

FOIA Marker

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Scheduling and Advance, Office of

Presidential Daily Diary

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
M	15	18	11	3	9984	9828		

Folder Title:

01/13/2017

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

Obama Presidential Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Schedule	The Daily Diary of President Barack H. Obama	6	01/13/2017	P6/b6;
002	Schedule	The Daily Diary of President Barack H. Obama	6	01/13/2017	P6/b6;
003	Schedule	Meeting Breakdown for President Barack Obama	5	01/13/2017	P6/b6;
004	Schedule	[Schedule]	1	01/13/2016	P6/b6;
005	Memorandum	Memorandum for the Record - From: Debbie Carter	1	01/17/2017	P6/b6;
006	Report	POTUS Report	1	01/13/2017	P6/b6;
007	Schedule	Meeting Breakdown for President Barack Obama	5	01/13/2017	P6/b6;
008	Briefing	Daily Economic Briefing	5	01/12/2017	P5;

COLLECTION TITLE:
Scheduling and Advance, Office of
SERIES:
Presidential Daily Diary
FOLDER TITLE:
01/13/2017
FRC ID:
9984

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

Obama Presidential Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
009	Memorandum	Off the Record Lunch - From: Liz Allen	1	01/13/2017	PRM;
010	Report	Participant Bios	3	N. D.	PRM;
011	List	List of Participants	10	N. D.	P6/b6; b7c; b7e; b7f;

COLLECTION TITLE:
Scheduling and Advance, Office of
SERIES:
Presidential Daily Diary
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01/13/2017
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9984

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



January 13, 2017
1:59 AM FRIDAY

START	END		DESCRIPTION
1:59 AM	1:59 AM	P	The President talked with White House Administration Switchboard operator, Sidney Jones.
8:00 AM	8:00 AM	R	The President received a wake up call from White House Administration Switchboard operator, Lilia Claude.
8:05 AM		R	The President was telephoned by the White House Administration Switchboard operator. The follow-up wake up call was not completed.
10:14 AM			The President went to the Oval Office.
10:14 AM	11:00 AM		The President participated in a daily intelligence briefing. For a list of attendees, see <u>APPENDIX "A."</u>
11:08 AM	11:19 AM		The President participated in a departure ceremony for his Army aide: Lt. Col. Andrew C. "Drew" Steadman, Army Aide Mrs. Emily Steadman, wife Cdr. Richard I. "Rik" Lawlor, Naval Aide Lt. Col. Wesley N. "Wes" Spurlock, Air Force Aide Maj. Christopher J. Ross, Marine Corps aide Lt. Cdr. Ginny R. Nadolny, Coast Guard Aide Maj. Rick Turner, incoming Army Aide
11:30 AM	12:11 PM		The President met with Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Missouri).
12:11 PM	12:19 PM		The President had a drop by greeting with Senior Master Sergeant Robert D. Nation, the Air Force One Steward, and his family: Mrs. Michelle L. Nation, wife Tyler A. Nation, son Natalie A. Nation, daughter Grace A. Nation, daughter
12:20 PM	12:30 PM		The President participated in a photo opportunity with current and former national security advisors.
12:30 PM			The President went to the Old Family Dining Room.

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



January 13, 2017
12:30 PM FRIDAY

START	END	DESCRIPTION
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	P6/b(6)
2:00 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
2:00 PM	2:05 PM	The President participated in a press pre-brief with: Elizabeth M. "Liz" Allen, Deputy Assistant to the President & Deputy Director of Communications Shailagh J. Murray, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor
2:05 PM	3:00 PM	The President participated in an interview with Michiko Kakutani, literary critic for the New York Times, to discuss writing. Doug Mills, photographer, New York Times [in at beginning] [The President's remarks will be published in the New York Times on January 16 or 17th.]
3:00 PM	3:12 PM	The President had a drop by greeting with: Ambassador Charles H. Rivkin, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State Susan Melissa Tolson, wife
3:30 PM		The President went to the Map Room.
3:30 PM	3:45 PM *	The President and First Lady participated in a video taping session.
3:45 PM *		The President and First Lady went to the Diplomatic Reception Room.
3:45 PM	4:00 PM	The President and First Lady participated in a group photo opportunity with White House calligraphers: Patricia Blair Debra Brown Becky Larimer Jonathan Lee
4:00 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



January 13, 2017
4:00 PM FRIDAY

START	END	DESCRIPTION
4:00 PM	4:05 PM	The President participated in a video taping session for a Weekly Address to the Nation thanking the American people for the honor of serving as president. The President's remarks will be released on January 14, 2017 over the internet.
4:05 PM *	4:10 PM	The President participated in a taping session for a retirement video for the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, John O. Brennan.
4:10 PM	5:35 PM	The President participated in a farewell photo opportunity with White House staff and their families.
5:40 PM	5:57 PM *	The President met for a wrap up [tier 1] with: Ms. Decker Breckenridge Kristie A. Canegallo, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation Mikey A. Dickerson, Administrator of U.S. Digital Service, Office of Management and Budget Jason B. Goldman, Deputy Assistant to the President & Chief Digital Officer Alexander D. Macgillivray, Deputy Chief Technology Officer, OTSP David B. Recordon, Special Assistant to President and Director of White House Information Technology Kori S. Schulman, Deputy Director of Digital Strategy Megan J. Smith, Assistant to the President and Chief Technology Officer
5:57 PM *	6:39 PM	The President met for a wrap up [tier 2] with his Assistant and Deputy Counsel, W. Neil Eggleston.
7:01 PM *		The President went to the Second Floor Residence.

