

January 26, 1966
Wednesday

What is happening to my vaunting^{ed} energy? I am no longer rampant to get up and go to work. And I slept until nearly ten! [#] There is a particular pleasure in having house guests in the White House because you think it means so much to them. It's nice to have Eloise and Homer here. I had asked some of Eloise's special friends, Scooter Miller and Ann Worley and ⁷ ~~Mattie Lee~~ Madelee Grant and Millie Hudson, Elizabeth Hutchinson André Lindow and Zenda Pipkin to come over and have coffee with us in the morning. We sat in the Yellow Room and discussed all sort of feminine chatter. Most of us old friends from Texas^{as} were Scooter or Ann Worley, Liz or Zinda^{or} from the 75th Club, As was Madelee. And Andre is almost a God-mother to Luci, who came bounding in to hug those she loved. It's between terms and she is making the most of it.

It was a morning with that particular comfort of being with old friends. Madelee's daughter is going to be Cherry Blossom Princess from Alabama. And Gene Worley, after surgery and a very bad time, is going to be finally able to eat barbeque in the back yard once more and have us all over! And Millie Hudson is going through ~~am~~/that cruelly lonely time of being a new widow. When they left I worked on my clothes for the New York trip. And then when Lyndon came in with Secretary Rusk and

Admiral Raborn and ~~Met~~^C George, and George Ball and Jack, he asked me to have a bite of lunch with them. George Ball told a delightful story about Harriman which is characteristic of the way that he has behaved as a public servant. Especially in the last years of his life. And apparently ~~in a~~^{the} dream he may have had about being President^{has} dissipated and certainly without any bitterness on his part. It seemed that President Kennedy had called him up while he was overseas and asked him to take a job in the State Department. They talked and Harriman agreed. Later on he said to George "the connection was not very good, did he say Under Secretary of European Affairs or Far Eastern Affairs?" That's him, he'll tackle ^{any} job! Dean Rusk said that Harriman's willingness to serve in a post that after all wasn't exactly the top echelon, and he a man of such calibre, had meant a lot to the morale of the State Department. [#] The conversation got around to the great quantity of Senators who had gone to Vietnam when Congress was out of session. Lyndon was particularly uncomfortable about having Teddy Kennedy go. Rusk had told him that he absolutely must take all safety precautions he was asked to. And nevertheless he had gone in helicopters or places where it was perhaps wisest not to go, Lyndon said we ^(the country) just couldn't afford another tragedy in the Kennedy family. Rusk

used an expression that somehow laid a man's value on the line in a rather fearsome way. He was loathe but would be finally ^{be} willing to let any of the politicians go who were "constitutionally expendable." That means that the President or the Vice President or anybody in the direct line of succession he would bar from going if he could. Or so it sounded to me. [#] Then was the time to sign mail and shortly after four I had tea with André Meyer who has given the Mary Cassatt to the White House. And who, with Mary Lasker, is donating the cherry trees for the magnificent project at Haines Point. But all of this is anonymous! It was ~~just~~ my great hope in this hour to ^{learn more about} ~~explore~~ him and to let him know how much it meant to this house and those who would live in it and to all the thousands of tourists and Washingtonians who would drive around Haines Point. Think what the Tidal Basin has meant to this town! It's probably everybody's first mental picture of Washington. — Cherry trees and water and monuments. And it began with the gift of the cherry trees at the Japanese government in 1912. It proved a fascinating hour for me. An international financier, a Frenchman with a heavy accent, he lives his life mostly in New York, and also in Paris and London. He is Mary Lasker's great friend and financial adviser and a gentle generous rather sentimental human being. He has been coming to this

house during the administrations of four Presidents. Quite a few times, under Roosevelt, he told me, when he was able to be of some service to the President, in international financial matters and also during Truman's time here. And then, with a slightest change in inflection in the voice, ^{he} "did not come much during the Eisenhower time." I am not sure whether he said not at all. And then, another noticeable change, "quite frequently during the time when Kennedy was President." He was ^{one} of twelve people to be de-nationalized along with DeGaulle, ~~and~~ ^{when} the Vichy government was in power in France. And he has been a U. S. citizen for a long time. I asked him who he knew in the Cabinet and it turned out that Trudy Fowler was his very special friend and for a delightful reason. He had been having a late business conference with Joe. Joe had asked him to go home with him. Trudy had cooked the dinner and this he found a very pleasing thing. "Because," he said "of my humble origin." So I called Bess and asked her to seat him between Trudy and Eloise. [#] Then a little more phoning a little later on to get special Cabinet friends to take care of guests who I thought might be lonesome. And then it was time for the big event of the day. The dinner in honor of the Vice President and the Chief Justice. But first there was a moment of posing in front of the Mary Cassatt for an article

in Red Book. A long picture session by some very ~~avant-garde~~ ^{avant-garde} bearded photographer who turned out to be just like the rest of us in that they wanted autographs for their neices and nephews. ~~And~~ [#] And then it was time to go into the yellow Oval Room to meet our upstairs guests. I had called back a couple of times to make sure that Hubert and Muriel had put any of their children on the lists who might enjoy coming and I was particularly glad that their Nancy and her husband did come. And the Chief Justice's family was there in full number. The John Dalys, the James Warrens, I believe it could have been their young son, who had been so particularly nice to our children ~~at~~ ^{at} And the Young Republicans for Johnson meetings in California. And Carmen and Warren Clementi. We had a nice family time in the Yellow Room upstairs. And then the colors preceded us downstairs and to the glorious strains of Hail To The Chief we marched down... The pictures made at the bottom of the stairs. I was in my yellow dress and they were good enough. But much the most dramatic picture ~~was~~ ^{was} the Humphreys arriving in the snow storm out front. And what a storm it was! Adding a certain zest to the evening. And then a sense of drama as we marched into the East Room.

