

Re: Library

Feb. 3, Feb. 20 (and copy is letter to President? & Dr. Grover?)

Finished & ready to give to Library except when Harry turns - 1967

Don't forget -

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

CJG - Mar. 28/83

I had at least slept well. For both of us these days that's the hardest thing to come by. In the morning I worked with Bess and Liz a while and then began a long day with the library. First, I met with Dr. Harry Ransom in the Queen's Sitting Room and put before him the problem of Dr. Grover who had been invited to go to Iran to work on some of the Governmental programs by the Executive Corps-- the so-called "Paunch Corps." I feel that for the Lyndon Johnson Library we must have an Acting Director during the two years that it is in the building process, one central head to bring problems of acquisition, architecture, personnel, everything to.. Otherwise we are just a lot of interested people giving some volunteer time when and as we can in a haphazard sort of fashion. We need one man at the head. Working as a part-time consultant for the GSA to oversee the Library is not a satisfactory condition for Dr. Grover. Dr. Ransom agreed, understood, and felt that it would be easily possible for the University to hire him for this two year intermediate period and he said he would talk to him before the day was over.

And then, we gathered in the Treaty Room, Dr. Ransom and Dr. Grover and Dorothy Territo, Juanita Roberts and alas rather late Mary Lasker for our second meeting of the Acquisitions Committee. My main news was that Dr. Grover had drafted and the ^{Lyndon} President had

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approved a letter for the Chief Archivist to send out to members of the Administration at the level of Assistant Secretary and above, inviting them to leave their papers to the Lyndon Johnson Library. Juanita Roberts had a list and prodigious it was [—] those past and present since he came in on November 22nd of 1963. She said she would take over from there and then we discussed the ten main fields of Lyndon's endeavors in his Governmental career. The social revolution with all of its ramifications, the chief one Civil Rights, medical research, new surge forward in education, space, and we talked about having a subcommittee on acquisitions for each of these ten. For instance, Mary could head the one on Medical Research, decide on the people who are not in the government who had worked in that field-- for instance, Dr. DeBakey [—] who we might want to invite to leave their papers. As Dr. Grover said, "you spread a wide net and get a mighty few fish and yet I, myself, can testify that to be asked is taken as a compliment. I know I beam whenever I think that Radcliffe asked me for my papers! I never thought I would ever have anything worth leaving and, of course, they will go to our library. Nevertheless, we should start asking and soon.

There was a lot of talk about the field of personal friends who might throw light on Lyndon's career and work— for instance, Sam Fore, and as in most committees, more talk ^{than} and clear-cut decisions. And then Dr. Ramson gave a brief report on acquisition ^{by} to the University of

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Texas since our last meeting in October. These included the Jesse Jones personal collection, the draft of Travis' letter from the Alamo, and a manuscript of the treaty of Alaska, and the first portrait of Stephen F. Austin by an itinerant German artist, and all of Stephen F. Austin's books. Many, many things will be adjacent-- not in-- the Lyndon Johnson Library.

We all got excited and caught up in it and I was always conscious of the setting. There we were in a room where the Cabinet of the United States met for about thirty-seven years, using that Cabinet table which had also been used only last week to sign the Space Treaty on, putting out our cigarettes in Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes' funny china dishes, and I was sitting in Grover Cleveland's big presiding chair, ^{An} interesting mid-wifery for our Presidential library!

At one o'clock we went down to lunch on the first floor so as not to get in the way of what was happening in the family dining room upstairs and then wound up our business a little before three and Mary Lasker left to go to Mrs. Phillip Barry's to see her portrait of me. That was only the first meeting of the day about the library. At 3:00 Max Brooks joined us with an enormous rolled-up sheaf of plans. He spread them out on the Cabinet table. Bob Phinney ~~who~~ came over to give his advice on the space allotted for the Press. We went over the Executive floor which has been pretty much ~~by~~ redone by Juanita ^{but} ~~to~~ which Max wants to take and

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refine along the lines she laid down of the way people come in, wait, go in and exit. The first floor, I believe, is very much improved as a result of our objections last fall. There is now more lobby and exhibition space. The restrooms are downstairs. There is a clear line of demarkation between what the GSA administers and what the University uses. I am still concerned about the great hall and completely inadequate to direct or solve it. Dr. Grover is leaving on the fifteenth and my main desire was to get every expression of any needed change in the plans that he or Juanita or Dorothy Territo or Leonard Marks from the audio-visual field or anybody can give to Max before we all turn our attention to other things and Dr. Grover is gone and the plan is all firmed up and after a while encased in steel and concrete and beyond change.

It is very exhausting to think too hard about something you are not knowledgeable in and I discovered that I was exhausted when they left a little before five.

I spent a few minutes going over the cards for the Ambassadors' wives who I was going to receive! Mrs. Gunstra, whose husband is going to Costa Rico, and Mrs. Peyton to the Republic of Cameroon and Mrs. John Henning to New Zealand and Mrs. David King, whom I had known in Congress for years to the Malagasy Republic. I went down at five. We met in the Green Room with the fire going merrily and the tea

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table set prettily. Katie Lochheim was there with one more wife, Mrs. Green, whose husband has been our Ambassador in that country of tumultuous change--Indonesia, and there followed as interesting an hour ^{as} I ever spent in this job. Mrs. Green proved the most articulate, and of course had the most exciting stories to tell, about being left with one Marine to guard her in the Embassy while her husband was down at the Chancery and mobs were howling in the street, with torches and cars were being turned over and set fire right out in front of the Embassy. In the nick of time the Army made its decision to guard the American Embassy and arrived with guns and barbed wire and placements. She gave you the feeling of having been there and of the thread upon which that whole country hangs.

I had lots to talk about with Mrs. Hennings about the beautiful wild flowers of New Zealand and the Governor General who could stride right on to the stage as a character out of Kipling, an Edwardian Governor General with his white clipped moustache and his monocle. She was very proper and ladylike and will, I think, be at home there, ~~whereas~~ ^{has} Mrs. David King ~~with her~~ ^{has} eight children, six their own, two adopted-- one part Tunisian and one German, ~~in her~~ ^{out a} young breezy air. She is, I believe, a Mormon and a true descendant of those pioneers who crossed the mountains and the desert in a covered wagon and on foot, and I think will be quite equal to the ardours the Malagasy Republic holds.

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The wives who had served abroad had interesting tales of the things you needed to take, how cake⁺nix was the most prized delicacy and the biggest treat in many countries was to invite the citizens over for cake and a movie and how when you got back to the USA, the thing you wanted most of all was milk because you couldn't get a fresh drop to drink in X country or X country. There was a prized hour of understanding for me of what goes on in serving our country.

A little after six I said goodbye and went upstairs and Lynda Bird came breezing in from New York and we talked of her week of book collecting, of a delightful dinner where she had met a British Earl who was an extremely interesting and cultivated man, a Cultural Adviser to some Administration, and ^{had} danced at Twenty One.

// I went to the bowling alley alone and played three games-- rather well on one-- 153 score and then back for some paperwork. Lyndon did not come for dinner until after ten and we sat and talked for about forty minutes about his day. It is like plowing through mud these days, frustrating and difficult and over and over ^{it} seems to me just to get up in the morning and go ahead with your work is the greatest courage. Finally, the three of us ate just before eleven and I went to bed. //