

GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST

Dedication of the Founders Building

October 29, 1964

Remarks of President Lyndon B. Johnson

Governor Connally, Mayor Jonsson, Mayor Ryan, Dr. Berkner, my fellow Americans: I am particularly proud to take these moments this afternoon to join with you in marking this milestone of progress for the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. In our land, our future is influenced by the choices of our election, but in a much more important way the fate of our freedom rests upon the faithfulness with which we honor and which we keep our society's oldest commitment, the commitment to education. We have learned in America that the surest safeguard against centralization of political power is the diffusion of human knowledge. As and Mirabeau Lamar once said, as I like to repeat in every state, the educated mind is the guardian genius of democracy. The more strong centers of learning and research that are built across our nation, the stronger become the fabric of our freedom and the fiber of our society. The Graduate Research Center of the Southwest under the leadership of Dr. Berkner helps to fill a very vital need for the vigorous future of Texas and the Southwest. It has long had my admiration and my support. Too often, too many Americans conclude that our country has completed its course. Actually, America is still only a very new land, a young land, still putting in place the foundation for the greatness of a growing society. We have one of the oldest governments but one of the youngest countries. Among our

regions few have so much promise and potential as the Southwest part of our country where we have seen dramatic change over the past two decades in the Southwest. The remaining decades of this century will bring far more profound changes in the growth of our population, our cities, our economy, our horizons, and if those Americans who come after us are to know <sup>are</sup> and to enjoy a life of the first class, as free and responsible citizens, then we must keep faith with that early Texas commitment to education of the first class. It is important to that future that we employ human knowledge to better and to improve human life. It is important to the security and to the well being of our country that we continue to exercise leadership in all aspects of human knowledge, it is important to the moral and the political values of our society and to their preservation that we set for ourselves goals of excellence as the only goals acceptable for this free and responsible people. Our tasks ahead will not be easy tasks. None of the tasks facing Americans today can honestly be described as either easy or simple, or uncomplicated. In states such as Texas and in regions such as the Southwest, the future before us is complex and is challenging, and is demanding. But our region, like all of our nation, is blessed with many resources. The greatest of which <sup>I think</sup> are our human resources. I am confident that the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest will through the years to come play an invaluable role in helping us to fulfill the potential of the human resources of a great region. And that is why I am so especially proud to participate this afternoon in these ceremonies.

I think they are symbolic of the awakening which is running throughout our nation. It is an awakening that will find its reward in the greater strength that we of this generation contribute to the generations to come after us. On the strength that we build today rests the outcome of the contests of this century between the way of freedom and the ways of darkness. A strong nation, a united nation, a nation committed to the education, the enlightenment, and the advancement of its people is the nation that will succeed in the struggle to win those contests between a world of war or a world of peace.