

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR EDWARDS
BROOKGREEN GARDENS
OCTOBER 15, 1976

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS FOR ME TO SHARE THIS EVENING WITH YOU. IT IS ALWAYS A THRILL TO VISIT BROOKGREEN GARDENS AND MARVEL AT WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED FOR THE VISITING PUBLIC TO ADMIRE.

THIS UNIQUE ATTRACTION IS PERHAPS THE LARGEST SINGLE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ATTRACTION ALONG THE GRAND STRAND. YOUR EFFORTS IN PERPETUATING IT FOR THE PUBLIC IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

FIRST, TOURISM IS A BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY IN SOUTH CAROLINA. GENERALLY SPEAKING, IT HAS NOT BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY OUR ECONOMIC SLUMP. VISITORS FROM THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND NUMEROUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES STILL FIND THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO ENJOY THEIR VACATIONS.

A SECOND INTERESTING ASPECT OF BROOKGREEN GARDENS IS THE ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED IN PROVIDING OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE PUBLIC IN ADDITION TO THIS SPLENDID SURROUNDING. HUNTINGTON BEACH, ACROSS THE HIGHWAY, WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR GENEROSITY. MORE THAN SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND VISITORS HAVE USED BOTH OF THESE FACILITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR. THAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE

LOCAL ECONOMY AND TO THE STATE AS A WHOLE.

DURING THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR, THE TOURIST RELATED INDUSTRIES HAVE PROVIDED MORE THAN 30 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE STATE THROUGH TAX REVENUES. NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT TOURISM ISN'T AN INTRICATE PART OF OUR TOTAL STATE ECONOMY. THE ROLE WHICH BROOKGREEN GARDENS PLAYS IS UNIQUE. IT IS A SINGLE ATTRACTION ... UNLIKE ANY OTHER ATTRACTION IN THE SOUTHEAST. IT IS NOT ONLY A PLACE TO VISIT BUT IN A LOT OF INSTANCES, IT IS A DESTINATION ... A PLACE NOT TO BE MISSED AT ANY COST.

A VISIT TO BROOKGREEN GARDENS IS A CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. IT IS THE TYPE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY THAT THE ENTIRE FAMILY CAN ENJOY.

AMID THE PICTURESQUE PALMETTO STATE SETTING, THE #380 PIECES OF AMERICAN SCULPTURE MAKE UP THE LARGEST SINGLE COLLECTION EVER TO BE ASSEMBLED. THE VAST VARIETY OF FLORA AND FAUNA IS UNEQUALED. THE NEW ADDITIONS TO THE WILDLIFE AREA ALL ADD UP TO ONE FACT ... BROOKGREEN GARDENS IS TRULY A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

ON BEHALF OF THE STATE, BROOKGREEN GARDENS IS UNIQUE IN A VERY DIFFERENT WAY. IT IS A JOINT VENTURE MADE POSSIBLE BY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COOPERATION. IT WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE

AS A LANDMARK OF HISTORY AND AS A LANDMARK OF COOPERATION
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR INDIVIDUAL ROLE. I WISH MUCH
CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME. THANK YOU FOR
ALLOWING ME TO BE A PART OF THIS GATHERING.