

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1968

9:00 a. m.	The Governors - Theater
12:00 n.	OFF RECORD: Presentation of the Distinguished Service Citation to Secretary Robert McNamara - Pentagon
12:30 p. m.	Hon. John Macy
NOTE: 1:00 p. m.	Luncheon at the State Department for the Governors - OFF RECORD
5:30 p. m.	OFF RECORD: Congressman Wayne Hays <i>cancelled</i>
8:00 p. m.	Black Tie dinner honoring Governors and their wives

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# THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 29, 1968

9:00 Address to the Governors.

This will be in the Theater.

The Governors will be meeting in the Theater between 9:00 a. m. and noon with the Vice President and Members of the President's Cabinet.

12:00 (Presentation of the Distinguished Service Citation to Secretary Robert McNamara. )(OFF THE RECORD)

(This will be a ceremony at the Pentagon. )

12:30 John Macy.

He will have several personnel matters to discuss.

NOTE: (A luncheon will be held for the Governors at 1:00 p. m. at the State Department. The President may want to join the group. )  
(OFF THE RECORD)

5:30 (Congressman Wayne Hays. )(OFF THE RECORD)

(This will be in the President's office. )

8:00 Black tie dinner for the Governors and their wives.

THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 29, 1968

9:00      Address to Governors.

12:30     John Macy.

8:00      Black tie dinner for the Governors and their wives.

*Done*

THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 23, 1965

8:00	Break his dinner for the Governors and their wives.
12:30	John Macy.
2:00	Address to Governors.

*Levitt*



INDOOR SCENARIO FOR McNAMARA CEREMONY AT PENTAGON  
(On the Concourse)  
February 29, 1968

12:00      President, Secretary McNamara, Secretary Nitze and General  
             Wheeler enter.

             Band plays four ruffles and flourishes and Hail to the Chief.

12:02      General Wheeler makes remarks.

12:04      President makes remarks.

12:09      Secretary Nitze reads citation.

12:10      Secretary Nitze presents awards to Secretary McNamara.

12:12      President departs.

12

fs

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

3:30 p.m., Thursday  
February 29, 1968

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM Joe Califano

Secretary McNamara told me that before he left, he wanted you to know that GSA runs the elevators in the Pentagon not the Defense Department.

c



Rec'd  
3/4/68  
4:35 PM

26

(P5)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

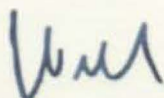
March 4, 1968

Mr. President:

You will be happy to know that the GSA has "corrected" the problem of the Pentagon elevator.

When 13 of us were stuck in it, the sign said: "Capacity - 15." They changed the sign. It now says: "Capacity - 12."

They are debating whether to make it 10.



Will Sparks

d  
2/29/68

February 16, 1968

MR. PRESIDENT: The Governors are scheduled to be at the White House from 9 - 12 noon that morning.

Shall we mark on your tentative calendar that you will try to attend this ceremony at the Pentagon?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Marvin



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

February 16, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

We have planned a ceremony in honor of Secretary McNamara on the occasion of his departure as Secretary of Defense. The ceremony, lasting about 15 minutes, will be held at the Pentagon on 29 February beginning at 12:00 noon.

On behalf of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and myself, I should like to extend an invitation to you to attend.

*Paul H. Nitze*

February 28, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM JONES

Should the President desire to attend the ceremony for Secretary McNamara at the Pentagon at 12:00 noon tomorrow, I recommend the following sequence of events:

11:50 a.m.	The President departs White House
12:00 noon	The President arrives at the River Entrance to the Pentagon and greets Secretary McNamara, General Wheeler, and Secretary Nitze
12:01 p.m.	The President proceeds through cordon to reviewing stand (Note: During walk, four ruffles and flourishes, Hail to the Chief, and a fly-over of Air Force and Navy aircraft will take place)
12:03 p.m.	19 gun salute for Secretary McNamara followed by review of the troops. The President will walk with Honor Guard Commander and Secretary McNamara - President on the right
12:07 p.m.	General Wheeler's remarks
12:09 p.m.	President Johnson's remarks
12:14 p.m.	Secretary McNamara moves in front of the colors, and the colors are marched forward. "To the Color" is played.
12:17 p.m.	Secretary Nitze reads the citation
12:18 p.m.	Secretary Nitze moves forward and presents the box of medals. Secretary McNamara and Secretary Nitze return to the platform.
12:19 p.m.	The colors are repositioned, <sup>PRESENT ARMS</sup> <del>and Secretary McNamara makes remarks.</del> <sup>AND NATIONAL ANTHEM,</sup>

~~12:23 p.m.~~ "National Anthem" is played.

<sup>21</sup>  
~~12:26~~ p.m. Ceremony concluded. The President departs

Alternatively, the President could arrive during General Wheeler's remarks. In either case, timing of the arrival is important to prevent a disjointed ceremony. Arrival at the beginning is critical because the rendezvous for the fly-over requires 17 minutes due to air traffic in the Washington, D. C. area. If they are turned away from the Pentagon at the last minute, it takes another 17 minutes to reform for the fly-over.

Colonel Robinson of my office will coordinate.

JAMES U. CROSS

Copy to:  
Reading File

JUC:HGR:SOH

Retyped  
Pres signed  
2/29/68  
also went to Pentagon  
for armory



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1968  
Tuesday, 5:40 p.m.

FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM Joe Califano 

At the Pentagon ceremony at Noon on Thursday, McNamara is receiving medals from the Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as the Distinguished Service Medal.

