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REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
September 22, 1966

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

----- THE WHITE HOUSE -----

It is a joy to be here in a town where man and nature live in such harmony -- Santa Fe!

It is a double joy to have the opportunity to see the Institute of American Indian Arts, about which I have heard so much from Secretary Udall, and his wife, Lee.

This school -- as you know -- opened only in 1962. Yet in the brief months of its existence, it has already soared to high rank for its artistic accomplishments. Students from the Institute are welcomed into art schools and universities throughout the country.

Exhibits from the Institute are drawing excited crowds overseas, Foreign dignitaries come here to learn, and behold, and the whole world is being touched by your work.

America is a country that puts high value on education. We invest our money, and our faith in it. Why should this school, among so many new and fine schools, stand out and shine in the public eye?

This Institute isn't just talking about freedom. It is showing the rest of the world what free expression is.

Talents are not frustrated here; they unfold in an environment that nurtures the spark of genius that lies in every man.

Faculty and students are learning, and creating together, and the incentive is an inspiration larger than themselves.

America's Indian people have a shared wisdom and a symbolism that are admired the world over. Here they find living expression in the finest of traditional works, and the most imaginative of contemporary ventures. Silver, dance, textiles, pottery, sculpture, drama, poetry -- there is no end to the media you use, or the use you may make of them.

On the airplane, as I was coming here, I browsed through a booklet of poems done by students at the Institute. They are disarmingly strong, gentle poems, and I would like to quote from one; by Charles Long.

"As brothers, the universe is our home, and
in it we walk with beauty in our minds,
with beauty in our hearts and with
beauty in our steps."

I am proud to have these hours to get to know many of you a little better, and to see your works.

We are all living in exciting times. We are living in an age that puts new premium on beauty -- whether it is man-made, or natural. You, at this Institute, are particularly fortunate to live in such a receptive and constructive environment. Your achievements can be measured in the realm of art, in the realm of teaching, in the realm of learning. But I would rather not measure them, and only say, that this is a place of great happiness. I am anxious to tell the President about you.

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