

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, December 21, 1966

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It was one of those crescendos of a day at the Ranch with 9 Governors, 2 Cabinet members, the Director of the Budget, 4 Under Secretaries and a ^{booy?} ~~belly~~ of staff.

^{beuy} In the morning I worked on the mail and the Christmas albums, and then at 11:00 I began going to the air strip to meet the Governors who arrived in their several planes. I loaded up some, and Lyndon others -- Governor Warren Hearnes of Missouri, Harold Hughes -- a big man, handsome, silent, who looks rather like he has a perpetual chip on his shoulder -- affable, attractive Phil Hoff, Governor Rolvaag of Minnesota who will be going out. For some reason he came in with John Connally. And Governor ~~xxxx~~ Hulett Smith of West Virginia -- an amiable, pleasant man -- he is one of the easiest of nearly any in this rather strained gathering. And a trio of southerns ^{or} -- Governor Robert McNair of South Carolina, new I believe, and Mills Godwin of Virginia, ^{he} he had ridden on the train with me in '65. And Dan Moore of North Carolina. He too I had met during the whistle-stop.

By 11:30 they were all in the big living room at the Ranch. I ~~got~~ got coffee in and left them alone, and for an hour I worked down at the Cedar house on some decorating problems.

At 12:30, I sent some bloody marys into the Governors. I do not know the subject of the Conference. Budget Director Charles ^{Schulze} ~~xxxx~~ had been there to brief them, and Secretary Gardner of HEW with his number-

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one man Wilbur Cohen, and Secretary McNamara and Under Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach and Deputy Secretary Bill Crockett and Ramsey Clark, the Acting Attorney General.

What I gathered in large part was ^{that} because they wanted to air their differences -- their beefs -- to Lyndon himself. His manner was ~~comp~~patient, not combative, controled, full of facts and figures, with the top echelon of the Cabinet there to back him up and supply anything that the Governors wanted to know. So it had been a grinding day -- a good step I felt, though not totally productive certainly.

I called them into lunch at 1:00, with John, the ranking Governor, it is his home State, and Harold Hughes, the Chairman of the Governors' Conference, flanking Lyndon.

And at my table I had Governor Karl Rolvaag and the trio of southerners -- McNair of South Carolina and Mills Godwin of Virginia and Dan Moore of North Carolina -- however much we may differ politically, I like the velvet manners of southern men. And Hulett Smith of West Virginia, Ramsey Clark. My most favorite, John Gardner and Bill Crockett.

Robert McNair showed me a piece of literature used against him by his opponents in the last election -- savage against Lyndon and trying to tie him to the Administration. I remember well the patrician savagery of South Carolina. There main trouble, he said, with the Administration, and all the Governors from the South agreed, were the guidelines regarding schools.

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Right after lunch, I had to leave to go into Austin. The Governors were meeting with the press. I felt tender toward Lyndon. He tried hard. I thought the meeting was necessary and had accomplished something -- emphatically not all you could wish. I said goodbye, and flew into Austin to meet the architects of the Lyndon Johnson Library -- Max and Gordon Bunshaft and Roy in the Brooks^{Barr} office. We spent about 3 hours pouring over plans that they feel and I concur, that they've got the first floor in much better shape, with a more impressive entrance, the rest rooms downstairs, the more exhibit space and lobby space. We talked of the landscaping. Bunshaft tells me he will have a preliminary plan in February. I reminded him of the insurance building I had seen that they had done in Connecticut whose landscaping I thought was superb and hoped the same people could be used on this. And that they could learn Texas, have an indoctrination course in the area before they put hand to paper.

And then the subject of the main building material -- Texas shellstone? A travertine marble from Mexico? But maybe the quarry wasn't big enough to produce a quantity of equal quality. Several kinds of granite? They still hope to let the bids out in May. We came to the conclusion that they must not take bids on any material we would not really want to use. And to see what we want. The best real way would be to get large slabs -- say 6 feet high and 4 feet wide -- and stand them up in the sunlight, if not on ^{site} ~~right~~ in some similar place, and look at them in light and shadow and all the changes of light.

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I need to be educated on so many fronts -- as an architect, a landscape architect. I deal with so much in which I feel myself constantly striving to master more than I really have in my head. I am still not happy about the lack of windows -- the closed-in look of the Library. The long low building of the Texas School of Public Service, the Archives, the Latin American collection -- I like very much and the ~~site~~^{site} remains superb. All the more reason why the landscaping there must too be superb. As for the Executive Suite, I asked them to send copies of the plan to Marie Fehmer and Juanita Roberts for fine tooth combing as to the way Lyndon lives in his office -- how he works and where others must be.

Finally, a little before 6:00, we broke up and I asked Roy to go with me. We drove around the University of Texas campus looking at shellstone in buildings. And particularly looking at the Memorial Museum which itself is made of shellstone. ~~And~~^{it appears} on the southwest side ~~there is~~ a rather monolithic structure -- as close as I may get to seeing what the Library will look like.

It was twilight and the play of shadow on the building was beautiful. It was strong, impressive. I felt reassured about what the Library might be. It ~~is~~ certainly has strength, the feel of the southwest. I am not sure that it has grace, or enough openness.

Poor Mr. Bunshaft just dies when you speak about windows!

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I helicoptered home from Camp ^{Mabry} Mayberry in the fading twilight -- my always favorite time for this country -- and got to the house to hear the results of the press conference with the Governors. With Hughes as their spokesman the results sounded like they were nullified, presented a more united front. Only to have Hearnese of Missouri get off to the side alone and do some mouthing.

And the agenda for the rest of the working day had been the budget, with conferences with Secretary Gardner.....and Ramsey and Lyndon....
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WEDNESDAY, December 21, ~~1968~~ 1966

(balance of it)

Wednesday, December 21st continued. The vicious pounding by the Press goes on, particularly columnists with Evans and Novack leading the pack, and the "battle of the book", and exposé type articles on the amount of acreage the President has bought up in the Hill Country.

It has the outlines of a campaign skillfully mounted and ably generated.

One small (Anecdote) antidote? ~~was~~ was the story about Lynda's first magazine article in McCall's. It was a beautiful fey picture taken on the lawn of the White House.

~~Thursday,~~