Since you are his Commander-in-Chief, the Pentagon has asked that you sign the attached Distinguished Service Medal citation so that it can be presented to Secretary McNamara at the ceremony on Thursday.

Attachment

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

TO

ROBERT S. McNAMARA

Robert S. McNamara for seven years as Secretary of Defense has given towering leadership to the defense of the United States. In these years, hazards in Europe, the Caribbean, the Middle East and in Southeast Asia -- as great and diverse as any in our history -- have threatened the Republic. During this time, he has built our Nation's forces to a pinnacle of new strength and efficiency. This has been done in a period of unique technological change and varied political demands. To this gigantic task he has brought a profound sense of responsibility and rare judgment in the efficient use of the <sup>nations</sup> resources. He has not only created strength which is flexible and adaptable to the dangers threatening the Nation, but he has been a wise counselor of restraint in its use. His name ranks with his great predecessors in this century, Henry L. Stimson and George C. Marshall.

To Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, the Republic he so ably served and the armed forces which protect it, <sup>in the name of</sup> gratefully and proudly award the Distinguished Service Medal.

TRANSFERRED TO RECORDING FILE

~~Confidential~~  
*Diary Supplement*  
*under*

February 29, 1968

Memorandum for the Record Concerning Secretary McNamara's  
Departure Ceremony

The President departed from the South Grounds of the White House at approximately 11:50 a.m. In the car with him, in addition to the driver, were the following:

Colonel James U. Cross  
Harry McPherson  
Clint Hill  
Lawrence Levinson  
Joseph A. Califano, Jr.  
Will Sparks

There was some discussion about the morning session with the Governors. Joe Califano asked the President whether he had accepted questions. The President replied that he had considered doing this but decided it would be wiser not to.

He recalled that Mr. Rayburn used to say that there are basically two ways of handling people. One is to butter them up, = to hug them and squeeze them, and fall all over them. And the second way -- which generally produces much better results -- is to give them a "Kiss my ass" proceedings.

The President then added that Mr. Rayburn was a very warm-hearted and sensitive man, but he rarely let anyone see this. He reserved his dignity at all times and endeavored to maintain an exterior of toughness.

As we neared the Pentagon, the President also recalled that Mr. Rayburn's portion of Texas -- Beaumont -- contained two types of soil -- sandy soil and black dirt. The good farmers, the workers, and the managers usually ended up on the black dirt because this is the best farm land. The ne'er do wells, the drunks, and the lazy ones, and the poor, generally lived on the sandy soil.

Determined to be an  
administrative marking  
By *ns* On *2-29-68*



Mr. Rayburn recalled asking a local banker what kind of recommendation he could give for a particular gentleman, and after some thought, the banker replied, "He's a very good sandy-soil man. If you like that kind of people, he might be all right."

We had by this time arrived in the Pentagon garage where we were met by Secretary McNamara. We then entered the elevator. Those who got on the elevator were:

The President  
 Secretary McNamara  
 Clint Hill  
 Harry McPherson  
 Joe Califano  
 Will Sparks  
 Larry Levinson  
 Okamoto  
 Dr. Burkley  
 A Secret Service agent, whose identity I do not know  
 Sherman Markman  
 Col Jim Cross  
 The elevator operator. The latter was a  
 Sergeant but I don't recall which service

The elevator started up and stopped rather quietly; no one was aware for a moment that we had stopped. When it did become apparent, Secretary McNamara immediately reached past the Sergeant saying, "Let me see if I can't get this to work." He pushed several buttons and told the Sergeant to turn the switch to automatic and let's see if the elevator wouldn't operate as it normally does." It didn't.

Somebody said "Isn't there an emergency switch?"

McNamara said "You'd better use the telephone."

The Sergeant opened the telephone compartment and spoke to someone whom he described as a maintenance man. He said "We're stuck between the second and third floor." (How he knew this is uncertain since the lights on the indicator showed nothing.) The maintenance man said "Do you have a full load?" The Sergeant said "We sure do."

While the discussion between the Sergeant and the maintenance man continued, Harry McPherson remarked "Mr. President, I never knew it took so long to get to the top of the Pentagon."

I remarked to the President that this was not a bad line; that he might want to use it. The President may or may not have nodded, but he used an expression which I took to be agreement.

The President remarked to McNamara that this was an indication of how much the Defense Department thought of him. They were trying to keep him until the last possible moment. McPherson said "Mr. President, you are surrounded by people who used to work for Mr. McNamara." The President said "Yes, and you all would be surprised how low you sank in his estimation when he found out I wanted to borrow you." McNamara laughed.

I had been reading the small print on the elevator card and pointed out to Secretary McNamara that the number of this car was 13. I said "You should have changed the designation. That's probably the cause of our trouble." McNamara replied, "No that's the trouble with having 29 days in February."

The President then wanted to know what the capacity of the elevator was supposed to be. Someone told him that the sign said 15. He counted the people in the elevator and found that there were only 13. I believe there was a remark about the people being overweight, but I do not know who said it.

By this time it had begun to get somewhat stuffy in the elevator. Larry Levinson and Sherwin Markman pried the inside doors slightly apart so that some air came in from the elevator shaft. Harry McPherson then began removing three knobs which held the plate in place in the ceiling. (There should have been four knobs but one was already missing.) He succeeded in raising the plate half an inch or so, and although this did not have much effect on the air supply, I was informed later by John Airhart, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Administration, that this automatically cut off the current to the elevator and was probably the cause of our continued delay.



Somewhere in the course of the chatter, the President remarked to Bob McNamara that he was going to take the line out of his speech about the efficiency which McNamara has brought to the Defense Establishment.

