

Mr. McNulty would like a copy of this soonest as  
basis for preparation of press release.

✓  
*Spencer*

We all have the opportunity to engage in the greatest cultural enterprise of our time or of any time. First we can contribute our time, talents and money to the creation of the buildings which will house Lincoln Center, each one unique in the excellence of its design, architecture and fitness to purpose. This is the construction phase which will come to an end at the time of the opening of the World's Fair in the spring of 1964.

But the work of Lincoln Center and its supporters does not end with the erection of the stone and mortar. Thereafter we will have the more important task of intelligent and imaginative usage of these buildings. What takes place within them is the true pay-off. We must see that this Center becomes indeed a focal point of artistic activity radiating out into the city and nation as a symbol of the growing cultural maturity of our country. The physical proximity of the performing companies will permit a cross-fertilization of artistic interests possible nowhere else in the world. The presence in its precincts of many students and teachers of the arts will assure the dissemination of new concepts of artistic excellence throughout the city and the nation.

Today we are at an important point in the phase of construction. Our plans are proceeding well but there are still shortfalls in the essential funding. Bluntly, Lincoln Center needs substantial additional funds to assure reaching our construction goals on time.

But here I am encouraged by the quality of the people behind this project. The able and loyal men and women who have carried the cause this far will never let it fail. This audience before me is a reminder of the staunchness of the support for Lincoln Center. The fact that you are here today is evidence that, after all your effective fund-raising in the past, you and your colleagues are ready to press forward to the final goal.

Perhaps the magnitude of the sum to be raised makes small contributions seem unimportant. But don't forget that any gift of any size is rightly judged only by the spirit of the giver. The fact that thousands of Americans are contributing to this project is evidence that it is not the work of a few but the expression of a devotion to the performing arts on the part of many. With this evidence of broad and sincere popular support, the large donors will surely not hold back.

Thank you all for what you have done in the past and for what you are doing and will do. May all good things attend your efforts. It is good to be one of you.

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