

1965

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

There is still that sense of the lull before the storm and the calendar is relatively free, which meant that I spent most of the day working on Inaugural plans. Then about three-thirty went to Mrs. Celebrezze's party for Martha Hodges, meeting practically every Cabinet wife there and quite a few from the Embassies--Senora Fenoaltea<sup>/</sup> of Italy and Madame Platz<sup>g</sup>~~g~~ of Austria. Some of the good <sup>hard</sup> ~~heart~~ Inaugural workers had slipped off for a moment at the party, Lindy Boggs, Jane Freeman, Bethe~~en~~<sup>n</sup> Church. They were talking about Inaugural affairs and how much they liked Woody. I found myself telling them in a completely unselfconscious way about how he had been<sup>1</sup> my Vice President in Charge of Everything<sup>1</sup>

<sup>W</sup>When we entertained Mexico's President, Lopez-Mateos in 1959 and when I was happily innocent of the ways of protocol and the requirements of a visiting Chief of State<sup>/</sup> and then I looked over my shoulder and saw a reporter with a pencil. How difficult it is to be natural when everything you say or do may either appear in the paper or at least be talked about!<sup>1</sup> Well, I will give it a try.

I am real sad to see Martha Hodges and Luther go. I remember our wonderful whistle-stop trip together. They added dignity and stature to all eighteen hundred miles<sup>and</sup> <sup>A</sup> eight states of it, and talked to every one of the visiting VIP's, and I have been

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hurt and chagrined at some of the stories that would make you believe Lyndon didn't give him courteous notification about Connors. I think it must be the working of some underling rival in the Department and not Luther's own feelings. He's had a very extraordinary career coming out from a poor childhood. He was a millhand worker himself, I believe, at the young age of about twelve, and then making his own way in business until he was head of some big mill operation. I think it was <sup>Feldman</sup>~~Stephenson~~ and then deliberately deciding to devote the rest of his life to public service which has included the eminent post of Governor of North Carolina and Cabinet Member under two Presidents. It was fun and I miss women friends, the sort that I saw this afternoon--good ones when I have <sup>several</sup> months seen people mostly by thousands and not by twos and threes and dozens.

Back at the White House I called Lindy and Trudie Fowler and Ann Chapman and Scooter Miller asking Lindy, the first one I reached, who was still working among our good volunteers--our special friends down at the Committee--to come over and have a drink and a swim with me. They arrived about seven. We spent about a hour and a half in the warm luxury of the pool. I did swim twenty-six laps reviewing Inaugural business and problems and amusing incidents while we had a couple of drinks. Lyndon was not so late for dinner tonight--just nine o'clock--and

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Luci sat with us. We had scarcely seen her in days and days she had been studying so hard.

All of the people from whom we buy clothes or get services--from Earle Williams, Lyndon's shirt man, to Jean Louis, are being sought out and put under the microscope like insects on the point of a pin. I don't blame them for not knowing what to do or say, but how I do love the anonymous ones who escape! So far, Mr. Per has and there are quite a few purchases <sup>of</sup> in gowns that I never heard of, all slightly annoying and trivial. I wonder if the answer is try to feed them <sup>(anonymous people)</sup> something more substantive. I certainly haven't because I have been "Alice-sit-by-the-fire" since the election and I have enjoyed it.