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA



APPENDICES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DIARY OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA



DAILY INTEL BRIEFING

January 13, 2017

The Oval Office

Appendix "A"

Attendance not confirmed.

ATTENDEES:

The President

James R. Clapper Junior, Director of National Intelligence

Denis McDonough, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

Susan E. Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Avril D. Haines, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor

Lisa O. Monaco, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism and Deputy National Security Advisor

Colin H. Kahl, Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor to the Vice President

Benjamin J. Rhodes, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications

Cdr. Melvin R. Smith, Commanding Office of the U.S.S. Jimmy Carter

Brett M. Holmgren, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs

Daniel J. "Dan" Kritenbrink, Senior Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council

Allison Hooker, Director for Korea, NSC

Scott W. Bray, National Intelligence Manager for East Asia

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA



Appendix "B"

Attendance confirmed by WAVES
and White House Photo Office.

ATTENDEES:

The President

P6/b(6)

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



January 13, 2017
1:59 AM FRIDAY

ID	START	END		DESCRIPTION
103867	1:59 AM	1:59 AM	P	The President talked with White House Administration Switchboard operator, Sidney Jones.
103868	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	R	The President received a wake up call from White House Administration Switchboard operator, Lilia Claude.
103869	8:05 AM		R	The President was telephoned by the White House Administration Switchboard operator. The follow-up wake up call was not completed.
103870	10:14 AM			The President went to the Oval Office.
103871	10:14 AM	11:00 AM		The President participated in a daily intelligence briefing. For a list of attendees, see <u>APPENDIX "A."</u>
103876	11:08 AM	11:19 AM		The President participated in a departure ceremony for his Army aide: Lt. Col. Andrew C. "Drew" Steadman, Army Aide Mrs. Emily Steadman, wife Cdr. Richard I. "Rik" Lawlor, Naval Aide Lt. Col. Wesley N. "Wes" Spurlock, Air Force Aide Maj. Christopher J. Ross, Marine Corps aide Lt. Cdr. Ginny R. Nadolny, Coast Guard Aide Maj. Rick Turner, incoming Army Aide
103877	11:30 AM	12:11 PM		The President met with Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Missouri).
103878	12:11 PM	12:19 PM		The President had a drop by greeting with Senior Master Sergeant Robert D. Nation, the Air Force One Steward, and his family: Mrs. Michelle L. Nation, wife Tyler A. Nation, son Natalie A. Nation, daughter Grace A. Nation, daughter
103897	12:20 PM	12:30 PM		The President participated in a photo opportunity with current and former national security advisors.
103879	12:30 PM			The President went to the Old Family Dining Room.

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



January 13, 2017
12:30 PM FRIDAY

ID	START	END	DESCRIPTION
103880	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	P6/b(6)
103881	2:00 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.
103882	2:00 PM	2:05 PM	The President participated in a press pre-brief with: Elizabeth M. "Liz" Allen, Deputy Assistant to the President & Deputy Director of Communications Shailagh J. Murray, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor
103883	2:05 PM	3:00 PM	The President participated in an interview with Michiko Kakutani, literary critic for the New York Times, to discuss writing. Doug Mills, photographer, New York Times [in at beginning] [The President's remarks will be published in the New York Times on January 16 or 17th.]
103884	3:00 PM	3:12 PM	The President had a drop by greeting with: Ambassador Charles H. Rivkin, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State Susan Melissa Tolson, wife
103885	3:30 PM		The President went to the Map Room.
103886	3:30 PM	3:45 PM *	The President and First Lady participated in a video taping session.
103889	3:45 PM *		The President and First Lady went to the Diplomatic Reception Room.
103890	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	The President and First Lady participated in a group photo opportunity with White House calligraphers: Patricia Blair Debra Brown Becky Larimer Jonathan Lee
103887	4:00 PM		The President returned to the Oval Office.

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D.C.



January 13, 2017
4:00 PM FRIDAY

ID	START	END	DESCRIPTION
103888	4:00 PM	4:05 PM	The President participated in a video taping session for a Weekly Address to the Nation thanking the American people for the honor of serving as president. The President's remarks will be released on January 14, 2017 over the internet.
103891	4:05 PM *	4:10 PM	The President participated in a taping session for a retirement video for the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, John O. Brennan.
103892	4:10 PM	5:35 PM	The President participated in a farewell photo opportunity with White House staff and their families.
103893	5:40 PM	5:57 PM *	The President met for a wrap up [tier 1] with: Ms. Decker Breckenridge Kristie A. Canegallo, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation Mikey A. Dickerson, Administrator of U.S. Digital Service, Office of Management and Budget Jason B. Goldman, Deputy Assistant to the President & Chief Digital Officer Alexander D. Macgillivray, Deputy Chief Technology Officer, OTSP David B. Recordon, Special Assistant to President and Director of White House Information Technology Kori S. Schulman, Deputy Director of Digital Strategy Megan J. Smith, Assistant to the President and Chief Technology Officer
103894	5:57 PM *	6:39 PM	The President met for a wrap up [tier 2] with his Assistant and Deputy Counsel, W. Neil Eggleston.
103895	7:01 PM *		The President went to the Second Floor Residence.

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA



APPENDICES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DIARY OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA



DAILY INTEL BRIEFING

January 13, 2017

The Oval Office

Event 103871

Appendix "A"

Attendance not confirmed.

