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Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON AT THE
DEDICATION OF KIWANIS PARK, STAMFORD, CONN.
MAY 16, 1968

It is significant and symbolic that one of the first places ready in Stamford's new downtown area is this gracious little park.

Too often in America, the places for people have come only as afterthoughts. As a result, there are places in America which are very efficient for commerce or industry, very efficient for parking and for traffic -- and not very pleasant for people.

From what little I know of Stamford's downtown renewal plan, that will not be the case here. Your bold plan for the center of your city is based on the concept that a city is for people to enjoy together. I think this park -- this mini-park -- is a sign that this will happen as your new buildings and stores and roads come into being in this area.

And so, when Congressman Irwin told me about this spot and asked me to join you in dedicating it, I wanted very much to do it. No one knows better than the President and I do how much it means to have a "can-do" Congressman.

I am glad to come to a "can-do" community.

As I have travelled around the country in recent years, I have seen that what is happening in Stamford is happening in many other places as well. Americans are coming to realize that we can make our cities not only functional -- but beautiful and gracious and enjoyable and exciting and livable as well.

This happens through a complex and not fully understood process of human and physical renewal.

It takes effort -- that you know, I'm sure. Mayor Giordano and Mrs. Marshall, and Mr. Bletchman (Chairman of the Park Committee of the Kiwanis Club) can tell you just how much effort is involved. But the important thing is that it can be done. We can add that grace note to our lives, we can make and re-make this land of ours into a land where people can not only prosper but where they can see and feel the beauty of our time and place. It gives me special pleasure to see that it is a service-oriented business club that is leading the way.

It has been said that:

"In the country, people are quiet but few are lonely;
In cities, no one is quiet but many are lonely."

One of the great challenges of this era is to see if we can make our cities less lonely -- if we can restore a sense of community and a sense of fun, and a sense of beauty to urban life so that Americans can live better and fuller lives.

I think that is happening here in Stamford. In a small way, it will happen in this small park. I applaud you for your efforts.

Thank you.

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