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Collection Title Lady Bird Johnson's Diary

Folder Title Lady Bird Johnson's Diary, January 16-31, 1965 [Book 15]

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9/25/2013

  
Initials

January 27, 1966  
Wednesday

It was not a good night. An old enemy returned. Lyndon sweated down two or three pair of pajamas. A symptom of illnesses for all the time I have known him so I should have suspected it. It was a day of office work with me. With Liz in the morning <sup>she has</sup> ~~we~~ gathered together a splended notebook on the beautification project. Sort of a Mother Hubbard, with memos and newspaper articles covering the field. And then lunch with Lyndon and Lynda and Abe and Clark. I reminded Clark to please get for me the papers that set up the libraries of two or three or the Presidents - Truman's for sure and Kennedy's and Roosevelt's if possible.

Today was interlaced with working on income tax. And I promised to myself that somewhere in my office I am going to have an accountant. With Ashton sick, my bookkeeping is a shambles. In the afternoon I had a meeting with Bess. We talked about a raise for her which she needs and deserves more than anybody in my entire staff, <sup>She</sup> ~~who~~ has worked for more than a year with only a minor reference to it and a raise that in no way brought her close to the same salary paid Mrs. Kennedy's two social secretaries. Today was a day of two major decisions for Lyndon. One, not to go to London which he announced at a five-thirty press

conference in his bedroom to a small group of newspaper men. Simply saying that the doctors had warned him against going <sup>on</sup> the theory that I am susceptible to re-infection. So he was naming Dean Rusk, the Chief Justice, and Ambassador Bruce. # The other great decision was to name the Acting Attorney General, Nick Katzenbach as his Attorney General. At the same time he named Ramsey Clark, <sup>as</sup> Deputy Attorney General, which to me is the next best thing. There is no doubt that Katzenbach is able for he has handled Civil rights well. He will ride out ~~and~~ the storms now brewing, drawing less lightning than any of the other people we have considered. He is a Bobby Kennedy man from the beginning and that will be a hard blow to some of the closest Johnson people. Lyndon called him and asked him to bring his wife and come over for a drink. And he arrived a little past seven. # <sup>Today</sup> He was full of family news, too. It appears that Luci on her own had given an interview to a Chilean newspaper woman who sold it to Ebony, a long article, complete with many pictures, came out in Ebony and a <sup>summary</sup> ~~copy~~ of it on the wire services in the Washington papers, which she had such juicy bits explaining that her father has become quite ~~in~~ economical since he became the President. He is terrible about spending. If a member of the family really needs 800 bulbs burning in a room in order to

study <sup>better</sup> there or to read or do something useful, he wouldn't care, she said, but needless expense annoys him. Therefore anyone in the family who leaves a light burning is fined one dollar. <sup>#</sup> She also gave her own ideas about youth, race, her family, love and politics. About race - the problem will be solved only when negroes are neither loved, hated nor accepted, but rather by a natural and intimate living together without any intellectual or emotional <sup>effort</sup> made to forget color. And then she added rather delightfully that she did not want to sound like a well fed preacher sitting in the White House. She told about how she wanted to become a nurse, that she almost burned down the White House the first night she slept there by lighting a fire in the fireplace when she really didn't know how and then she gave a really too intimate but very accurate, I believe, psychoanalysis of her relation to politics. She said she ~~formerly~~ thought of it as the most despicable, lowest and most compromising activity in the world <sup>but</sup> ~~was~~ the assassination of President Kennedy changed her feelings. It used to be that politics had isolated her from her family. Her father didn't come for supper at six O'clock like most fathers, her mother didn't have enough time to spend with her little girl - but then, after the assassination

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she had come to understand her father better. <sup>"</sup>His commitment, his giving for the life of public service, and she dedided she wanted to join in the commitment too. So that was when her political life of campaigning trips and speeches began. And as she expressed it, she became integrated into the life of this reunited community in the White House. Sometimes Luci reminds me of Christopher Robin <sup>"</sup>And the look in his eyes seem to say to the skies, now how to amuse them today? <sup>"</sup>Every day, something new with Luci! She is a lark, a sprite, and imp. And you might as well try to bottle sunshine as to supress her. Tonight she baked a cake about eight inches high, four layers with lemon filling in between and soft fluffy seven minute icing. This was for pop's birthday. She came out proudly displaying it to the Katzenbachs, and to her daddy, who in his pajamas had come to sit with us in the West Hall while he talked to Katzenbach about his decision to ask him to become Attorney General. <sup>#</sup> My poor dear Lynda came in to get me. I could see that she had been crying. When she saw that we had company she left hurriedly. I went to talk to her.

SANITIZED

She is not sure she is ready to marry anyone.

SANITIZED

[1/27/65]

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SANTIZED

I want

her to have the world and to taste it all before she decides on the one.

We had a long and interesting evening with the Katzenbach's. I guess the gist of it is that I must say I respect him. I do not feel close to either one of them. We are <sup>poles</sup>~~poles~~ apart. He and Lyndon discussed the imperative need to make Washington a law abiding city and how to go about it.