

## LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Page 1 of 1

<u>Doc #</u>	<u>DocType</u>	<u>Doc Info</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Restriction</u>
--------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------------	--------------	-------------	--------------------

Transcript	Lady Bird Johnson's Diary, Thursday, July 8, 1965, Pages 4-7					
------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

4

7/08/1965

C

*page 5-7 opened, 7/9/15, be*

---

**Collection Title** Lady Bird Johnson's Diary

**Folder Title** Lady Bird Johnson's Diary July 1-18, 1965 [Book 23]

**Box Number** 3

---

**Restriction Codes**

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.  
(B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.  
(C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

9/30/2013

*be*  
Initials

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 1

There was a crescendo of work and organizing and family telephoning.

Early in the morning Mr. ~~Clab~~ Carter came to walk around the yard with me and Pat and decide where to put the lovely four-foot high magnolia that had come to me from George Washington's home -- Mt. Vernon. How I cherish it, <sup>at home</sup> through the charming generousness of the head man I had met while doing the ABC show. We will leave it in the pot until November, and then plant it in the old Sam Johnson House was the decision.

And then about 10:00 came Roy White -- loaded with plans and problems -- where to place the trailer that will arrive this afternoon, took phone calls to get its dimensions and heights -- a picture so that we would know where the front door was. Eventually the decision was made to put it between the Dale Meeks' trailer and the Davises' house, lying East to West so that the best windows -- the living room, the front door -- all faced toward the river, and have the shade of one of the glorious live oaks.

And then how to lay out the sidewalk at the birthplace house, a nice curve, parking problems there for future use, whether or not a curb. I very much want some sort of graveled surface even if it is hard, rather than the bald newness of concrete. Then the need for an extension or apron here at the front gates, the South gate, to avoid

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 2

*at the Ranch house.*  
that muddy entrance. And the same at the West gate. There we run  
*Saturday ripples*  
into the problem of my beloved ~~Mr. Dale Ripple~~ limestone that used  
to lie at the bottom of an inland sea close to the shoreline and is now  
cracking rather badly. Perhaps it will have to be replaced with the  
same thing laid on a permanent cement foundation.

I am discovering more and more this house, this place, is  
built for many people and many years. We'll have to stand up to them.  
We must keep the parking on the west side. And we discussed the  
problem, reached a possible decision, of an extension of the Ripple  
limestone with about a 4-foot sidewalk parallel to the fence so that  
cars might drive up to it facing inward and retain parking for about  
5 or 6 cars on that west side.

Then the Johnson City trees. Mr. Carter had said this morning  
he was quite capable of locating good 15 feet live oaks and getting them  
planted at the proper time in November. I think I'll try to get A. W.  
to create some small body called perhaps the "Johnson City Improvement  
Association" which ought to be able to get that tax-exempt letter thing  
from the Internal Revenue Service. And then Lynda Bird can give her  
donation to it and so can I and perhaps others. This will begin streets  
trees and maybe a future park.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 3

By that time I was getting a little haggard with problems. So we took a mug of beer and went up to the porch on the second floor -- such a wonderful view of the river and never used and terribly dirty -- and spread out the number one problem on the table between us. We talked about enlarging our two bedrooms on the east side. We were interrupted -- our lunch -- by Roy and the kinfolks who had returned from a wonderful two or three-hour trip to Johnson City -- Lyndon's boyhood home with Jessie Hunter, to the bank and every little thing~~x~~ there is to see there. And then after lunch, back upstairs for real work on the addition.

This I look upon as my retreat for my old age -- my place away from the world. I told Roy what I wanted in my room -- bookshelves, a fireplace <sup>over the</sup> ~~out of~~ door, and a view. A view is a darn hard thing to come by even in this lovely country with the carport on one side and the parking area and storage bins on the other. But Roy works with such loving care for us. And there will be a wonderful view from Lyndon's room, and we'll share the best walk-in closet anybody could hope for. The point is it must not be a crash program. We must work toward something I'll be satisfied with and love for the rest of my life. This is it. Roy is one of the great pluses in my life. In fact there are so many people that I have worked with that I feel close to.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 4

Suddenly I felt just too exhausted to drive into Johnson City with him and look at the second floor of the bank as Lyndon had asked me to. So instead I just looked at the plans which I found actually rather good and said that's great with me. I bid him goodbye and lay~~ed~~ down for a little rest which didn't turn out to be a rest at all, but "Project Family", "Project Calming the Waters" after Luci's being baptized into the Catholic church.

First, I talked to Lyndon. He did sound lonesome. He said he was coming this weekend, that I could proceed to set up the meeting of <sup>Winston</sup> ~~Weston~~ and Cameron and Mr. Hackney and Don Thomas and John Ben for Saturday night. And Peter Hurd for work on the portrait if he could come.

History is my preoccupation -- our niche<sup>in it</sup> ~~nette~~ I mean -- of the next year or so. And a portrait counts and a library counts. And then of course Lyndon's day-to-day achievements and burdens and the way he carries them count most of all. Those I cannot control. I can only help on.

He said George Reedy was leaving quite soon to go to Mayo's for the operation on his feet. That Bill Moyers was taking over. He talked mostly about Luci.

SANTIZED

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 5

occasion to preach a sermon -- I don't know the exact content -- the gist was that she had done wrong. I hear that a good many sermons have been preached on the subject. Thank God to my knowledge Bishop Hines, Bill Baxter and Reverend Sumners have not opened their mouths! Anybody that hurts his little girl wounds Lyndon deeply. And he feels that she is high strung, upset, in an almost frightening condition. He had made her stay with him as many hours as he could when he was off of work.

