

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965 WHD

Page 1

It began early when Jack, in Lyndon's bedroom, sometime after 7:30 said, "I must go see a showing of this film at the State Department -- the one we are preparing for the 'Salute to Congress'". Lyndon said, "Let's go with him. Can you get ready in 5 minutes?" In my gown with an unwashed face I said it will take me 10. And sure enough in 10 minutes we dashed out the door, raced to the State Department, walking in about 8:15 with the early shift and saw the three-screen documentary put together by HEW of the achievements of the 89th Congress. It was moving and beautiful-I thought, but showed the haste with which it had been put together and needed a thrilling, big name narrator.

Gregory Peck was on the row in front of us, and he had been signed up to do the narrating in the next few hours. The whole thing is to be shown tonight, or Thursday night. Logistically, it will be a hard thing to do. And to my surprise, Lyndon and Jack did not agree with me that it was good. Actually, I was relieved because, added to the 50 minute show we already had for the "Salute to Congress", it would be too much entertainment, too hard to mesh -- the screens, the lights, the props.

And then next there was a signing in the East Room at 10:00 of the \$340 million bill providing grants to medical centers fighting heart disease, cancer and stroke. Lyndon had referred to it as setting up

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965

Page 2

a bunch of little Mayos around all over the country. "So Dale Malechek and Alvin Sultemeier can get to them." This was one I wanted to see -- one of those I am proudest of.

Lyndon and I walked in with everybody seated, and I took my seat on the front row along with John Gardner of HEW and ^{Lister} Hill, the father of all the medical legislation in the Senate, the Surgeon General. And behind us, Mary Lasker and Florence Mahoney.

It was a beautiful tribute -- Lyndon's speech was -- to the men who occupied ^{themselves} in the restoration of health to other men. He never once mentioned his own problem, making it all the more dramatic. But he threw in an impromptu accolade to Lister and to Mary Lasker. And then he gave out pens, and I gathered up Mary and her guest, Mrs. Patanian of France and Florence Mahoney and we went upstairs for a quick cup of coffee and planned for Mary and Nash and ^{me} to drive around over the city at 2:00 to look at several entrances to Washington. There is a possibility of making one of them a pilot project in beautifying an entrance with the cash on hand in the Society for a More Beautiful Capital. Meanwhile we would have Madame Patanian take a tour of the White House.

Lyndon was having a whirlwind of a day. After the signing, a walk around the White House grounds with the dogs, shaking hands with tourists, taping a speech, seeing a delegation from Appalachia, popping

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965

Page 3

in at the National Press Club luncheon for cartoonists, consultations with his economical and ^{7 ch tape} physical advisors as though to show the world how tough, how well, how indestructible he was on the eve of going to the hospital.

I worked at my desk until 2:00. And then Mary and Nash and I drove for a couple of hours around the approaches to the 14th Street Bridge -- one of the main entrances from the National Airport and also from the south and west. And then the entrance on the Southwest Freeway down close to the Capitol which is pictured in Mary's booklet, right over Maine Avenue, I believe it is, between 7th and 9th. And it proves so hard to approach from the angle that we wanted to approach it that after about 40 minutes driving I felt like Lyndon's story about the drunk giving directions on how to get to the Post Office which ended -- "You can't get there from here!"

The National Park Service has a reasonably good budget, and the District of Columbia is something of a stepchild -- little money, little aggressiveness and not the zeal of the Park Service. So it behooves us to spend our money, I suppose, on ground that belongs to the District of Columbia and try to win all the cooperation we can get between D.C. with the National Park Service and the State of Virginia since those three between them command the entrances to the Capital City.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965

Page 4

We did not find the perfect spot. We did find some good prospects. We did not have time to go out New York Avenue -- the major entrance from the north and east and the shabbiest of all. So that awaits another time, and Mary flew off to Washington and I flew back to the White House just in time to dress for the 5:00 Reception for the new members of Congress -- that is, the Democratic freshmen, who are so largely responsible -- the 70 or so of them -- for the fabulous success of Lyndon's programs in this Congress.

Once more we were seated in the East Room -- it takes on more and more the aspect of a seminar in an unusual University.

Lyndon welcomed and praised and thanked. And then Larry O'Brien took over with charts that showed the 70 or so bills that went into the hopper at the beginning, the progress in June, the status now, how many passed or awaiting some committee action and how many yet to come up on the floor -- only four I believe.

Then in the Blue Room we all had our pictures made again. The only reason I approve of doing it twice is my own keen regret that I never got any at all of us together with FDR in the 8 years we served under him.

Our three Texans were there -- the Earle Cabells, the attractive de la Garzas and the young Richard White. And Hale Boggs for the leadership. And the Speaker, alone. Several of the Congressmen

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965

Page 5

had very nice things to say to me about the Highway Improvement Bill.

