

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 1

Tuesday, August 22nd, began sluggishly for me that is, but turned into a crescendo day at the White House.

Lyndon was awake by 7:00, and I sleepwalked into my room and fitfully and unsuccessfully courted sleep. I gave up a little past 9:00, and then bathed and dressed rapidly because I got the word that Walter Washington was still in Lyndon's office and it would be a good idea if I came over. I walked in to find him with a big smile just saying goodbye to Lyndon, and I had the feeling that things had gone well and that maybe it would work out for him to be our next Mayor. I hope so. We had a brief, warm exchange -- for me, full of the work we've done together on our Committee. And then I went back upstairs to see Nat Owings in the Queens' Room. He wanted to talk to me about Las Tablas -- a little community of 100 Mexican families high in the mountains of New Mexico -- off the beaten track, practically congealed in the customs and architecture and way of life of 200 years ago. Actually their very own ancestors came there before our Revolutionary War. His interest of course is historic preservation, especially of the lovely old church. And then he talked of the Pennsylvania Avenue plan and the Commission which he would head and which at present is just getting along on a temporary planning stage basis, not officially blessed by Congress. He hoped that the Bill officially creating it would be passed this session and that Lyndon would write a letter to Aspinall urging that it be done.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 2

I spent the rest of the morning working with Bess and with Ashton and having lunch on a tray. And then I stretched out in bed and read about Iran and had a shampoo and set, off and on casting a prayer skyward because we'd hoped to have the ballet outside. And the shell had been built for that purpose, and the changing weather predictions for the last two days have kept us on knife's edge, and it looks grayer every hour.

A little before 5:00 I went over to Lyndon's office. He'd lain down to rest in his room for a few minutes. There has been no chance for a nap today, and he was just getting up.

It was almost on the dot of 5:00 when we went out on the South Lawn for the arrival of the Shah.

The sky was gray and lowering, but the scene was bright as always with the flags and the stiff lines of military men, the trumpets circling the balcony above, and the eager expectant people lining the driveway as we walked past. A little ripple of applause crested with us as we walked along the driveway. And there was the Secretary of State, calm and smiling as always. I never cease to marvel at the personal peace he has attained in the midst of the turmoil of his job.

Then the Shah drove up. Each time I have seen him, and now there have been three or four times, it is quite simply a thrill. He is a romantic figure with a look of rapport in his face. And he looks at each person I think as though he were really seeing you, listening to

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 3

you with interest. It's a great compliment. I hope I can learn from it. Lyndon, in his speech of welcome, spoke of our several meetings with the Shah and of Iran's economy which has been growing at about 10 percent a year and her gains against illiteracy: "You are winning progress without violence and bloodshed, -- a lesson others have still to learn." And then the Shah, speaking without notes, in perfect English but rather hesitantly, made a brief, earnest talk, disarming in its simplicity and its complete difference from the trite lines that are often read in a monotone voice.

After the brief line in the Diplomatic Reception Room, Lyndon took him over to the office to talk and I went back upstairs. I've already greeted S. B. Whittenburg from Amarillo and the Dick Brown's from Austin who were our house guests. The Marshall Steves had arrived by train -- the last remaining people who don't fly. And I just hope they've gotten here in time to watch the ceremony.

Dean Rusk had told Lyndon that he had received 66 Foreign Chiefs of State in the last 12 months, and though a good many of these had been at Guam and Manila or just working visits, a great many indeed had been State guests with just this arrival ceremony. And yet the color, the trumpets, the ritual, never fails to thrill me.

