

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, a May 5, 1964

Page 1

The day began with a 10 o'clock meeting on the Kentucky trip, with Liz, Bess, Peter Jones, who'd been down to survey the situation, Bill Batt and Dick Nelson.

After that, Liz stayed because I am getting the jitters about my speech or speeches for Atlanta, next Monday, the 11th. As such occasions draw close, I wish I'd come down with a bad attack of almost anything!

In order to get some personal audience analysis, and really acquaint myself with the people I was going to see and talk to, I called Dr. Atwood, President of Emory, and also called Dr. Hurst.

And then I took a really very basic excellent speech, which Mr. Patterson, the famous editor of one of the papers in Atlanta, had written for me, tried to run my own feelings through it, and then called Bill White, and asked him if he would have a go at it. He came by just before lunch, stayed only about 30 minutes, left with it in his pocket, and said he'd have it back by 6 o'clock, which he did.

And then I had a little visit with Inspector Burke, the chief guide, the one who's been here the longest and tells the most fascinating stories about the White House. I wanted him to give me some anecdotes about what students ^{or} are famous connoisseurs, or anybody had said on their tours through the White House, that might be useful ⁱⁿ and conveying, on Thursday, to the people for the tea. ^{How} much people appreciated their work.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 5, 1964

Page 2

And then at 4:30, ²was the big event of the day, a reception for 800 foreign students. The day was blue and gold, the shell was still up from last Saturday, and the red and white striped tents for refreshments, ¹once more in place.

?
Ch
Page
These students come from 71 foreign countries and very few of them are here on U. S. government programs, such as the Fulbright-Hays programs. Most of them come, ²privately sponsored by foundations or U.S. College grants, or advance by their own government or by their own resources. There were also a good many cultural attaches from the Embassies around, and foreign student-advisers from the schools, ¹which were Georgetown, George Washington, University of Maryland, American University, Howard and Catholic Universities, ¹(particular accent on Howard, who probably has more foreign students than any other University in the United States), and also some smaller colleges, out in ²Tacoma Park. They were all students graduating this year, or else already graduate students. It was really a most colorful picture.

Many of the women students were dressed in the flowing saris of India, Pakistan, the exotic silk of Thailand, the flowered kimonos of Japan with the big bows in the back.

I went up to the shell to greet everybody, reminding them that this custom of receiving foreign students at the White House, ¹been had/begun by Mrs. Roosevelt and we were happy to carry it on, and told them that after Lyndon's

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 5, 1964

Page 3

remarks, we would see the old guard fife and drum corps, wearing uniforms typical of those worn by members of the corps in George Washington's day, and playing music based on the early tunes of our American Heritage, and then I introduced Lyndon.

I really loved what he said to them. It was a short speech; ~~he~~^u described America as an unfinished society, still striving toward a better world where men can live for their beliefs, rather than die them, ^uUrged them to learn something about America's problems as well as achievements, ^eAnd then, seeing Dean Rusk in the crowd, asked him to come up, introducing him as a kind of Secretary of State any President would like to have.

Rusk spoke a moment, reminding them that 30 years ago, ~~he~~^e was, ^ehimself, a foreign student. I believe he was a Rhodes scholar.

And then Lyndon left for the refreshment tent, ^eand the office, followed by a horde of autograph seekers, while I tried to lead everybody else down toward the tulip-ringed fountain. The Fife and Drum Corps were marching up, ^{their} brilliant scarlet coats, white pants, black boots, and cocked hats, a glorious splash of color, ^eon that emerald lawn. I just hope that a whole lot of those students, ^ewho had cameras, ^eand practically everybody did, ^ewere using color film. They marched and played about 15 minutes. I met and thanked the leaders and then began to make my slow way back toward the house, shaking hands, ^eand stopping for pictures, but trying to fend off

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 5, 1964

Page 4

autographs by saying "I would rather talk to you than write my name for you."

There were a great number of students from Canada. I met a few from Mexico, Southeast Asia was heavily represented, and Africa, considering the size of its population, had a goodly number. It seemed like every other person that I asked where they were going, were going to Howard University. That must be a very interesting campus.

I worked on mail, called Mary Lasker at Florence Mahoney's house, and asked if she could come over about 6:30. She did, and I told her every single thing I had done, ⁱⁿ preparation for the two meetings on Thursday, May 7th. Mary is one of those completely unfeline women, as rich as any of them, as knowledgeable or more so, about painting or furniture as any of them, but with a different world to depart into, ⁱⁿ which she is even more interested, ⁱⁿ the world of people, of medical research, of everything affecting health. Art too - she has a finger in every artistic endeavor and reminding me that I would be seeing her with Anthony Bliss, ^{on} Friday night, and then at the opera. But her real commitment, or so it seems to me, is to the advances made possible by medical research, and a terrific aliveness to the problems of the day, political, sociological, a broad spectrum.

After she left, I walked down stairs, all by myself, and went from room to room very quietly, memorizing the treasures, and then I got word that Lyndon was on the way, I hurried upstairs, joined him for dinner and then an early bed.