*Believe
intent
was* ~~How many times will we do it~~ ^{How many times will we do it} without that quickening of the pulse. ~~#~~ [#] All of the Justices were there and all of the members of the Cabinet except Stewart who was out of town making a speech, with Lee gaily substituting

for both of them. Even though the Speaker was absent because of his brother's death, and he is in mourning, it was a good representation from his side and it was particularly delightful to see Catherine Long with Russell. To Senator Saltonstall I had a moment to say that it was with a pang that I had read that he was going to retire. There were the Everett Dirksen^s like characters out of a play. ^aShakespearean one. I was very sorry that the Smathers and the Kuchel^s were not there... Some of the youngest and most attractive ones. But most of the other leadership was. Mansfields and the ^aParents and the Boggs and the Alberts and the Fords and the Moss^{es}. And Admiral Raborn who has the most thankless job in town. And that most un-party goer J. Edgar Hoover. I was glad to have put on the list myself a new appointee the Solicitor General, Thurgood Marshall. And among Texans, the Bill ^{Baure}~~Bowers~~ were there. Erin Farfills of Houston. The John Hills of Cypress Mills. It turned out ^{that} ~~for~~ Mr. Hill ^{was} ~~to be~~ almost seven feet tall, and of course Elise who I had tuned in to take care of several guests. [#]~~and~~ from the world of arts the Felix DuWeldons, who had done a medallion for the Inaugural. And Alan Jay Lerner from My Fair Lady and Brigadoon... More hits than I can name. And handsome Hugh O'Brien. I danced with him later. It was one of the high points of the evening for me.

From the world of education, Dr. Lee D^obridge,
President of the California Institute of Technology
at Pasadena. And a very attractive couple, Dr. and
Mrs. James Hester, President of New York University.
And there were old friends there. The ^{Welly}~~Wally~~ Hopkins.
I had been waiting for a chance to have them for a
dinner. And lots of staff, many of whom I have been
able to ask at the last minute because of the snow —
the Califano's, the Hornigs, The Bill Crocketts of
the State Department, And Dr. Wayne Grover, with
whom I worked on the Library. At my table I had the
Vice President on my right, always insuring a
delightful evening. And the Chief Justice, the
kindest, most solid of gentlemen. How he ever wound
up ^{with} the billboard's demanding his impeachment is one
of the peculiarities of this age. Dr. Howard Mitchell
by all odds, was the gayest member of our table. Full
of stories of the world of music and a grandfather.
He had just become a grandfather of twins weighing
nine pounds and three ounces and eight pounds and five
ounces. His son married Sylvia, daughter of the
Austrian Ambassador. Libbie Cater, ^{then} ~~to~~ Mike Mansfield —
very silent, Elizabeth Black, always sweet and contribu-
ting, and the smooth attractive Mrs. Hester and Mr.
Justice White composed our table. [#] I wonder if everybody ^{dr}~~ed~~
looked at the food as they came by them with the same

eagle eye I did.² All this foolishness about Renee leaving and us borrowing a Chef! But it turned out to be a delicious dinner. The main course named Filet of Beef Waverly after Hubert's home and the dessert, Strawberries Nina, after Mrs. Warren. And then a toast from Lyndon in the State Dining Room which made ~~we~~^{me} realize that we had to get ~~used~~^{used} in better on the technological device of such things because after all this is a house and not a stage. We only began hearing him on the second paragraph. It's always comfortable and reassuring and happy to sit by Hubert. What a good quality. And the ~~enormous~~ presence of the Chief Justice always makes me think ~~that~~ ^{this} Republic with its dual party system is a pretty durable solid place. [#] So I enjoyed my evening, but I wouldn't name it one of those that glittered and glowed. Then after coffee and brandies we went in to hear Tammy Grimes sing songs from the Unsinkable Molly Brown. A good friend of ours had said that Luci reminded her of Tammy Grimes in that play. I had asked Luci to stop in and meet us in the Yellow Room or to show up with the entertainment. She didn't. Later on I heard that she had strolled through the halls in an orange sweater and slacks with a pail full of fried chicken from some Hot Shoppe place that she had dispensed to all the guards outside in the snow who had wanted some. She has a talent for ~~leaving~~^{living} her individual

life! Long, long after the entertainment when Lyndon left, which of course was duly noted, especially by Maxine Cheshire next day, who said ["]guests came later and some VIP's left early.["] How well I remember all the days of the Eisenhower Administration. ^(Rayburn) When Lyndon and the Speaker pulled me protesting from the State Dining Room to the car without seeing the entertainment, and I knew there was at least one woman who would understand ^{that} Lyndon was not really a candidate for a higher office and that was Miss McCafferty, the ^(Eisenhower) social secretary. I stayed to dance and talk to Victory ^{Pisell}, the blind columnist, with the Texans, especially Alice and ^{reedy} ~~Willis~~, and to listen to Hugh O'Brien's poignant recital, taking the tapes in the hospital in Vietnam from the wounded soldiers, ^{he} keeping the party ~~by~~ going as best my presence could, after Lyndon left, ^{with} the snowstorm continued ~~and then~~ its added measure of coziness and threat and then a little after twelve, I, too, left for upstairs while the music slowed and guests departed.