

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Monday, February 24, 1964

This was an unremarkable desk day and domestic day. This morning I worked with Bess, and Ashton and Liz. And then had lunch in my room, with Lynda. And then worked on the details for finishing up Luci's and Lynda's rooms.

Luci's is blue and white ⁷fortuni, and Lynda's is yellow chintz with a splash of coral and green in it. Most of the things have been selected but, as always, there's the prodding and keeping after and seeing if it's being carried through and finished.

And then at 6 o'clock, I had a long session with Lillian Levy and Liz about a proposed space visit, which would carry me on a tour of NASA installations, on what is called the Gulf Space Crescent.

Beginning at Huntsville, Alabama, continuing on, the Micheud^A operations out of New Orleans, and then to Slidell^{test}, Louisiana; and then to the Mississippi/operations close to Picayune, and from there, finally, to ~~Cape~~^{Cape} Kennedy. It would follow the path of the Saturn, from it's birth place in Huntsville, to its launch pad at ~~Cape~~^{Cape} Kennedy.

For me, the purpose is, to find a device to get into the deep south, into Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, (and the advantages are that I would be on Federal property the whole time, and therefore, it would be controllable. We could avoid segregationist demonstrations and) we would bring the community leaders in for a coffee or a tea, or in some fashion, to meet us. And also it

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would be dealing with something that ties the south to the future - not to the past.

Then, it would be implementing Lyndon's major role in space because ever since the space act of 1950, of which he was, well, I don't know whether author or chief motivator is the best description, Space has been his great enthusiasm. And then, it would be a way of showing women's ^{stake} ~~place~~ in space, and it's peaceful by-products.

On reading about it, I discover that 14% of the payroll are women, in another place, 20% of the payroll are women, and at Cape Kennedy, close to 33% are women. But, the most important thing, finally, is to bring the groups of women community leaders in to meet me at a controlled place.

Alas, the disadvantages are - that anything about space, looks just like war, it looks like cold hardware, it's hard to make it a matter for female interest, and something that comes natural to me.

And then there is the, ~~not-to-be-ignored~~ fact, that the Civil Rights fight is going to be getting under way any day now.

It was a long and interesting meeting, and I'm very much aware of the great deal of work that Lillian Levy and a great deal of folks have put in to it.

Lyndon went to the pool, we had a fairly ^[20-2,] dinner and a reasonably early bedtime.

The silliest talk of the day is the spelling of Luci's name - Luci. It

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appeared, spelled that way, in the newspaper report that she was going to be the Honorary Student Chairman of the National Symphony Music for Young America, an annual series of free concerts for high school students, that's in Washington each spring.

These concerts are a gift of Mrs. Herbert May. I can't imagine anything less important, and I wish it wouldn't bother Luci or Lyndon any more than it does me.