ATTENDEES:

The President

James R. Clapper Junior, Director of National Intelligence

Denis McDonough, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

Susan E. Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Avril D. Haines, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor

Lisa O. Monaco, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism and Deputy National Security Advisor

Colin H. Kahl, Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor to the Vice President

Benjamin J. Rhodes, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications

Cdr. Melvin R. Smith, Commanding Office of the U.S.S. Jimmy Carter

Brett M. Holmgren, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs

Daniel J. "Dan" Kritenbrink, Senior Director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council

Allison Hooker, Director for Korea, NSC

Scott W. Bray, National Intelligence Manager for East Asia

THE DAILY DIARY OF PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA



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Event 103880

Appendix "B"

Attendance confirmed by WAVES
and White House Photo Office.

ATTENDEES:

The President

P6/b(6)



PRIVATE

**MEETING BREAKDOWN FOR PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017
WASHINGTON, DC**

10:00 – 10:30 am PRESIDENTIAL DAILY BRIEFING

Location: The Oval Office

PRESS: CLOSED

Attendees:

1. Denis McDonough
2. Susan Rice
3. Avril Haines
4. Lisa Monaco
5. Colin Kahl
6. Ben Rhodes
7. Director Clapper
8. Scott Bray, National Intelligence Manager for East Asia
9. Melvin Smith, Commanding Officer of the USS Jimmy Carter
10. Brett Holmgren, SAP/Senior Director for Intel Programs
11. Dan Kritenbrink, SAP/Senior Director for Asia
12. Allison Hooker, Director for Korea

11:00 – 11:15 am MILAIDE CEREMONY AND DEPARTURE PHOTO FOR LTC DREW STEADMAN

Location: The Oval Office

POC: Drew Steadman

Attendees: 7 participants

PRESS: CLOSED

Format:

- Lieutenant Colonel Steadman and Emily Steadman, his wife, enter the Oval Office
- Lieutenant Colonel Steadman stands next to **YOU** in front of the Resolute desk
- A Military Aide reads the award citation for Lieutenant Colonel Steadman. Commander Lawlor brings the award to **YOU** and **YOU** pin the medal on Lieutenant Colonel Steadman's jacket.
- **YOU** pose for a photo with Lieutenant Colonel Steadman and Emily Steadman
- Following the photo, Emily Steadman exits the Oval Office
- The Military Aides present **YOU** with a departure football
- **YOU** pose for a photo with the Military Aides
- **YOU** thank the Military Aides and they depart

Attendees:

1. Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Steadman, U.S. Army, Military Aide to the President
2. Emily Steadman, Spouse of Lieutenant Colonel Steadman
3. Commander Rik Lawlor, U.S. Navy, Military Aide to the President
4. Lieutenant Colonel Wes Spurlock, U.S. Air Force, Military Aide to the President
5. Major Chris Ross, U.S. Marine Corps, Military Aide to the President
6. Lieutenant Commander Ginny Nadolny, U.S. Coast Guard, Military Aide to the President
7. Major Rick Turner, Incoming U.S. Army, Military Aide to the President

11:30 – 11:50 am

OVAL OFFICE DROP-BY WITH CLAIRE MCCASKILL

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Ferial Govashiri
PRESS: CLOSED

Attendees:

1. Claire McCaskill

12:00 – 12:10 pm

OVAL OFFICE DROP-BY WITH ROB NATION AND FAMILY

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Joe Paulsen
PRESS: CLOSED

12:25 – 12:30 pm

MOVE TO THE OLD FAMILY DINING ROOM

12:30 – 1:30 pm

P6/b(6)

P6/b(6)

1:30 – 1:35 pm

MOVE TO THE OVAL OFFICE

1:35 – 1:40 pm

INTERVIEW PREP

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Liz Allen
PRESS: CLOSED

Attendees:

1. Liz Allen
2. Shailagh Murray

1:40 – 2:05 pm

INTERVIEW WITH MICHIKO KAKUTANI ON WRITING

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Liz Allen
Attendees: 3 participants
Setup: Seated Print Interview
PRESS: CLOSED // WILL RUN IN NYT ON 1/16 OR 1/17 // WH
VIDEOGRAPHER FOR GREET ONLY

Format:

- **YOU** welcome Michiko Kakutani into the Oval Office and take **YOUR** seat
- **YOU** participate in a 20-minute interview (**NOTE:** Photographer Doug Mills takes candid photos at the beginning of the interview)
- Interview concludes and Michiko Kakutani departs

Attendees:

1. Michiko Kakutani, New York Times
2. Doug Mills, New York Times
3. Shailagh Murray

2:15 – 2:30 pm

OVAL OFFICE DROP-BY WITH CHARLES RIVKIN

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Ferial Govashiri
PRESS: CLOSED

twf: Susan Melissa Tolson

Attendees:

1. Charles Rivkin

2:45 – 3:10 pm

WEEKLY ADDRESS & VIDEO TAPINGS

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Adam Garber // Hope Hall
PRESS: CLOSED // WH VIDEOGRAPHER

Tapings:

1. Retirement Video for Director Brennan
2. Weekly Address

3:10 – 3:15 pm

MOVE TO THE MAP ROOM

3:15 – 3:45 pm

JOINT TAPING WITH THE FIRST LADY

Location: The Map Room
POC: Emily Blakemore
Attendees: **YOU** and the First Lady
PRESS: CLOSED
NOTE: Following the taping, **YOU** and the First Lady move to the Diplomatic Reception Room

3:45 – 3:50 pm

WHITE HOUSE CALLIGRAPHERS RECOGNITION PHOTO WITH THE FIRST LADY

Location: The Diplomatic Reception Room
POC: Mackenzie Smith
Attendees: 4 participants // 1 click
Setup: Standing Photo
PRESS: CLOSED

Format:

- **YOU** and the First Lady enter the Diplomatic Reception Room, where the calligraphers will be pre-staged
- **YOU** and the First Lady pose for a group photo with the calligraphers
- **YOU** and the First Lady briefly thank the calligraphers for their work, then depart
- **YOU** move to the Oval Office and the First Lady remains on the Ground Floor

Attendees manifested in the event memo

3:50 – 3:55 pm

MOVE TO THE OVAL OFFICE

3:55 – 4:15 pm

POTUS TIME

Location: The Oval Office

PRESS: CLOSED

4:15 – 5:15 pm

WHITE HOUSE DEPARTURE PHOTOS

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Tess Udall // Divya Kantamneni
Attendees: 236 attendees // 55 clicks
PRESS: CLOSED

Format:

- Staff members and their families enter the Oval Office, pose for a photograph with **YOU**, and depart

Attendees manifested in the event memo
--

5:30 – 6:00 pm

WRAP UP

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Jenny Wang
PRESS: CLOSED

6:00 – 6:30 pm

DESK TIME

Location: The Oval Office
PRESS: CLOSED

RON

THE WHITE HOUSE

Memorandum for the Record

January 17, 2017

Information per phone call with Janet Philips, White House Photo Office for January 13, 2017:

12:20 photos with current and former national security advisors

Lunch -

[REDACTED]

P6/b(6)

Wrap up – last photo taken at 5:57 (end of digital meeting; beginning of wrap up 2?)

7:01 – in Outer Oval (end of day)

Debbie Carter, Presidential Diarist

PRESIDENTIAL CALL LOG

ADMIN SWITCHBOARD

[illegible]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
PRESIDENTIAL CALL LOG
SIGNAL SWITCHBOARD

PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

Friday, January 13, 2017

[illegible]



United States Secret Service

Presidential Protective Division

POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 808006 **U #:** U42161 **Room #:** Oval Office **Person to be Visited:** The President
Requestor: REBECCA BODEN **Requestor Phone:** 69348
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 10:00 AM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
BRAY, SCOTT WILLIAM
SMITH, MELVIN RONALD



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 810025 **U #:** U43745 **Room #:** Oval Office **Person to be Visited:** Andrew Steadman

Requestor: ANDREW STEADMAN

Requestor Phone: 71349

From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 10:00 AM

Type of Appointment: Appointment

To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM

Location: White House (WH)

Visitor's Name

STEADMAN, EMILY WYATT

Withdrawal Marker

Obama Presidential Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Report	POTUS Report	1	01/13/2017	P6/b6;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

COLLECTION:

Scheduling and Advance, Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary

FOLDER TITLE:

01/13/2017

FRC ID:

9984

OA Num.:**NARA Num.:****FOIA IDs and Segments:**

25-74956-F

24-01042-F

22-17857-F

RESTRICTION CODES**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

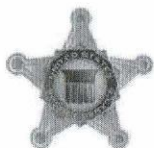
- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 809636 **U #:** U43558 **Room #:** Upper Press **Person to be Visited:** POTUS/
Elizabeth Allen
Requestor: PETER VELZ **Requestor Phone:** 63485
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:00 AM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name

KAKUTANI, MICHIKO NMN



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 809914 **U #:** U43664 **Room #:** WW Lobby **Person to be Visited:** POTUS
Requestor: KIMBERLY YOUNG **Requestor Phone:** 63149
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:30 AM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name

MCCASKILL, CLAIRE NMN



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 809427 **U #:** U43291 **Room #:** Oval **Person to be Visited:** Joe Paulsen/
POTUS

Requestor: JOSEPH PAULSEN **Requestor Phone:** 2024563271

From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 12:00 PM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment

To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
Nation, Grace A
Nation, Michelle L
Nation, Natalie A
NATION, ROBERT D
Nation, Tyler A



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 810116 **U #:** U43819 **Room #:** WW Lobby **Person to be Visited:** POTUS
Requestor: TERESA UDALL **Requestor Phone:** 61330
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 01:00 PM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
BECKER, LAWRENCE EDWARD
BROWN, GLENN NMN
EUSTIS, ROBERT MOSLEY
SPIEGEL, STEFANIE BLAU



United States Secret Service

Presidential Protective Division

POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 809477 **U #:** JANDEP **Room #:** Oval Office **Person to be Visited:** POTUS/Detrus Faulk
Requestor: JEANPHILIPPE CHARLES **Requestor Phone:** [REDACTED] **Type of Appointment:** Access List **Location:** White House (WH)
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 01:30 PM **To Date/Time:** 01/13/2017 06:00 PM **P6/b(6)**

Visitor's Name
DESKIS, ELEANOR MARY
DYSON, ALICE NMN
GANNETT, LINDSEY MICHELLE
LAWLER, JOHN ANDREW
MAGAW, BLAKE GRAHAM
MAGAW, CAITLIN MARIE
MAGAW, CRAIG DAVID
MAGAW, JOHN WILLIAM
MAGAW, SUSAN BETH
MURPHY, CHASE GRAYSON
MURPHY, LUKE DANIEL
MURPHY, MARGARET ANDRITZ
PARAMORE, FARON KYLE
PARAMORE, JULIEN BROCK
PARAMORE, MICHELLE CHRISTINA
PETRICIG, JAICE ELEANOR
PETRICIG, JAXSON PATRICK
PETRICIG, JENNIFER ANNE
PETRICIG, JOCELYN GRACE
REESE, TOYKA KONPENT
WYNN, AYANNA M
WYNN, JONATHAN E
WYNN, YEWANDE B



