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Wednesday, January 19th was full of activity, and hopefully some achievement. In the morning there were those necessary things of fitting clothes with Lucinda, who is such a dear, and then my ~~vdl~~/volatile friend Jean Louis, and then back for the big event of the day, the beautification meeting at 2:30.

First there was a picture of the committee at the foot of the stairs where we always take pictures of state visitors -- a good representation, Stu Udall, Katie Louchheim, <sup>Not Owens</sup> ~~Ned Owens~~, Libby Rowe, Walter Tobiner, Bill Walton, Walter Washington, the indispensable Nash Castro, and our three press members Rudolph and a Kauffman, Walker Stone, and Kay Graham, / ~~A~~ good many of the other lacking sadly <sup>Lauren</sup> members, ~~sadly lacking~~ - Harry and ~~March~~ Rockefeller who are both in Hawaii. <sup>Henry Diamond, perhaps?</sup>

It was a day of reports. General Duke, engineer commissioner for the District Highway Department, reported on the joint efforts of the District, Maryland and Virginia, to improve the highway approaches to the Capitol. Maryland will <sup>land</sup>landscape two major approaches, and Virginia has ~~the~~ three projects. The District highway department will have five new areas, including doleful New York Avenue, and in addition ten permanent entrance signs. And the National Park Service, that greatest reservoir of help, has four projects at major entrances, and in addition new blooms all along the lovely George Washington Parkway from the National Airport past the 14th Street Bridge. All

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of this is the result of a cooperative effort that Mary Lasker got going on December 1st. In Lyndon's words, she is a "can-do" woman.

Then a Scotsman, who looked like he was right off the stage, with a big moustache and a staccato delivery faster than I could hear, talked to us about the psychology of the Washington area. He had been hired by the Planning Commission to make a comprehensive plan for landscaping the District. BUT LIKE Lyndon's story about the little boy in school who had to do a theme on Finland, — His father in the State Department brought him a whole bushel basket full of pamphlets, ~~and~~ I, too, felt this is more about the subject than I want to know.

And then SUTTON LETT spoke about what is coming up this Spring. It is some 400,000 bulbs in 67 areas in local parks, and in addition Rock Creek and the Potomac Parkway, and 15,000 trees ~~xxx~~ and shrubs for which ~~Lawrence~~ <sup>Guarantee</sup> Rockefeller gave the money less than a year ago. They have a task force - 6 landscape architects in the National Park Service working on 61 additional areas. I feel there is one part of the government I have come to know this year and that is the National Park Service.

The Bill Walton reported on a pilot project that is being set up to make an existing parking lot look good with planting and screening. Also on a project to design city streets signs with better taste. Stu Udall told us about some legislation that is under way to establish a

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visitor's center in Washington, and at last my friend Walter Washington brought us up to date on the school situation. Nine schools have been completed with 51 more on the "must" list. He gets right down to people in his reports, and injects more enthusiasm. He makes me want to go to work more than any one of them. <sup>#</sup> Last, Nash Castro announced the donations that have come in since we last met. The Washington Post and Kay Graham, \$15,000. \$12,000 from the American Association of Nurserymen. \$10,000 from the Martin Foundation. And Katie and Walter Louchheim something over \$5,000, and I am very proud to say \$5,000 from Houston, Texas, from Olga Wise ~~(?)~~ Weiss (?). \$2500.00 from the National Geographic Society. And others ranging to \$1.21 from the elementary school City, children of Nevada / Calif. Stu had already announced a great gift from the Mellons of \$409,000 for Lafayette Park which went direct to the National Park Service. Then I invited everybody in for tea and more talk. It turned out to be cocktails. I thanked Kay for her contribution, Polly for making green thumb a reality, asked poor beleaguered Walter Tobiner to please start cleaning up the magnolias on the median strip on Connecticut Avenue, <sup>me</sup> and applauded Mr. Ritten of the Virginia Highway Department, and Mr. Atkins of the Maryland Highway Department for their swift and good action. Talked with Bill Walton about driving along New York Avenue

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sometime, and with Libby whom I believe feels that the freeways are giant BRONTOSAURUS devouring our country.

And then everyone was gone about five-thirty, and there were hours to dictate and read and work. Finally, about ten-fifteen I went over to Lyndon's office to see if I could bring him and his work home along with whoever was there. He was in his small office with Harry McPherson and Joe Califano. They were talking about legislation, in the message to Congress about the four year term for Congressmen. It was nearly eleven when I got them home. Zephyr had a good dinner for us. Lyndon ate entirely too much. He is gaining once more after 4-1/2 months of the most rigid self-discipline.

It had been a full day, and <sup>Indira Gandhi</sup> ~~Indira Gandhi~~ (2) had been named India's Prime Minister. The Inaugural Committee had <sup>wound</sup> ~~would~~ up its ~~work~~ work and Dale Miller after leaving a pad of \$50,000 for the next Inaugural had donated the remaining \$25,000 to the Society for Capitol. a More Beautiful/ Susan is in the hospital with bleeding ulcers. So there is much to worry about, to work at, to be thankful for.

During dinner Lyndon talked about the newspapers, and their mounting hostility, and day by day slicing of him. He said, "We are too close to Appomattox." These bigoted Yankees won't let me unite the country. They won't let me be President of all the

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people." It was nearly 1:00 when Harry and Joe left, and unhappily

Lyndon read the paper. If ~~only I could stop the~~ only I could stop the

night reading and the paper, and save the problems for morning,

we would sleep better! Drew Pearson had a column which said Luci  
two

had failed ~~two~~ subjects and had engineered Pat's transfer to Washington.

Both lies. But how do you meet him in his arena? Feeling infinitely

sorry for Lyndon and Pat and Luci, I nevertheless managed to go to

sleep about one o'clock.

Another slug in the personal vendetta -- a three column story

about Tony being off on a trip for AID~~Y~~ at \$75.00 a day; a story about

the first Negro in the Cabinet <sup>Rated</sup> ~~stated~~ a third as much.