

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1967

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON AT THE DEDICATION
OF THE SYPHAX SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dr. Hansen, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. George, friends:

This is almost like magic. A year ago when Mrs. Graham and I drove by your schoolyard, there were a few lonely shrubs, very little equipment, and lots of broken asphalt... just the place to stub your toe.

Today what I see thrills me. I wouldn't have known it was the same school. I see red roses in front, two rows of locust trees that will grow up and shade this street for your younger brothers and sisters in years to come. And -- when I came through the school, I saw a wonderful display of art work about the playground which you have done with Mrs. Schulson.

Out here, you have everything from a play giraffe to the new trash-cans given by your neighbor.

Of course these things don't just happen. They are here because lots of people care about the children of this neighborhood. After hearing Amy and David, I know our faith in you is justified.

Some of you are old enough to remember how this whole southwest area used to look -- and to notice all the things that have been happening down here to make it a nicer place to live.

There is still much more to do in southwest, but this schoolyard is a significant step forward.

Mrs. Graham and her newspaper, The Washington Post, have been concerned about southwest for a long time. Their leadership and their gifts have made the magic begin.

It takes that kind of commitment to make a city grow the way we want it to grow and change the way we want it to change.

It will take help on your part to keep the magic alive.

How? By keeping it so clean you're proud to call it your school.

Already your neighbors are watching you with envy. In fact, I just received a letter from Mr. Albin Koch of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

He was talking about Syphax and said, "This effort has been successful in improving the school and stimulating the surrounding residents to desire improvement of their physical environment." He thinks that many people here now want to brighten up their surroundings because of Syphax.

So you see, a lot depends on you and what you do with this playground.

Enjoy it. Nothing will please everybody so much as that, and thank you for asking me here to celebrate the dedication today.

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