

January 29, 1965  
Friday

Friday January 29th was a day full of appointments about the White House. At 11:00 Mr. John Walker of the National Gallery of Art came over and showed me photographs of two portraits of President Roosevelt because I have long wanted one of President Roosevelt to hang in Lyndon's office. And he ~~know~~ Mr. Walker, had been trying to help me find one. One belongs to James Roosevelt, hangs in his home and was done by a German Jew during the early years of Hitler's ascendancy into Germany. Both picture and artist got smuggled out through some exciting underground operations and finally wound up in the possession of Jimmy Roosevelt. He very generously offered it to the White House. But I do not think we can accept something which must mean so much to the son of President Roosevelt. The other ~~was a~~ the photograph of the portrait that Madame ~~Shumonsky~~ <sup>Shuminsky</sup> was doing of President Roosevelt when he died. It is very handsome but age and death have their hand on him. In fact his face is practically transparent and has a very spiritual look. I would like to have one of him when he was young and strong with his chin tilted up and that big grin and that "come on world look. Mr. Walker suggested ~~that~~ <sup>Shuminsky</sup> Madam Shumonsky who is still living and a very competent artist, he thinks, might do a copy of the Warm Springs portrait or from a series of photo-

graphs a portrait of President Roosevelt during the period I would like to have him. I will talk it over with Lyndon.

A little later, Dr. David Scott, of the Fine Arts Collection of the Smithsonian came over to talk to me about the album of photographs <sup>which</sup> they had collected pictures in ~~the~~ possession of the fine arts collection, they might lend to the White House. I am still looking for one to go opposite the Mary Cassatt in the Family living quarters. Something <sup>sympathetic</sup> ~~sym-~~ with the colors in the room, the mood of the paintings already here, the Johnsons themselves. And also to talk to me about the Art-mobile Project which the fine arts collection is launching, hopefully this year. ~~Is this~~ The state of Virginia, and also remarkably enough, ~~the state of~~ Arkansas, (I think one of the Rockefeller's is primarily responsible for that), and Michigan, already have art-mobile projects. And then I had a session with Mr. West about the decorators who have worked here in the last two or three Administrations. I think I must confine myself to Americans, so Mr. ~~Bodan~~ <sup>Boudin</sup>, even if he were attainable, is out for me. We discussed the work that Mrs. Parish had done - the needs to bring before the Committee for the Preservation of the White House. <sup>We</sup> You ought to get a copy made of the rug in the Red Room. The one for the Green Room has been completed in Puerto

Rico at about \$6,000 cost and nine months work. <sup>So</sup> It's  
was high time we ordered a replacement for the Red  
Room. We will be sure to put the exquisite one back  
for State dinners and very important occasions. And  
then the drapes for the State Dining Room were made in  
1947. They are getting very fragile and they are going  
to have to be replaced within the next four years so we had  
better set about it. And <sup>was the</sup> ~~as a~~ possibility, <sup>of</sup> ~~some~~ new  
and handsomer chairs. ~~The~~ The one remaining dream of Mrs.  
Kennedy, for the State Dining Room. And my own two very  
urgent needs. ~~But~~ these are not the problems, <sup>of</sup> the  
Committee for the Preservation <sup>of</sup> doing over the family  
living quarters in the West Hall and the Solarium for  
Lynda and Luci. <sup>#</sup> Unhappily we are not going to have the  
drapes for the East Room ready to show the Committee.  
~~The~~ The ancient gentleman who is working on the hand-made  
fringes is turning them out inch by inch and the finished  
state keeps on being moved <sup>in</sup> the future. Now, if we get  
them by Easter that will be good. There are many things  
to tell them, though. The library has been completed  
since our last meeting in May of 1964. <sup>#</sup> I called the  
Bill Whites to see if they would come over and have pot  
luck dinner with us. But it's June's birthday and they  
are having a small party including the Jim Rowe's, Tom  
Corcoran, I believe, and the Bundy's. June said they had  
thought of asking us but had grown to consider it only  
a burden to us. Goodness what a lot of fun times my

husband's occupation cuts out for us! Well, there is  
a finish line on it. I heard that Dr. Owings, the  
author of the Pennsylvania Avenue plan was in town  
for a dinner and I asked him to come over and explain  
(*Pennsylvania Ave. Plan*)  
it to me. It would take me two weeks to learn about  
it and we spent about thirty minutes. The general  
idea I like. Something great and built for the ages  
as this town itself is. But I questioned a large  
paved square. I wonder if it won't be unbearably hot  
in July and August. <sup>a</sup> And not a gathering place for  
people but something to flee from? <sup>#</sup> And then I hurried  
on down to the library where there was a farewell ~~for~~  
party for Hortense Burton, the handiwork of Liz and  
Bess with my happy approval, the girls from her office,  
from Sandy Fox's office, <sup>some of her</sup> ~~for~~ friends from other offices  
about 25 in all, and a few men of course. Sherry,  
Dubonnet, sandwiches, a fire, gifts, an autographed  
picture from the Johnsons and a most delightful take-  
off on the weekly report which Hortense Burton prepares  
for me, analyzing the mail. It had a seal on it and  
was signed by everybody. And a silver cigarette box  
from all the girls who ~~worked~~ <sup>her</sup> worked with ~~them~~. Bess and Liz  
are really molders together. They are a great team. And  
we will miss Hortense and a lot of ~~her~~ good phrases  
which I hope we have copied. Bess and Liz joined us up-

stairs later, when the ~~Suppliers~~ <sup>Sepplars</sup> came over for drinks and to tell us goodbye. <sup>#</sup> Lyndon still feels the washed out depressed way one does after a heavy dosage of anti-biotics. They exact their own price - these miracle drugs. But he had dragged himself up and gone to work. He came home and we had a very pleasant hour with the ~~Suppliers~~ <sup>Sepplars</sup>, Recalling our visit to their island in the Balkans, their trip to the ranch and their years here in Washington. Just as I get to know somebody and be fond of them in the Diplomatic Corps they ~~have~~ <sup>are</sup> gone! That <sup>was</sup> one of the big joys in Lyndon's years in the Vice Presidency. I became really close to about four or five couples in the Corps - which had been a vast uncharted field to me Before and now most of them have gone. The ~~Hisebergs~~ <sup>Hisebergs</sup> of Luxembourg, the Tony ~~Flores~~ <sup>Carrillo</sup> Flores of Mexico; and they are my all time favorties. And now the ~~Sepplars~~ <sup>Sepplars</sup>. And of course the Ahmads to Pakistan. Lyndon called Jack and Mary Margaret and they came over and had a quiet dinner with us. And then we went to bed. This week's mood is not good. But how to fight it? I think, by work, activity, as soon as Lyndon is once more physically able. It's sort of a ~~slow~~ <sup>slough</sup> of despond - ~~but~~ <sup>was</sup> a ~~classic~~ <sup>psychological</sup> writer whom I used to love, Don ~~Bach~~ <sup>Bach</sup>, called "the Valley of the Black Pig." The

obstacles in~~s~~eed are no shadows, they are areal substance. Vietnam, the biggest. Walter. The need of getting really superior people for the pending appointments and the difficulty of finding them and bringing them into the government. The carping† of the press. The latter I must honestly assess as very small indeed. And some day we may really know a storm.