

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 26, 1964

Page 1

I left New York at a leisurely 11:30, arriving at the White House, to find out that Lynda Bird had finished her last exam - Oh, joy! And had gone to Camp David for the day.

She had explained to her daddy, that since she was going to see the gala in New York on Thursday, that she would skip it here.

In the afternoon, I did an opening, welcoming bit for the Westinghouse Movie on White House paintings, ^gthat is to be shown on all Westinghouse stations and is available for all schools throughout the country. ^a~~A~~ simple three or four minutes on a teleprompter. "Every^one's home is a place of memories. ^TThe White House, the home that belongs to all the American people, is a rich store house of recollections of our whole past as a Nation. I am happy to welcome you, ^gto view the scores of historic paintings which tell of that past with so much color and meaning." And so on. The part of it I liked best was this, "To me, some of the most striking paintings are those of the men who occupied the White House as President, because they say so much, not only about the human beings, but about the times in which they lived. The graven faced George Washington, charged with putting the young republic on its feet. The sensitive, idealistic face of Thomas Jefferson, yearning to bring democracy into all parts of our living. The brooding Abraham Lincoln, so deeply aware of the suffering that can come from man's hatred of man. The irrepressible Teddy Roosevelt,

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 26, 1964

Page 2

zestfully leading the nation into the 20th Century."

A little show like that can take up a lot of time - dressing, lights, rehearsals and repeats.

Next on the day, ^I was the important event, the \$1,000. dinner preceeding the gala. In my orange and yellow flowered taffeta evening dress, I went with Lyndon and Luci to the International Inn, ^I about 6:30. — Luci, ^I looking an absolute dream, with her hair piled high on her head, and wearing the lovely cream colored dress, typical of the Philippines, which was given to me there, and embroidered with tiny pearls.

We had a table at the President's dinner, but instead of sitting down and eating, ^I Lyndon toured the room from one end to the other, spotlighted, being led by John Bailey, to meet everyone of the 750, ^I that paid \$1,000 to the Democratic party for the occasion.

And I, ^I started at the other end of the room, ^I with Cliff Carter leading me, ^I and did the same thing. It took about an hour and fifteen minutes.

We were greatly bothered by the courtesy of the gentlemen, who insisted on rising as I approached the table, pulling back their chairs, thereby making everybody trip and no room to get around.

Luci went in another direction and shook hands with as many as she could find.

Sid Solomon of St. Louis was in charge of the dinner. There was an

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 26, 1964

Page 3

enormous outpouring of Texans - ^{the} Charlie ^{McGahan} ~~McGahan~~, Jay Taylor, the Keith ^{Kahler} ~~Gates~~; Willard Simmons; Fred ^K ~~K~~arth, without Vera; General Phinney; the Clint Murcheson^s were listed though I didn't meet them; so also were the Gene Chambers and H. E. Butt; oldtimers like Tom Corcoran^s and Jim Rowe; quite a few governors, including the Sanfords; not a Kennedy in sight, and everywhere more and more Texans - the Ben Carpenters; ~~the~~ Bill Clark^s, who took the place of all the other Clarks in the firm; Fagan Dixon, looking quite well again; the Brooks architect friend, Albert Goldman; Johnny Crooker; Lloyd ^B ~~B~~enson was listed, I'm not sure I saw him. Saw Rex Baker and Earnest Keaton; George Brown, of course, had a representative there, or several; and Leon Jaworski. There was even a lady from Samoa who said she had traveled 8000 miles for this event. I'm sure glad I didn't miss shaking her hand.

Ch.
 sp.
 General Carl Phinney took Luci around and I hear she did a very creditable job. And Bedford Winn who had been in charge of this during the Kennedy Administration; the John Mecombs were listed but I don't remember seeing them.

And of course, Perle Mesta was there, bless her.

I just finished just in time because it was time for all of the diners to board their bus and go to the Armory, and we went in for a quiet dinner with just the Sid Solomons, Luci, Jack Olsen, Lyndon and I. ^m Most of which

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 26, 1964

Page 4

time, Lyndon took up in telephoning.

And then on to the Armory. The enormous, cavernous Armory never looked better. There were shimmering red, white and blue streamers hanging from the ceiling, with enormous clusters of balloons, mammoth paper star mobiles, and a crowd of between eight and ten thousand, at \$100. a ticket, making an estimated million dollars for the party treasury.

Gregory Peck was master of ceremonies; and there was the great voice, Mahalia Jackson; our old friends, the Christie Minstrels; my dear favorite, and hilarious comedian, Allen Sherman, doing the song about a little boy going off to Camp Granada for the summertime and getting home-sick. A quietly, beautiful girl named Joan Baez, with long hair and a guitar, doing folk singing. One of her songs she dedicated to Mrs. Kennedy - To an Ember a Very Lovely Ember of the Beautiful Past, Jacqueline Kennedy - and the song was called All My Trials, ending with All my troubles, Lord, will soon be over.

And there was Gina Lollabrigida; and opera singer, Anna Moffa; but the hit of the show, as far as Lyndon was concerned, was without doubt, Mitzi Gaynor, who was as bubbly as champagne, and very pretty, doing a song and dance resume, of the last four decades.

And then there was the New York City Ballet, performing a very imaginative new ballet, in which the participants wore western costumes, girls looking

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 26, 1964

Page 5

something like some of Miss Kitty's girls, from the saloon, and the men in big hats and black boots. The whole thing had been produced and staged by Richard Adler. He's done so much for us, and a terrifically attractive man - Lynda Bird just thinks he's delightful. She can hardly tell which one to reach for, him or Gregory Peck, when they're around.

in
And then there was a good campaign song, /which everybody joined -
Once in Love with Lyndon, Always in Love with Lyndon - very spritely and tuneful although I always want to go under the chair when something like that happens.

And there was another moment that happened to me, when Gregory Peck said there had been a lot of talk about a woman in the White House "but the one best suited for that place, is already there now."

Lyndon's speech was very brief, hopefully humorous, and did not gouge the Republican party. He spoke of the great society. It was a vastly successful evening.

On the way home, very tired and very late, because it had been a long show, I regretted that we hadn't gotten to thank the stars themselves, although I know Lynda Bird had been to a rehearsal of the salute the day before, and met everybody and had her chance to thank them.

So when I mentioned it, Luci said she would simply adore to go on to the party at the Paul Youngs, where a great number of the cast would probably show up, and thank them for all the family. So she and Jack did, with Scooter

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, May 26, 1964

Page 6

and Dale Miller taking them in tow, ^Jwhen they got ^{to} the door.

I thought the turn-out, the entertainment, decorations, it couldn't have been more perfect. I did think the crowd was a little less than ~~what~~ wildly enthusiastic. I didn't sense quite that rapport between us and the crowd, that wild adulation that I have seen before between the Kennedys and such a crowd. But his was a magic quality, a different quality that we do not have, we just have to try to contribute whatever we do.