

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
DAILY DIARY

Date Oct 24, 1968

The White House

Day Thursday

The President began his day at (Place) _____

Entry No.	Time		Telephone f or t		Activity (include visited by)	Expenditure Code
	In	Out	Lo	LD		
C	8:07a			t	Arthur B Krim - New York City	
	8:41a		f		Mr. George Meany	
C	8:50a				The President asked for Harry McPherson - he was on the tennis courts	
	9:04a		t		Agent Clint Hill	
	9:11a		f		Harry McPherson - returning the President's call	
	9:37a		f		DeVier Pierson	
C	9:44a		t		Secy of State Dean Rusk (b. 2) - re UNESCO appointments, Katie Louchheim	
	9:52a		t		Rostow - pl	
C	10:08a		t		Secy Rusk (b. 2) - reactions of Harriman and Vance in Paris; peace talk progress	
	10:24a		t		Harry McPherson	
	10:35a		t		Mrs. Johnson - at hairdresser	
	11:00a		t		Califano - pl (b. 2) - Labor Department matters, mtg w/ Secy Wirtz yesterday, Wall Street Journal Article and Joe's plans after Jan 20.	
C	11:14a			t	Hon Edwin Weisl Sr - NYC	

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FOR TRAVEL ACTIVITY

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

Page No.: /

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	12:19p				To mjdr's room --	
C					stopping to greet Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, Asst Commandant, USMC and saying, "Stop by before you leave, I may have some news for Chuck -- we may have two Robbs by then."	
	12:22p				To Oval Ofc w. Jim Jones	
	12:25p		t		Christian - pl	
	12:27p		t		Rostow - pl	
C	12:31p		t		Secy Clark Clifford	
	12:45p		f		Walt Rostow	
C	12:50p		f		Cong Hale Boggs (b. 1)	

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2	12:56p	1:03p			Mr. William C. Doyle, National Commander of the American Legion	
		1:03p			James Watkins, Assistant National Adjutant, American Legion	
		1:03p			Cartha D. (Deke) DeLoach	
					Commander Doyle is a Brigadier General in the New Jersey National Guard -- and is a Director of Veteran Services in the State of New Jersey.	
					Commander Doyle presented the President a bound book containing 1968 American Legion Resolutions.	
					Commander Doyle also presented to the President a plaque showing two framed medallions on velvet w/ identification plaque below, "In Appreciation to the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1968."	
	1:00p		t		Rostow - pl	
	1:02p		t		Christian - pl	
	1:03p		t		Jones - pl	
	1:05p				To Cabinet Room for	
C	1:07	1:29			PRESS CONFERENCE	

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	1:30p				To Oval Ofc -	
		2:09			w/ Jim Jones	
		2:00			George Christian	
		1:46p			Harry McPherson	
	1:35p	2:09	xxx		Larry Temple	
C	2:14p	2:40p			Sid Davis of Westinghouse Broadcasting OFF RECORD	
					George Christian	
					Sid Davis asked to see the President - said he was interested in talking with	
					the President on the current situation in Vietnam and domestic politics.	
	2:41p				Lyn	
	2:42p				The President to the press lobby w/ Lyn	
	2:50p				To mjdr's room w/ Lyn	
					Ed Fried	
					DeVier Pierson	
					George Christian	
					then to mansion w/ above	

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	In	Out	Lo	LD		
	3:00p				LUNCH	
		4:12p			w/ George Christian	
		4:12p			De Vier Pierson and <i>Harry McPherson also -</i>	
		4:12p			Ed Fried	
					sat in dining room during lunch - but did not eat	
	4:10p		t		Rostow - pl	
	5:55p	<i>6⁰³</i>	t		Jones - pl	
	6:11p		t		Jim Jones (PL)	
	6:14p		f		Walt Rostow (PL)	
	6:39p		t		Harry McPherson (PL)	
	6:56p		t		Walt Rostow (PL)	
	7:12p		t		Larry Temple (PL)	
	7:18p	<i>7²⁸p</i>			To the office with Mrs. Johnson and little Lyn Nugent. Stayed in mjdr's office reading the Evening Star. Mrs. J and Lyn on into the Oval Office. Lyn played with telephones. Oke took pictures.	
	7:24p				To the Oval Office.	

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<i>C</i>	7:25p	7:44p			General Carl Phinney - OFF RECORD <i>Atty, Dallas, Texas, (old friend)</i>	
<i>C</i>	7:28p				Mrs. Johnson and Lyn returned to the Mansion	
	7:40p		f		Mrs. Johnson from the Mansion	
	7:45p				President in the Mansion - to see Lynda off with her doctor for the hospital and birth of her first child	
	7:49p				In Oval Office. Called George Christian on (PL)	
	7:54p		t		Walt Rostow (PL) - did not talk	
	7:59p	8:23p			Worked signing table with mjdr	
	8:29p		t		Mrs. Johnson at the hospital	
	8:32p		t		Colonel James Adams, WHACA, at home. The President wanted to know how long it would take	
	8:35p		t	Tom	Johnson (PL) to get a commercial call through to Capt Robb in Vietnam. Commercial Calls go only to Saigon and	
<i>C</i>	8:38p		t		Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, Ass't there is a 24 hour wait from placement to that	
					Commandant of the Marine Corps point. President stressed he did not want to use	
					military facilities as the 500,000 others out there	
					do not have those for personal use. Asked Col. A	
					to check and let him know.	
	8:42p		f		Mrs. Johnson	
	8:44p		f		Col. James Adams reporting commercial communications lines open to Saigon, Vietnam	
					between the hours 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. (Washington time). Emergency messages expedited.	
					President said he didn't feel this to be an emergency and asked about cables. Again, this	
					is a commercial vehicle and to Saigon only. Col. Adams suggested using MARS (Military	
					Affiliates Radio System) (This is, for the military, what the ham operators are f civilians)	