The President also suggested that I take the notebook which contained a copy of his speech and wedge it between the two outer doors -- the lower half of which we could see -- so that more air could circulate in the elevator. We were able to pry these doors about an inch and I followed his suggestion.

Someone in back of the elevator asked the Sergeant what the problem was and why there was no one on the landing, which we could see through the crack in the doors. The Sergeant replied that they had to come all the way down from "The Penthouse."

Clint Hill then got on his walkie-talkie and because there was still uncertainty as which floor we were on, told the Secret Service men to go to every floor and "open the damn doors." In no more than two minutes several people showed up on the landing, including a GSA maintenance man in a green uniform who promptly got the outer doors open.

We were slightly less than three feet below floor-level. Several of us climbed out, and a leather chair with wooden arms was secured from a nearby office (we were in the outer office of the Under Secretary of the Army on the fourth floor) and placed inside the elevator so that the President could climb out without great difficulty.

We then proceeded by stairs to the River Entrance. As the President was greeted inside the Entrance by General Wheeler and Paul Nize, ~~Marian~~ <sup>Maxine</sup> Smith of the Associated Press asked me if anybody had said anything in the elevator. I told ~~her~~ <sup>him</sup> that the President had said "I didn't know it took so long to get to the top of the Pentagon." I also reported McNamara's remark about the 29th of February.



The President's party then went down the front steps of the River Entrance to the Reviewing Stand in what was by now a very cold and fairly hard rain.

The ceremony was a normal Pentagon troop review with a 19-gun salute. Unfortunately, the Public Address system was not working. The combination of this and the driving rain prevented virtually everyone from hearing any of the remarks which were made.

The President did deliver the prepared text he had brought with him. He read from his speech cards, not from the notebook.

After we had been standing in the rain for some time, somebody procured an umbrella for Joe Califano. He opened it and it promptly turned inside-out. While Califano was struggling with his umbrella somebody was holding an umbrella over the President, and, theoretically, Mr. McNamara. This was also singularly unsuccessful, as the President reported, himself, in the car after we left the Pentagon.

"There was some kid holding an umbrella over my head which had a hole in it and the water was running down the shoulder of my coat. He was holding it so that all the water, which was running off the top of the umbrella, fell on McNamara's glasses, who was standing at attention going blind. I told the kid to move the umbrella to the right, and he moved it to the left, so that the only person who was protected then was him."

The President was in the car with the same passengers as before minus Colonel Cross. We departed from the River Entrance of the Pentagon and took the President directly to the State Department.

The President remarked en route he couldn't understand why anyone would want to go to Aspen, Colorado on a day like this, but that McNamara felt it would be confusing to have him and Clark Clifford in the building at the same time, and the President said I agreed with him. The President added that McNamara had said he would be back on April 1st, and that he would be

always at the President's disposal and that he hoped the President would call him, and that he would be disappointed if the President did not call.

The President then said to Harry McPherson that it looked as though he would have to go down to Houston Space Center tomorrow and to Jack Brooks' dinner. He said he wanted some nice pat-on-the-back remarks to help the morale of the people down there because we had taken so much away from them.

He also suggested that we get out Jack Brooks' voting record and we would find that he voted 100% on Barefoot's list of bills last year, and the President wanted to do something good for him.

In the State Department garage, the President paused to comb his hair at the mirror on the wall between the automobile and the elevator. He was asked by ~~Marian~~ <sup>Marion</sup> Smith whether he intended to take the elevator this time, and he said he thought he would walk. One of the reporters commented that there were eight floors here instead of three. As the President walked away, he said that he was going to be more careful who he rode with next time.

Wms

Will Sparks



## JOHN MACY MEMOES TO THE PRESIDENT

February 20, 1968	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
February 20, 1968	Ambassador to the Philippines
February 20, 1968	Ambassador to Argentina
February 20, 1968	Oliver Troxel -- Candidate for Ambassador to Mali
February 20, 1968	Ambassador to Uruguay
February 20, 1968	Candidates for Assistant Administrator AID (War on Hunger)
February 20, 1968	- Raul H. Castro as a Possibility for Ambassador to Bolivia
November 9, 1967	Tax Court
November 27, 1967	- Treasurer of the United States
October 14, 1967	Replacement for Nabrit on Atomic Energy Commission
January 15, 1968	Council of the Administrative Conference
January 11, 1968	Staffing of the U. S. Mission to the UN. and Related Activities
January 11, 1968	Charges at U. S. Diplomatic Missions
January 24, 1968	Advisory Committee on the Teacher Corps
January 22, 1968	Two Federal Farm Credit Board Vacancies
February 2, 1968	Inter-American Development Bank
February 7, 1968	Possibility for Secretary of HEW - Terry Sanford ✓
February 15, 1968	Compensation of Office of Education Advisory Committee
February 16, 1968	HEW Vacancy
February 15, 1968	Washington Technical Institute
February 16, 1968	Tariff Commission Vacancy
February 15, 1968	President's Air Quality Advisory Board
February 10, 1968	Esther Lisbon Coopersmith as a possibility to replace Margaret Price at the National Committee
February 9, 1968	Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission
January 15, 1968	Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission

### Other Memorandums

February 19, 1968	To WMW From Doug Nobles re Phillip B. Baldwin
February 19, 1968	To WMW from Doug Nobles re Foreign Claims Settlement Commission
January 30, 1968	To President, from Ramsey Clark re Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

*Mary Swindle President  
2/29/68  
memos would have been read*

①  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 29, 1968  
4:35 p.m.

