

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
DAILY DIARY

Date February 17, 1968

The President began his day at (Place) _____

Day Saturday

Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expenditure Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	7:54a		t		Mr. Sam Houston Johnson	
	7:50a				Breakfast	
C	8:14a			t	Dale Malechek (LBJ Ranch)	
	9:21a		t		Walt Rostow -pl	
	9:35a		f		Harry McPherson -pl	Pres. today announced appointment of
						Dr. Herbert A. Simon of Carnegie-Mellon
	9:38a		t		Operator - Bring Yuki up	University and Dr. Harland G. Wood of
						Case Western Reserve University to four
C	10:11a		t		Mr. Paul Fisher (Residence)	year terms as members of President's
						Science Advisory Committee
	10:30a		f		Walt Rostow	
	10:35a		f		Doug Cater -pl	President today annouced appointment of
	10:40a		f		Walt Rostow	Frank Pace, Jr., Greenwich, Conn. as
	10:56a		t		Col. James Cross	Chairman of Public Broadcasting Corp.
	11:20 a		t		Marvin Watson -pl	Also named additional members of Board -
	11:25a		t		George Christian -(at his residence)	Joseph A. Beirne, Robt. S. Benjamin,
	11:40a		t		Marvin Watson -pl	Roscoe C. Carroll, Michael A. Gammino,
C	11:45a		t		Secy Robert McNamara	Oveta Culp Hobby, Saul Haas, Joseph D.
	11:50a		t		Col. James Cross	Hughes, Erich Leinsdorf, John D. Rockefeller,
	12:00noon		t		Harry McPherson -pl	Carl Sanders, Frank E. Schooley, Jack Valenti,
	12:15p		t		Marvin Watson -pl	Milton S. Eisenhower, James R. Killian, Jr.

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
C	12:20p		t		Honorable Clark Clifford	
	12:36p				To Office	
					w/ Jim R. Jones	
					Marvin Watson	
	12:37p		f		Marie Fehmer (Returning President's earlier call)	
C	12:50p		t		Attorney General Ramsey Clark	
	12:45p	1:00p			Tom Johnson	
	12:50p	1:00p			Walt Rostow	
	1:15p				To Cabinet Room	
					for Meeting w/ White House staff members - OFF RECORD	
					Harry McPherson	
					John Roche	
					Marvin Watson	
					Joe Califano	
					Doug Cater	
					Walt Rostow	
					George Christian	
					Larry Temple	
					Jim R. Jones	
					Tom Johnson	
					De Vier Pierson	
					Sherwin Markman	
					Barefoot Sanders	
					Mike Manatos	

The President began his day at (Place).

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Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expendi- ture Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	3:15p				Boarded helicopter following people: Paul Glynn Dr. Berkley Nell Yates Donna McIloney Harry McPherson Charles Maguire Harry Middleton Walt Rostow Larry Temple Mary Rather pob	
	3:34p				President out of Oval Office w/ Mrs. Johnson MW Jim Jones	
	T				The President and Mrs. Johnson were holding hands and she walked him to the helicopter that was waiting on the South Grounds.	
	3:35p				President boarding helicopter w/ Jim Jones	
	3:36p				We took off President had discussion with Walt Rostow Harry McPherson Jim Jones Larry Temple	
	XXXX					

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Day

Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expenditure Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
					Aboard Air Force One at Departure from Andrews Air Force Base	
					The President	
					James Jones	
					Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Chief of Staff, United States Army	
					Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, Asst. Commandant, Marine Corps	
					Col. Fred B. Schoomaker, Chief, Special Actions Unit, Office of	
					Chief of Staff, U. S. Army	
					Major James Piner, Jr., Aide to the Chief of Staff, Office of the	
					Chief of Staff, U. S. Army	
					Lt. Col. Deon N. Utter, Policy Analysis (AO), Hdqs, U. S. Marine Corps	
					Chief Don Nausser	
					Sgt. Major Herbert J. Sweet, The Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps	
					Gunnery Sergeant Luis Salizar, Hdqs. and Service Company, Marine	
					Barracks	
					Sgt. Paul Glynn	
					Sgt. Marshall Gaddis	
					SDI Cecilio Pontanilla	
					Connie Gerrard	
					Horace Busby	
					Dr. George Burkley	
					Lt. Col. Hugh G. Robinson	
					Lt. Col. Haywood R. Smith	
					Cdr. Samuel Latimer	
					Phyllis Bonanno	
					Robert Taylor (USSS)	
					Clinton Hill "	
					David Grant "	
					R. Keiser "	
					Miller "	
					Moulton "	
					Peoppler "	
					Smith "	

SEE TRAVEL RECORD
FOR TRAVEL ACTIVITY

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1967 OF -256-957

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The President began his day at (Place).