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 808743 **U #:** U42925 **Room #:** Oval **Person to be Visited:** POTUS
Requestor: FERAL GOVASHIRI **Requestor Phone:** 65795
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 02:00 PM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
RIVKIN, CHARLES HAMMERMAN
TOLSON, SUSAN MELISSA



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 809956 **U #:** U43732 **Room #:** WW Lobby **Person to be Visited:** POTUS

Requestor: TERESA UDALL

Requestor Phone: 61330

From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 02:15 PM

Type of Appointment: Appointment

To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM

Location: White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
BECKER, LAWRENCE EDWARD
BROWN, GLENN NMN
EUSTIS, ROBERT MOSLEY
SPIEGEL, STEFANIE BLAU



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 809528 **U #:** U43357 **Room #:** WW Ground **Person to be Visited:** Cody Keenan
Requestor: CODY KEENAN **Requestor Phone:** 64698
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 02:30 PM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
Keenan, Carly Christine
Keenan, Marilyn Stone
Keenan, Steven Lester



United States Secret Service

Presidential Protective Division

POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 810008 **U #:** U43738 **Room #:** Oval Office **Person to be Visited:** POTUS
Requestor: EMMANUEL CHAN **Requestor Phone:** 65427
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 03:15 PM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
Bartoloni, Kristen Agnes
BHANJI, FEINULA NMN
BOLES, ELIZABETH RUBY
Cafritz, Peggy Cooper
CAMERON, IAN O
Canegallo, Kristie Anna
CanegalloJr, Mark James
Chaudhary, Namrita NMN
CHON, GINA ELIZABETH
CHON, JIN NMN
Close, Jennifer Ann
Cogan, Carol Ann
CONNER, SEAN LEWIS
Crabtree, Shona Louise
CRAIG, KIRISTEN NMN
Cushman, Ashley Marie
Cushman, Chase Mark
Cushman, Evelyn Marie
Cushman, Jean K
Cushman, Katrina J
Cushman, Mark R
DAVID, FREDDIE NMN
David, Kristen NMN
Davighi, David Jonathan
Deese, Adeline S
Deese, Clark NMN
Deese, Kara A
DILL, ELIZABETH ANNE
Donovan, Ann M

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Visitor's Name
Donovan, Kathleen Elizabeth
DONOVAN, MICHAEL WILLIAM
EARNEST, JOSH NMN
Earnest, Natalie NMN
Earnest, Walker NMN
Eggleston, Nathanael Warren
Eggleston, Rachel Lucille
EGGLESTON, WARREN NEIL
Felten, Claire Anne
Felten, Laura Louise
Frankel, Adam NMN
Frankel, Soraya NMN
Froman, Benjamin G
Froman, Sarah Goodman
Furman, Henry Albert
FURMAN, JASON LEE
Furman, Jay Felix
Furman, Louisa Bettina
Gerber, Eve Aimee
Goldfuss, Caroline Elaine
Goldfuss, Charles Stone
Goldfuss, Christina White
GOLDFUSS, JONATHAN HARRIS
Goodman, Nancy NMN
Haines, Avril Danica
Hair, Penda Denise
Hartz, Carol Ray
HARTZ, CHARLES SCOTT
Hartz, Matt Ray
Hartz, Tim Scott
Holdren, Cheryl E
Holdren, John Paul
Hurwitz, Anita Gupta
Hurwitz, Sarah Klang
Hurwitz, Stephen Avram
Hurwitz, William Charles
InclanRodriguez, Rocio Rafaela
Jackson, Alicia Leahy
JACKSON, LAWRENCE LEROY

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Visitor's Name
JACKSON, PATRICK LUCAS
Jackson, Sophia Somer
Johnson, Aja I
Johnson, Broderick Deporres
JOHNSON, LUTHER H
Johnson, Norris C
KAHL, COLIN HACKETT
Kahl, Eleanor Vanasek
KAHL, REBECCA VANASEK
Kahl, Rylan Vanasek
KASSAM, ALNASIR A
Kassam, Noreen A
Kassam, Sameera A
KASSAM, SHELLINA S
Keenan, Carly Christine
KEENAN, CODY STEVEN
Keenan, Marilyn Stone
Keenan, Steven Lester
Keeney, Jennifer Malia
Kendrick, Paul Calvert
KENNEDY, CHARLES WHITNEY
Kennedy, Devin James
KENNEDY, LIAM ALEXANDER
KING, FRANCES KATHERINE
KING, LILLIAN KAVANAUGH
KING, NEIL C
Lahey, Alice Evelyn
Lahey, Hannah Paige
Lahey, Josh Barry
Lahey, Lewis Allen
Lechtenberg, Deborah Dower
Lechtenberg, Kate Dower
Lechtenberg, Tyler Andrew
LEE, JANET BUCHANAN
LEE, JESSE CHARLES
LEE, SAMANTHA ANNE
LiddellWestefeld, Christopher Scott
Litt, Deborah Gordon
LITT, ROBERT STEPHEN