Mr. President:

John Criswell called with the following  
two items:

1. Jim Farley had an emergency  
operation (nothing serious) this morning.  
He is in St. Claire's Hospital in New York  
City.

Send flowers?

YES ☒

NO ☐

2. Margaret Price is back in George  
Washington Hospital.

Send flowers?

YES ☒

NO ☐

JimJ

*already  
slated*

MEMORANDUM

(29)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

(ps)

Mr. President,

The Commerce Committee voted to support  
your nomination --- C. R. Smith ---and it goes  
to the Senate today.

Mike Manatos/mjdr  
Feb 29, 1968  
12 noon

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE  
CEREMONY HONORING SECRETARY  
MC NAMARA AT THE PENTAGON

(12:26 P.M. EST)

Secretary Mc Namara, Secretary Nitze, General Wheeler, Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Armed Services, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I don't have a speech to make here today. I just thought that I would come over and join with all of you and with all of Bob McNamara's fellow workers in saying goodbye to him.

I have heard this place here at the Pentagon referred to as the "Puzzle Palace." Bob McNamara may be the only man who ever found the solution to the puzzle and he is taking it with him. But whatever it is called, it is one of the most important buildings on this earth.

I am sorry that this is so, but until men and nations are content to leave one another in peace it will be so.

That makes you people very important people. A great deal depends on the quality of your performance, on your character, on your intelligence, on your patriotism, on your pride in your own service and on your ability to rise above narrow service rivalries.

Bob McNamara's career is just about the textbook example of the modern public servant. But I suspect there are many others out there before me now in uniform and in civilian clothes, high ranking and not so high ranking, who also qualify as modern public servants.

I want to say to each of you that your country is grateful to you for the quality of the work that you do on behalf of all of us, as your country is grateful to this good man, Bob McNamara, to whom we have come here today to say goodbye and farewell.

END

(AT 12:29 P.M. EST)



DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
Thursday, February 29, 1968  
at eight o'clock

The President & Mrs. Johnson

The Vice President & Mrs. Humphrey  
The Secretary of State & Mrs. Rusk  
The Secretary of the Treasury & Mrs. Fowler  
The Attorney General & Mrs. Clark  
The Postmaster General & Mrs. O'Brien  
The Secretary of the Interior & Mrs. Udall  
The Secretary of Agriculture & Mrs. Freeman  
The Secretary of Commerce & Mrs. Trowbridge  
The Secretary of Labor & Mrs. Wirtz  
The Secretary of Housing & Urban Development & Mrs. Weaver  
The Secretary of Transportation & Mrs. Boyd  
The Governor of Alaska & Mrs. Hickel  
The Governor of Arizona & Mrs. Williams  
The Governor of Arkansas & Mrs. Rockefeller  
The Governor of Colorado & Mrs. Love  
The Governor of Connecticut & Mrs. Dempsey  
The Governor of Delaware & Mrs. Terry  
The Governor of Florida & Mrs. Kirk  
Hon. John A. Burns  
Governor of Hawaii  
The Governor of Idaho & Mrs. Samuelson  
Hon. Otto Kerner  
Governor of Illinois  
Hon. Harold E. Hughes  
Governor of Iowa  
The Governor of Kansas & Mrs. Docking  
The Governor of Louisiana & Mrs. McKeithen  
The Governor of Maine & Mrs. Curtis  
The Governor of Maryland & Mrs. Agnew  
The Governor of Massachusetts & Mrs. Volpe  
The Governor of Michigan & Mrs. Romney  
The Governor of Minnesota & Mrs. LeVander  
The Governor of Mississippi & Mrs. Williams  
The Governor of Missouri & Mrs. Hearn  
The Governor of Montana & Mrs. Babcock  
The Governor of Nebraska & Mrs. Tiemann  
The Governor of New Hampshire & Mrs. King  
Hon. Richard J. Hughes  
Governor of New Jersey  
The Governor of New Mexico & Mrs. Cargo  
The Governor of New York & Mrs. Rockefeller  
The Governor of North Carolina & Mrs. Moore  
The Governor of North Dakota & Mrs. Guy  
The Governor of Oklahoma & Mrs. Bartlett  
The Governor of Oregon & Mrs. McCall  
The Governor of Pennsylvania & Mrs. Shafer  
Hon. John H. Chafee  
Governor of Rhode Island  
The Governor of South Carolina & Mrs. McNair  
Hon. Nils A. Boe  
Governor of South Dakota  
The Governor of Tennessee & Mrs. Ellington  
The Governor of Utah & Mrs. Rampton  
The Governor of Vermont & Mrs. Hoff  
The Governor of Virginia & Mrs. Godwin  
The Governor of Washington & Mrs. Evans  
The Governor of West Virginia & Mrs. Smith  
Hon. Warren P. Knowles  
Governor of Wisconsin  
The Governor of Wyoming & Mrs. Hathaway

Hon. & Mrs. Charles J. Zwick  
Dir., Bureau of the Budget

Hon. & Mrs. Arthur M. Okun  
Chmn., Council of Economic Advisers

Hon. & Mrs. Price Daniel  
Dir., Office of Emergency Planning

Hon. & Mrs. Joseph A. Califano, Jr.  
Special Assistant to the President

Hon. & Mrs. George E. Christian  
Press Secretary to the President

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Midgley  
Mrs-Betty Furness, Spec. Asst. to the Pres. for Consumer Affairs

Hon. & Mrs. W. Marvin Watson  
Special Assistant to the President

Hon. & Mrs. Larry E. Temple  
Special Counsel to the President

Hon. Owen S. Aspinall  
Governor of American Samoa

Hon. Manuel F. L. Guerrero  
Governor of Guam

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico & Mrs. Sanchez-Vilella

The Governor of the Virgin Islands & Mrs. Paiewonsky

Hon. & Mrs. Winthrop G. Brown  
Former Amb. to Korea; Spec. Asst. to the Secretary of State

Hon. & Mrs. Endicott Peabody  
Asst. Dir., Office of Emergency Planning

Hon. & Mrs. Farris Bryant  
Chmn., Adv. Commission on Inter-governmental Relations

Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Byrley  
Dir., Federal State Relations, Nat'l. Governors' Conference

Hon. & Mrs. Clark M. Clifford  
Secretary of Defense-designate

Mr. Brevard Crikfield  
Exec. Dir., National Governors' Conference, Chicago, Ill.

Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Philip deWitt Ginder  
Mrs-Jean Dalrymple, NYC Center Light Opera Co.

Capt. & Mrs. Charles S. Robb  
Arlington, Virginia

Mr. C. R. Smith  
Secretary of Commerce-designate



FEBRUARY 29, 1968

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF TOASTS BETWEEN  
PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON  
AND JOHN A. VOLPE, GOVERNOR OF  
MASSACHUSETTS, AT THE GOVERNORS  
DINNER  
THE STATE DINING ROOM

(AT 10:25 P.M. EST)

THE PRESIDENT: Distinguished Governors, Charming Ladies, Friends -- and Favorite Sons:

I am delighted to welcome you to the White House -- temporarily. Today will certainly have proved one thing to you. Washington is an exciting town. Even a little elevator ride can be a big event.

Let me give you a confidential briefing on what really happened in the Pentagon today.

-- First of all, the elevator was Number 13.

-- And there were 13 of us in there.

-- And today is leap year.

I felt sorry for that poor elevator operator. A voice came over the intercom and asked: "Do you have a full load there?"

I was interested in his reply.

The operator looked at the Secretary of Defense -- and swallowed once. He looked at me -- and swallowed twice.

Then he snapped: "A load? Affirmative, buddy!"

I turned to Bob McNamara. "What's wrong with this thing?" I said -- in my softest voice. "Don't ask me," he replied. "I don't work here any more."

I looked at him sadly, and thought: "That's real efficiency for you -- he's not even out of the building and the computers have broken down."

The Secretary must have read my thoughts. He clicked his fingers and exclaimed: "I've got it, Mr. President. This is February 29th and we didn't program the computer for Leap Year!"

As we walked away, I saw Bob McNamara whip out his famous little black book. I peeked over his shoulder and read the notation; "Check elevator budget at the World Bank."

Driving back to the White House, I made a note of my own -- for our Republican guests tonight. The other party has been so kind to me lately -- approving just about everything that I do -- that I just wanted to give their most vocal supporters an inside tip.

MORE

Standing stuck inside that elevator today, I thought of my Republican friends. I hoped they would realize that it can take a long time to get to the top in this town.

Years ago our predecessors were pretty independent of one another -- the Chief Executive of the Nation and the Chief Executive of the State. But the 20th Century has imposed a partnership on the two of us. Like all partnerships, sometimes we grow restless in that arrangement, as partners frequently do.

But there is one thing in the last analysis we all know, whether it is a partnership in our home or in our business or in the Government that runs our country, we have got to make it work.

Now that is what I am trying so hard to do. I am trying to make it work. We now have more than 450 Federal grant-in-aid programs in the United States. They amount to more than \$17 billion of the taxpayers' money that is spent every year.

-- They involve almost every major function of this Government in this society.

-- They touch the lives, I think, of every single American. We, the leaders, the Chief Executives of America, have a responsibility to all America.

MORE



It is just disgraceful for us to spend any of our time and our talent chewing on each other. You have problems that need to be solved that I don't know much about, but if I can help I want to help because if you are a better chief executive, your state is a better state.

I have problems and God knows they are legion. I don't know the answers to all of them. And I need help. If we solve them you have a better nation. You have a slice of this nation and your children have a slice of this nation.

So we must never lose sight of the fact that some folks would like to take a little temporary advantage with great injury to the longtime national good. But I hope and I believe they are not in this room tonight.

I want to pay public tribute to the tireless efforts of three good men who largely have inaugurated and brought this relationship to what it is today, between the chief executive of the nation and the chief executives of the states, first Governor Buford Ellington of Tennessee who left his home and came here and valiantly served me until I told him that he could probably do me more good as the Governor of Tennessee.

Then, that dynamic and very able leader, Farris Bryant from the State of Florida, Governor Bryant served his term here with great distinction and great appreciation from all of us who worked with him.

Now, Governor Price Daniel. Thanks to your cooperation and your understanding, all of us together have made these programs, I think, somewhat more effective than they would have been otherwise.

Your own distinguished chairman, Governor Volpe, has said that this is the best working relationship that the Federal Government and the states have had together. I know of no one who tries harder to make it so than Governor Volpe, and I want to thank you, Governor.

MORE

I have often spoken of Buford Ellington and Farris Bryant -- but this is the first opportunity I have had to say anything about Price Daniel.

He has served in practically every important post there is in Government: State Legislator, Speaker, Attorney General, Governor and United States Senator. Now he sits in the Security Council with us. He was your colleague as Governor for many years; he was my colleague as a Senator for many years. He knows Government, I think, at both ends -- the local, State, and Federal level. I know Price Daniel as the soul of honor.

All of us have to have a little partisanship in us to enjoy life, but these three men who work with you, I think, have a minimum amount of it: Buford Ellington and Price Daniel and Governor Bryant.