SEE TRAVEL RECORD
FOR TRAVEL ACTIVITY

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

Page No.: *7*

MORE

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					Col Adams expressed his belief this was the best facility for getting message to Captain Robb. The President again said he didn't want to use anything not available to everybody else in like circumstances. Col. Adams explained this is the reason MARS was set up and that it IS available to all. The President then dictated the message he would like sent to Chuck Robb:	
					To Captain Charles S. Robb, USMC	
					G-4 Section Hdqs. Bn.	
					1st Marine Division	
					FPO San Francisco, California 96602	
					"Lynda Bird well. Went to the Naval Hospital 8:30 tonight. All is well. You will hear from us during the night, our time." Lady Bird and Lyndon B. Johnson	
					The message was received at MARS at the Pentagon about 9 p.m. Between 9 and 9:21 p.m., it went through three "legs" to DaNang, Vietnam - the Naval facility there receiving it at 9:21, Washington time. Captain Robb receipted for the message at 9:50 p.m.	
	8:50p	10:25p			Tom Johnson) Larry Levinson) in Lounge with the President. Just relaxing and talking. Juanita Roberts) One unpleasantness: Larry Levinson received a report of an EOB secretary (Dr. Hornig's office) being raped in her car on the Elipse. Suspect apprehended. Larry working with authorities on this case.	
C	9:25p			t	Dr. Norman Hackerman, President, The University of Texas. (Thought Dr. Hackerman was in the city because Mrs. Johnson had said they came to Washington from Texas on the same plane. Was going to invite him by for a visit. Discussed the Rostows and their possible association with the University and other matters for after the Presidency)	
C	9:52p			f	Lt. Gen. Lewis Walt "Completed the mission over an hour ago."	
C	10:22	10:45p		t	Hon. Frank Erwin in Austin.	

From the time the President saw Lynda off to the hospital at 7:45 p.m. until 11:55 when the President ordered his limousine there was an air of anxious waiting in the Oval office.

The President went to the mansion with Tom Johnson at 11:10 p.m.

He called Mrs. Johnson at the hospital, asking, "How is everything going." Mrs. Johnson replied that Lynda was in labor and would be going to the delivery room very shortly. She suggested that the President come out as soon as Lynda went into delivery.

The President said after completing the call to Mrs. Johnson that he was so thankful for his wonderful family. He said that Mrs. Johnson's judgment and wisdom over the years had been a great asset to him.

The President said the top Presidential commission could not have selected two finer sons-in-law than Pat and Chuck. The President said, "They are as fine as young men come." Then he talked about the years of growing up with Lynda and Luci and the strong, good influence of Mrs. Johnson.

At 11:23 Colonel Jim Adams of the White House Communications Agency advised the President that a message had been delivered to Captain Robb at DaNang, South Vietnam, advising him that Lynda had been admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital and was expecting delivery shortly.

At 11:33 Liz Carpenter was called by the President. He said, "Liz, what are you doing out at the hospital. You ought to be home; not up so soon after your own operation." The President said he would do whatever Liz and Mrs. Johnson suggested that press coverage at the hospital should be.

He laughingly told Liz, "You, Helen Thomas and Fran Lewin are the midwives on this, anyway, aren't you?"

Liz told Tom Johnson the President should leave as soon as Lynda went to delivery.

She suggested that the President have the news conference to announce the birth on behalf of Chuck and Lynda. Liz said she has cigars and candy for the President to distribute.

The President said: "I'll do it any way they want."

At 11:49 Mrs. Johnson called. She said Lynda was going to delivery. The President called for his automobile.

At midnight the President departed for the hospital with Tom Johnson with him. On the way out the President discussed his plans for Texas after January, discussed the staff and organizational arrangements. He said to the driver, "Hurry, the baby will be there before we get there." A few red lights were cautiously neglected.

The President arrived at the hospital at 12:20 at the side entrance. On entering, the President walked by the waiting elevator and followed a throng of press down the corridor to another elevator which the Secret Service had not planned to use.

The elevator operator, a corpsman, did not expect the President -- and was astounded to find himself operating the same elevator with the President. He said, "What floor, sir?" Liz said three, please.

On exiting the elevator, Liz guided the President down a long vacant corridor. With the President was Tom Johnson and one agent.

After about five minutes of walking, Liz asked the agent, "Do you know where we are going?" The agent said, "No, we were following you -- you said you knew where to go."

It took a few minutes of looking and the aide of an orderly who had been at the hospital 20 years to find the right suite, much to the dismay of the President. The Secret Service and Liz understood clearly afterwards that this type of thing should not be permitted to happen, particularly when advance people had been at the hospital.

The President entered the suite, and went to the back of the area and talked briefly with Mrs. Johnson.

It is a girl, Mrs. Johnson advised.

Soon afterwards, Lynda was wheeled into the suite, smiling weakly, but winking at the hospital attendants and staff standing by.

Behind, in a portable incubator, was the new granddaughter -- making way into the world with plenty of vocal notification. She was pink with jetblack hair, measuring 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds 8 ounces.

The President and Mrs. Johnson came to the small room set aside for the baby. They were joined by Luci.

The President departed the third floor for a news conference on the first floor where he announced that a new granddaughter had joined the Johnson family.

The President departed the hospital with Tom Johnson at 1:01 a.m.

From the time the President saw Lynda off to the hospital at 7:45 p.m. until 11:55 when the President ordered his limousine there was an air of anxious waiting in the Oval office.

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Page No.: 10