And so I called Luci, and I found, from her standpoint, that she had been consoling him. She said, "But you know that bad man didn't come home until 12:00 for dinner last night. But I was the best daughter I could be, and I tried to help him."

I could hear through the brittle veneer the cheer and lightness in her voice -- that she was a damaged little girl. She actually feels she may have had an adverse effect on the ecumenical movement. She said, "Mother, I thought I was supposed to be baptized. I want to do everything. I want to go all the way. And I thought that was all I was supposed to do."

She had with her at that very moment Bishop Hannon and she asked me to talk to him. She had been, I think, very much reassured by talking with him. I gathered he had been there with her several hours and had sort of taken charge of the situation.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 6

I talked to Bishop Hannon and found him a very considerate, capable sounding man who inspires trust even on the telephone. He had talked to Lyndon too. The gist of it was the apostolic delegate was willing to issue a statement which would attempt to take Luci out of the picture. And that it had been decided -- and I think that Jack Valenti had had a hand in this -- that it would be the wiser thing *for* of Bishop Hannon to issue the statement, the general gist of which was that it had been the decision of Father James Montgomery, after due and earnest consideration to Baptize Luci -- using the word "conditional" baptism -- that the church did accept as valid baptism by any other church according to christian principles. And that their action indicated no reflection on her previous baptism by the Episcopal Church. I asked to add the phrase of which Miss Luci Johnson had been a good and faithful member since early childhood.

And so the statement will be made, and I hope this will be the last statement, and that the matter can rest in peace.

I told him I wanted her conversion to be a bridge and not a barrier. And I think the ecumenical movement is one of the big things of this century -- one of the great human pluses. I believe our mistake was in following exactly the advice of Father Montgomery alone without seeking the counsel of some perhaps wiser individual -- higher in the hierarchy of the church -- and perhaps more knowledgeable about

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 7

public relations aspect. And perhaps also someone in the Episcopal Church.

Well, one can only go forward and not back. So I tried to console and love.

I wished I could have been more use to Lyndon. He said, "Things are not going well here -- appointments are not. It's hard to get really good men. Viet-Nam is getting worse day by day. I have the choice to go in with great casualty lists or to get out with great disgrace. It's like being in an airplane and I have to choose between crashing the plane or jumping out. I do not have a parachute". There had been some bad columns. When he is pierced, I bleed. It's a bad time all around. But maybe he will have two good days at home.

And so at 4:00 I went into Agnes' Beauty Parlor for a swift hair-do -- <sup>my</sup> well liking of small town life rises. I wonder how it would survive really living here.

And then almost 6:30 we helicoptered over to the Haywood for something I had wanted most of all to do, -- having Walter and Margery <sup>Joie</sup> to dinner. And they brought three of their children -- John and Joe and little Lyndon. I told them to bring everybody they wanted. And Jesse Kellam. And all of my Alabama kinfolks who had met Walter, and talked of Autauga County property and Uncle Claude's inheritance and all those things through the years.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 8

We boated slowly down the lake. Edwina and I sat on the top deck with pillows behind us and drinks in hand, looking at the cliffs and the pink and blue sky. And she talked about penology. I got Liz to listen because I knew she would be interested. <sup>Edwina</sup> ~~She~~ has between three and four hundred women in her prison -- their sentences ranging from one year to life -- the most common crimes being shoplifting and forgery and a heavy sprinkling of crimes of violence -- cutting up and killing some woman over jealousy of their husband or boyfriend because of ill treatment or jealousy.

The system in Alabama -- the prison system -- is not actually supported by the State except about 20 percent. The other 80 percent they have to make through work, on a prison farm, in a textile mill where they make denim and cotton crash goods. They also teach them a great variety of business courses -- typing, shorthand, bookkeeping -- this at night after they have worked all day. The <sup>in</sup> success stories are not many because if they get <sup>out</sup> ~~back~~ and go right back to the same environment they fall back into the same old rut. If they are able to get out and get a good job -- if their intelligence and ambition is sufficient to enable them to take the training offered -- then when they get out it is a different story -- a job and a new start.

And we had a delightful time talking with Walter and Margery <sup>you</sup> ~~Margery~~ about their home. Margery <sup>you</sup> loves it. It's the best home they've ever

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Page 9

had. Walter has three employees in his office. I've been told by Abe that he has some six good clients. He's better off financially than he has ever been. He takes fairly frequent trips to New York, Washington, Mexico City.

They have a boat. He said they run the tail off it. <sup>John</sup> Margery had water skied for two hours that day. She goes to coffees and teas. I understand their acceptance in Austin has been mostly good -- some hold-backs, some little slurs -- loving efforts by loving friends.

We talked about my tenant problems -- possible life estate for Charlie <sup>Catler</sup> ~~Kudde~~ -- what we could do about the old folks that were ~~just~~ living their lives out there, producing nothing. And rent, <sup>how</sup> ~~but~~ lots, and ugly stories in the newspapers.

And then back on the patio for a good barbeque dinner and an early trip home.

I am getting frantic for sleep. I shamelessly take a sleeping pill each night. But for several weeks now I awake and awake and awake -- sleep scantily and not that deep refreshing sleep. Only a few times do I. But tonight I had the best night's sleep that I've had in a long time despite waking up at 2:00 with a fluttery, pounding, nervous feeling and reading an Agatha Christy <sup>ve</sup> mystery for a couple of hours. However, I went back to sleep and it was great relaxation until about 8:30.