Marilyn, who is in charge of house guests, and loves it, and also of special tours, came in to tell me that there was a little group downstairs.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 4

They had had their tour and witnessed the arrival and were just about to leave, and would I like to go down and say hello. I did. There was a sizeable Marshall contingent -- the Reverend and Mrs. Rashel of the Episcopal Church with their two children. They are all Philip's and Mertie's friends. And the couple they are staying with, Dr. and Mrs. Price. And Diana Miller, a young school teacher, taking a job here in Maryland, whose mother had been nurse to my daddy in his last days. And she brought her roommate. She put in my arms a present that almost made me feel like crying -- a handmade afghan done by her mother. It must have meant hours and hours of her life. She hoped I would be able to use it somewhere -- at the Ranch. When I thanked her she laughingly said, "This is mother's therapy. She does it to keep her mind off troubles." People, people. What a place this is from which to see them -- to learn about them. And all the best and the most generous and noble. And in all the worst. And there was Bill Deason and Jeannie with a whole house full of their kinfolks -- the Elmo Spears and their children, some 8 or 9 assorted relatives. I spent a few minutes shaking hands all around and getting pictures taken and giving autographs. And then went back upstairs for a little rest before getting my hair combed, putting on my ^{lovely} ~~iris~~ Stavropolous dress, the usual trauma of the last few minutes in which Bess and I from our end and Jimmy Symington and some unknown protocol officer from the other

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 5

end try to bring Lyndon and the visiting Chief of State to the steps of the North Portico at precisely the same moment.

How much we miss the Empress. When a visiting Chief of State has a wife as beautiful as she is, there is that hushed moment of excitement after he's gotten out when you wait for her to emerge from the big black car, eager to see what she is wearing, how she has her hair done, what jewels. She is an ornament to her husband and to her country as is the Queen of Thailand, -- perhaps the two outstanding ones I have met.

But young Mrs. Ansary, the wife of the new Ambassador from Iran, her baby nicely timed and by now just about a month old, was glamorous, quite beautiful, with a long beaded gown, her hair falling over her shoulders.

The Minister of Court, Mr. Alam, whom I have known through three visits is as suave and charming as any visitor I can remember. And it was a pleasure to see Ambassador and Mrs. Armin Meyer. He had been our Ambassador to Lebanon when we had visited there, and she had taken me out to Balbeck.

Hubert and Muriel were there. His eternal spring of ebullience somewhat subdued because his brother is dying. And Muriel never looked lovelier in a pale pink and silver dress, faintly Japanese in design, that she had had done for her trip to Japan.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 6

We had the exchange of gifts, and once more I have to remark in my mind that it is an art to receive gifts, to express appreciation -- an art well worth cultivating because it gives so much pleasure to the giver. It's simply a social asset. And the Shah made us feel very pleased. Although the gifts were scarcely remarkable -- ours that is -- a painting of a beach landscape, a vermeil desk box with the outlines of the USA and Iran -- the inscription does matter. And a letter saying that five Bradford pear trees will be sent to the empress for her garden when planting time came. We understand they have a new home of their own. And some bowling balls -- one for each of them. He said, "Yes, oh they did love it and they bowled together a lot." And for the children, two Walt Disney films, "Beaver Valley" and "Bear Country". For this I think Bess certainly gets an "A". And as for their's -- their gifts were indeed breathtaking: a figure of a horse about 15 inches high -- a museum treasure. It was over 2,000 years old. And my mind hurtled forward to the time when someday we will put together an exhibit of artifacts -- my very own and State gifts -- in the Lyndon Johnson Library. And there were two handsome Persian rugs.

Lynda came in looking breathtaking -- her hair piled high and curls falling over her shoulder, wearing a blue and silver dress that had a peacock feather motif. This she had bought especially for the dinner for the Shah when she had first heard he was coming.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 7

The colors preceded us down the Great stairway. I walked with Mr. Alam. And then after the pictures at the bottom, the three of us walked side by side into the East Room.

From the Cabinet besides the Rusks, there were the Udalls. And a sizeable contingent from the Senate -- our old friend Clint Anderson from New Mexico and Henrietta. And Mike and Maureen Mansfield. The Winston Proutys and Ed Longs. And the Claiborne Pells. There is so much I like about them -- their looks, their interest in art. And yet there is so little that he seems to find to support in the Johnson Administration. And young Senator Howard Baker without Joy who is ill he said. And Bob Casey was among the Congressmen. And when we had heard just the day before that the Iranian official party would not be the usual 10 that we reserve for the visitors, but I think about 5, I then invited two other Texas Congressmen -- the Ray Roberts who had been invited to the British dinner and couldn't come, and I knew he would be really thrilled to come for the first time to a State affair. And the John Youngs who had been with us on enough personal evenings -- boat trips or Sunday evenings at home -- that a last-minute invitation would be an intimate compliment and not a slight. And that gentleman whose friendship has been one of my prized possessions this last year or two -- Averell Harriman.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22nd, 1967

