

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1968

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S REMARKS
AT GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES FOR
FILENE CENTER AUDITORIUM, WOLF TRAP
FARM PARK FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

It is a joy to be with you on this lovely day, in this lovely setting, and share with you the fulfillment of an idea -- the idea of Mrs. Jouett Shouse -- to establish here, in America's first national park for the performing arts, an international cultural center which will serve as a living symbol of our Nation's creative genius.

For the Filene Center which is to rise on this rolling countryside, and Wolf Trap Farm Park, are both splendid gifts to the people of the United States. They come to us from a lady who has devoted her life to the advancement of the performing arts throughout our great country.

The beautiful and imaginative building for which we break ground today is warmly and affectionately named in honor and memory of her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Filene. For it was Mrs. Shouse's wise and generous parents who provided the inspiration for her long devotion to cultural involvement with which she has concerned herself. Our country is the better for it.

Wolf Trap Farm Park is a spot blessed and made beautiful by nature. Now, thanks to Mrs. Shouse, this lovely site today begins to take on a new role -- one which will enrich the lives of us all.

As the Filene Center auditorium begins to rise from the natural amphitheatre before us, it will nourish our abundant natural talent and further open opportunities for our artists to create works of inspiration and beauty for all peoples of the world to enjoy.

Mrs. Shouse, your gift of this land and this auditorium speaks eloquently of your concern for the preservation of our natural heritage and enlargement of our cultural heritage. For both -- our warm thanks. From this day forward, the hills will come alive with the sound of music.

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