

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, July 13, 1965

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It was a full day of decorating, -- one of the main things I came to the Ranch for.

Nancy Negley arrived at 9:30 bringing Weldon Shaffield^e with her, the San Antonio decorator. I had the walls of the dining room at the Ranch lined with paintings that had never yet found a home -- lamps, decorative objects, the sort of things that one accumulates from a political trip to Brownwood or a visit to Thailand, a wide range that might add color or interest to this house or the Sharnhorst or the Lewis or the Haywood. And we ranged from room to room beginning upstairs and moving, placing, deciding, having^{the} a sort of a good time that only a born housewife can understand.

Then we stopped for a souffle lunch, and I had a small nap while Nancy and Weldon continued.

Then we drove over to the Lewis with John William Klein and a stationwagon full of props. We talked about curtains for it and an antique pine table from some pioneer kitchen to highlight the lovely wall hanging. And we returned to the Ranch about 6:00.

Then we helicoptered over to the Haywood and Pat Taylor and John William followed us with an assortment of colorful things -- paintings, lamps, wood carvings, that might add life to the place where we now spend so many of our evenings.

But first we went out on the boat and in the twilight slowly made

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our way down the Llano River to the confluence with the Colorado. And this is where I heard about the large house that we had all admired on top of the rocks that looks like it grows out of the rocks. It is owned by some people named Ershel. He is the son of the Ershel who was kidnapped some years ago. The wife is a good friend of Nancy's and Weldon had done the house for them.

Nancy and Liz and I dived off the boat back close to the Haywood house, and I swam all the way across the river to touch the opposite boat house landing and saw the name of the people who owned it -- H. B. Crase. And then swam back feeling very much in command of myself and life by some physical exertion.

Just then John William Klein and Pat Taylor joined us so that they could have a taste of the fun. We boated upstream while the moon rose. And then back to have dinner at 9:00 on the patio.

The most significant part of the day of course had been an interruption which Liz in a most motherly fashion had herded us into -- not that I was going to forget it, but Liz reminded us at least three times to convene around the TV set and watch Lyndon on his news conference.

There were three main pieces of news -- the appointment of a new U. S. Solicitor General -- that's the third ranking post in the Justice Department and it's Thurgood Marshall -- the first Negro to hold such

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a post -- the grandson of a slave -- a man with a wonderful record.

^{that} But Lyndon feels he can be surely proud of. And then second -- and this gives me particular pleasure -- Leonard Marks to be the new head of the USIA replacing Carl Rowan. We'll have to take some knocks on that one because he has for long represented KTBC. But his work on educational television in Pakistan and Pango Pango, on the founding board of the Communications Satellite Corporation, and his brains and energy all make it worth the knocks we will get. The New York Times described him as bouncy and brilliant. We need a lot of that sort in this Administration -- and in any Administration. And then third, a very attractive woman, Penelope Hartland Thunberg -- Ph. D., Phi Beta Kapa, good looking -- as a United States Tariff Commissioner.

The most dramatic part of the conference was the reference to Dean Rusk. Somehow or other they keep on needling him these last two weeks -- almost trying to undermine him and to seek his resignation -- the press does. They asked if he foresees any such resignation in the months to come. The President replied, "None whatever. I think you do a great damage and great disservice to one of the most able and competent and most dedicated men I have ever known -- Secretary Rusk. He sits to my right in the Cabinet Room, he ranks first in the Cabinet, and he ranks first with me. "

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I felt like rising from my chair and clapping.

Later when we talked that night I could tell him I had liked it and all the parts I liked particularly -- maybe a little slow, maybe not enough spice or laughter -- but solid good -- I would depend upon that man if I were John Citizen looking in on from my living room.

The press has been boiling these last few days with Schlesinger's account of how Lyndon became Vice President. Everybody's got to have his say about it. Everybody but us.

Back at the Ranch by 10:00 we said goodnight to Nancy. She is such a dear, easy friend. I enjoy our days together even if we never talk in between for months on end.

And then I finished my good Agatha Christy mystery and went to sleep.