

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, June 30, 1965

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My last official day for a while. Tomorrow is the beginning of my self-granted month off.

First on the schedule was a filming for NBC with Nancy Dickerson for project HeadStart preceded by makeup by my friend Lillian Brown and a hair-do by Jean Louis. I must be their most constant customer. And then an effort to project through Nancy to everybody's living room what project HeadStart will be like when it begins tomorrow in 2300 communities across this country. Actually, it is going to affect 500,000 children or more.

I hope what I say will cause some momma or neighbor to take a child by the hand and start down the street to whatever school or YWCA or church in their community have a project HeadStart going.

Next I worked with Liz in preparation for leaving so that my desk will be clean.

And then a brief moment with Danny Kaye -- that delightful man whose a sort of U. S. ambassador to the world's children through his work with UNICEF, and his wife and Mrs. Lou Maginn -- plump, friendly, great grandmother who might live across the street from you anywhere. Actually, she's from East Fairfield, Vermont, and ~~who~~ is directing a project of 10 children in HeadStart -- one of the smallest groups in the country. She had been chosen to represent all the Directors and to receive the flag in the HeadStart ceremony

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downstairs in the East Room.

If there is anybody good ^{at} ~~and~~ making everybody feel at ease, it's Danny Kaye. He has a ² ~~fat~~ quality -- a comedy front -- that it seems to me hides a truly intelligent, giving person underneath.

We had just a moment upstairs for coffee. And then we went down for the ceremony -- the presentation of the HeadStart flag by that best of all salesmen, handsome Sargent Shriver who brought Eunice, ready to have that baby any minute, and their absolutely adorable three children -- Bobby, who shook hands; Maria who curtsied; and Timothy who bowed from the waist with one hand behind him. Danny Kaye did exactly the same in responding to the greeting of each.

After Sargent, I said my few words of welcome and thanks for the flag and salute to the day. The lines that I meant the most in the speech -- that I hope that this program will be a big breakthrough in education -- an insurance against school dropouts, and an insurance for a smaller welfare role in the future. And the line that I think needs saying over and over is that "I do not need tell you that such an ambitious program is filled with pitfalls and disappointments. And there will be doubters who are quick to point them out. But we are not working with people who live neat and tidy and secure lives."

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And then I introduced as symbolizing the project HeadStart Director, Mrs. Maginn, mother of four, grandmother of ten and great grandmother of two -- a most reassuring looking woman -- a sort of "Mrs. John Citizen".

She spoke and then Danny Kaye talked on the compensations of a volunteer in the graceful, charming, humorous way that ought to bring us more volunteers.

Sargent startled me a bit by quoting from among the many letters he's gotten. One that said, "Please send me information about how to start children", he said. "I don't know about all of you, but in my home the problem is stopping them."

I received all the guests in the Blue Room. I was delighted to see Mrs. Scott Carpenter, the astronaut's wife -- Renee -- blond, very individual, a unique sort of woman. She's made speeches for HeadStart around the country. ^{Leci Carosi} ~~C. C. Carouse~~ -- ~~old~~ working volunteer ^W for the program. She said she had just been to a party to celebrate Stu Symington's 64th birthday. I sent him a message that to me he will always be 40 and handsome.

Sweet-faced Ann Celebrezze, Ann Chapman, Bethine Church. I am always happy to see her. But the shadow of Frank's strong dissent on Lyndon's position on Viet-Nam does fall between us. Georgia Clark. Grace [?] ~~Kaye~~ _{Coy}, part of my past, and I was so glad to

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have her in the White House. Equally pleased that Mrs. Orville Faubus, wife of the Governor of Arkansas, working hard on operation HeadStart -- having incidentally held the first desegregated social function in Little Rock's executive mansion when she invited women leaders to meet with her to plan HeadStart for Arkansas. I greeted her enthusiastically. ~~Dear~~ Alta -- she has my middle name. Trudye Fowler, always a good volunteer, as is Dorothy Goldberg. *Ben*

And from the world of entertainment, Betty Furness, who has done much to bring it to the attention of her wide audience.

Two pretty young volunteers -- I see them evident in so many good works -- Sherry Henry, wife of William Henry of the FCC and Barbara Hower. And Mrs. Richard Hughes, wife of the Governor of New Jersey, ^adelighted ^{at} any party, whose great weight doesn't keep her from being one of the most attractive women in the room. I thanked her for coming, and she thanked me for asking her. She said, "I've been down at the beach with 10 children and their friends doing all the work. And this is a day off for me."

But no guests were having more fun than Luci's boss -- Dr. Kraskin and his wife. And they were so full of praise of Luci's speeches in New Orleans, for the way she had endeared herself and all the members of the organization for her genuine enthusiasm for the program.

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Margy McNamara was there, and I had asked her and the Cabinet wives and their close friends to be hostesses before I came down to all the volunteers who had come from such places as Pearsall, Texas, Searcy, Arkansas, and Tupelo, Mississippi, and might appreciate being made to feel more at ease in the White House by a friendly greeting from an assistant hostess.

I was pleased at both of the Senators of Mrs. Maginns' State -- Senator Prouty and Senator Aiken were there to do her honor and the program honor. I am sorry that Mrs. George Romney of Michigan and Mrs. William Scranton of Pennsylvania couldn't come. But they sent messages.