I doubt that there is a man in this room from any State in the Union who can do more with the President -- and with the Cabinet -- than Price Daniel. I tell you that only so you will know that you have a good lawyer retained here in Washington for you. He is your advocate.

I am glad and gratified that Governor Daniel and his lovely wife have come here to try to bring us closer together and to serve our common interests.

Last year, we made a very determined effort to put our partnership on a face-to-face basis. Cabinet officers and other high officials, at my instruction, got away from the smog of Washington and went into 44 State capitals at the request and with the approval of the Chief Executive of these States.

Many other States sent their officials here to meet with us. In all, there have been more than 2500 State and Federal officials meeting to try to better the ways to serve the people who pay all of us and entrust all of us with the responsibilities.

Their agenda was 20th Century America. In these meetings, we explored the challenges of housing, pollution, transportation, law enforcement, New Haven railroads, education, health, job opportunities.

MORE



These challenges, we know, leap-frog state boundaries. They confront us all as Americans. Because there is one thing we should never lose sight of;

When a child in one area gets a better education than a child in another;

When a baby in one neighborhood has a higher chance of survival than a baby in another neighborhood;

When the smoke of one city poisons the air of another city;

When the crowded highways in one state slow the commerce in another state. All of these start at local issues but in a very short time they stretch into national problems.

The Federal Government must face up to national problems and we try to. We think we are doing better every day. But there are no final answers here along the Potomac. The answers really are out there where you are, in the hinterland and home towns of America.

So, America's problems must be met first and discovered and understood and evaluated. Then they must be mastered. Where? In the final analysis out there where Mr. and Mrs. America live, in your home towns and in your home state.

We must never assume that states and cities are barren of ideas. Many of today's greatest social innovations have their roots in local government.

There is no substitute that we can find for that. Local government is the living heart of the greatest idea -- the American idea. It is up to us to keep it vibrant, to give it new vigor and new strength each day, to give our people new confidence. It is up to us to nourish and reawaken the pride in communities and the pride in country that made this nation great.

This can be the richest dividend of our partnership.

I want to tell this story and then I will not ask your indulgence further. Sunday a week ago I spent the most delightful day, I think, that I have had since I became President. I got up at seven o'clock in the morning and had breakfast with 26 enlisted men of the Constellation aircraft carrier that just came back from Vietnam. Then I visited with some officers and they reviewed their targets -- the power plants and the bridges and the supply routes.

MORE

Then I went to church services with them. I stood on top of that carrier under a beautiful sunny sky off the coast of California.

Then I called President Eisenhower and asked him if I could go by and talk with him because I needed his counsel and I needed the strength that comes from it. I went by and I spent the entire day with him. I enjoyed it because I was learning and listening and profiting from this wise man who had the unparalleled experience in guiding the affairs of men, of soldiers and government servants.

He enjoyed it, I think, because he was beating me every hole.

(The President spoke off the record for a period of time.)

MORE



I came away from that meeting hoping that by precept and example we could extend that attitude and that love of country and that element of putting national interest first, not only to this House, but to every State House in this land.

So, to you Governors and your charming ladies, we have tried our best today to understand your problems -- and to work with you on them. We are glad you came and hope you will be back next year. If I am here to entertain you, we will make it an even better year.

If you would join me now in a toast to the Union, to the States, and to the people.

GOVERNOR VOLPE: Mr. President, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Vice President, Members of the Cabinet, my colleagues, the First Ladies of the States, and friends:

Mr. President, I feel something peculiar around here. Could it be a draft?

I am sure you all enjoyed those violins this evening. Mr. President, we had the Boston Symphony Orchestra give a concert in Boston a couple of weeks ago at which Jack Benny -- I was going to say the principal performer -- was the principle, but he wasn't the principal performer. But we had a wonderful occasion that evening.

After the concert, we all went over to the Somerset Hotel for a buffet and reception to Jack Benny. At that party, the orchestra wasn't there, but Jack Benny was there with his violin. He was joined by an accompanist that had not played the guitar for a long time.

It happened to be the Governor of Massachusetts. I would have loved to have had my guitar here to accompany the violins.

On behalf of my colleagues -- and as Chairman of the National Governors' Conference -- we certainly want to say how much we have enjoyed your friendship, your hospitality, which you have always shown to us -- and particularly do we thank you for the wonderful briefings that we had today and this very enjoyable evening here at the White House tonight.

I have worked with three Presidents. I am pleased to say that I know of no President who has worked any harder to develop and promote better Federal-State relations than you have, Mr. President.

I am sure that we can all say today that the communication between the Federal establishment and our respective States is certainly fine and we have a chance -- as we did today -- to get in on the take-offs on much of the legislation being proposed instead of waiting until we have landed. For your great cooperation, we are very happy.

I have also had the privilege of working with -- both as colleagues and in their present positions -- Governor Ellington, Governor Bryant, and my good friend, Governor Daniel.

I want to say that every one of them has done you a great service -- and their country a great service -- and have been cooperative and helpful. I didn't notice too much partisanship at all, Mr. President.

Mr. President, we know the great tribulations that you face. In these days, I personally want to say that I offer up a prayer for you every day that the Dear Lord will help you and guide you in the difficult decisions in the difficult days that lie ahead.

So ladies and gentlemen, will you toast with me as I am privileged to offer a toast to the President of the United States.

END

(AT 10:57 P.M. EST)



FEBRUARY 29, 1968

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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## THE WHITE HOUSE

POOL REPORT OF RAY SCHERER AND  
GEORGE PACKARD ON THE PRESIDENT'S  
VISIT TO THE PENTAGON TO ATTEND  
THE CEREMONY FOR SECRETARY McNAMARA

(AT 12:52 P.M. EST)

MR. SCHERER: We left at 11:50 in a procession out the Southwest Gate. We went across the bridge to the Pentagon, under the River Entrance. As we went it began to rain harder and harder.

