

Ready to give
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February 1, 1965
Monday

Begins the busy days again. Mr. James
~~Frostberg~~ ^{Fosberg}, head of Mrs. Kennedy's Fine Arts
Committee came in at 11:00 and we talked White House
art. He brought with him a big brochure of pictures ~
possible acquisitions for the White House art collect-
ions and one which appealed to me greatly. A Thomas
Sully portrait of Fannie Kimble, great actress of her
day. Beautiful, charming, a sort of ~~fray~~ ^{gay} expression.
And a sister, remarkably of Mrs. Sarah Siddons, the
famous actress in England. ^{It's} \$25,000. Whether we can
get it depends on finding a donor or getting the
cooperation of the White House Preservation Society,
and spreading the cost over a good many years, using
the money obtained by the White House Historical
Association from the sale of the guide books. [#] We
also discussed where to hang the Asher Durand, ~~it~~
~~had been~~ cleaned, repaired and long awaiting a place.
The Hudson River School is not one I really like.
Too big, too dark, perhaps it's not just the country
that's familiar to me and dear to my heart. Accord-
to Mr. ~~Frostberg~~ ^{Fosberg}, he is one of the great ⁱⁿ American art
of the 19th Century, and deserves to be hung here. It
wasn't easy to find a place. There are two pictures
in the State rooms downstairs that he says are not good,

One the ^{outside?} outside Thomas Jefferson in the Red Room.

One the huge George Washington by an ^Ecuadorian artist in the Blue Room. We tried the Durand in the upper hall where it will go, ^a And in the Red Room where we finally hung it. ^I Though I hate to see even an inferior Thomas Jefferson give way to anything.

I asked Mr. ^{Flaugh} ~~Frostberg~~ to wait while I went downstairs to join Lyndon for a ceremony where he would pin ^{his} ~~the~~ fourth distinguished service medal on retiring AF Chief Curtis LeMay. Everybody was gathered in the East Room when we went in. General LeMay's family on the front row, along with the McConnells, ^{his} newly sworn in successor ^{as} ~~as~~ Air Force Chief of Staff.

General LeMay, very erect, minus his usual cigar, ribbon bedecked, and solemn, was standing to the right of the podium. Lyndon made a brief and moving speech about General LeMay's long and distinguished career of 35 years in the Air Force. He practically grew up with the airplane. ^{He} Said, "all ^{free} ~~three~~ men are in your debt today and all your countrymen join with me in proudly and gratefully ^a saluting you." I had slipped in next to Hubert on the front row, ^W While General LeMay spoke, I watched Lyndon standing quietly at attention with his hands fisted, hanging beside him. ^a A typical gesture, I wonder if subconsciously it's because he's determined to get through days where he

some of the staff — Billy Moyers, Jack Valenti and Marvin Watson, ³and was so glad he has just joined us. And Horace Busby. And then to okay the final — no not final, but "for now," resting place of the Asher Durand in the Red Room. It is called the Last of the Mohicans. And then for a prolonged hour and a half more of watching thereels of Lyndon's campaign for the Senate in 1941, ⁸Of Lynda as a small baby and later ~~of~~ series of birthday parties and Halloween's and Christmas ^{and} and playing in the back yard at Dilman, Luci joining in in the summer of 47. I ^{to}stopped it ~~by~~ keeping a date with Robin Duke. There is so much to talk about with her leaving. We didn't begin to cover the ground.

Lynda came in and rattled on about her plans for the next summer. ~~Music~~ Music to my ears. Robin will love to have her in Spain and reminded me that that ^{there'd be} ~~beats the~~ Cecile McKee ~~major~~ in Germany for her to stay with. And though I do not know Evangeline Bruce in London, Lyndon seems to feel quite close to Ambassador Bruce, so I suppose we could ask her. But we just must find a responsible grown woman that's fun for her to travel with. ^RRobin and I went to Blair House and she took me over three of the four floors of Blair and Lee, telling the ^{saga} ~~father~~ of the Blairs and Lee's and her

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Monday, February 1, 1965

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own story of doing the house over. Some of the bedrooms still had cards on them saying "Mrs. Saunders, Mr. Huffman Baines"—our guests during the Inaugural.

I came back to the White House and spent a while with Luci, who, not surprisingly, is piled up in bed with the virus. Last night was a sign of being physically sick, as well as at low ebb psychologically, I think. She has a little fever, feels wretched, and will be out of school for a few days. But she is in much happier spirits.

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