SUGGESTED REMARKS BY GENERAL TAYLOR

ON THE APPEAL OF LINCOLN CENTER

I am sure you will guess that before I agreed to take the responsibilities of President of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts I searched my heart and soul very thoroughly. I was by no means certain that Lincoln Center would be wise to choose a military man for this responsibility. I felt sure many people would question the wisdom of my selection. Thus far they have not, I am happy to say. I put to myself as honestly as I could the questions which it seemed to me people in the constituent organizations were entitled to ask.

I cannot deny that the impulse to accept was very great indeed. It is quite clear that Lincoln Center can have an immense impact on New York and the whole world of the arts.

It is the greatest undertaking of its kind ever attempted here or anywhere else.

It has already raised a greater sum of money for its support than has ever been raised before by any such undertaking.

It is being watched with awe and wonder all over the world.

It is the most impressive piece of international propaganda which the American people can offer to remind the peoples of the world of their deep cultural interests.

Its influence on the thinking of the leadership of foreign nations who come here in increasing numbers -- to the United Nations for example -- is incalculable.

It has already completed a relocation project that is classic.

It has drawn to itself an outstanding leadership in New York.

It has had the support of the great foundations.

It promises to make an historic contribution to the architecture of New York.

It seems certain to bring great numbers of visitors to New York.

It combines the nation's outstanding institutions in the field of the performing arts.

It has the friendliest kind of encouragement from the press.

The attractions of magnificent architecture and a visual show place are not to be denied. The summer festivals which are to begin with the first two summers of the World's Fair, and form a part of

it, will launch New York upon a new career of attractiveness to visitors.

I found myself drawn particularly by the contributions which Lincoln Center will undoubtedly make over the years ahead to the creative life of talented Americans. What this contribution can be is already clear in many particulars, but it is also obvious that time will disclose many unforeseen effects. It is clear that the new program of the Juilliard School of Music -- which will develop a teaching program in the field of the drama -- and its concentration on the discovery and development of exceptional talents in music and drama -- will have far-reaching effects on the development of this nation's outstanding young people.

It is clear that Lincoln Center's diverse theatres and auditoriums provide in themselves an instrument such as has never before been available for experimentation in new and different dramatic, ballet and musical forms.

The existence of a subsidized repertory theatre to work under creative conditions which are impossible for the commercial theatre, provides New York and this country with unparalleled opportunities for initiative in imaginative drama.

Great art requires great patrons and Lincoln Center will be such a great patron through its $10 million fund for the cultivation and encouragement of creative talent and larger audiences. It will also be able to find other patrons in a rich and artistically virile city.

I felt as all of you I am sure have felt that I wanted to have a part in this magnificent undertaking.

It is an impulse which will be increasingly felt by the people of this great rich, vigorous and public-spirited city as 1961 moves along and the realities of construction, specific programs, and new developments take the place of blueprints and plans.

I would have to have substantial misgivings about my suitability for the responsibilities of the presidency of Lincoln Center to resist the attractions of so magnificent an undertaking, so well launched.