

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON,  
NICCOLET MALL, MINNEAPOLIS,  
MINNESOTA

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1967

Office of the Press Secretary  
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

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It is exciting and inspiring to see what imagination, hope and pulling together can do to change the face of a city!

I know now -- firsthand, Muriel, why you said to me: "You can't come to Minneapolis unless you see Niccolet Mall."

Mr. Mayor, and members of the Downtown Council -- I know how justly proud all of you must be. And you have every right to be.

In fact, the other night at the White House, the Vice President was singing the praises of the farsighted business men of Minneapolis.

And I'm sure that in this audience, today there are many people who remember back through every step of the procedure that brought the whole downtown redevelopment into being 20 years ago. You must have seen endless meetings, drawings, blueprints, more meetings . . . and I am sure there were many times when you wanted to drop the whole thing -- and maybe came close to doing it.

Aren't you glad you didn't?

Minnesota stands tall in the nation's capital. The Humphreys and the Freemans play a vital role in our national life. And I can see after traveling across this state why it is they are such remarkable people.

But I came here really to see, more than to talk, and so I just want to salute the Downtown Council for its hard work and creative imagination which germinated and generated this downtown area -- and to dedicate one part of it, a fountain designed by Larry Halprin.

A fountain is very right in any city's re-birth for water itself is the symbol of life.

It is no secret that our cities are in trouble. Many have become cement deserts -- economic, visual, sociological deserts.

And so I think it is meaningful here that this artistic fountain is designed to draw people downtown -- not just to find a place to shop but a place for joy.

Thank you for inviting me here for this occasion. I know men will be refreshed and replenished by Niccolet Mall.

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