THE MINNESOTA PAVILION

APRIL 22, 1963

GROUNDBREAKING AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965

Excerpts from transcription of remarks by Minnesota and World's Fair officials at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Pavilion of Minnesota, New York World's Fair, Monday, April 22, 1963.

RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Chief of Protocol]: We are here today to take part in a thrilling groundbreaking ceremony, the pavilion which will rise as a symbol of the great state of Minnesota. Before introducing the first speaker, I should like to present for a bow several men who have been working on this exhibit for some time: Mr. James M. Kaufman, president of North Star World's Fair Corporation; Mr. James Dresser, the designer of this building; Mr. Marshall Lang, in charge of construction; Mr. Russell Bennett, the legal counsel of North Star World's Fair Corporation; and Mr. William Farrell, Minnesota Commissioner of the Department of Business Development.

On this important and happy occasion, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to introduce a West Point general who holds the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Croix de Guerre, and many other decorations from foreign countries. He has brought to the World's Fair Corporation and to Minnesota his great experience in major construction programs concerned with the vast civic works program of the Corps of Engineers, and at the time of his retirement in July 1960 was governor of the Canal Zone and president of the Panama Canal Company. I have the high honor to present Major General William E. Potter.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM E. POTTER: Mr. Ambassador, Mr. Moses, Congressman Blatnik. This is really a thrill for me because four important years of my life were spent in the Missouri Basin. During that time I met Mr. Ulric Gwynn, who was then executive director of the Chamber of Commerce in Minot, North Dakota, and one year later was executive director of the Chamber of Commerce in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He is now executive director of the North Star World's Fair Corporation. I now present Mr. Ulric Gwynn.

MR. ULRIC GWYNN: Thank you General Potter. Mr. Moses, Congressman Blatnik, ladies and gentlemen.

Cover: Rendering of geo-dynamic Minnesota Pavilion. The 80-foot high air inflated dome will be made of two layers of clear plastic. It will house the state exhibit, industrial displays, a restaurant and meeting room. Two lakes and a wild life area will be constructed outside the main structure. Project designer, James Dresser and Associates.

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It is a very distinct pleasure for me as the executive vice president of North Star World's Fair Corporation to come to New York and to participate in the New York World's Fair. We are very proud of the North Star World's Fair Corporation, and particularly proud of the state of Minnesota and its objectives.

The North Star World's Fair Corporation is a very unusual corporation, established by an executive order of the governor, which brought about a marriage of business and industry with government, to promote business development. The main objective of the state of Minnesota is to bring about an image, from the New York World's Fair to the world, of Minnesota's part in space — space within its borders as a place to work, as a place to live, as a place to play, as a place to develop one's education, religion and culture.

We are particularly proud of Minnesota's part in the race for space in man's mind — his brain power. Its Lilliheis and its Mayos in the field of medicine, its Sinclair Lewis's in the field of literature, its Charles Lindbergh's in the field of aviation.

Minnesota's brain power will be a leader in this World's Fair. And so we are very happy that our delegation headed by our Congressman John Blatnik could be here today to break ground for the pavilion which will represent this brain power.

GENERAL POTTER: Now I should like to present Mr. R. W. Gibson, a vice president of the Toro Company, a firm which saw in this exhibit an opportunity to do a civic job for the state that has made it a great firm. Mr. Gibson.

MR. R. W. GIBSON: Thank you General Potter. Mr. Moses, Congressman Blatnik. Toro is privileged to participate at the World's Fair — we were honored to participate at Brussels two years ago, in Seattle last year — we are delighted to be a part of the Minnesota Pavilion next year. We wish the World's Fair great luck and success. Thank you.

GENERAL POTTER: In the middle 1940's a freshman congressman came to the Congress, and at the same time a freshman lobbyist came to Washington. The lobbyist was myself and it was my job to lobby the Congressman. I don't know whether this worked out; I only lasted a year and a half after that, but he's been there ever since. It's been one of my great joys to have for a friend Congressman John Blatnik.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN BLATNIK: Thank you my very dear friend General Potter. And a hearty welcome and greetings to an eminent public servant, Mr. Robert Moses — a man whom I have come to know well. I am privileged not only to know him as one of the finest men I've come to know, but as an outstanding American, a man of many titles for many years, a man of incredible energy, unlimited ideas, who has gone further beyond the call of duty in service of his fellow citizens not only in your great Empire State of New York, but in his country. I am pleased, honored and privileged to be here today.

Fellow Minnesotans and distinguished guests, and

friends. It is a pleasure and more than that a great privilege to be here on this very important occasion, on this anniversary — year minus one, of the great Fair of '64 and '65 in New York. I speak in the name of Governor Karl Rolvaag and in behalf of the people of Minnesota, the residents of the North Star State.

We are pleased to contribute modest, but we think, very striking exhibits in behalf of the state of Minnesota in a fine and unusual pavilion. And I congratulate my Minnesota colleagues and friends for their creativeness and ingenuity in setting up such a striking exhibit. I am sure they will be justly and truly proud of it.

The Minnesota heritage is an old and a great one. It goes back over 300 years when the colorful and robust Frenchman Paul de Voygiers paddled by canoe up the great St. Lawrence Throughway, across the Great Lakes and up to what is now the city of Duluth.