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Visitor's Name
Lorjuste, Aiden Gregory
Lorjuste, Gregory MNM
Lorjuste, Kimberly Faith
Lorjuste, Riley Elizabeth
Macgillivray, Agreen Roger
MACGILLIVRAY, ALEXANDER DARROCH
Macgillivray, Asa August
MACGILLIVRAY, RODERICK ALDERDICECORNELL
MACGILLIVRAY, SANDRA ELIZABETH
Maloney, Brenna Lynn
McCarty, Shauna L
McCartySimas, Payton A
McCartySimas, Rowan J
McDonough, Adeline Lorraine
McDonough, Denis Richard
MCDONOUGH, EDWARD STEPHEN
McDonough, Karin Hillstrom
McDonough, Liam George
McGurk, Brett Holden
McQuaid, Clara Gresham
McQuaid, Janice Lloyd
McQuaid, John Richard
McQuaid, Katherine Ann
McQuaid, Nicholas Lloyd
McQuaid, Richard Frederick
Mecher, Genevieve NMN
Mecher, Gregory NMN
Meek, Elizabeth NMN
Meek, Shakara Edele
Meek, Shantel Elizabeth
MEHRBANI, ALEX AZHARI
MEHRBANI, MARYAM NMN
MEHRBANI, RODIN AZHARI
MOHAMED, ALTAF NMN
MONACO, ANTHONY PETER
MONACO, CHRISTOPHER D
Monaco, Lisa O
Monaco, Mark Churchill
Monaco, Mary Louise

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Visitor's Name
MONACO, PETER ANTHONY
Murray, Dianne Tillman
MURRAY, EDWARD JOHN
Murray, Shailagh Jane
Norkin, Natalie Cora
Norris, Michele L
OBannon, Alethia Ann
ODEa, Margaret M
PATIL, DEVIKA ANAND
PATIL, DHANURJAY AMBARISHS
Patil, Samaara Anand
Patil, Veyd Anand
PORCHEA, MARILYN NMN
PORCHEAVENESZEE, EMMAKA NMN
Psaki, Stephanie NMN
Reeves, Fiona ONeill
Ricchetti, Amy Blanchard
Ricchetti, Daniel Joshua
Ricchetti, Jeffrey Joseph
Ricchetti, Shannon Elizabeth
Ricchetti, Steven John
Ricchetti, Tyler Scott
Rice, Andrea NMN
RICE, SUSAN ELIZABETH
RiceCameron, Hannah Maris
RiceCameron, John D
RiceJr, Emmett John
RODRIGUEZ, DAVID ARTHUR
Rodriguez, Isabela Mia
RODRIGUEZ, ROBERTO ANDRES
RODRIGUEZ, ROBERTO JOSUE
RODRIGUEZ, ROSANA GEORGINA
Rosenbaum, Amy Debra
RUDE, JOEL E
Schulman, Elana Marti
SCHULMAN, HALEY GEORGIA
Schulman, Kori Sarabeth
Schulman, Marc Stuart
Schulman, Maureen Joyce

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Visitor's Name
SIMAS, DAVID M
Smith, Jazsmin NMN
Smith, Megan Joan
Stinnette, Jeannette Tate
Swisher, Alexander David
Swisher, Kara Anne
Swisher, Louis Benjamin
TATE, DESIREE LYNN
Tate, Johnnie NMN
TATE, MICHAEL KEALA
TateGilmore, Ashley Renee
Thiandoum, Abraham Ousmane
Thiandoum, Marieme Dower
Travis, Austin Mitchell
Travis, Lindsey Nicole
VENESZEE, OSCAR NMN
XHARDA, ANDON NMN
XHARDA, KLEVIS NMN
XHARDA, LIMOZA NMN
XHARDA, MERLINDA NMN
Zients, Jeffrey NMN
Zients, Jonathan NMN
Zients, Joshua NMN
ZIENTS, MARY NMN
Zients, Matthew NMN
Zients, Sasha NMN



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 810391 **U #:** U44041 **Room #:** WW **Person to be Visited:** POTUS
Requestor: KARIM FARISHTA **Requestor Phone:** 61483
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 03:30 PM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name

SMITH, JOAN ASPELL



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 810395 **U #:** U44053 **Room #:** WW **Person to be Visited:** POTUS
Requestor: KARIM FARISHTA **Requestor Phone:** 61483
From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 03:30 PM **Type of Appointment:** Appointment
To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM **Location:** White House (WH)

Visitor's Name

HARTZ, CHARLES SCOTT



United States Secret Service
Presidential Protective Division
POTUS REPORT

Appointment Information

Appointment #: 810447 **U #:** U44081 **Room #:** Oval Office **Person to be Visited:** POTUS

Requestor: EMMANUEL CHAN

Requestor Phone: 65427

From Date/Time: 01/13/2017 04:20 PM

Type of Appointment: Appointment

To Date/Time: 01/13/2017 11:59 PM

Location: White House (WH)

Visitor's Name
McCarty, Shauna L
McCartySimas, Payton A
McCartySimas, Rowan J
SIMAS, DAVID M



PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING BOOK

For

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

Presidential Diarist

PRIVATE

**MEETING BREAKDOWN FOR PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017
WASHINGTON, DC**

10:00 – 10:30 am

PRESIDENTIAL DAILY BRIEFING

Location: The Oval Office
PRESS: CLOSED

Attendees:

1. Denis McDonough
2. Susan Rice
3. Avril Haines
4. Lisa Monaco
5. Colin Kahl
6. Ben Rhodes
7. Director Clapper
8. Scott Bray, National Intelligence Manager for East Asia
9. Melvin Smith, Commanding Officer of the USS Jimmy Carter
10. Brett Holmgren, SAP/Senior Director for Intel Programs
11. Dan Kritenbrink, SAP/Senior Director for Asia
12. Allison Hooker, Director for Korea

11:00 – 11:15 am

**MILAIDE CEREMONY AND DEPARTURE PHOTO FOR LTC DREW
STEADMAN**

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Drew Steadman
Attendees: 7 participants
PRESS: CLOSED

Format:

- Lieutenant Colonel Steadman and Emily Steadman, his wife, enter the Oval Office
- Lieutenant Colonel Steadman stands next to **YOU** in front of the Resolute desk
- A Military Aide reads the award citation for Lieutenant Colonel Steadman. Commander Lawlor brings the award to **YOU** and **YOU** pin the medal on Lieutenant Colonel Steadman's jacket.
- **YOU** pose for a photo with Lieutenant Colonel Steadman and Emily Steadman
- Following the photo, Emily Steadman exits the Oval Office
- The Military Aides present **YOU** with a departure football
- **YOU** pose for a photo with the Military Aides
- **YOU** thank the Military Aides and they depart

Attendees:

1. Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Steadman, U.S. Army, Military Aide to the President
2. Emily Steadman, Spouse of Lieutenant Colonel Steadman
3. Commander Rik Lawlor, U.S. Navy, Military Aide to the President

4. Lieutenant Colonel Wes Spurlock, U.S. Air Force, Military Aide to the President
5. Major Chris Ross, U.S. Marine Corps, Military Aide to the President
6. Lieutenant Commander Ginny Nadolny, U.S. Coast Guard, Military Aide to the President
7. Major Rick Turner, Incoming U.S. Army, Military Aide to the President

11:30 – 11:50 am

OVAL OFFICE DROP-BY WITH CLAIRE MCCASKILL

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Ferial Govashiri
PRESS: CLOSED

Attendees:

1. Claire McCaskill

12:00 – 12:10 pm

OVAL OFFICE DROP-BY WITH ROB NATION AND FAMILY

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Joe Paulsen
PRESS: CLOSED

12:25 – 12:30 pm

MOVE TO THE OLD FAMILY DINING ROOM

12:30 – 1:30 pm

P6/b(6)

P6/b(6)

1:30 – 1:35 pm

MOVE TO THE OVAL OFFICE

1:35 – 1:40 pm

INTERVIEW PREP

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Liz Allen
PRESS: CLOSED

Attendees:

1. Liz Allen
2. Shailagh Murray

1:40 – 2:05 pm

INTERVIEW WITH MICHIKO KAKUTANI ON WRITING

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Liz Allen
Attendees: 3 participants
Setup: Seated Print Interview
PRESS: CLOSED // WILL RUN IN NYT ON 1/16 OR 1/17 // WH VIDEOGRAPHER FOR GREET ONLY

Format:

- **YOU** welcome Michiko Kakutani into the Oval Office and take **YOUR** seat
- **YOU** participate in a 20-minute interview (**NOTE:** Photographer Doug Mills takes candid photos at the beginning of the interview)
- Interview concludes and Michiko Kakutani departs

Attendees:

1. Michiko Kakutani, New York Times
2. Doug Mills, New York Times
3. Shailagh Murray

2:15 – 2:30 pm

OVAL OFFICE DROP-BY WITH CHARLES RIVKIN

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Ferial Govashiri
PRESS: CLOSED

Attendees:

1. Charles Rivkin

2:45 – 3:10 pm

WEEKLY ADDRESS & VIDEO TAPINGS

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Adam Garber // Hope Hall
PRESS: CLOSED // WH VIDEOGRAPHER

Tapings:

1. Retirement Video for Director Brennan
2. Weekly Address

3:10 – 3:15 pm

MOVE TO THE MAP ROOM

3:15 – 3:45 pm

JOINT TAPING WITH THE FIRST LADY

Location: The Map Room

POC: Emily Blakemore

Attendees: **YOU** and the First Lady

PRESS: CLOSED

NOTE: Following the taping, **YOU** and the First Lady move to the Diplomatic Reception Room

3:45 – 3:50 pm

WHITE HOUSE CALLIGRAPHERS RECOGNITION PHOTO WITH THE FIRST LADY

Location: The Diplomatic Reception Room

POC: Mackenzie Smith

Attendees: 4 participants // 1 click

Setup: Standing Photo

PRESS: CLOSED

Format:

- **YOU** and the First Lady enter the Diplomatic Reception Room, where the calligraphers will be pre-staged
- **YOU** and the First Lady pose for a group photo with the calligraphers
- **YOU** and the First Lady briefly thank the calligraphers for their work, then depart
- **YOU** move to the Oval Office and the First Lady remains on the Ground Floor

Attendees manifested in the event memo
--

3:50 – 3:55 pm

MOVE TO THE OVAL OFFICE

3:55 – 4:15 pm

POTUS TIME

Location: The Oval Office

PRESS: CLOSED

4:15 – 5:15 pm

WHITE HOUSE DEPARTURE PHOTOS

Location: The Oval Office

POC: Tess Udall // Divya Kantamneni

Attendees: 236 attendees // 55 clicks

PRESS: CLOSED

Format:

- Staff members and their families enter the Oval Office, pose for a photograph with **YOU**, and depart

Attendees manifested in the event memo
--

5:30 – 6:00 pm

WRAP UP

Location: The Oval Office
POC: Jenny Wang
PRESS: CLOSED

6:00 – 6:30 pm

DESK TIME

Location: The Oval Office
PRESS: CLOSED

RON

THE WHITE HOUSE

Withdrawal Marker

Obama Presidential Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Briefing	Daily Economic Briefing	5	01/12/2017	P5;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

COLLECTION:

Scheduling and Advance, Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary

FOLDER TITLE:

01/13/2017

FRC ID:

9984

OA Num.:

NARA Num.:

FOIA IDs and Segments:

25-74956-F

24-01042-F

22-17857-F

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

January 12, 2017

DEPARTURE CEREMONY – LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANDREW STEADMAN

DATE: January 13, 2017
LOCATION: The Oval Office
TIME: 11:00 – 11:15 AM
From: Carl Barnett