It was a good meeting to boost HeadStart, to express the appreciation of the Administration to the volunteers. A project like this is going to need all the boosting it can get because it is dealing with people hardest to deal with. I think Mayor Wagner put it best when he said, "That working with the children is the time and the place to break the cycle of poverty, to make sure that the children of poverty do not become the parents of poverty."

I walked out of the State Dining Room feeling satisfied with the day's work and also light of heart and light of load because this is my last official duty for a month -- I've promised myself.

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Lyndon was upstairs having a very small lunch with General Eisenhower -- he's been mighty helpful to him -- Bob McNamara, Everett Dirksen, General Wheeler. I know the grist for their mill. It could only be serious and bad. But I put my head in the door to greet them and to kiss Lyndon goodbye.

And then I left for New York and my visit to Mary Lasker.

At the New York Airport, I got into an inconspicuous Secret Service car and drove up the Taconic Parkway -- 2 hours -- through some of the most beautiful country I've ever seen. It did take a long while to get out of the city of New York. But once out, the country was rolling, ^lusciously green, although everybody spoke of a ^{drought} draught. Frequently there was a beautiful median strip. Once a deer, larger than ours and quite brown, walked down the slope and stood within 10 feet of the highway. Frequently there were splashes of orange -- tiger lillies, they were, among the green.

Presently in the distance the Catskill Mountains. The Hudson River was only a few miles away. We were traveling through Westchester County, and I was amazed to see no houses along the road. Only a very few exit roads, very discrete signs pointing to homes that wished for privacy. Westchester is one of the richest counties in the United States, our driver said. And I couldn't get over how green, how country, it was. And so close to New York City. There are very few filling

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stations -- all Texaco I noticed, and rather attractively done -- the architecture. I am so glad we drove. It's so much more an intimate way to see the country.

We arrived at Mary's about 7:00 -- a lovely white house with blue shutters and an approach through an Avenue of flowering trees, crab apple and dogwood, past several ponds -- a graceful, unpretentious but elegant country house.

She was smiling at the door to meet me. Inside I almost knew what to expect -- white walls, much white furniture, with an accent of pink or red or green here and there, white rugs, many expanses of windows which open onto vistas of lovely trees and grass and swimming pools and pink and red geraniums in masses. But the house itself is a setting for the jewels, and the jewels are the paintings -- many Salvador Dalis -- ~~any~~ sort of things -- of flowers and butterflies against a background of well known cities -- Rome, Florence, maybe Paris or Venice -- a sort of a dream sequence with beautiful colors. And Monet. Picasso I believe. And quite a few ^{Forrestas} ~~English~~ who amuses me so. My own room was enchanted ^{my} - windows that opened out above the swimming pool and there was a fountain in the distance .

I dressed ^{for} ~~in~~ the dinner in my prettiest cocktail dress -- white with the blue beads. The evening was chilly and I needed a white coat. We sat on the terrace -- sleek , handsome Richard Adler was there.

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His wife is opening in "My Fair Lady" in Milwaukee I believe. Mary's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. Ford~~is~~^{is} a very fine architect. And John Gunther whose "Inside USA", "Inside Africa", "Inside Europe" I have read for 20 years or so. And the Leonard Goldensons.

With a drink in hand we strolled through the rose garden. I don't know anything about Versailles really, but I doubt if it could be this -- beautiful -- 4500 rose bushes -- peace roses as large as a salad plate -- each one a dream. There were rose trees -- the Queen Elizabeth, full blown red rose with variegations of pink in it -- every color in the rainbow. Then some lavender roses climbing against the tool shed. And on the white plank fence, a very plain, hardy rose that Mary says every home owner could plant one of this fall for \$3.50 and have something beautiful the next summer. The profusely blooming, bright red, called "crimson glory" I believe.

There were little fountains and a statuary and chaise longue.

I took my camera, and Mr. Ford~~is~~^{is} had his, and we all had fun.

In the garden there was the one I wanted to talk to most. Then a conversation was very interesting. Mr. Gunther talked of South America. He had just been there through about six countries. He thinks Mr. Frey is probably the best of the presidents. He says there are four presidents in Uruguay and told a most amusing story about how deGaulle wishing to send a gift to them had decided on the one that

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he thought was the most ranking of the presidents. He sent him the best medal and had sent slightly lesser medals to the others -- the Uruguayns promptly replied that they all four had equal rank and returned the medals!

And he told us why Brazil actually built the capital of Brasilia, which is 900 miles inland, in a deliberate attempt to turn their country which is really just a coastline of a country inward to make something of the interior -- to move the Government in the hope and with the intention that industry and important things would follow it.

Leonard Goldenson I found most delightful. He talked about our beautification film. He says he's going to send it to all the overseas stations and to my surprise I found that ABC has a good many overseas stations. And make it available also to BBC. And also to my surprise he talked ~~the~~ the difficulties in Alabama where Dr. Rose of the University of Alabama has a tough time obtaining good professors. You would think that the climate of the South and especially of Alabama would be so constricting to them that they just don't want to come. So Dr. Rose is planning to have a series of top-notch intellectuals come for lectures to Tuscaloosa -- the University -- and expose them to the University and vice versa.

Leonard Goldenson hopes to help him implement this. He seemed most earnest about it, and I told him I would rise up and call him

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blessed for every success story, every good thing his media showed about that because we must all work toward bringing them back into the union and not shoving them further outside as outcasts.

I don't know when I've had a more delightful evening.

Mary moves in a world of beauty, intellect, activity and contributes so much to it.

What a wonderful beginning for my month of freedom.