

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
CEREMONY ANNOUNCING LINCOLN CENTER FESTIVAL '67
New York City, Tuesday, June 14, 1966

I am delighted to be here today in two capacities.

First, as chairman of the President's Task Force on Travel and of his Discover America program, I am most pleased to be part of an undertaking that will draw hundreds of thousands of visitors -- both from our own country and overseas -- to New York.

I am also pleased to be here in my capacity as a citizen with longstanding interest in the arts.

The announcement such as the one we make today makes me feel that all my labors on behalf of the arts, both as a Senator and with the Administration, have not been in vain.

Festival '67 at Lincoln Center -- to be held in June and July next year -- will be the first International Festival of the Performing Arts in the United States.

For more than five weeks some ten thousand persons will see each night a rich variety of programs.

Among other events, seven new orchestral works, commissioned especially for Festival '67 by Lincoln Center and the New York Philharmonic, will receive their world premier performances. Foreign companies -- many of which have never been in New York or the United States before -- will appear here.

Mr. Schuman will be giving you full details of the program this morning and later on, as the program is developed further.

I cannot help but think that undertakings such as Festival '67 are a sign of good things in America. For one thing, this is a wonderful thing for the people of New York City to enjoy -- without having to go hundreds of miles to see comparable attractions in the summertime.

I hope that other American cities will follow New York City's lead.

I am not going to give any speech. I'm going to leave the field to Ambassador Goldberg, Mayor Lindsay, Mr. Schuman and his associates. I do wish, however, to slip in a brief commercial for the federal government -- if you will pardon me, Mayor Lindsay.

Lincoln Center has received government support with urban renewal funds and funds under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education act. The arts and humanities are receiving federal support today in many places throughout America.

I am pleased to say that we have finally come to the point in our country where the arts, and cultural expression, have taken their place beside the material and the mechanical. Festival '67 will be a magnet for tourists from all over the world but beyond that, it will be a magnet for young people, for the people who live in this city, for Americans who wish to enrich their lives. We are moving closer to the full and rich life we hope to see achieved in America.

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