Saturday

Day.

SEE TRAVEL RECORD
FOR TRAVEL ACTIVITY

THE WHITE HOUSE
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Date Feb. 17, 1968

Saturday

The President began his day at (Place) Air Force One

Day

Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expenditure Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	3:47p				Andrews Air Force Base	
	3:48p				Boarded Air Force One	
	3:54p				In the air (see pages 5a and 5b for list of people on board)	
	4:02p				President had some chili and talked to Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, and Gen. Lewis W. Walt, Command Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps	
	4:33p				Started out descent for Fort Bragg North Carolina	
	4:47p				On the ground at Fort Bragg	
	4:55p				President departed plane to speak to 2,500 - 82nd Airborne Division of the Army troops who are leaving for Viet Nam. President and General Richard J. Seitz, Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division, reviewed the troops	
	5:08p	5:15p			President speaks to the troops	
					Then walked directly to the Air Transport plane and shook hands with each Marine as he boarded plane to leave for VN (many had already had one tour of VN duty and were returning for second time); then boarded the plane and said goodbye to the group.	
	5:25p				President Johnson, General Johnson and General Seitz entered automobile (followed by staff and others) for motorcade to Womack hospital to visit wounded Vietnam boys.	

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Entry No.	Time		Telephone for t		Activity (include visited by)	Expendi- ture Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	5:35p				Arrived Womack Hospital. President departed car and walked into hospital amidst applause. Stopped and shook hands with people and asked them their names. First woman he spoke with was Mrs. C. W. Robertson of Fayetteville who said that she was proud to be an American, was proud of the President and the fine work that he is doing	
					The President asked if the food in the hospital was any good and the boys answered that it was pretty good. "Only pretty good," he replied to which all the people laughed	
	5:40p				President talked to following patients: Ror bin Ett James Thomas Sp4 Lewis - President asked him what he did in the service and Lewis answered that he drove a truck. President said that he had driven a truck when he was a young man too. Then the President asked him if his truck has a windshield. Lewis said yes and the President said "You're luckier than I was -- my truck never had one. See how things change." Sp4 Samuel Robertson Sp4 Doug Crain, Va. Beach, Va Danny Shrader Sp4 James Alvus GReason Boyd W. Childers - President surprised this young man and for a minutes the boy found it hard to answer the President's questions. Nurse Betty Dumanski stopped the President in the hallway and told him she thought he was doing a fine job	

The President began his day at (Place).

Saturday

Day

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	5:55p				President left the wards and descended in the elevator. As he came down he asked the Hospital Commander Col Thomas if the boys were well taken care of - he said " Col. if there is a time that fellows need help it is when they are in the hospital." The Col. replied that they tried to do everything possible for the boys.	
	5:59p				The President walked through the lobby towards the motorcade. As he was walking one of the women remark how handsome he was - the President overheard and said "I don't look that funny, do I?" Laughter from the crowd.	
	5:59p				President spoke with Mrs. Robert Marshall the wife of Air Borne Corpsman. She said she was proud to be an American.	
	5:59p				Left the hospital to return to Pope Air Force Base.	
					As we were driving back (pob in staff car) the people were lined up on the sides of the highway. They had been there before, when we drove from the base to the hospital, but now there were more. People cheered the President as he went by and applauded. The little children jumped up and down and squealed with delight. The day was beautiful, 60° and so conducive to people standing out by the highway.	
	6:06p				Returned to Pope Air Force Base.	
	6:09p				President boarded Air Force one.	

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
					Before plane departed three people left it at Fort Bragg and three secret service men replaced them.	
					Departees: General Johnson Col Schomaker Major Piner	
					Replacements: Whan, USSS Keaner, USSS Melchiari, USSS	
	6:20p				We were air borne	
	6:25p				President came out of his room and stopped to chat with Mary Rather and pob.	
	XXX 6:45p				President into his bedroom.	
	6:55p	6:55p			Col. Cross in.	
	6:55p	7:10p			pob in	
	XXX 7:10p					
	7:15p	7:22p			Jim Jones in	
					Gen. Seitz related the following examples of the spirit of the men of the 82nd Airborne Division:	
					1. A soldier was AWOL for 24 days. When he learned his unit was moving out for Vietnam he called to say he was returning to join his men. He said that he had been there before and wanted to return with his fellow soldiers.	
					2. A Reserve soldier with one day left on his enlistment said, upon learning	
					q (cont)	

The President began his day at (Place).

