

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Sunday, March 15, 1964

This was a grey fog of a day. Lyndon had apparently caught a cold from the hot lights of the TV show, and for the first Sunday in many months, we did not go to church.

About 3 o'clock we went over to the EOB with Lynda Bird to bowl. He beat us both, very handily, although Lynda Bird began to give him a fairly good run for his money. And then he took Jesse off for a swim. Jesse would not bowl with us.

I think all day, we were really in a state of tension and waiting, thinking that the program was going --, just imagining everything that could be wrong, every answer that would come out in an ugly light.

Finally, at 6 o'clock, we gathered around the TV set, like a group going to an execution, at least that's the way I felt, and I wonder if Lyndon did.

We were joined by Walter and Marge, Mr. and Mrs. deLoach, and Jack and Mary Margaret. I think we all watched it with a rising heart, I know I did. Lyndon looked so strong and reliable and dependable, he looked very handsome too. And his answers were better than I thought they might be, lying awake, worrying about them the night before. There could have been some more humor, some change of pace, a little more lightheartedness, but I felt better watching it than I had anytime anticipating it.

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Page 2

Jessie stayed on, had dinner with us and planned to leave early the next morning. It took a good deal of persuading, but I think we felt like we wanted our near and dear ⁹close to us. It's a lonely thing to be on TV in front of 180 million people.

The questions had ranged from Viet-Nam, and Bobby Baker, to a possible choice for Vice Presidency, and Lyndon's health. A great deal of it had been concentrated on the change-over, the days immediately after November 22nd. They got in their bit about Lyndon's tenderness to criticism in the press; and a good part of it was on the war on poverty.