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TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1968

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT THE ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR A MORE BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL,
THE WHITE HOUSE - JUNE 11, 1968

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you here today, for you are the people who have been working day in and day out, with your hands and your hearts, to improve this city -- our Nation's Capital.

You are the doers -- you do not dream idly nor give up in despair! You are showing all of us how each person can contribute something of positive value.

Your accomplishments are important -- to your families and neighbors who are so proud of you -- and very much so to me. This is a time when we recognize the power for good that each citizen has.

One entry I recall so well included a line that is a message to us all. This lady wrote, "I made the first move and asked the children to join me and they have."

Yesterday I drove around the city to see some of your accomplishments first hand, and I was delighted with the variety and extent of your efforts.

Some of you have cleared out vacant littered lots to provide much-needed recreation space in your neighborhoods. Others have cleaned up and planted their yards and places of business. Even such challenging ones as service stations and a warehouse -- have been brightened with shrubs and flowers.

I'm delighted that we are recognizing some 15 filling stations in the District of Columbia which have landscaped their stations and made a real contribution to their neighborhoods. I want to thank a member of my committee, Mr. Adam Rumoshosky with the American Petroleum Institute, who has done much to stimulate oil companies to encourage stations in this effort.

There are 215,000 stations in the nation, and 400 in Washington. They are located in well-traveled spots by the very nature of their business.

I'm delighted that a beginning has been made. One of the winners here has told me that the landscaping has brought forth compliments and more business. Everyone takes an interest in the station's appearance and expresses appreciation for what has been done to make it a real asset to the neighborhood.

At the Twin Oaks Demonstration Center, children have been raising flowers and vegetables, and I am sure no corn ever tasted as good as that which you raised and enjoyed at your corn feast last summer!

A variety of projects have been carried out in the schools, ranging from the topographical map of the new Braille Trail at the Arboretum which the children of Webb School made, to the forcing and planting of bulbs by the children at Logan School.

Today we are presenting individual awards to Mrs. Sylvia Shugrue and Mrs. Lucille Johnson, who have inspired and guided students in their beautification projects. What a difference a determined, enthusiastic teacher, particularly in art and science, makes in creating the desire to get a workable school project underway.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Awards Jury, chaired by Mrs. Ezekiel Stoddard, and the staffs of the D. C. Beautification Office, the Department of Highways and Traffic, the Department of Recreation, and the National Capital Park Service, who have worked with you to improve the city.

I was especially glad to see that your projects carried over into the surrounding neighborhoods -- I noticed yards across from some of the schools were spruced up.

What all of you have done to make your neighborhoods, your schools and your businesses more attractive is well worth applauding, and these awards show that you care and we salute you for it.

Nationally, we are on the way to a better environment, and when you set to work in your neighborhood, you are helping to improve the national environment and helping to change national attitudes in a very positive way.

Thank you for all you have done for your hometown - Washington.

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