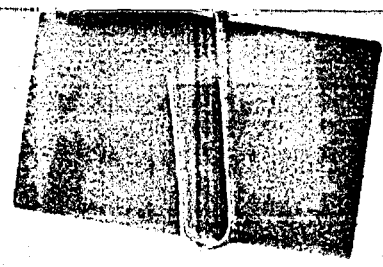


WHD
MEMORANDUM

Checked - July 29 '77



Sept. 1 to McNamara THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sept. 19 Jim Webb
Thursday, September 1, 1966

Page 1

We woke up to an assortment of headlines: "Democratic Policy Committee Recommends Moving Troops Out of Europe". Apparently it was unanimous, with such names as Dick Russell and Russell Long on it, and of course, no surprise, Mike Mansfield's. This, at a time when the ratio of Russian ~~Troops~~ in Europe was something like 5 divisions to our one, was rather like playing poker with a deadly adversary and showing him your hand before you began betting.

Then a story in the New York Times with details about a proposed tax measure including removing a 7 percent credit for plant expansion. All the details were known to only two or three people. How did the story get in the paper? Third, there was the complete roster of names of members of the President's Club. It was one of those days when the greatest courage is to get out of bed and start tackling the day's work.

I spent the morning working at my desk and then with Liz and Bess and about noon I went over to Lyndon's office to pick up two lovely antique English silver vegetable dishes that he had bought for wedding presents -- or rather he had asked Trudy Fowler to look for him some antiques. She had found several, and he had chosen these ~~from~~ for Margy McNamara. We had them engraved -- ^{in a} ~~an~~ enlightening job -- and they were ready and delivered to the house by 4:00 along with a note that I wrote.

I talked about our California trip with Liz over a hamburger in my bedroom. And then I had a long session with Lonnelle Aikman of the National Geographic who is doing the script for the new book, "The Living White House",

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, September 1, 1966

Page 2

giving her some anecdotes about our life here, particularly Lynda's and Luci's part. There was only one good thing in the paper today and that was a delightful picture of Luci carrying an enormous grocery basket which they said totaled \$30.13, causing Pat to wince. Luci's whole behavior reminds me of Clark Clifford's estimate of the wedding. "The only thing we could have done to make it better," he said, "was to plan it for the summer of '68".

^I dressed in a yellow ensemble that I had worn to Luci's wedding, and Lynda was lovely in an olive green silk with a mantilla -- very elegant and Spanish looking. And at the last moment, Lyndon joined us. I rejoiced that he did, but I did not try to push him. ^{the wedding} It was in the little Bethlehem Chapel at the National Cathedral. And as we got out of the car, I could see the two tanned young Senators Kennedy -- Bobby and Ted without their wives -- coming in behind us.

This time we sat on the second row -- a pleasant relief. The ceremony was beautiful, dignified, and lasted exactly 14 minutes. I could just hear Lyndon saying, "This is Bob McNamara's way of doing things. Why didn't you do ours this way?"

Margy is so slight. She was very lovely, accompanied only by her sister.

We picked up Hubert who rode with us to Tracy Place for the reception which was a happy mixture of Cabinet, old friends of the two families, a

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, September 1, 1966

Page 3

very few from the Legislative Branch, and Margy and Barry's young college friends.

Everyone gravitated to the garden where there was a perfect spot for wedding pictures. Against the garden walls surrounded by shrubbery and flowers, a mirror -- the perfect frame for the bride and groom to stand, and you could ^{see} Margy's dress from the back as well as the front. Lynda stayed longer. She was having a good time. And I was beaming because I like to share family times. And there is nobody in the Government that I admire more than Margy and Bob with their wholesomeness, their intelligence, tough devotion to their jobs, and their sense of fun.

It was nearly 6:00 when we left. Lyndon to go back to his office and I to sign mail. And I sent a little birthday letter to Liz. I worked and worked and time passed and Lyndon did not come home to dinner. I made a call or two. He was with Congressmen in his little office. Finally at 11:00 I had a piece of steak -- this for my diet. And a little later, I got a call, "Wouldn't I come over to Lyndon's office?" I put on a robe and went and there he was with about 6 men -- among them Congressman Albert looking very weary, Joe Califano, still looking bouncy. Carl told me he just couldn't see how Lyndon could do it, though Lyndon was in excellent form. The running-fire conversation of the problems that face the Congress and what they could do about them and what he hoped they would, sprinkled with a lot of humor. I thought of how the day had begun -- the deep morass of problems as we read the morning paper. And I thought, this man deserves what he

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, September 1, 1966

Page 4

gets in terms of achievement. There is certainly no royal road to it. It is work, work, work. I implored the men to come and eat stuffed ~~peppers~~ ^{peppers} and black eyed peas and corn bread and buttermilk. And just before 12:00 I got the three of them to sit down -- Carl, Joe Califano, and Lyndon. The rest melted away. It was a very country dinner. And then for Lyndon, night reading, and for me, sleep.