I believe Representative [?]Dyol and Farnsley of Kentucky and Roy MacVicar. *ch*
name

We went into the State Dining Room for drinks and buffet. And for one of the few times in my White House tenure I did not linger at a party. I had a quick drink, a word or two with three or four couples. And then at 10 minutes past six, saying goodbye to nobody, I went upstairs asking Lyndon to follow me later. But not until he had spent all the time he wanted to with these guests so important to whatever success he achieves.

Upstairs it was quite a different party -- one I had looked forward to for oddly sentimental reasons. It was the acceptance of the Jacob Epstein bust of Winston Churchill which is being presented to the White House by his war-time friends. Actually, it was Averell Harriman's idea. I have become very fond of him, partly because he's indestructible, handsome at 70 or so, works hard in his country's service, and remembers his ^{old} ~~own~~ friends, ^{as} ~~who~~ witnessed the monument to FDR and now this bust of Churchill. But the other donors, former Ambassadors to Great Britain, not all were present. The Winthrop Aldriches were not, but David Bruce was. And war time Comrade at Arms such as ^{Spats} ~~Carl Spats~~ and General Frederick Anderson -- the latter had flown all the way from Europe just for this hour -- and General Eisenhower, who couldn't be here but had sent a sweet note. And Ira ^{Eaker} ~~Acker~~ who *ch*
spelling
was here.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965

Page 6

A very noteworthy guest was youthful, pink-cheeked, Winston Churchill and his pretty wife. He's the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill and he is touring the United States making lectures ^{about?} ~~while~~ his travels over Africa in a single engine plane.

It was an evening of nostalgia. Anna Roosevelt and her husband, Dr. James Halsted, were there. And also the Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.'s. And Bill White and Eddie ^{Fullard} ~~Fulyard~~. And no greater admirer of Winston Churchill than Bill White who had been in England as a war correspondant before and after D-Day. And the widow of Edward R. Murrow. And the British Ambassador and Lady Dean. And Kay Halley who had been very instrumental in getting legislation introduced to make Sir Winston an honorary citizen of the United States.

We had a little ceremony with some graceful words by Averell Harriman. And then by Lyndon, moving through his fast-pace ^d day, and finished with his freshmen Congressmen, ^{had} ~~and~~ joined us about 2 minutes before. And the response by Sir Patrick Dean. And then I felt moved to express myself. Usually I am dragged by duty or shoved by Liz. But this time I wanted to talk, and I felt that I did it well. In fact, I was quite elated and only later heard from Lyndon that he could only understand about half of what I had said; but since lots of people told me it was very good I decided he really was hard of hearing.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965

Page 7

But one of the nicest moments was a thoughtful suggestion of Averell Harriman that we ask young Winston Churchill to say a few words. And if the words didn't exactly dazzle, the name did.

He is a healthy, charming, ruddy faced youngster. And I'll listen for what happens to him.

It was in all a very pleasant hour and a half, much of which I spent telling Averell Harriman just a very few of the nice things I think about him and feeling sorry that his 90-year old cousin, Daisy Harriman, hadn't been able to accept. She had written a nice note. She just didn't feel up to coming.

I am trying to get to know the British Ambassador and Lady Dean a little better.

And telling ~~that~~ Anna Hopkins Baxter -- the daughter of Harry Hopkins -- about a picture of her, age ⁷, with her father and President FDR that had hung on Lyndon's walls all the years that he was in the House of Representatives.

And David Bruce -- our Ambassador to Great Britain -- how enchanted Lynda Bird was with his wife, Evangeline, when she had called on us.

Everyone left early, and Lyndon vanished back to his office and I realized that this long full day, that in the morning seemed so endless, lay now quite placidly before me.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, October 6, 1965

Page 8

I had a little time with Luci who sometimes behaves like a free psychiatrist. In describing me she said, "You stand up there like you were heroine number one -- nothing can hurt you -- you do not need his help." (She was speaking of Lyndon -- she also thinks I act like I do not need anyone's help). "If he has left you out of any part of his life, it is your own fault."

One thing about Luci, she is very sure of her verdicts. She is delightful, opinionated, sometimes uncomfortably intuitive, and a joy to have for a daughter.

I called Jim Cain and Willis Hurst, and they came down and we were ready for a quiet dinner which Lyndon came tamely enough at 8:00 -- much to my joy. Jim said the blessing. It was wholesome, happy company, enlivened by Luci's presence part of the time and the volley of teasing -- she and her Daddy. And then by 10:00 we were in bed. Even the night reading did not detain Lyndon much beyond 11:00.