

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Monday, February 20, 1967

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It was a hard working day. I had my first coffee in Lynda's room. She is going back to New York for a week with McCalls, and she is full of the delicious problems of "which night shall I have a date with whom?" Hugh O'Brian has told her that he will be in New York and wants to see her. So did John Loeb and Warren Beatty mentioned that they must get together for lunch of something.

Meanwhile, there is our Wednesday night plan -- Mary Lasker's party. I suppose it is one of the commonest human emotions -- a mother enjoying that time of life over again with her daughter. I am so glad that it's exciting for Lynda, and full of variety.

And then back for breakfast with Lyndon.

And sometime during the morning down to the theatre to see a Head Start movie, "Poncho" -- warm and skillfully done.

I worked at my desk with Bess on lists for future parties, on some of the hardest letters to answer -- the ones that have to say "no" to invitations, but still leave the people feeling that it is something you would simply adore to do. Bess writes a splendid letter.

I called Ferdinand -- the pastry cook -- who is just back from surgery. He sounded cheerful -- probably will be back at work soon.

And then the first real meeting of the day with Juanita and Dorothy Territo and Ashton in the Queens' Room about the Johnson Library.

Specifically, the list of people whom we might invite to leave their papers.

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Juanita and Dorothy have already compiled a formidable book -- some 500 names of Presidential appointees at the rank of Under Secretary and above, I believe, including all past and present Cabinet members that have served under Lyndon, and all the Ambassadors.

The draft of the letter to these has of course been approved by Lyndon. It will go out over the Archivist's signature and should be ready to send to the whole 500 in something like 6 weeks.

But our meeting was particularly to discuss the type of friends -- and Juanita, that very organized person once more had a big book -- the Christmas gift list "from and to", a garnering from the favorable files through the years, and various other possibilities to consider -- the Texas Congressmen he served with from '37 on, former employees. I am constantly amazed at the time, the organization, the detail, she has devoted to this since 1958. And I am very respectful.

For two hours we plowed through the alphabetical list checking the names that one or all of us thought might be promising, debating some. And then before we would more than skim the surface -- and obviously this is a long life's job -- it was 5:00 and time for the next meeting. That was in the Treaty Room with George Christian and Tom Johnson and Doug Cater and Bob Kintner. The purpose of it was how best to plan any press releases relating to the acquisition of papers.

Six weeks from now when these invitations to Government employees, Cabinet members, etc. are mailed out, we will begin to receive answers.

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"We'll throw a mighty big net to catch a mighty few fish", as Dr. Grover says. But some of them will answer "yes". Some of them will talk about it and it will become a matter of public knowledge. So we want to prepare ourselves for this and pool the judgment and the technical know-how of our press staff in order to get the best press out of this.

Juanita had prepared a kit with the chronological history of the Library and School of Public Affairs -- everything that had happened -- so that they could all acquaint themselves with it. To know what questions to expect and how best to answer them.

Our quick thought was that shortly after the letters went out and when we began to get a reply or two early on the Archivist, Dr. Bahmer, would want to get out a statement listing three or four of the people who had decided to leave their papers to the Lyndon Johnson Library. Hopefully these people could be from diverse fields and be rather big names. Dr. DeBakey of course is one to be elated about. Now, if we could have two or three big names from Government -- from Space, from Education -- that would be the beginning. From then on it would just be simple, brief statements as any other acquisitions came around -- straightforward and short. Each of them brought forth pitfalls which just pointed up the fact that it was very important that we start thinking about this early -- that our answers be well thought out and well grounded in facts. One pitfall of course was, does this Library sound like self-glorification for a man

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in office. ² Another, does this herald a decision not to run in 1968? The whole prickly with problems -- the opening of the library, the exhibits themselves, everything will present more problems because Lyndon is in office. I am getting fond of this old room. I think of it as my own "Board of Directors" room. Lots of good projects have gone through their labor pains here -- beautification, Lyndon's boyhood home in Johnson City, and most of all, the Library.

// It was nearly 7:00 when they left, and I went to the bowling alleys by myself, played a rather poor three games, and then back upstairs and worked a little. And pretty soon Lyndon called and said, "Would you like to meet me in the pool?" I rejoiced. I could because I was going to the beauty parlor tomorrow. It isn't often I can say "yes" when it takes two hours and \$8 to make me presentable to the public after I have had a swim. Well, I got ~~x~~ in and swam and swam and swam. I must have done thirty laps before he arrived with Mary Slater and George Christian, and they joined me, relaxing in the warm waters and swimming not enough, but a great deal better than none. //

We were upstairs a little before 10:00. The four of us had dinner after a drink. And before 11:00 Mary and George had left and I was in bed, surprisingly tired and feeling resentful to be so.