UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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REMARKS OF UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JOHN A. CARVER, JR., AT THE DEDICATION OF BRYCE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS AND WISCONSIN AVENUES, N. W., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1965, 11 a. m.

The United States of America has enjoyed the benefit of two deeply perceptive commentators from abroad. Alexis de Tocqueville in the 1830's, from the liberal idealism traditional to historic Franco-American relations, could voice concern over the dangers of majority tyranny, in his book <u>Democracy in America</u>.

Fifty years later, after our country had emerged from the crucible of civil war, the man whom we honor here produced the classic analysis of America's developing strength. James Bryce, son of a Scottish schoolmaster, brilliant student at Oxford and renowned professor of civil law, brought the gift of penetrating scholarship to his book, <a href="https://documents.org/learning-new-alth-ne

Later in his life, he turned to the practice of politics. Bryce represented Scottish constituencies in Parliament for more than a quarter century, and served in a variety of government posts when his Liberal Party was in power. In 1907 he resigned from Parliament, again to take up close contact with the United States—as British Ambassador. For six years, he interpreted Britain to America, as he had explained America to his countrymen and the English-speaking world a generation before. Bryce was the trusted tutor of our middle period, forging links of sympathy and loyalty that have bound the English-speaking nations through two world conflicts, and a generation of ideological attack.

Bryce's concern ranged far beyond America's system of government, economic potential, social institutions. Even our national character, of which he was an acute observer, did not bound his interest. He had, with all these things, also a deep appreciation of and concern for our beautiful countryside and, most especially, for the aesthetic qualities of this national capital.

Just before leaving us, in 1913, Bryce accepted an invitation to address an illustrious group commissioned to plan the city's future development. His catalog of things which might be done to preserve the inimitable landscape of this region, was an inventory that serves us even today as a checklist of our successes, failures and unfinished jobs. As we undertake the great rennaissance of our capital's beautification, Bryce's insight and sensitivity still contributes. We are responding today to Bryce's admonition in that 1913 speech:

"In considering the beautifying of streets, something should be done to take into account the possibilities in the little open space triangles that you have here in Washington at the intersection of streets and avenues. They are very pleasant places in the summer because they are green; but surely more might be made in a decorative way of them. You need not perhaps put up any more statues, but treat

these corners in some ornamental fashion, so as to give them a greater landscape value than they have at present."

And a little later he pointed at the spot where we now stand:

". . . You all know the spot at which Wisconsin Avenue intersects Massachusetts Avenue. . . . At that point of intersection, just opposite where the Episcopal Cathedral is to stand, there is one spot commanding what is one of the most beautiful general views of Washington. . . .

"All that land is being now cut up . . . and after two years nobody will ever see that view again except from the tower of the cathedral when erected. Can it be saved?"

Regrettably, we have not preserved much of the view from this level, but belatedly we've reclaimed this pleasant site, and have created the landscape value that Bryce recommended. It is fitting that we should honor his memory and the lasting friendship of our two nations with a Bryce Park here.

I have the great honor and privilege of presenting Her Royal Highness, the Countess of Snowdon, who will formally dedicate this site in honor of her illustrious contryman.