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(1)	8:41p	Pacific Time			EL TORO Marine Corps Base - Greeted by Gen. Wm. G. Thrash & reception committee The President left the plane and walked towards the waiting troops amidst applause and cheers from the waiting civilian crowd that had gathered.	
	8:43p	8:50p			Speech to troops (introduced by Gen. Thrash) First five minutes were prepared, but then he spoke extemporaneously for about three minutes.	
	8:50p	8:57 p			Reviewed the departing troops. Talked or shook hands with about every third man.	
	8:57p	9:12p			President watched the boys get on their plane and waited for it to depart.	
	9:20p	9:40p			Boarded Chopper #1 w/ for Aircraft Carrier CONSTELLATION Walt Rostow Harry McPherson George Christian Larry Temple Gen. Walt Horace Busby Jim Jones Dr. Burkeley Charles Maguire Col. Cross Paul Glynn Clint Hill Mary Rather pob	

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					President napped a little on Chopper.	
2	9:43p	10:33a			Arrived on deck of CONSTELLATION. President was greeted by:	
2					VADM B. F. Roeder COMFIRSTFLT	
2					RADM F. H. MICHAELIS COMCARDIV 9	
2					CAPT. A. B. GRIMES CHIEF OF STAFF CONCARDIV 9	
2					LCDR Bob COMER FLAG LIEUTENANT CONFIRSTFLT	
2					LCDR Ray JOHNSON " " COMCARDIV 9	
2					LCDR L. C. "Chuck" PETERSON FLAG SECRETARY CONCARDIV 9	
2					CAPT. W. R. FLANAGAN COMMANDING OFFICER USS CONSTELLATION	
2					CDR W. N. DONNELLY EXECUTIVE OFFICER USS CONST.	
2					CDR C. J. YOUNGBLADE OPERATIONS OFFICER USS CONST.	
2					CDR D. E. ROSENQUIST WEAPONS OFFICER USS CONST.	
2					CDR. G. W. PHELPS SUPPLY OFFICER USS. CONST.	
2					CDR B. O. GAIR ENGINEER OFFICE USS CONST.	
2					CDR. H. E. KEEN JR. PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN USS. CONST.	
2					CDR J. C. DUCK AIR OPERATIONS USS. CONST.	
2					ENS. M. C. STANFORD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER USS CONST.	
	9:44p				President taken into his sitting room - bedroom suite. After he got settled	
C					he held a press briefing w/	
C					Helen Thomas - UPI	
C					Bob Pierpoint - CBS	
C					Doug Cornell - AP	
C					David Matthew - Reuters	
C					Norma Milligan (ap.?) <i>Newsweek</i>	
					Walt Rostow	
					Tom Johnson	
					Harry McPherson	
					Larry Temple	
					Mary Rather	pob
					Col. Cross	Paul Glynn
					Jim Jones	
					Horace Busby	

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					REMARKS:	
					It was good to see the boys, some of them had been to VN before. They were proud of themselves and we were proud of them. The boys said in substance that they felt sorry for Gen. Westmoreland because he needed more troops, but if this was what was needed then they would be glad to go.	
					Also gave them some off-the-record- casulaty figures; this said there were a large number of mortar attacks throughout the country today and also by ground forces.	
					Told press they would be briefed in the morning as to his plans.	
					Related story of how he was speaking to Lyn on the phone and the baby was laughing and laughing - he asked Luci why and she said his Daddy is tickling him. Helen Thomas asked if he tlaked to him today and the President replied No, it was last night - and by the way he asked for you - which was met with laughter .	
		10:28p			Tom J ^o hnson called the press conference to an end.	
					President stayed in state room w/ Christian Horace Busby Jim Jones Mary Rather pob Other staff member were in and out for the next five minutes.	
					REMARKS: Spoke with G. Christian about the press reaction of that day George told him that there were no reports filed as of yet, but h w would give them to the President as soon as they were in. Asked Busby and McPherson to write him a speech - one to write it, the other to edit it. Start with about 500 words and edit it to 400. Told them briefly what he wanted them to say,	

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