Page 8

There were old friends -- The Goldschmidts. He had spent a year or two in Iran on Social and Economic work. And one of my beautification benefactors, the Ralph Beckers, who also happily is President of the Iran-America Society. The two loveliest ladies there were B. A. Bentsen of Texas and Mrs. Francis Lawrence, Iranian born, absolutely stunning, who swooped in a deep curtsy when she met the Shah. And there were the Julius Holmes, the Ambassador who was in Iran when we were there, and a perfect prototype of an Ambassador. And two of our staff members who had accompanied us there -- Liz Carpenter and Bill Crockett.

Lynda had Philip Johnson, the Architect, at her table and thought him the most interesting man at the party.

And the John Walkers in whose lovely National Gallery of Art the wonderful Iranian exhibit had been held several years ago. I reminisced with the Shah about that.

Lee Udall sat next to the Shah. She and Stu had been to Iran, and she is young and bright. And I had carefully put David Lilienthal close to me and to the Shah because one of my really inspiring memories of a Chief of State was when I sat next to the Shah at a visit to his country, and he told me about the development of the rivers, the hydroelectric power, the possibilities for irrigation for flood control, and described David Lilienthal's work with so much personal admiration. I had put

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 9

young Mrs. Roy Hofheinz, Jr. at my table too. Ray, I had found to be almost a replica of the young Roy Hofheinz who had managed Lyndon's campaign for the Senate in 1941 in Houston. His father had proudly told me that he spoke, I believe it was, 11 languages, had gotten his Ph. D. when he was 19 and was now teaching at Harvard. I asked his wife about him, and she said rather deprecatingly that it was really just 7 languages. And what did he teach? It was Chinese politics. What a long way, what a great American story. I remember meeting his grandmother in that campaign in '41 -- a woman of very simple and modest origins -- so new to America -- her German accent so thick that I could hardly understand her English. We began with striped bass "Isfahan" -- named after one of the Shah's cities. And ended with a really glorious desert -- "August Basket" -- the first that Ferdinand has concocted since he got back from the hospital.

Lyndon's toast was eloquent and had a touch of humor. He spoke of how much the company missed the Empress. This Administration champions beauty in all its forms. And about the Shah's approaching coronation. It will be in October after he has reigned for 26 years. Lyndon said, "I must add special congratulations on your Majesty's superb sense of timing. You have had the foresight to schedule your coronation when your polls are up."

Once more the Shah made his response without notes -- slowly, rather hesitantly, but with a very winning quality. He spoke of why the

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 10

Empress had remained at home. She has many things to do. For the first time, a woman is to be crowned in our country. Lately, women have achieved many rights. So whether there is a quality in wearing a crown, I don't know. His voice rather slurred off in a very amusing manner. I have the feeling he's becoming more mature, more used to power, more at home with humor. And there is a wonderful quality of humility in him. And of course he quite won me when he payed me a more than a token compliment, "Mrs. Johnson is doing so much for the betterment of so many things." He outlined briefly the improvements in his country and especially in the last five years. I think all of the guests were as captivated with him as I was.

One of the surprising things he had said at dinner was that he was planning a greenbelt around Tehran where absolutely every tree had to be watered to grow. But he thought it would be such a great ornament for the Capital of his country, and they were going to do it.

We had coffee in the Red Room, and guests came up to chat with him -- Betty Beale among them. I had invited Marilyn Waltz to the after-dinner entertainment with her date who turned out to be quite handsome. It always makes me feel so good to have young people enjoy and appreciate these White House entertainments. She is a fresh mixture of reserve and enthusiasm that I find engaging.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 11

The Claiborne Pells had brought their young house guest, Prince Philip Licktenstein to the 10:00 entertainment. And of course the press fell upon that title with relish. And Agnes deMille's son, Jonathan Prude, was there. And Mary Slater and Warrie Lynn of course. And Marie and John Criswell. And Nash Castro's daughter, Kim. And Cristy Carpenter. We try especially to remember the children of friends for the 10:00 entertainment, especially when we have a group of entertainers like tonight who are themselves so young and gay.

