

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Saturday, February 5, 1966

Page 1

WH 7
Lyndon's departure to Hawaii - would I always be sorry that I didn't go. It was totally serious, totally a man's trip, so I had told myself - and Lynda was coming in tonight, with George Hamilton, and ^{it} ~~that~~ meant a lot to her to have me here. So I had made up my mind not to go.

We had coffee early and the staff trouped in, with innumerable questions and decisions, and I got in my word. Would Lyndon have time to come and look at the samples on the ninth floor, when Miss Linke and Roy White arrived about 10 - and spread them out in the Treaty Room. If we wanted it to be the sort of office he would like to use for the rest of his life in Austin, we'd better put some of our own selves, our decisions, personality, preferences, into it.

I joined Roy and Miss Linke, and we looked at fabrics and plans, and furniture, possibly a copy of the desk that he presently has in his office. And then he came in, like a gust of wind, saying quickly, "I love this", "I don't want any of that."; "I'd like to have a helicopter chair like I have in my little room"; "I want the best sofa that's made, that turns down into a bed".

And then it was noon, and I went down to the Diplomatic Reception Room with him, to say goodbye. A most delicious thing happened. A long haired, bright eyed little girl of about sixteen or seventeen, Kathryn Westmoreland, the daughter of the General, came running up, and Algebra book and a muu muu in her arms. She was going to fly to Hawaii with Lyndon - I think it was

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Saturday, February 5, 1966

Page 2

one of those sweet things that Liz had suggested.

Mrs. Westmoreland was celebrating her birthday with her husband in Hawaii, and wouldn't it be wonderful if her daughter could fly out to join them. Kathryn's idea of the trip was expressed when she flung her arms around Lyndon and kissed him, and then said, "Now we can be a family again."

He loves making people happy, so he beamed.

And then I went outside and I too kissed him, but goodbye, aware of what an important trip it was, what I was missing, wondering if there was something I could contribute by being there, but not going.

We worked another hour on samples. I lunched with Roy White, worked at my desk with Ashton, then spent a little over an hour in the theatre, going over the old home movies of more than 20 years ago, getting them ready to go into the archives with sound. And saw a 20 minute movie on Head Start, trying to evaluate whether I ought to do an introduction to it.

I made some calls a little earlier, to ask Leonard and Dorothy Marks to join me for dinner - and the Carpenters, but Les was going to a stag dinner; and Donald and Diana.

A little after seven when Leonard and Dorothy, and Liz arrived, we went over to the bowling alley, and had three good games. Now, up until February, I can say, that at least four times a week, I've had some good

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Saturday, February 5, 1966

Page 3

exercise, either swimming or bowling.

Because we've turned the second floor into a shambles for electricians and carpenters, and had rugs removed to be cleaned and furniture covers to be cleaned, I decided that we would have dinner in the family dining room, on the State floor, and, we would have cocktails in the Red Room, with the fire. - The first time we've ever done this, and a delightful first it was.

Leonard, ebullient about his trip, ^{he's} leaving tomorrow - Hawaii, and then for Saigon.

We talked about the audio-visual requirements for the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. I showed him Dr. Wayne Grover's estimate of the space needed for all the components of the Library. Don and Diana came in - he's just back from Mayo's, looking fine and Diana is working hard at the Peace Corp.

And then to my delight, Lynda and George arrived a little before nine. Yes, they would have dinner with us. Lynda looked like she'd arrived, floating on a cloud - George looked very romantic, handsome, and tired.

Luci, meanwhile, was cooking chicken for a dinner party of six, served in the solarium. A time or two, as I had passed through the second floor, ^{she} had implored me to taste the cream gravy. A little earlier in her room, we had a conference on bridesmaid's dresses. Neiman-Marcus had sent down Miss Treyz from New York, and Anita Malloy with boxes of dresses. None of the brides dresses suited Luci at all. There was a good possibility for

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Saturday, February 5, 1966

Page 4

the bridesmaids, actually patterned after the dress she already had, the white organza, with a pink middle.

Zephyr had delicious steaks for us. We began with the Grant china - we've never used it before. The fire was a perfect foil to the snow outside, and my eyes kept going to Lynda Bird, hoping that she was as happy as she had expected to be.

Immediately after dinner, they were off to go dancing. The rest of us had coffee and liquers in the Red Room and then it was an early goodby.

Leonard was flying with Secretary Gardner and Secretary Freeman, to Hawaii the next day, and besides, I wanted to see Gunsmoke.

#####