The President was met by Secretary McNamara in the Pentagon Garage. They disappeared with a number of people with them.

The press corps went up to the River Entrance of the Pentagon and was standing inside the building. We saw General Wheeler in full uniform and Undersecretary Nitze waiting. We waited and waited.

Finally, a bird Colonel came running down, out of breath. He said, "They are stuck."

That is the first we knew that they were stuck in the elevator. The President and Mr. McNamara were stuck in a VIP elevator at the Pentagon. It was Elevator Number 13. There were 13 people in the elevator; the President, Mr. McNamara, Clint Hill, Harry McPherson, Larry Levinson, Will Sparks, Okie Okamoto, Joe Califano, Dr. Burkely and another agent, Sherwin Markman, Colonel James U. Cross and an unidentified elevator operator, a Sergeant.

There were apparently a lot of funny things said in the elevator. The President said, "I never knew it took this long to get to the top at the Pentagon."

They were stuck between the second and third floors. They finally cranked it up, whatever that means, and got it up manually. Everybody was boosted out on the fourth floor.

MR. PACKARD: They entered the outer office of Undersecretary of the Air Force Townsend Hoopes. Then they cranked it up and it stopped again, just three feet short of the fourth floor.

Q They crawled out?

MR. SCHERER: If you get a picture of it, it was so that they had to be boosted out of the trap door, but Harry McPherson did open the top panel.

They were stuck between ten and twelve minutes. Then they all walked down the stairs and went out the door.

Q To the ground floor?

MR. SCHERER: Yes. It was raining hard when they got outside and all the people got wet waiting for them to arrive.

MORE

Q Why were they going up to arrive?

MR. SCHERER: Trying to get to the fourth floor.

When they were cranking it the maintenance men were in control.

The ceremony started but the fly-over was cancelled because of the weather. The public address system did not work and you only heard the last 30 seconds of the President's speech.

It was raining very hard and they put an umbrella over the President and an umbrella over Mr. McNamara. Everybody kind of huddled over. Mr. McNamara stood out there without a top coat or a rain coat.

Q Did the President have a top coat on?

MR. SCHERER: Yes.

We scurried away from there in a hurry and dropped the President at the State Department where he is now having lunch with the Governors.

MR. PACKARD: Mr. McNamara was quoted as saying, "This is what is wrong with there being 29 days in February." He said that in the elevator.

The President got out of his car in the State Department and was combing the rain out of his hair. He was asked about the elevator incident and how he liked it.

The President said, "Fine, fine. It gave us a chance to finish our conversation, a good excuse to finish our conversation."

We asked the President if he was going to take the elevator up in the State Department. He said, "No; I am going to walk up, if there is no objection." He was smiling.

MR. SCHERER: He added, "I will exercise a little more care on who rides with me."

Q Did he walk up eight floors?

MR. SCHERER: No. He took the elevator.

MR. PACKARD: At least he entered the elevator.

END

(AT 12:59 P.M. EST)



AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH GEORGE CHRISTIAN

11:00 A.M. EST

— Feb 29, 1968

THURSDAY

MR. CHRISTIAN: The President plans to participate in the ceremony at the Pentagon at noon for Secretary McNamara. This will be at the Mall. General Wheeler and Secretary Nitze are co-hosts for the ceremony. We will take a pool with us over there.

Q When will you leave?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I imagine we will leave about 20 minutes before noon.

Q Do you have anything to report on copper, George?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No, nothing beyond what Tom Johnson gave you last night.

Q Do you plan any kind of a briefing of summary of the closed Governors' sessions this morning?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No. The sessions are executive session so we will not have briefings on the subject.

Q Is anything going to be made public other than the speech of the President?

MR. CHRISTIAN: That is all that we plan to make public.

Q Did the President talk on Vietnam, too?

MR. CHRISTIAN: After his remarks, in laying the predicate for the briefings, the President did discuss Vietnam briefly with the Governors. The President said that peace in the world is his first priority. The President said that all of us are trying our dead level best to find the answers. He pointed out to them that Secretary Rusk would be meeting with them later in the day to discuss the entire situation.

Q Was there a question and answer period with the President, George?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No.

Q Will the President participate in any of the other sessions?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Not this morning.

MORE

Q Do you have a list of the Governors who are here?

MR. CHRISTIAN: We gave you the ones who are not here.

Q Did the President make any reference at all to the possibility of using Guard troops?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No.

Q Did the President tell them when he would make a decision on increasing forces?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No.

Q Did the President mention the possibility of a need for increased forces?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No, it wasn't touched on at all.

The Governors not represented were: Alabama, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Nevada, Ohio.

Governor Kirk of Florida, I think, is due in later. He could not get here for the morning session. You have seven total -- six not represented.

Q Why did the Governor of California not come?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I don't have any idea.

Q George, I know your office is probably getting a load of regional questions. We have one. Did the President, among others, dine with Governor Branigin of Indiana last night?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I know that the President saw Governor Branigin yesterday. I don't know the details of their meeting, Smitty.

Q Did the President see any other Governors yesterday?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Yes, he saw several Governors yesterday.

Q George, could you tell us who the President saw?

MR. CHRISTIAN: The President met last night with Governors Calvin Rampton of Utah, Tim Babcock of Montana, John R. Williams of Arizona, David Cargo of New Mexico and Don Samuelson of Idaho.

