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## NEWS RELEASE

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**EXPO '74.**

Federal officials from Washington, D.C., joined officials of Expo '74 and local dignitaries in Spokane today (May 1) to break ground for the United States Pavilion at the 1974 World's Fair.

The ceremony marked, in addition to the beginning of the \$11.5 million federal project, the one-year-to-go point for the World's Fair, which opens in May 1974. At that time, the gates will open on a 100-acre riverfront park and the World's Fair exhibits of the major nations of the world, leading corporations and industries, as well as environmentally concerned groups, all related to the theme of Expo '74: "Celebrating Tomorrow's Fresh, New Environment."

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Master of ceremonies for the noon-hour gathering was Marinus van Gessel, deputy assistant secretary for international commerce, Washington, D.C. Joining van Gessel on the speakers platform were Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D.-Wash.), who gave the keynote address, J. William Nelson, Chairman, American Revolution Bicentennial Federal Committee, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., Harold S. Trimmer, Jr., Commissioner of the General Services Administration, also Washington, D.C., and Spokane's Mayor David H. Rodgers.

Representing Expo '74 were President King F. Cole, and Board Chairman Roderick A. Lindsay.

An artist's conception of the large canvas-covered domed structure was unveiled at the ceremony, staged on the site of the permanent facility on the north bank of Havermale Island, in the center of the downtown Spokane fairgrounds.

The uniquely designed 120 ft. high structure will actually house two other structures, one of them the permanent part of the complex. Two theater areas and landscaped gardens will provide the setting for the Federal display of environmental philosophy, designed to "create an aura of awareness" of man's use of his environment, federal officials said.

Visitors to the federal exhibit will enter the theater area by ramps and tiers, walking to a preview area to see a preliminary presentation. Following the first showing, doors at the end of each tier will open and spectators will file directly into the seating area of the second theater for the main production.

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Two audiences can be accommodated at the same time, with one viewing the first show while the other sees the main show. Then, the second group will leave the complex area at the same time the first group enters the main theater hall.

During the dual presentation, as well as through the impact of the complex itself, federal officials said, visitors will be confronted with the choices facing the American people.

"Our aim is to present the various alternatives that our citizens can pursue, if they are to enjoy a quality environment, or conversely the sensory consequences that will be inflicted upon us, if we ignore nature's warnings," a federal spokesman said.

"The purpose of our national pavilion will be to expose the environmental and ecological issues to public scrutiny, so that people will understand the urgency of the environmental crisis. The American people have never shrunk from facing a problem and consequently have never failed in providing a solution."