

1965

THURSDAY, JANURAY 21

Thursday, January 21 was by all rights a day that both Lyndon and I should have stayed in bed all day, but perhaps you don't come down off the mountain of excitement so quickly. Lyndon had a meeting of the leadership at 10:00 and I got up at 9:00 to meet Margaret Truman Daniel and her two little boys. Mr. Gruenther was showing them the White House, including the Beagle Him, swimming pool, everything on the first floor, their Grandfather's balcony that I love so much, and their Mother's bedroom and sitting room which are now our kitchen and family dining room. I had a nice visit with them over a cup of coffee always trying to accumulate tales of what it was like when another family lived here. I asked Margaret. She told me instead one of her father's favorite tales which was about President Coolidge. Senate Majority Leader, Joe Robinson of Arkansas, was having breakfast with President Coolidge. Mrs. Coolidge's big, handsome, aristocratic white collie sat down beside him and looked up at him with mournful, solicitous eyes as President Coolidge said, "He wants your bacon." Senator Joe Robinson picked up his one slice of bacon and offered it to the Collie who ate it appreciatively. And Senator Robinson kept on looking over his shoulder for the butler to come from the kitchen and offer him another piece. It never came.

When they left, I went up to say goodbye to the departing house guests. Ava and Aunt Jessie were getting off. I took them

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some presents, ²medallions and books. Bobbitt was getting Philip ready to take a 12 o'clock plane. He was going on in another direction. Becky had left on an early morning reservation on which the three Alexanders had already left so I didn't get to tell them goodbye.

Ava had been so thrilled to meet and talk to some of the Diplomats. She said she had enough to tell her school children about all year long, that it was the greatest thing that had ever happened to her. I called and checked our Blair House guests. It seems that Mr. Fore had been on the TODAY show and he said that he predicted thirty years ago that Lyndon was going to be President.¹

The children slept nearly all day. I treated myself to a massage. I kept little Peggy Stark trying to fill in for Ashton on the phone locating some of the Johnson City folks and the sort of visitors who had never seen and would never again see the White House to invite them for a special tour. Mabel Stribling came at 4 o'clock with a group of thirty, mostly Texans, including Joe Dacy, Minnie Cox, Mrs. Harry Griffiths, and Tour Director, ²Miss Schultz, from Austin. Mabel was beaming when I met them in the Red Room and recounting her adventures as head of the Ladies for Lyndon in Blanco County. She had given her best and now I was so happy to give mine by making it clear to everybody there that she was quite special. And then Tony with a group of friends into the library for tea and the Miguel Guajardos, from Acapulco, ¹¹Babe Viggins and his

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wife--he is one of Lyndon's old friends from College in San Marcos,
Diana, of course, and Gary and Jack Hopkins and the ^{Lester}~~Lester~~ Slavitzes,
with whom we had had dinner in Tasco on our wonderful July trip and
his oldest friend, Colonel and Mrs. Whitney Ashbred.

I gather, a very good session. ~~We~~ ^{Just} have started the Legislative Program. Humphrey and some of the staff lingered after the ~~conference~~ Congressmen left and there was an absolutely marvelous conversation. I remember at one point, Lyndon leaning right up, face to face with Larry O'Brien, and saying "John Kennedy is watching us up in heaven and we are going to wrap up all of his legislation and put it in a package and tie it up and label it JFK". Whatever it is labeled if this ~~thing~~ keeps rolling ~~it~~ ^{there} is going to be some ~~package~~ ^{package}.

He asked Hubert to call Maribel to stay for dinner with us. And I got the Thornberry's who arrived in just a few minutes and the six of us had a delightful time. I have no illusions that a President and his Vice President can maintain unbroken, day after day, a completely ~~simple~~ ^{simple} relationship. But it sure is pleasant to have it basically and we have it now.

During the dinner, Ebise got up and made a most touching toast to me. A long quotation from Solomon about a virtuous woman ~~and~~ ^{gifted} well to the ways of her household. She gave me a lot to live up to. It's been a wonderful day - a wonderful week. My only worry is that Lyndon got no rest this afternoon. ~~Those~~ Those messages to the Congress keep on rolling, Overshadowed as they have been by the Inaugural. And today was one of crescendo on legislative activity. It was a fairly early night and a little bit before twelve we were in bed. I think at long last Lyndon is really tired. He must also be proud.

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- Equal Employment Opportunities Committee very attractive couple named David Schulte ^{brother-in-law} beginning with his 15 year old school boy days on up to his very recent political activity. I ~~have~~ learned that some of my Alabama cousins were in town ~~and~~ simply added them to his group. Josephine Patilla Clark from Tennessee now, Lucille Patilla Thomas ~~from~~ and her husband, Dr. Jimmy Thomas, and darling daughter Jean now a married woman on her honeymoon without her husband and three of their friends from Alabama who came along. ^W As it was it turned out to be a very congenial group. The fire was blazing in the library- and such an inviting hospitable room. And then we arranged a ~~tea~~ with Jim Ketchum for them. ^{At} At that point I said goodbye and ~~last~~ ^{last} went out to have my last visit with John and Nellie. I thought they would wait until tomorrow but they were going to leave right away. One of the pleasantest times of this whole Inaugural was this thirty minutes I stole when Nellie had the Perry Bass's, their son and two or three other friends from Fort Worth for coffee in the Lincoln Room. It's been good for us both to be together during this. [But I had the unhappy feeling as I talked with them that ^{the Basses} Walter and Marjorie in taking up residence in Austin were facing a rather rocky time. I think that they would have to go slow before being accepted - that things would not be quite as they have been.] Lyndon had a meeting in the yellow Room. ^{The Speaker} The Speaker, Carl Albert, Hale Boggs, Humphrey of course was there as well as Lyndon's staff members, Busby, Valenti, Moyers, Cater and all the Committee Chairmen. Just before they were ready to leave he asked me to come in and greet them. There was powerful Judge Smith of Virginia, though ageless. Mendell Rivers ^{my} friend of Charleston; Mills of Arkansas and among others, three Texans. Wright Patman ^{MAN}, Tiger Teague and Mahon. They had a lengthy and