

Finished Feb. 22, 1975

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1964 -- page 1

Possible days
for me

Sunday Aug. 2

Tuesday Aug. 4

Mayor Daley
Aug. 5, 6

Sun, Sept. 6

Fri, Sept. 11

Saturday, August first. Mayor Wagner and his two sons, Robert, Jr. and Duncan, arrived about noon and this is one of the times when it is so marvelous to have Lynda Bird here because we dispatched her to greet them since that was the time that Lyndon and I had to go to a memorial service for Senator Clare Engle out at Fort Meyer Chapel.

The Reverend Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the Senate, held the service. What a lot of them he has presided over, living and dead! It was a brief, non-denominational service. Lyndon and I sat on the front ~~row~~ ^{row} on one side, and Lou looking stonily calm sat with Clare's brother, so like Clare that it gave me quite a start, ~~sat~~ in the front row on the other.

When it was over everybody waited for us to leave, but I asked Dr. Harris if I could step over and say a word to Lou. She has lived through a tortured year. She has been very courageous, and part of the worst of it was the pressure from California leaders for the Senator to get out of the race. The Chapel was full but not overflowing.

We got back home to find that the Wagners were waiting lunch for us. It was two o'clock when we sat down

Aug. 1, 1964 - page 2

and
with Lynda ~~and~~ Dave, and I asked Philip to eat with us
-- just about one of the first family meals he has sat
down to with us -- ~~xxx~~ and Kern (✓) Wildenthal, Jesse
Kellam's nephew, studying to be a doctor and almost a
prodigy, already being through medical school and doing
his internship at 22.

Then I had the most self-indulgent afternoon!
Curled up in bed and read a book about Wilson's last days
"when the cheering stopped", not exactly good therapy for
any body who finds themselves in the Presidency because
it is proof that it is a killing job, and his heartbreak over
the failure of the Congress to accept the League of Nations.
It very poignantly told as ~~is~~ also his great blindness in not
working with the Senate long, long before the time came.
To me he emerges from this book a noble man, at times
even a gay man, ^{but a} ~~the~~ man with no concept of the roles of
the legislative body in this nation's government.

For dinner we had invited Secretary of Health, Education and
Welfare Tony Celebreeze and his soft-voiced wife Anne,
humorous and incisive Willard Wirtz, fast getting to be one
of my favorites, (and I never thought I would like anyone body
as Secretary of Labor as well as I did Arthur Goldberg) and

his wife Jane because these two have most to do [—] that is their part of the Federal Government have most to do in the situation Mayor Wagner faces in New York, ^A and the Dick Goodwins came -- young, bright, a legacy from the Kennedys, and apparently willing to really work with the Johnsons.

I had arranged, with Luci's advice and consent, for dinner downstairs for the young folks, dates with Beth Jenkins and Ann Hutchinson ~~with~~ for the two Wagner boys, and Congressman Lindley Beckworth's daughter Mary for Philip. Then they were going out to Shady Grove to see ^{Dianne} ~~Dion~~ Carroll in "No Strings."

We sat on the Truman Balcony for a drink or two before going in to dinner, talked of Mayor Wagner's three day vacation, poor man, in Majorca where he had gone to spend a long, restful time with a friend who had a house in that what I hear is a lovely spot, and then he was summoned ^{into} ~~for~~ ^{macelstrom} ~~the~~ back for the ~~malestrom~~. He talked of some of the problems. He believed that the Rev. Martin Luther King is the only one α up there his folks will listen to. He has a sort of an emotional hold over them apparently, that Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young don't.

He talked of the heavy amount of unemployment in Harlem, of how the city had promised to give 1300 jobs to youngsters out of school working in the parks, various clean-up jobs around the city. This, of course, is just a drop in the bucket, ~~And this~~ it is a hard fact to disclose -- he was doing so only privately -- but he said there ~~were~~ were 55 different government-sponsored organizations to prevent school drop-outs. I think he ~~was~~ meant county, state, local, maybe private programs that had some sort of government approval, but all of which were supposed to touch the lives of those people in Harlem and they were trying to condense them into a few really effective ones that could get the job done.

ed
He said also they had allot~~ed~~ a million dollars for a rat eradication program. He spoke dishearten~~ed~~ly of the enormous amount of public housing that New York City has and how the houses are not kept up after the tenants have been in them for some years. It was a very discouraging picture, but the more he talked the more you felt that it was one that was being battled. From the outside I had wondered why they did not have a people's review board of police brutality. He said if one were instituted the morale of his department would drop to zero overnight,

because they would think they would just be in the hands
of ~~six~~ stirrers up of trouble.

