

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Monday, June 1, 1964

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This was a big day. The day of the State Dinner for the Prime Minister of Israel and Mrs. Eshkol.

I walked over with Lyndon from his office a little past 11, to greet them on the South lawn. The lawn was bright with the display of flags, the band, and the Diplomatic Corps.

Prime Minister Eshkol has a hard role to play, following Ben Gurion, that legendary character. I liked his wife very much. She was an attractive brunette, a little over 35 I'd say, good English, lively, one of those people I'd like to know better.

As we walked up on the reviewing stand, after the National Anthems, but before the speeches, I don't know quite how it started, but I think because of the 19 gun salute, I said "It always startles me when the cannon booms," and she said approximately this, "Yes, it does me too, although I was a sargeant in the war but for the first two weeks I was more afraid of the gun I carried than of the Arabs." There are not many first ladies that you meet, that turn out to be sargeants!

After they had departed for Blair House, I had an interview on the second floor with Doug Cater, seeking help from him on my speech for Beth Jenkins graduation class at Georgetown Visitation, which is only two days away and which I haven't given the hours of preparation that it deserves.

Then I talked to Ray Roberts who's in Texas and whose sister died suddenly. You find, when death comes, that particularly old friends increase

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in importance.

Then Mary Bundy came over and I had a long conference with her about my speech on June 9th for the Radcliffe 'baccalaureate, which I dread more than anything I've done, unless it's perhaps, it was my meeting for the combined art world on May 7th.

Mary, bless her, graduate of Radcliffe, and now one of the trustees, was very earnest in her suggestions and help.

Later, I talked with Doris Powell because I really want to firm up her coming up here and I talked to the Philip Baldwins, inviting them up also for the June 12th dinner for Chancellor Erhard of Germany. I think their coming might make all the difference to Doris, make her feel more at home, ~~in what must necessarily be rather uncasual surroundings.~~

I also wrote a little note and sent some flowers to Mrs. Eisenhower, who's out at Walter Reed taking some tests.

And then the dinner ^{for} ~~from~~ the Eshkols. We met them on the front steps, a little before eight, and went upstairs for the usual get acquainted session, exchange of gifts.

How delighted I was with those they brought! A paper weight made of copper slag from King Solomon's mine, smelted on silver and dated during the 10th Century B.C., was for Lyndon. Also a modern silver clock with Lyndon Baines Johnson in Hebrew around the face of the clock, and the hours themselves were marked with symbols of the twelve tribes of Israel.

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But mine, my gift, far outdid his. There was a glass case containing very ancient articles from archaeological exploration - a necklace, a mirror in bronze, some small jugs dating from the 19th Century B.C., a ~~coal~~ ^{kohl} eye makeup container, and some little vases. Really a fantastic collection of archaeological treasures. If we ever have a library, I'm going to have a special little wing for my hobby, which all began with an Indian arrowhead from the ~~Cata~~ ^{Caddo} Indians on the banks of ~~Cata~~ ^{Caddo} Lake. Ch. 27.

For the Prime Minister, our most interesting gift was an authentic scale model of a saline water conversion plant; and for Mrs. Eshkol, an antique silver spoon dated 1745, made by Meyer Meyers, a silversmith, contemporary of Paul Revere.

We went down stairs, behind the four flags, to the thrilling music of Hail to the Chief, to greet our 179 guests in the East Room.

From the court, there was Justice and Mrs. Goldberg; and from the Cabinet, Secretary of Treasury and Phylis Dillon, and Secretary of Interior and Lee Udall. And from the Hill, two of our favorites, two couples that is - George and Rosemary Smathers and Stu and Edie Symington.

Of course, the Jacob Javits; also that handsome Abraham Ribicoff and Mrs. Ribicoff; and the Harts of Michigan; and about six Congressmen including Emanuel Celler; and the Ogden Reids.

Among old friends there were Paul Hoffman and Anna Rosenberg Hoffman; ^{Katie} Katy and Walter Louchheim; Richard Adler, without his wife, who's doing her

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Broadway play; my own minister Bill Baxter and his pretty young wife, from St. Marks; Margaret Truman Daniel and her husband Clifton Daniel of the New York Times; Abe Fortas and Woody and Mary Ellen Woodward. This is the first time we've had them and high time.

