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	Transcript	Lady Bird Johnson's Diary, Thursday, October 21, 1965, Pages 3-5		3	10/21/1965	C

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Initials

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Thursday, October 21, 1965

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The day we were to leave the hospital began for me with trivia -- a visit to the dentist's office -- not completely successful.

It looks like this is going to be my life's work. Then signing mail

and pictures and working on the list for Princess Margaret -- a

dinner dance ^{the work on the list} which included a call to Arthur Krim.

And then back in Lyndon's room someone handed him a piece off the ticker -- it was bad news.

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The Rent Subsidy Bill had been scuttled without any opportunity to do any work on it -- some sort of blunder, some legislative maneuver that I did not understand. Lyndon's face darkened. He had thought it had every chance to win. At least he wanted to fight for it.

At that moment, the Speaker called with some of the leadership with him. But the whole machinery of departure was already in motion -- doctors, nurses, press -- and Lyndon did not talk.

On the way out we stopped in a ward full of Marines wounded in the fighting in Viet-Nam. Those that could stand and one in a wheelchair, gathered around Lyndon, and most of those in bed propped up on elbows. Then what followed was as touching a 5 minutes as I'll ever remember. Lyndon spoke very simply and very movingly of how proud he was of them all. "And when I feel pretty blue at night and I issue the orders that you carry out, I do it with a heavy heart." And then, "Whenever we cease to love it -- our country -- and whenever we cease to be willing to die for it and whenever we are willing to throw in the towel, why then some other society will come along and take us over."

I could not read the expression in the eyes of all of them. There was tense interest everywhere and in many I believe strong feelings. And it was good. I could not hold back a tear.

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Then we wheeled and started down the corridor fast and out the door saying goodbye to all the hospital brass on the steps. They've all been so wonderful to us.

And then up on the left we heard voices, and there were streamers stuck out the windows and heads and hands -- "Good luck, Mr. President, from the boys in 4-C", "Viet-Nam, o. k.", "Good luck from Ward 4-D, LBJ". They were waving and shouting, "We're with you", "The military is behind you". Lyndon called back, "They fixed me up. I'm in good shape. Now you get well."

So this was the end of our 13 days -- a blessed end, and we were thankful.

Back in the shining clean White House I had lunch with Lyndon and some of the staff. And then departed for an afternoon of those necessary chores -- Dr. Turchin, bless him, he had given some blood to a children's hospital as an expression of gratitude for Lyndon's good recovery -- and working with Bess on the list and with Ashton and a permanent with Mr. Per. And finally back home after 7:00.

Dr. Hallenbeck had dinner with us -- the most restrained man I know -- a very credible man. I think I would believe anything he would tell me.

It had not been a good afternoon for Lyndon. He had gone to the office and instead of staying a sensible hour or two, he had apparently

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stayed a long time with nothing but bad news and failure, and it showed
in his disposition.

SANTIZED

Transcript, Lady Bird Johnson's Diary, Thursday, October 21, 1965

Pages 4-5 are closed in their entirety.