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Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT THE OPENING OF THE U. S. PAVILION
HEMISFAIR

This is a proud and happy day for me.

Hemisfair is the kind of "happening" that gives a lift to the spirits and makes us all glad to be alive.

It will be the destination of travelers from near and far. Overseas travel to the United States has increased 138% since 1961, and within our country families are driving, camping out, or jetting from one end of the country to the other at an unprecedented rate.

I have had the pleasure of travelling about Australia with my good friends Ed and Ann Clark. I know how well Ed knows and loves the United States and Texas. We could not find a more excellent host for this country's pavilion.

The Pavilion shows the spirit and character and shared heritage that have shaped our country. It speaks of America, all fifty states, "3000 smiles wide." It speaks of a people proud of their heritage, constantly discovering that heritage, for in the eyes of the world we are still a young country.

Young enough to remember! Inside this Pavilion, we find the faces of our legacy. Aboard the All People's Ship all visitors can share and feel the aspirations and friendship that have united us since the days when explorers, traders, missionaries arrived in the New World.

The exhibits take us from the certainty of history through the dramatic achievements -- and stern, hard questions -- of the present, into the uncharted hopes of tomorrow.

The exhibits compel us to face these questions:

- * can we meet the challenges of tomorrow alone?
- * what about shortages of water and living space?

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- * can air and water pollution be stopped?
- * am I part of the problem? . . . or part of the solution?

We come through this voyage from the past to the future certain of a feeling that we must care, and if we care enough, we will have the power to solve and to heal.

The promise of the future is also a challenge for a new confluence, vaster in scope than any that has preceded it -- the sharing of assets for the true benefit of all men, rich or poor, old or young, all races, all nations.

My moments are brief this morning, but I look forward to coming back at a more leisurely hour. Last summer in going to Expo, I felt I had been introduced to a neighboring country, Canada, shared her heartbeat, and what I saw made me want to return again, and again.

I hope that visitors from abroad who come here will have the same sense of discovery about our country. Hemisfair is a celebration that will draw people to a livelier, fuller vision of themselves and their world.

Leonardo da Vinci said, long ago, "In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed, and the first of that which is to come; so it is with the present time."

So it is with Hemisfair.

Now it is my privilege to start this symbolic waterfall for the first time. May all who come here enjoy its refreshment.

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