Lyndon has worked so hard these last days and weeks, and he is weary and was ready to get the entertainment on the road. So as soon as we could gracefully for what turned out to be one of the gayest, bounciest, liveliest evenings of entertainment I remember -- the American Ballet directed by Theatre/Lucia Chase -- putting on a ballet called "Rodeo". It was introduced by its own choreographer -- Agnes deMille -- with her remarkable sparkle and wit. To me she's as good an actress as a choreographer. And the cowgirls and square dancers and ranch owners' daughter and eastern friends in their old fashion costumes, and the rangler and the roper and the cowboys in their blue jeans and big hats and the kind of boots you could do ballet in. It was so light and lively -- so much fun -- that I had that satisfied feeling any hostess has when she knows things are going well.

We took the Shah up on the stage with us after it was over and met and thanked all the young people. And there were lots of pictures.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 12

Then we walked with him to the North Portico for a rather early goodbye. It wasn't 12:00 yet. Lyndon went straight upstairs. I stayed another 45 minutes or so talking to the young dancers and to Agnes deMille especially. And to Armand Hammer who told me the marvelous news that he wanted to give the White House a Russell "bronze". He knew we had a Remington one. I struggled with myself one moment and then said, "You are testing my loyalty." And he said, "What do you mean?" And I said, "You know, there will be a Lyndon Johnson Library within just two or three years, and the artists of the southwest are among my husband's favorites. It will be marvelous for the White House to have it." But I got no farther. He said, "I'll give something to the Lyndon Johnson Library too." And then he went on something about the original of the cowboy in bronze by Russell. What a great addition those would be. I am always pleased to see him because I remember our pleasant encounter at Campobello and his generosity and forethought, his lasting love of a man in preserving FDR's old summer home as a Park where everybody can come. I saw David Lilienthal in the hall and said, "Come with me." I wanted to talk to him about his time in Iran. And I started into the Red Parlor and lo and behold/^{when} I looked over my shoulder he was not there. I felt exactly like the little cowgirl in the ballet who couldn't get a man for the first two acts. It was really funny. Later in the evening, I got a second chance. I met him face to face and straightway admitted "I had wanted to talk to you. What happened to you?" He said something

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 13

quite graceful about "I really couldn't believe I had heard you right." And we went in the Green Room and had a very fascinating interlude of the kind of conversation that makes an evening remembered. Yes, he was full of hope about the work that he had done in Iran and about their future and about their ability to handle it -- to take over. We talked of Korea's progress. And then I said, "What are you doing now?" He looked at me rather wiley and said something like this: "A very persuasive man has put me to work in Viet-Nam." And then I remembered Lyndon either seeing him on his trip to Guam or right there after and thrilling sounding plans for things that could be done -- for the agriculture, for the economy of the country. He talked about the Vietnamese. He said they were very hard workers and very quick to learn. Best of all, he sounded full of hope that was based on knowledge and work. He sounded like he liked my husband.

It was after 12:00 when I went to the second floor with our house guests, the Marshall Steves and S. B. Whittenburg and the young Dick Browns to have a night-cap. And Lyndon called us from his room where he was ensconced in bed, half covered with memoranda and reports. He said, "Come on in and have your drink with me." So we piled up on the few chairs and on the floor and talked of Amarillo and HemisFair and Austin. The Dick Browns say everybody likes Pat so much. And of all the things Texas ought to do as a State to get

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

Page 14

ready for HemisFair. I was still shaken by the perfection of Expo and so concerned about Texas' place in the eyes of the world if we have all of those thousands of visitors next year.

Patsy is delightful. She straightforwardly told Lyndon something I like for him to hear. "Mr. President, if the whole country could see you informally when you just talk off the cuff they would understand you and they would be with you."

It was 1:00 when we went to bed, and I chalked it up as a good day -- a successful State visit with one of the most fascinating and likeable monarchs I'll ever meet, something less than the most glittering assemblage of guests, and "A-plus" entertainment.