Remarks for Secretary Carver for Dedication Ceremony of Central Maint. Headquarters

It is a pleasure for me to join with you this afternoon in this ceremony of dedication attending the official opening of the National Capital Region's Central Maintenance Headquarters. I know that all of you have looked forward for many years to this occasion. New working conditions and new surroundings have given each of you a greater satisfaction in the work you are performing.

Those of you who worked for so long and so hard at 15th and C Streets were handicapped by poor light, hand-me-down machinery, crowded and dingy shops. This has all been changed with new spacious shops and the newest and latest equipment.

While most of your work in the parks has been behind the scenes, nevertheless, contributes to the enjoyment of the park system by more than 130 million persons annually. Comfort stations in proper working condition, buildings freshly painted, and attractive...
signs, clean statuary, grass trimmed, lawns and hedges properly maintained, have all contributed immeasurably to the beauty and appearance of the parks. This has been your job and you have done it well.

You have been responsible for the maintenance of the roads in the park system which are traversed daily by thousands of commuters and vacationers. Your work especially during winter snow storms has been recognized and deeply appreciated by your fellow citizens.

Without team work on the part of each one of you the high standards of maintenance and appearance of the parks could not have been achieved.

I am also deeply impressed with the efficiency with which you operated at the recent National Independence Day Celebration on the Washington Monument Grounds. It was apparent that a great deal of team work had gone into the arrangement of the stand, fencing, chairs, lighting, and all the other physical arrangements for which you were responsible.

It has also been with a deep sense of satisfaction that I have attended and participated in the special events in the Park during the...
the year and one-half that I have been in Office.

As I look about me this afternoon and see this display of equipment and note the labels that designate the various trades and crafts shops included in this complex it gives me a deep appreciation of the skills that are needed to operate the park system of the Nation's Capital. I am sure that it is a revelation to everyone here to get this glimpse behind the scenes. While we have taken a big step forward by providing better working conditions, by modernizing our equipment, and by centralizing our operations, the continuing increases and demands will upon the park system still require our ingenuity to meet the heavier loads of the future. I know that this organization under the direction of Mr. Rudolph Bartel and his dedicated co-workers will meet this challenge.

It would be proper also to say a word of commendation to Mr. William Haussmann who directed the staff who designed Central Maintenance Headquarters. He and his group worked closely with Mr. Bartel and
his staff during all stages of planning and construction. The
result is a pleasing and functional structure.

The future of the park system of the Nation's Capital looks very
bright. At this same hour in another part of the City, the National
Park Service is accepting the additions to the Second Division Memorial
in recognition of the service to their country performed by the members
of this Division in World War II and in the Korean Conflict. A Boy
Scout Memorial is being erected and will be dedicated shortly. Other
memorials are being planned.

We recently acquired by lease a beautiful natural area bordering Great
Falls on the Virginia shore. This park will be developed soon for
public use in such a way as to leave a great portion of it unimpaired
for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. Additional
sections of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia and
Maryland will soon be paved and opened to public travel.

In the very near future our administrative and protective units
will be housed in a Park Operations Building now under construction.

This new structure will perform the same functions for these scattered
units which has been performed by the Central Maintenance Headquarters for you operating people. The buildings at the 15th and C Streets Yards are now being torn down and the land will soon be landscaped and converted to open park space with grass and trees.

It is now my privilege to formally dedicate the Central Maintenance Headquarters on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior as the nerve center of the operations and maintenance activities of the National Capital Region, National Park Service. Again I commend you for your diligence in your assignments and I look forward with you to many years of effective and efficient service by this facility and the personnel which it houses.