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April 14, 1964
Tuesday

Because King Hussain was going to arrive without his wife, I had not expected to participate in the arrival ceremonies at 11:30. So was busily engaged in desk work when I got the word that I had better be Johnny-on-the-Spot - word from Lyndon, that is, for the arrival. The King arrived in a helicopter on the South Lawn at 11:30, short, handsome, infinitely dignified, with a deep musical, beautiful speaking voice. We escorted him and his young brother about 18, upstairs in the elevator, and then went out on the North Portico, where an army of reporters awaited us on one side and an equal army of photographers on the other. A long line of flags snapped merrily in the April breeze, right out in front of the columns the tulips were just coming out, and ^{Angie ca.} ~~and~~ ^{you} had herded all the king's party up the stairs so that they were there and lined up ahead of us, and Lyndon took the King out and I took my position slightly to the left of the door. First, Lyndon made his welcoming remarks and then the King, and momentarily I am more impressed by him. And then Lyndon, rather to the surprise of the Secret Service and everybody else I think, got in the car with King Hussain of Jordan to drive with him to Blair House. From there Lyndon elected to walk back, became envelope

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in a crowd of passers-by and sight-seers, shook hands
~~signed autographs~~ ^{CO} or so the papers said. ~~HP~~ Meanwhile
I was getting ready to dash over to the Department of
Agriculture to open the Food and Home Fair for Con-
sumers. Jane and Orville Freeman were out in front
waiting for me and Esther Petersen and Mrs. John L. Lee.
I took my stand on a little platform and said my few
words, based on the very true fact that my life had
been spent largely as being purchasing agent for the
family and so I wanted to get the most and the best
for my money as well as any woman in the United States,
because that's very much what women do for a large
part of their life, is manage all the family finances
that go into food, clothing and shelter and the
Department of Agriculture has a close relationship
to that. ~~Then~~ ^{By} serving not only as our safety check
but as a research scientist for us. ~~Just~~ ^{And} ^{CO} then I rang
a triangular dinner bell just like we have on the
front porch at the ^a Shornhorst. ^{HP} Then I got a quick run
through at some of the exhibits... An interesting one
was an I-Q ^{sorter} ^{CO} ~~sorter~~ in front of it passed potatoes,
apples, other vegetables, and it can look into the
interior of them and detect hidden defects and remove
those that should not be on the market as first grade.
I suppose that they wind up somewhere as a food for

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hogs, perhaps. And saw a specially designed energy saving kitchen, with a swinging stool with just the right size and height, and everything engineered to save steps. And then I met an enormous Smokey the Bear — a human dressed up in a costume, who gave me a little bear and told me a story of how this originated. ★ Or rather, Orv Freeman, not ~~smoking~~ ^{Smokey} himself, told me. ~~Any~~ In a forest fire, a little bear was so badly burned that they hardly thought he could live, but he was taken to a veterinarian, carefully attended, he survived, he ^e became the symbol of the preservation of our forests. And I told them how he was international now, at least as far as Mexico is concerned, because everywhere I went last July in Mexico, along the highways, I would see the familiar Smokey the Bear, saying "Don't drop matches," "Extinguish your campfire," and then quickly I was on my way to the Senate ladies Red Cross luncheon for me, taking Jane Freeman, with me. This had just been a stop along the way. This is the first for me. The first time to be the guest at such a luncheon, ~~As soon~~ ² After fifteen times as being one of the hostesses, twelve times as a Senate wife myself, three times as the wife of the Vice President. Mrs. Dominick of Colorado was the Republican Chairman and she was assisted by Betty Talmage as Co-Chairman.

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Mrs. Dirksen, since I am no longer there, has inherited the spot as overall Chairman of the Senate Ladies Red Cross Unit, [^] she was First Vice President, ^B But she has been gone a great deal and Henrietta Hill, Second Vice President, has taken over. I wore my best clothes for them, my yellow wool dress by Galanos^a with the coat that matches. And it was a perfect color match for the decorations. Bowls of - you guessed it - yellow roses of Texas, and on time of one perched ^a a pretty little bird, the property of Betty Talmage^L. Mrs. Dirksen put me in the receiving line along with all the wives of the Cabinet members except Mrs. Bobby Kennedy, ^J who was out of town. Mrs. Henry Wallace was back - always she's back, I don't believe she has ever missed one. Jane Barkley was there - I was very much flattered that Maurine Neuberger and Margaret Chase Smith both came. And it wouldn't have been complete without the presence of Mrs. Harold Burton. ^[of the...] A delicious filet mignon, half from Texas, half from Oklahoma, all donated. ^{to} When it was over, Louella presented me with a wonderful charm for a bracelet ^[I can] that as I see is going to grow larger and larger.... The Senate Seal on one side, and on the other, from Senate Ladies to Mrs. Johnson, April 14, 1964. It was easy to say words to those who were there, because I knew them all so well and the words naturally were that if I ever wrote a book on my life the longest

