

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

Texas Independence Day

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, March 2, 1965

Page 1

But not even a reading of William Barrett Travis' letter from the Alamo.

It was a very slack day, an hour's meeting on household matters with Mr. [REDACTED]

West in the morning, about the President's reception room and our own

West hall and the doing over that I'm working on with Mrs. Brown.

And then desk work with Ashton.

And then 30 laps in the pool. I just plain missed the work that's been part of my life, all these years. No trips to the Safeway, no lugging children or suitcases. So I have to seek for exercise.

The main event of the day was the seventh reception for the Congressional members at 6:30. The usual format, receiving line and pictures in the Green Room. And how struck I was by the fact that Lyndon knew the first name of nearly everyone of them, something about their ^{Bills} ~~build~~, their district, what was currently most important to them. He was great.

I was delighted to hear, in the course of the exchange with the Congressmen, that the Education Bill had come out of committee - so Adam Clayton Powell had done as he promised.

And then Lyndon and the Congressmen to the Blue Room for their briefing. And I took the ladies down to the theatre. What an ordeal this must be for Mrs. Rusk and Margie McNamara, but you never could tell it. Virginia Rusk, too patient; and Margie, too interested and eager. This was a great team - the men and the women.

What a long briefing they had tonight - nearly two hours - it was 8:50

MEMORANDUM

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Page 2

when we went upstairs to the State dining room. After exhausting the pleasures of the movie on the paintings, and a trip over the second floor by all who had not seen it before, or who wanted to go again - and while they were ~~so~~ ^{none still} engaged, ^{we had} personal reminiscences by Mrs. Ralph Harvey, Charlene - and Mrs. William Springer, Elsie, members of our 81st Club and I^Nternational group, ^{And} an attractive, young Republican, Mrs. Bradford Morse, of Massachusetts. Mrs. Harvey was the funniest, ~~and~~ They they were invited to a Congressional reception at the White House, she had decided to let her sister go as Congressman Harvey's wife, while she, Mrs. Harvey, drove the car around and around the block, while they went in for their supposedly 45 minute stay. She, alas, poor soul, had gotten involved in a car wreck with a policeman, and the ensuing complications, of whether to tell him her name was Mrs. Ralph Harvey, when Mrs. Ralph Harvey was supposed to be inside at the White House, at the Congressional reception!

Upstairs, we fell upon our slight repast. If I had known these were going to last so long, I would have provided more substantial refreshments, ^e than ham, [/] and turkey, [/] and dips, [/] and cookies.

There seem to be a heavy preponderance of southerners - or maybe southerners make themselves felt more. Could it be that I just gravitate to them?

There were the Colmers of Mississippi; the Cooleys of North Carolina; the Haberts of Louisiana, ^{with} whom Lyndon used to serve long ago on the Naval

MEMORANDUM

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Page 3

Affairs Committee; the Armistead Seldens of Alabama, one of my train riding companions of the 1960 campaign; and the Russell Tutens of Georgia.

And a heavy preponderance of Texans - ^{my} ~~our~~ own Congressman, Wright Patman; the Bob Poag^{fs}, ^{he} knows more about more subjects, ^a a real student than nearly anyone I know; and the Ray Roberts; and white haired, flamboyant Mendel Rivers of South Carolina.

Lyndon disappeared briefly - he has a marvelous facility for going somewhere, putting in an appearance, getting the credit for being two places at the same time. He made a drop-in call on the Texas Ex's March 2nd Banquet, which was, amazingly, in honor of a non-Texan, the first time in my memory that such a thing has taken place. Having exhausted the roster of all the available Texans, the Texas Ex's, this time, honored Speaker McCormack of Massachusetts. And Lyndon went over to extend his congratulations and drop in on the meeting.

It was after 10 when we said goodby and went upstairs. One of the good receptions, though not the best, but a grade A performance by Lyndon, according to all the Congressmen who talked with me.

One thing they keep on repeating over and over. If the President could just talk to the public this way, if he would just say over TV, ^{what} what he has said tonight, it would be a good thing for the whole country.

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