*must have
singly protracted
my speech
here.*

Draft of speech for Mrs. Johnson to deliver at
breakfast at Democratic Convention. Good morning, as
I look out over this group I see a number of you who are
my personal friends. We have traveled a long trail to-
gether and been to a lot of things, some of them delightful
some tragic, and some downright hilarious. I for one
have fared, on balance, mighty well at the hands of the mass
media. I envy you a bit, particularly right now, as I think
most of you know when I was in college I was a journalism
major. I was going to be where the exciting things were
happening, with people who were making them happen.
Well, along came a young man named Lyndon and here I am
furnishing copy instead of competing with you for stores.

This morning in Atlantic City is the beginning of
a hectic period for me. It is the first of many mornings
that will melt into days and nights of hurried and blurring
succession. But let me say to you that I am glad and grateful
to have the opportunity to play a role in this campaign.

The writer E. B. White has remarked "Democracy
is the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ recurrent suspicion that more than
half the people are right more than half the time. This is our

August 1, 1964 -pg.6

faith when we go to the people and ask for their support.

To me the whole process is fascinating and exciting.

But let me revert to my college dream of being a journalist. Let me see if I can guess your questions and answer some of them. Will I be campaigning with the President? I will be traveling with the President while he campaigns. I will go with him for three main purposes, trying to give him a link to home life, a quiet moment, a companion. I will go to thank the many people who are working so hard for us -- the volunteer work, the organization, the sheer hours of work never fail to impress me. I want those people to know we care and we thank them. I will try to act as a conduit, a link between the President and the people ~~whom~~ he represents. I will act as a reporter to ~~know~~ my husband on the opinions and aspirations and moods and problems the people have.

Actually in many ways I am a reporter on a closed circuit of course or for a very private editor because I try to report to him factually what I see and hear in places I visit, and I try to give him insight into the ~~future~~ feeling of those I meet.

Aug 1, 1964 -- page 7

Sometimes I will be taking trips to places where the President is unable to go because of the all consuming nature of the job he has and of the limitations outlined [will certainly be saying something]. I am no orator, as everybody knows who has ever heard me. I will leave the deeply involved speeches on the issues of the campaign to others.

Will the girls be campaigning? They will participate in ways suitable to their age and without conflicting with their schooling. Luci, who will have a hard enough time getting through her senior year in high, and Lynda will be back in her third year in college, but they will be intensely interested in and very grateful for the work of the Young Citizens for Johnson and will attend^m any of the barbecues of or meetings /these young citizens during the fall as they *did* during the past months.

Will I try to see that the President does not over exert himself during the campaign? Like any wife, I am constantly concerned with his welfare but the President, who is not the most docile of human beings, is sensibly enough my ally rather than my adversary on a reasonable program of diet, exercise and relaxation, more now than ever before. He assumes that a prime responsibility of a

President of the United States is to be physically prepared for the job.

Will the women's vote tend to support one candidate more than another? I have never been able to detect the alleged women's vote singly and alone. I don't believe we are a herd of cows chomping along behind some petticoat general.

What does it all mean to me? Simply a chance to work for your country. I see this decade of the 60s as a unique time when as never before mankind has the tools to make a better life with the next few decades than he has for the last few centuries, and my husband is the sort of man who wants to get in ~~there~~ there and push.

I never fail to get a great ~~p~~^s spiritual lift, a sense of renewal from campaigning^s. Campaigns ~~then~~ bring the candidate and his wife, as a part of the team, into close touch with the people, their problems and aspirations and their moods. For the President and me, they have never failed to give us a renewed sense of reality, a new sense of service that the work we are doing is important and vital and I think a new determination to do the best that we can to help create a better world and a happier^{ier} nation.

When I think of the work to be done, I think of a job retraining center in West Virginia that we saw where young ~~un~~employed

Aug. 1, 1964 - page 9

girls, 17 to 21 or so, are being taught such things as typing and shorthand, and beauticians work. I ~~there~~ think there will always be a market for that. And young men are ~~go~~ being taught automobile mechanics and carpentry.

I think of that trip to the West I took recently where a dam was being dedicated to ^{Conserve} ~~concern~~ that most precious resource, water, for irrigation and to produce hydro-electric power, part of a long, long planning ~~is~~ for this nation's richness.

I think of the work of unfinished America. My husband wants to put his hand to it, and I want to help. //

###