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chapter would be about our love affair with the Senate. Among the old timers there ^gwere Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keys ^aon two sticks, pretty ~~irascible~~ ~~erastible~~, saying that she had notified me of her presence in town and "had not heard anything from my social secretary." Alas! Mrs. Tobay is still the rock of the organization. A rather majestic woman she is and terriffically nice. There was good attendance and a lively spirit. But somehow there was something missing. I don't know what. The ^{spirit} ~~life~~ ^{beastly} and sense of drive that prevailed when Lyndon was in the Senate and always somehow ^[by] osmosis transferred itself to the Senate ladies and to me was not quite there. [#] When it was over I came by and did ~~not~~ that most signaled service of the citizen — second most [^] I guess voting is first [^] that is, I signed my income tax papers, ^{dictated} dictated and signed other mail and then dressed up in my beautiful yellow chiffon evening dress with the beaded top that reminds me of the first forsythia of spring and made ready to receive his Majesty King Huss ^ain the First. [#] A little before eight, the Warrens, the George Balls, our Ambassador to Jordan and Mrs. Barnes, the Ambassador of Jordan and Mrs. Juma? the Dukes, their Minister of Foreign Affairs and their Chief of Protocol, who incidentally I had stood close beside at the funeral of King Paul

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in Greece and his Majesty King Hussein the First and
 his Royal Highness Prince ^{Hassan Ibn Talal} ~~Hassen Ibn Telhal~~? Came
 upstairs to the yellow Oval Room for a drink... Orange
 juice for them, scotch for us. There was a presentation
 of gifts. We had a Bulova ^{Acutron} ~~Acutron~~ clock in gold with
 the seal and engraved inscription for his Majesty and
 a ^U ~~Herne~~ pen stand with two gold pens, ^{Also} with seal
 and inscription. And a Polaroid camera and a book
 of Lyndon's speeches, called A Time For Action.

Somehow I am always vaguely unhappy that our gifts
 seem less imaginative and less meaningful than the
 gifts of many foreign monarchs to us. And this is one
 of those times, for his Majesty gave me two bracelets
 from the time of the patriarch Abraham, ^a little oil
 burning lamp that could have been used probably anywhere
 during 1000 years of Biblical time, and for us both an
 enormously handsome Bible, bound in Mother of Pearl,
 elaborately carved. Rather delicious irony that the
 Bible should be the gift of a Monarch who himself is
 a Moslem! But that little part of the world was the
 cradle of so many religions, civilizations, ways of
 thought, it was ^{Veritable} ~~veritable~~ womb of civilization. Then
 the always thrilling removal of the colors, the form-
 ing of line, the marching downstairs to the tune of
 Hail to the Chief. And then standing in line in the
 East Room when the 152 or so guests filed by to shake

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hands. As usual I being third in line had someone behind me to repeat the names of those who came, because that is my one little moment of contact with them, perhaps I will not see them again during the dinner and I want to really know who I am talking to and I want it to matter.[#] From the Court there were the Blacks^A I am delighted to have them^A and from the Cabinet, the Freemans; from the Senate, the McClellans, the Olin Johnstons^A I am so glad she is up and about; Milton Young, and the Clifford Cases, and also there were the Bartletts of Alaska, Governor and Mrs. Harrison of Virginia were there and about six couples from the House, including the Clark Thompsons^A And a State Dinner was just invented for Libby, it was just what she liked. A guest I was very honored to have was J. Edgar Hoover, who never goes to affairs of this sort, but who seems to have a very real respect and personal liking for Lyndon.[#] It's not easy to find Jordanians high placed in the United States, but we had Najeb Halilabay from the Federal Aviation Agency, Dr. and Mrs. Basile a physician, and Mr. and Mrs. Ali Mehaddon. And this was just the right time to have Helen Thomas, [of] the Thomas in her name I think must have been just chosen and she is without doubt from somewhere in the Arab world.^[ex] Texans, there were a goodly plenty. Troy Post of Dallas; Johnny

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Meacham who will soon be the host to the King; Bill
Heaths and the Ed Clarks, ~~The~~ Jim Chambers and the
Perry Basses, and I don't think anybody had more fun
than Perry and pretty wife; And the Carl Phinneys.