Much more recently, less than 100 years ago, came the swashbuckling trappers, epitomized by the most glamorous of them all, a legend known as Paul Bunyan. Then followed the homesteader, the farmer, and the miner. We got men and resources together, then we settled more permanently and developed more extensively. Homesteader and farmer marrying the plow and the black soil in the great valley and lovely farmlands of Minnesota gave us the breadbasket of America.

Our iron ores supplied the vast furnaces of America for the past three quarters of a century. All these gave us the priceless heritage of the dynamic North Star State of Minnesota.

But if Minnesota is a land of many portions, and a land of resources and lakes, it is also a land of many people. Out of Europe came the Swede, the Norwegian, the Irish, the English, the Finn, the German, the Slav, the Italian and the Greek, to form a new spirit symbolized by the inscription on the Minnesota State House of Representatives, which I quote: "The trail of the pioneer bore the footprints of liberty." In the words of the distinguished professor and man of letters, the late Foley Rolvaag, father of our present Governor Karl Rolvaag, these men and these resources were truly giants in the earth.

And from the combination of these talents and these resources, human and natural, we have built up industrial, scientific, cultural, educational and medical complexes which have been so aptly and perhaps modestly — although proudly — mentioned by our executive vice president Mr. Gwynn. The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul rank fifth in the age of electronics. We are proud of men such as Bob Gibson, Mr. Dresser, the Toro Company.

So with this priceless heritage in our people and our resources, this ethnic cross roads, this land of the wilderness, the country of the voyageurs which is 10,000 lakes, this is our North Star State, our beloved state of Minnesota. We are pleased to be here, and we thank you.

RICHARD PATTERSON: Well ladies and gentlemen, I think the congressman should be elected a life president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. He's

Receiving World's Fair medallions from Mr. Moses are: (left to right) Mr. Moses, Representative John Blatnik, Mr. James M. Kaufman, Mr. Ulric Gwynn, Mr. R. W. Gibson.

Representative John Blatnik presents Mr. Moses with a sample Minnesota pine tree. Left to right are Mr. R. W. Gibson, Mr. Robert Moses, Representative Blatnik and Major General W. E. Potter.

magnificent. I now have the honor to introduce a great man who has dedicated his life to public service. I know of no other person in this country whose record of civic improvements can compete with the next speaker. I have the high honor of giving you the president of the New York World's Fair, the Honorable Robert Moses.

MR. ROBERT MOSES: Thank you Dick. One of my very pleasant duties over the recent years has been to be associated with some of the top people in Congress and there's nobody in Congress for whom we in New York have more respect than Mr. Blatnik. We've seen him in a number of capacities, mostly in connection with public works, and I want to say this — it's always been a sort of mystery to me, how we've been able to carry through the great programs involving the cooperation of the national, state and municipal governments, and very often public authorities, and quasi-public civic agencies.

In the highway program, for example, in which Mr. Blatnik has been a very prominent factor, this great arterial metropolitan system which is being built very largely with federal funds, the main arteries on the so-called 90 and 10 basis, some of the less important thoroughfares on a 50-50 basis, with the municipalities contributing practically nothing, the states 10 percent or 50 percent — we haven't had any trouble here in New York or in New Jersey — with the federal government.

They have set the standard, they have decided on the big things that are matters of policy, they kept out of politics, they kept out of dictating just how things shall

be done, they have respected state's rights, and home rule. I can't say that's always been true of the states. I can't say it's always been true of our municipality. It is a remarkable thing that this great state highway program has been carried through in the spirit in which it was initiated. And that is due to people like Congressman Blatnik who has been able to distinguish between the important things, the things that justify spending federal money, and the unimportant ones.

We are very happy to have Minnesota here. It seems a long way off, but the Congressman and others have mentioned the fact that actually New York reaches back through the St. Lawrence and the Niagara, and the Great Lakes, all the way into Minnesota.

I had some little part in the power development, the seaway developments; we saw Mr. Blatnik in that capacity also, and we got the feeling after a while that this water that came all the way from the Great Lakes, through the Niagara and the St. Lawrence, really drew us very close together. And we do feel close to Minnesota — and these other states that may superficially and in mileage seem far away.

Now you have a unique design, a most interesting design, a most interesting idea back of it. I think this is going to be one of our star exhibits here, and we are all delighted with it, and we thank you for coming here, and we hope you will not only come here for the groundbreaking, but will visit the New York area and specifically the Fair very often.

James R. Dresser, project designer, explains construction of Minnesota Pavilion to Mr. William Farrell, Mr. Robert Moses and Representative Blatnik.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

KARL ROLVAAG, *Governor*
WILLIAM FARRELL, *Commissioner,*
Department of Business Development
State Capital, St. Paul, Minnesota

NORTH STAR WORLD'S FAIR CORPORATION

JAMES KAUFMAN, *President*
ULRIC GWYNN, *Executive Vice President*
Suite 169, North Star Center,
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

THE MINNESOTA PAVILION

will occupy
a 46,296 sq. ft. site
in the
States Area.

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NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965 CORPORATION

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