you and the beauty minded people of California -- and to see for myself.

But let's not linger any longer. Let us begin -- to see California!

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