It was a great compliment to me that Henry DuPont
and Mrs. DuPont, the Chairman of Mrs. Kennedy's Fine
Arts Committee, came and seemed to enjoy themselves.
And the next day had many good things to say about
it. The Lloyd Hands were about the handsomest couple
there. And Clark Clifford the handsomest bachelor!
And Lady Jackson, ~~Barbara Ward~~ ^{Night} certainly was one of
the most lustrous ~~ladies~~. I was pleased to have the
Huntington Hartford^s, having met him at a party a
year or two ago and found him a very attractive man
of many interesting talents. And our preacher, from
the National City Christian Church, the Reverend and
Mrs. George Davis, had more fun than anyone I think.
It was a good time to have Mark Evans, on whose TV
program I think I did the best I have ~~ever~~ done in my
life. And Ruth Montgomery, whose book on me is coming
to full play this week. And Dr. and Mrs. Grosvenor
of the National Geographic Society, always raise the
tone of anything they are associated with, I think.

The King was on my right, and his beautiful English —
he learned it at Sandhurst, or rather I presume he
learned it earlier in life, but he did go ^{to} ~~with~~ Sand-

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hurst ^{made} conversation easy. Although I can't say there was any time I made real contact with him. We spoke about him having piloted the 707 on the way over. I approached gingerly the subject of water, and he himself said that many of the springs of the Jordan River did rise within Israel. Rene's dinner was delicious. ^{guy} ~~Vol~~ ^{VENT} of seafood newburg. Filet of beef ~~newburg~~ and ending with strawberries romanoff. And for the first time I asked the gentleman on my right to ^{sign} ~~find~~ the menu. It being in Arabic, I couldn't read it, but then he very graciously added "Huss^ain^a" one which I could read. [#] We then went into the East Room after dinner and heard the Dave ~~Bruss~~ Brubeck quartet give four numbers of their ^{Quart} ~~EL Vent~~ ^{Jazz} Jazz/ because we had been told that the King was a jazz fan. Next day Maxine Cheshire said ["] not one of the 151 guests were seen to yawn once, which may be somewhat historical in review of Presidential entertainment... In the past, programs which were praiseworthy for cultural edification, have nevertheless put weary government officials quietly to sleep." I am glad that she and apparently a lot of people ~~is~~ felt that way because I was not actually in the groove with it myself. I like to hear St. Louis Woman With the Diamond^d Ring sung or played so that I feel like getting into motion, and I could barely recognize St. Louis Blues. However, I

must be improving as an actress because Maxine said
"but it was Mrs. Johnson who seemed to enjoy the music
most. She tapped one gilt shod foot and kept time
with the ^lrythmic drumming of her fingers on her program.
So good enough! # After the program was over we went
into the ~~Be~~^{Juc} Room for a little dancing. But since the
King is only about five feet three or four, and also
since he had had a long hard trip he danced enough
numbers to be polite, ² And then took his departure.
But a lot of people lingered for a ~~agays~~ gay evening.
One of the bits of conversation I enjoyed most was
when Jane Freeman said "Oh lets go dance", and the
Secretary said "All right, you testify for me in front
of the Appropriations Committee in the morning at
ten o'clock and I'll go in there and dance with you."
~~Another~~^{Ante} bit of interesting insight came from one of the
guests, Dr. Allen McKelvey, who had spent several
years in Jordan as part of a medical team. He said
the King got a program under way to have every child
in the country immunized against polio and that he
himself took the first shot. I like all the things
I hear about him... His personal bravery and the fact
that he gets out among his people. I am sorry I
never got around to seeing Johnny Meacham to hear just
what the hopes were for finding oil in Jordan. All
together I would say it was a successful, not superb,
evening, but I wish I could look at it through the

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eyes of some of the guests and not through my own.