Q These are copper Governors, aren't they?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Yes. This was announced to you last night. This was a matter at the request of the Governors. The President met with these Governors and Members of Congress from the States affected by the copper strike. They had a general discussion.



Q Were there any other regional or singular meetings with Governors last night or today?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Smitty, as I indicated yesterday, the President, I am sure, will see several Governors. This was the only group meeting yesterday. I am sure the President will see several other individual Governors.

MORE

Q We have another query, is there any possibility that the President tomorrow -- I think it is tomorrow or Saturday -- will go to Atlanta or Marietta, Georgia for ceremonies incident to the roll-out of that big cargo plane?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I have not seen any plans for that, Smitty.

Q Can you tell us what the President said to Governor Romney this morning?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I don't know.

Q George, does the President plan to take a role in the release of the Kerner Commission Report? Will we have a statement or anything for cameras?

MR. CHRISTIAN: At this point I am not sure.

Q Will there be prepared remarks on his participation at the Pentagon?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I think he will say something, but I don't have anything for you.

Q Do you think there may be something on copper here later today?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I do not know. As Tom said last night, the Governors and the Congressmen told the President last night that they would urge both of the parties to resume negotiations. That was the situation last night. I don't know of anything later.

Q George, can I try one more Governor for an individual conference? Has he talked to Harold Hughes?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I don't know. He may have this morning when they were coming in. He may have seen several that I would not be aware of.

Q Are we going to get an advance on the Civil Disorders Report?

MR. CHRISTIAN: You will have to talk to Al Spivak about their plans on that.

Q They are handling the release?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I would assume so. Whatever is done will be in connection with them.

Q Would you expect a Presidential statement to accompany the release?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I do not know.

Q George, does the President have any definite plans to see General Wheeler again or Mr. Komer?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I will just have to advise you, Forrest, when any substantive meetings are set up.

MORE

Q George, on any basis, off-the-record or for guidance or anything else, do you see a press conference in the next day or so?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Jim, I have no way of advising you on that. We have to see what develops.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 11:11 A.M. EST)

THIS COPY FOR \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS CONFERENCE #1154-A

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH GEORGE CHRISTIAN

4:58 P.M. EST

FEBRUARY 29, 1968

THURSDAY

MR. CHRISTIAN: The President's schedule tomorrow:

11:30 a.m. - Swearing in of Clark Clifford as Secretary of Defense by the Chief Justice. This will be in the East Room.

12:00 noon - Secretary Fowler and Charles Zwick.

12:30 p.m. - Dr. Edward Re and his family. This will be a picture. Dr. Re was sworn in yesterday as Assistant Secretary of State for Cultural and Educational Affairs.

1:00 p.m. - Signing of the Fire Research and Safety Act in the East Room.

Q What happened today after the President entered the State Department? That was the last we saw of him.

MR. CHRISTIAN: The President had lunch with the Governors and came back here.

Q Did he stay for Rusk's briefing?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Yes, part of it.

Q Did he bring any of the Governors back with him?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No, not that I know of.

Q Do you know what time he came back?

MR. CHRISTIAN: The President returned at two o'clock.

I have two or three announcements here. The President has nominated Rear Admiral Walter D. Gaddis, U. S. Navy, for Director of Budget and Reports in the Department of the Navy, for a term of three years. We will give those of you who are interested a biography on him.

Next is Chief of Naval Personnel for a term of four years, Vice Admiral Charles K. Duncan.

Admiral Gaddis is Director of Programing and Finance, Naval Materiel Command. Admiral Duncan is Commander of the 2nd Fleet at the present time.

MORE



The third appointment is John I. Hodges to be U. S. Commissioner on the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission. Mr. Hodges is Deputy Assistant Director for the Research Department for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries for the Department of the Interior.

Q Can you give us anything on the Rusk-Wheeler presentation at the State Department?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No.

Q What about coverage tonight? Will there be toasts?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Liz Carpenter has advised that there will be a group picture over there. On toasts, we will just have to see. I would imagine there will be.

Q Will they be put out over here at a certain time tonight?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Tonight late.

Q Does Signal Corps record any of that?

MR. CHRISTIAN: They usually do record where there is a podium.

Q Any report on copper?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No.

Q Did you hear from Al Spivak about the Riot Commission Report?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No. I understood he was about ready. I don't know when he is going to release it.

Q What about the Presidential statement on it?

MR. CHRISTIAN: I don't have anything like that. I understand Al Spivak is giving out a summary tonight.

Q You said this morning the President had told those copper State Governors that he would urge that the negotiations resume?

MR. CHRISTIAN: The Governors and the Congressmen told the President that they would urge the parties to resume negotiations.

Q Then you do not expect any Presidential statement on this tonight or tomorrow?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Chuck, it is just hard to tell. I don't expect anything tonight.

MORE

Q Up at the Governors' Conference, Governor Volpe said that in their briefings today there were given an indication that a decision on whether more troops might be needed ought to be made within the next two weeks and that the Governors would get advance notice if there was a call-up of Reserves and the National Guards.

Is this the time frame? Is a decision expected in the next two weeks?

MR. CHRISTIAN: No. As I said the other day, Bruce, I am not going to discuss that subject at all at the present time.

Q Did the President tell them that?

MR. CHRISTIAN: The President did not tell them that in the remarks this morning.

Q How do you suppose Governor Volpe got that impression?

MR. CHRISTIAN: Did he say the President told him that?

Q I got the idea that it was out of the briefings over at the State Department; Wheeler, Clifford, and others.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(5:10 P.M. EST)