

Sunday, February 13, 1966

Page 1

We went to National City Christian Church, Homer, and Lyndon and I. We alternate as to which church we go, and it is much to my liking that we go at all.

I find Dr. Davis' sermons realistic and impassioned. I like him better and better as a preacher, and as a man, and I must say that Lyndon is much more at home here than he is at St. Marks, which I find more philosophical, exciting, I am not sure I am always in tune with it, but there is a spiritual striving, an atmosphere of community between Bill Baxter and the folks who go.

Because Lyndon's hands were still sore from the growths burnt off of them, we did not stay for coffee. These growths are becoming <sup>an</sup> increasing nuisance - painful, ugly, preventing us from long sessions of hand shaking, which Lyndon finds a really sort of a life line between him and the people he serves.

Back at the White House, I went up to Luci's domain. Everybody was gathered in the solarium, reminiscing about the night before. "Wasn't it fun when -- " "Didn't you just love...." This is one of the nicest parts about a party. I was so glad that all the guests from so far off, did get to come and so sorry about some that didn't.

Then, a little before two, Mr. and Mrs. Nugent, and Homer, and Lyndon and I had lunch. Luci was taking some of her guests to the airport.

Lyndon's presence and manner is the greatest help. He can do so much to bridge the gaps to be an amalgam, to make things go. What natural unease

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Sunday, February 13, 1966

Page 2

I'd had in expecting the Nugent's visit, was dissipating in the warm and natural atmosphere, for which I must give Lyndon so much credit.

And then he took a nap, and I went to join Mrs. Provenson in the Queen's Room, to work for almost two hours, on the American Roadbuilders Speech. There is a great satisfaction in work! It makes me feel better physically and mentally, and I do think this speech is going to be the better for it.

Dorothy Nichols came to make a little call on Lyndon. I stopped by for a minute with them. She loves living in New York and she says she's only now getting away from a guilt complex, at not being back at work!

Jim Cain came in about seven. How sorry we were that he hadn't been at the party the night before! We had dinner together, Lyndon, and the Nugents, and this time Pat and Luci and the Rays, and Jim. Lyndon talked about his trip to Hawaii. He'd been greatly impressed with Westmoreland, and rather impressed with Ky.

He talked about some of the pluses, some of the 'our sides' of the story that happened in Viet-Nam, that somehow, never see the light of print. For instance, now a medical service, plus the great boon of helicopters, makes it possible to get to a wounded man within an hour, and get him to a hospital in not longer than three hours, and would save all but one percent of the wounded, which is a far better percentage than in other wars.

He talked about the SEATO Treaty, which had been passed by the Senate

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Sunday, February 13, 1966

Page 3

82 to 1, Langer was the one against it. Incidentally, Johnson and Kennedy did not vote.

"Now," he said, "we are trying to carry out the contracts they made." We were discussing the debate in the country, on the Viet-Nam policy, as opened up by the debate in the Senate.

At lunch, Lafayette Park had been full of picketers. I didn't look to see if they were still there at dinner. It's such a common thing now - 166 times the last year, the White House was picketed.

Lyndon said, "This thing is assuming rather dangerous proportions, that is, dividing the country, and giving our enemies wrong idea of the will of this country to fight."

General Maxwell Taylor had been tremendous, magnificent on TV. We called him to tell him so. He said, "I was just warming up for the Senate Committee."

One looks at the pause in retrospect - those 37 days, was it, when we were hopefully setting the stage for some sort of peace or approachment for getting together at the conference table, running all over the world, asking everybody to join in peace efforts. Was it a good idea or not? As of today, one doubts it. I still believe that it's a sort of national proof of going the last mile, being willing to make all effort. It had certainly been a Fulbright ~~idea~~ idea and a Morse idea, though little credit we got from them for pursuing it.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Sunday, February 13, 1966

Page 4

The TV and the voluminous Sunday papers, about six of them, are a big part of our Sundays, and one of the things that had delighted me,<sup>2</sup> was an article on America's prize-winning highway, a scenic highway in the mountains, the Sierra Nevadas, in California. Either there is a rising tide through the country, or am I just listening more, because of my own interest?

Another big story on the cleaning up the Potomac.

#####