

January 27, 1966
Thursday

WND

Bess and I left the snowy Washington on an early plane for New York. We thought we would have to catch the train. But a lull in ^{the} storm and a quick decision put us on the Shuttle and we were at the Carlisle by 10:45 and I spent all day in that world of fashion. The morning with Molly Parnes^{is}? The afternoon with Mr. St. ^{Maur}Moir? and I hope I'll get enough clothes in these years never to have to go back again! But while I am here I want to look as well as I can for Lyndon and for this role. When it was over I found myself quite tired so I treated myself to a facial and lying in bed reading an F. Scott Fitzgerald book of short stories, while I looked out the window at the incomparable view of New York as twilight deepened. The memory of the Princess and the fairy tower is a little more remote now. [#] And then the big event of the day. Tonight Brook^AAstor, (Mrs. Vincent Astor,) and Jane and Charles Englehard gave a dinner party for me. It was in Brook's exquisite apartment filled with paintings, things I recognized — a Matisse of a castle? and ^aFragnard^o... The most beautifully arranged flowers. Pale apricot tulips and pear and cherry blossoms that belied the snow outside... I wore my green St. ^{Maur}Moir? evening dress that I bought for the Princess Margaret dinner, ^{because} because I considered it my smartest. And then as I stepped off

the elevator a cavern yawn before me ^{there were} Astor Jane
Englehard ^{brother} always magnificently dressed... This time
in black, exactly like mine! She had on such
magnificent diamond earrings and necklace to match.

^{which} she casually described as a "piece of chandelier fell
off." Actually she had had them made when she was
Chairman of the Diamond Ball - a charity benefit that
she had initiated and sponsored for years. And how
fitting that it should be named the Diamond Ball, ^{Be-}
cause of her husband's business. [#] Brook Astor wore
a white lace dress that was ^{the quintessence} ~~it was the essence~~ of
innocence, ^{And} also provocative. She is a gay,
vital person who embraces life and works with and
enjoys those things her foundation helps. For me she
is one of the happy additions ^{of} those I came to know in
1965. There were enough old friends there to make me
feel cozy and at home. The Laurence Rockefeller's,
Phyllis Dillon - people I had met, but wanted to know
better. The John Loeb's who gave the lovely Yellow
Room at the White House and the Henry Parish's, she's
"Sister" Parish ^{Mrs.} who decorated the room for Kennedy.
And the Arthur ^{Houghton} ~~Holtens~~. He is the President of the
Metropolitan Museum of Art and I had sat beside him
at the opening of "300 Years of American Art Exhibit
last summer. The James ^{Hester} ~~Heeser~~ who had just been at
the White House the night before. In fact the art world

was well represented. There were the Edward Warbergs. He is one of the founders of the Museum of Modern Art. Ogden White, he is a member of the American Museum of Natural History. Ted ^{Rousseau} ~~Russo~~ of the Metropolitan. And Osborne Elliott, ^{he} is the head of Newsweek, was there. ^{Clayton Fritchey} ~~Layton Fitchey~~ the perennial bachelor. Mat---Vreelands, he is the editor of Vogue. [#] There was some 36 in a setting of the utmost charm. And when we went in to dinner, ^g found myself between Charles Englehard and Dr. Hester. ^g ~~Suave~~, attractive President of New York University with some 43,000 students. But it was Charles Englehard who told me the most delicious story of the evening. He was describing the courtship of his step-daughter, a beautiful ~~girl~~, Jane's child by a former marriage, with a young Mr. Reid, whose family had not found it necessary to work for three generations, so well settled ^{was} ~~with~~ their income. Charles felt that a young man who was going to marry his daughter ought to have something else to do besides play tennis and ride and go to balls and so he had suggested that he go to work with Englehard industries. That bridge was crossed all right, he would. And then time came for the two families to meet in the polite exploration of each others background. Charles decided to say to Mrs. Reid "you know I think I should tell you that Jane and I are

Democrats. Ardent Democrats." Mrs. Reid replied

"How interesting, we know another one, Averill Harriman". This story strengthened my belief that I was really walking in another world. A gay beautifully appointed charming world in which I was a complete stranger, but having a marvelous time.

* There were toasts, charming and witty and sweet, by Brook, Charles and Jane, and a reply that I wanted very much to be adequate... Some dear words by Laurence Rockefeller. And then we danced. I think the guest list must have been partly made up with an eye to dancers! And I also think Jane must have been sending them down the chute like Bale on branding day at the ranch to dance with me! Because they showed up every two or three minutes. And it was delightful! Wonderful change of partners. And practically all good. A few minutes out to sit in the library for another drink. And an especially delightful ~~one~~ ^{moment} with John Loeb, one of those attractive men I've met. And then presently I discovered that the night before had been the big night of the year for many of the guests. — A big charity ball, everybody up till two or three o'clock in the morning. And so it was easy to feel that it was the best thing to say goodnight about twelve-thirty. * It had been a wonderful evening and somehow I was not a bit paralyzed

by the fact that Jane and I had on the same dress.

If I had been a bit more daring I would have raised my glass in a toast to a woman whose taste in clothes I have always admired!

One of the most interesting moments of the day had been a telephone conversation with Frank Stanton. I had asked him about the library and how we could go about finding a head of the School of Public Service. He used an interesting phrase - the University of California because of their great financial resources, has done ^{much} ~~more~~ warehousing of talent! In other words, hire them, keep them, and not put them to work. And that possibly Clark Kerr there would be able to give us some good possibilities. Or, Paul Buck, who is ~~at~~ the head of the library at Harvard, had been Provost under Conant. ^{Or} ~~Or~~ George Harrah, the head of the Rockefeller Foundation. ^{Or} ~~Or~~ Meredith Wilson, the President of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Jim Perkins at Cornell and Ithaca. All of these sources who would know where the bright young men on their way up were today. Not themselves possibilities, but having the key to where the people were. He is a rare man, Frank Stanton, varied knowledge in so many fields. And I regret that he has not expanded into another field - government.