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DEDICATION OF ANDREW W. MELLON MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

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Remarks of Honorable Oscar L. Chapman

Secretary of the Interior

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to accept this Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Fountain in behalf of the National Capital Park Service.

There is something especially fitting in the fact that this beautiful memorial stands here at the apex of the great "Federal Triangle."

During his service as Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Mellon also served as chairman of a committee to plan the development of this vast plot of ground and to direct the erection of buildings needed for the Government. Many of the imposing structures in this triangle were either built or designed during his tenure of office. In one sense, the triangle itself is a memorial to Mr. Mellon.

Now, situated where it can introduce the visitor to Washington to the utilitarian rank of buildings in which so much of the work of Government is carried on, we have this graceful fountain. It is a work of stone and bronze and falling water, whose only utilitarian purpose is to rest the eye and the spirit--to provide a feeling of leisure and coolness and relaxation and a moment of unadorned beauty here in the heart of the capital city.

There was a day when the only acceptable memorial to a famous man was supposed to be a statue. Washington is a city of statues--many of them splendid works of art, all of them testifying to the esteem which the country feels for men who have labored in its service. It seems to me a fine thing that Mr. Mellon's friends, seeking to build a fitting memorial to his name, should give us, instead of another statue, a fountain where hurrying people can pause in the day's round and refresh their spirits with the sight and sound of cool water and white spray.

Across the avenue the National Gallery of Art, with which Andrew Mellon's name will always be associated, stands as a permanent enrichment of our cultural life.

This fountain is a more personal memorial. In its own way, it enriches us just as truly. Washington will be a more pleasant place because this fountain is here. No man could ask for a memorial more wholly charming than this.

I am most happy to see this splendid Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Fountain added to the list of beneficial public works in the care of our National Capital Park Service.