

April 11, 1964
Saturday

This morning, ^g was a last time at the Elms. ^e Every-
thing from a trip through the grounds to Aunt Effie's
trunk in the basement... Three hours, about as much as
I could take, and then home for a bite of lunch
lying in bed while I sign^{ed} mail with Ashton, discuss^{ed}
details of a Cleveland trip with Liz and went over
Luci's party with Bess. [#] And then at 3:30 I went down-
stairs to stand in line in the East Room for Luci's
party. Her Junior class were hostesses to the Freshman
class at National Cathedral School. Luci in her pretty
white suit with the blue lapel^s was in line when I
joined her. And then in a moment, very much to her
surprise, and not planned by me, her daddy joined us.
Those fresh, bright-faced pretty smart girls filed
past us ¹ The cream of the crop, almost too fast ¹ I
would have liked to have ^savored each one of them as
they went by a little more. I had actually become,
pretty well acquainted with a lot of Lynda Bird's
class. There isn't quite the same cohesiveness yet
in Luci's. ^{Helene} ~~Heleen~~ Lindow is growing prettier every
year ¹ One of Luci's best friends, who ^{se} parents I like
so much ¹ and Nancy Hechinger, a ^{Smart} ~~short~~ and attractive,
almost arch-type of "today's bright young woman"... And
^{Glenn} ~~Gray~~ Grant who must have had her bad moments, being
from Alabama with all these sophisticated and eastern
northerⁿ girls. It was good to ^{to see her &} hear that soft accent.

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And little Marlene Johnson, the young negro girl who carries off all the honors right in front of Luci Baines. I was glad that Lyndon was in line when she went by. And Frances Kendall from Waco, according to Luci's arch Republican. But I am glad we have had a chance to be nice to a fellow Texas, now and then, in Luci's school gatherings! [#]The faculty was ~~not~~ well represented, with Miss Fry, who handles everything, to formidable and very much respected, Miss Katherine Lee, and Mrs. Acheson, Dean Acheson's daughter-in-law, who was such an exciting history teacher for Lynda Bird... Miss Skeeters, who has suffered with Luci in Spanish and Mrs. Snyder, who has at last given her a feeling of accomplishment and personal achievement in sociology. She's got her niche there. And Mrs. Wharry, who I believe is most of all, her favorite.

[#]After everybody had filed in and taken a seat in the East Room, Luci went to the microphone and in a very composed fashion said that something unexpected had happened to her and that her daddy had come to the party so she wanted him to say a few words. And Lyndon very gracefully said, how much we owed to National Cathedral and his two daughters were more enlightened and exciting girls since they went to the school. And the nicest thing he could say was the school

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had made the girls more like their mother.

with the young, and with his rather considerable abilities as an actor, he put on a very doleful face and spoke of ^{||} those difficult teachers who demand so much of those poor children who have to ~~stand~~ ^{spend} six hours a day studying when they could be out on a date. //

Then quickly he gave Luci a kiss and left, ^u And David Dean, a concert pianist took over. Young, handsome, an expert performer, he played Chopin and List, and added a considerable ^{celebrat} ~~celebrat~~ to Luci's party. I think it was really quite an accomplishment of Bess's to be able to find him. And ^u a nice little thing, she had the programs printed in blue, with the White House on them, and inside the numbers played. I hope they landed in a lot of girls scrapbooks or in a lot of letters sent home to mama! And the blue of course is because of Luci and her eyes and clothes. # When it

was over and I went backstage to thank David Bean, Luci went again to the microphone and had about three sentences to say about appreciation of the work of the teachers at National Cathedral, of ^{the} ~~the~~ companionship of all the girls that she had come to know, and of Mr. Bean's nice program for us ^{||} and now let's go into the State Dining Room and appreciate some good refreshments that had been prepared for the afternoon. //

I followed them in and moved from group to group, speaking to as many people as I could identify

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with, but feeling that Luci had the situation well in hand, I melted away pretty soon. [#] At 5:30 General and Mrs. McMann of the Volunteers of America, came in to have tea with me. His organization had given me a most unusual award last year, and I wanted to say thanks, for a ~~peeee~~ professional head of a do-good organization wearing a rather dull looking uniform, he is a very interesting conversation^{al}ist, and I listened with admiration ^{to} ~~for~~ the chores they undertake — ~~at~~ homes for the "skidrow" type of people in big cities, the recent one going up for unwed mothers ~~and~~ in Ft. Worth, Texas and got some advice from him on my trip to Cleveland when I would address the YWCA.

[#] Lyndon had been out playing golf and a wonderful glorious day it was to do it. After they had been gone a while I got a call from him at the Valentis' asking me to come right on out and have a drink with them. By this time I was in slacks and working and not a bit anxious to encounter reporters. But being assured by Terry that there were none lingering anywhere around, I brashly went out and we spent a very cozy hour playing with Jack and Mary Margaret's baby. It is almost sad that at almost 56 or so, Lyndon has more time for a 5 month old than he did 20 years ago! Dick Goodwin was there. His wife came. We had a couple of drinks and then having been alerted all along that there were cameras and press out front, we found a

moment when they had gone away to get their own suppers and we left, slipped out through the cordon, and returned to the White House, had our dinner, Lyndon went back to the office to work and I, ⁹to bed. ~~2~~ Having a visit first with Lynda Bird who had, bless her, been standing in line at the House Embassy tour, having her small touch of "come-on" to the indefatigable line of tourists who might buy a ticket to support this charity. The nicest part of the day I only found out later. And that was how much it really mattered to Luci that her daddy came! She was all ecstatic.