Texans were in rather short supply - Julius Gordon of Beaumont; the Gus Worthams; Jim Novoy, and what a natural he was for this (he had flown up on the plane with us); and ~~Courtney and~~ ^{courtly} Major J. R. Parton with his statuesque wife, Patsy.

I want to be sure to include some from the world of art in each of these and for this one I had invited the Mark Bortmans, who are giving us a silver coffee urn that had belonged to John and Abigail Adams - "us" being the White House of course. And also Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Price because I thought he was so attractive when we met at the art gathering on May 7th.

Somebody I was especially delighted to have was Ralph McGill of the Atlanta Constitution; and also our hosts at Palm Springs, the Louis ^{aubman.} ~~Telbman.~~

From the publishing world there was Dorothy Schiff and the Samuel Newhouses.

From Labor, Mr. and Mrs. ^{Patowsky? ✓} Jacob Patowsky and the James Kaleys. ck ✓
ry.

And of course, a heavy contingent from the world of finance.

I sat between the Prime Minister and the Ambassador, ^{at} and our table there was Dorothy Goldberg and Vincent Price, Mrs. Javits, Ambassador Harriman, Mrs. Elman, Dr. Bunch, Phyllis Dillon.

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The Prime Minister was easy to talk to because he's the architect of Israel's national water and irrigation system, and water being the life blood of Texas, and dams and irrigation the biggest interest Lyndon had, during his first four years in the Congress, so we had our conversation cut out for each other.

And another thing, I had read with great delight, ^{about} Dr. Igor ^{Yehudis'?} Yaudeen, ^{ck sp} the outstanding archaeologist, who had recently brought to light at Mas⁵adah overlooking the Dead Sea, the fort or castle where the Jews had made their last stand against the Romans, about 70 A. D. A scroll had been found there, almost identical with one of the Dead Sea scrolls. This man, now an archaeologist, had formerly been head of the Armed Forces of Israel.

In Lyndon's toast, he said this country would join Israel in a joint attack on Israel's water shortage, through the highly promising technique of desalting. "Let us hope," he added "such technique will bring benefits to all peoples in the parched Middle East." I particularly liked bringing in the other people of the Middle East into it.

After dinner, there was something for everyone. It really was a successful party. It began with the entertainment, An Evening of Bach, with the great violinist, Misha Elman, now 73 years old, who'd made his debut 63 years ago and since then has played for many chief executives, William Howard Taft being the first to greet him back stage, and then FDR at a Cabinet dinner in the 30's, but before that, Calvin Coolidge at a party he

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gave.

He played a ⁹sonorously beautiful all Bach program, as Isabelle Shelton expressed it, which delighted the long hairs, and was followed by some~~one~~ thing that was to please the adventurous souls, the Wards Swingels Singers, who sing Bach with a choral chant with a bass and drum accompaniment. They were an interesting balance.

Then when the entertainment was over, champagne and dancing took the evening, and the foyer floor turned out to be excellent for dancing, very much like the one at the Elms.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Eshkol stayed for about three dances and left. And then Lyndon and I danced fully an hour longer.

Lynda Bird came in in a pretty short black dress and her earrings which were given to her by ^{Ayub} ~~the~~ Khan of Pakistan. I'm not sure just how that fell on the ears of the Israelis.

I particularly enjoyed the J. R. Part^aans and the Vincent Prices and was very glad to have Margaret Truman Daniel and her husband because I've come to be so fond of President Truman.

Well it was a highly satisfactory dinner, I thought, and leaving to go upstairs about 12:20, I thought once more of what diversity that young Bess Abell and her department give to these dinners, and how well chosen the gifts had been, particularly to the Prime Minister which tied our country to his - two framed copies of historic documents, one a wedding certificate

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hand lettered in 1777, binding in matrimony, the Jewish patriot of the American Revolution, Hyme Solomon; and the other was a blessing, lettered in Hebrew and English, which a Philadelphia Rabbi had delivered before George Washington in 1782.

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