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SPEECH BY U. S.
SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

DEDICATION OF
FORESTRY SCIENCE LABORATORY

MORGANTOWN,
WEST VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER 23, 1967

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It is always a pleasure to help dedicate a fine new building such as this one and it gives me even greater pleasure to know that these ceremonies mark only the beginning of the benefits which this facility will bring to the city of Morgantown, the State of West Virginia, and the United States.

Our State is fortunate to have two other forestry laboratories located within its borders. These are at Parsons and at Princeton. And with the dedication of this third laboratory here at Morgantown I think we can say, with no little pride, that these laboratories give West Virginia a special lustre and that West Virginia

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is fast becoming the hub of forestry research activities in the northeastern United States.

But these laboratories are simply bricks and stone without the skill and vision of the men who man them. These men are seeking to unlock the giant potential which is locked within our forests.

Our forests are one of our most historic and treasured natural resources. They are not only a thing of beauty but they are economically valuable and, if harvested wisely, self-renewing. If conserved, our forests will give of their bounty for generations to come.

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* And, finally, efforts to fully develop and use the other resources of the forests--fish, game, recreation, and natural beauty.

I am proud of the strides the Forest Service is taking toward meeting these challenges.

As I mentioned, in West Virginia alone the Service operates three research stations.

Let me tell you about some of the work being carried on at these three laboratories.

At Parsons, scientists are conducting research on timber and watershed management. Researchers have found profitable ways to lay out, construct, and maintain logging roads

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while simultaneously protecting valuable watershed resources.

They have shown that--done carefully--heavy timber cutting can substantially increase water yield without damaging water quality.

Parsons scientists are also searching for ways to rid our streams of pollution so both urban and rural dwellers will always have a clean and continuous water supply.

As timber growing and harvesting techniques are improved, there is a commensurate need to improve the demand for, and the marketing of, forest products. This is the work that is being carried on at the Princeton Forest Products Marketing and Utilization

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Laboratory.

Princeton, West Virginia, scientists are partly responsible for the resurgence in the use of hardwood flooring, rather than other materials. Other research is aimed at developing a floor-leveling system suitable for use in urban housing renewal projects.

With the cooperation of State and private industry officials, Princeton scientists have assisted in the development of a promising system using wooden posts for highway guardrails. The posts are driven into the ground by a kind of mobile pile-driver. If adopted nationwide, this system will sharply expand the demand for wood, while reducing road construction costs.

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Do all these projects sound visionar
--far off in the future?

Not at all.

Research done at Princeton contri-
buted greatly to the establishment
of a new hardwood veneer plant in that
town. This plant employs about 100
persons and purchases some 2 million
board-feet of logs annually.

I am sure we will witness similar
developments through the State as
a result of Forest Service research.

The third laboratory operated by
the Forest Service in the State is
the one we have come to dedicate today.
Here at Morgantown, scientists are
conducting research in the field of
forest engineerings and in wildlife

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habitat. There is also a field office here of the Forest Service's State and private forestry program.

In the engineering field, a wide range of studies is underway. They are developing improved methods of transport and handling of primary forest products, and improved methods of utilizing low-grade primary forest products.

One study, already completed, has provided engineering data for re-designing wheeled skidders to obtain greater logging efficiency. This and other engineering advances could save the logging industry millions of dollars annually.

The second activity at this new laboratory is wildlife habitat research.

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This is the newest function at the private industry. The staff of the lab, but it holds great promise.

State and private forestry program must work to keep open the lines of wildlife is a valuable forest resource but experts feel that the communication between researchers and State's forests are producing game industry officials. far below their potential.

Briefly, then, these have been, and will be, some of the activities The wildlife scientists will be searching for systems of forest management of the three Forest Service laboratories in West Virginia. that yield not only the maximum amount of timber but also the optimum

I know the work being done at these game crop. three laboratories will insure continued

healthy forest growth. I am firmly convinced that research being carried on at these laboratories will keep our State's forest products industries economically and viable for years to come. If the number of deer, turkeys, grouse, squirrels and other game could be increased, it is believed that hunting and all the attendant demands for hunter service industries also will increase.

Finally, to be of maximum benefit, research discoveries must be applied in Service for its fine work in the past

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private industry. The staff of the State and private forestry program must work to keep open the lines of communication between researchers and industry officials.

Briefly, then, these have been, and will be, some of the activities of the three Forest Service laboratories in West Virginia.

I know the work being done at these three laboratories will insure continued healthy forest growth. I am firmly convinced that research being carried on at these laboratories will keep our State's forest products industries economically and viable four years to come. I wish to commend the U.S. Forest Service for its fine work in the past

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and I know this will continue in the
future.

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