I. PURPOSE

To present Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Steadman his departure award and conduct departure ceremony with the President of the United States. A Military Aide to the President will read the citation.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Steadman, U.S. Army, Military Aide to the President and Emily Steadman, Drew's wife.
- Commander Rik Lawlor, U.S. Navy, Military Aide to the President
- Lieutenant Colonel Wes Spurlock, U.S. Air Force, Military Aide to the President
- Major Chris Ross, U.S. Marine Corps, Military Aide to the President
- Lieutenant Commander Ginny Nadolny, U.S. Coast Guard, Military Aide to the President
- Major Rick Turner, Incoming U.S. Army, Military Aide to the President

IV. PRESS PLAN

CLOSED Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Lieutenant Colonel Steadman and wife enter the Oval Office.
- Lieutenant Colonel Steadman stands next to YOU in front of desk.
- A Military Aide reads the award citation for Lieutenant Colonel Steadman. Commander Lawlor brings the award to YOU. The President pins the medal on Lieutenant Colonel Steadman's jacket.

- YOU will then pose for a photo with Lieutenant Colonel Steadman and his wife.
- Lieutenant Colonel Steadman's wife will exit the Oval Office.
- The Military Aides will present YOU with a departure football.
- The President will then pose for a photo with the Military Aides.

VI. REMARKS

N/A

V. ATTACHMENTS

None

Withdrawal Marker

Obama Presidential Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Off the Record Lunch - From: Liz Allen	1	01/13/2017	PRM;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
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COLLECTION:

Scheduling and Advance, Office of

SERIES:

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FOLDER TITLE:

01/13/2017

FRC ID:

9984

OA Num.:**NARA Num.:****FOIA IDs and Segments:**

22-17857-F

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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Report	Participant Bios	3	N. D.	PRM;

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Scheduling and Advance, Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary

FOLDER TITLE:

01/13/2017

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RESTRICTION CODES

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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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RECENT ARTICLES

New Yorker (Junot Diaz): Under President Trump, Radical Hope Is Our Best Weapon

November 21, 2016

Querida Q.:

I hope that you are feeling, if not precisely better, then at least not so demoralized. On Wednesday, after he won, you reached out to me, seeking advice, solidarity. You wrote, My two little sisters called me weeping this morning. I had nothing to give them. I felt bereft. What now? Keep telling the truth from an ever-shrinking corner? Give up?

I answered immediately, because you are my hermana, because it hurt me to hear you in such distress. I offered some consoling words, but the truth was I didn't know what to say. To you, to my godchildren, who all year had been having nightmares that their parents would be deported, to myself.

I thought about your e-mail all day, Q., and I thought about you during my evening class. My students looked rocked. A few spoke about how frightened and betrayed they felt. Two of them wept. No easy task to take in the fact that half the voters—neighbors, friends, family—were willing to elect, to the nation's highest office, a toxic misogynist, a racial demagogue who wants to make America great by destroying the civil-rights gains of the past fifty years.

What now? you asked. And that was my students' question, too. What now? I answered them as poorly as I answered you, I fear. And so I sit here now in the middle of the night, in an attempt to try again.

So what now? Well, first and foremost, we need to feel. We need to connect courageously with the rejection, the fear, the vulnerability that Trump's victory has inflicted on us, without turning away or numbing ourselves or lapsing into cynicism. We need to bear witness to what we have lost: our safety, our sense of belonging, our vision of our country. We need to mourn all these injuries fully, so that they do not drag us into despair, so repair will be possible.

And while we're doing the hard, necessary work of mourning, we should avail ourselves of the old formations that have seen us through darkness. We organize. We form solidarities. And, yes: we fight. To be heard. To be safe. To be free.

For those of us who have been in the fight, the prospect of more fighting, after so cruel a setback, will seem impossible. At moments like these, it is easy for even a matatana to feel that she can't go on. But I believe that, once the shock settles, faith and energy will return. Because let's be real: we always knew this shit wasn't going to be easy. Colonial power, patriarchal power, capitalist power must always and everywhere be battled, because they never, ever quit. We have to keep fighting, because otherwise there will be no future—all will be consumed. Those of us whose ancestors were owned and bred like animals know that future all too well, because it is, in part, our past. And we know that by fighting, against all odds, we who had nothing, not even our real names, transformed the universe. Our ancestors did this with very little, and we who have more must do the same. This is the joyous destiny of our people—to bury the arc of the moral universe so deep in justice that it will never be undone.

But all the fighting in the world will not help us if we do not also hope. What I'm trying to cultivate is not blind optimism but what the philosopher Jonathan Lear calls radical hope. "What makes this hope radical," Lear writes, "is that it is directed toward a future goodness that transcends the current ability to understand what it is." Radical hope is not so much something you have but something you practice; it demands flexibility, openness, and what Lear describes as "imaginative excellence." Radical hope is our best weapon against despair, even when despair seems justifiable; it makes the survival of the end of your world possible. Only radical hope could have imagined people like us into existence. And I believe that it will help us create a better, more loving future.

I could say more, but I've already imposed enough, Q.: Time to face this hard new world, to return to the great shining work of our people. Darkness, after all, is breaking, a new day has come.

Love, J

The Guardian (Dave Eggers): The day I went hunting for the Ku Klux Klan
December 17, 2016

No one knew much, but the crowd was growing. We were at the rest stop off Highway 29 between Eden and Pelham, where North Carolina meets Virginia, and everyone was looking for the Ku Klux Klan. It was 8.40am.

The day after the election of Donald Trump, the Loyal White Knights of Pelham, a chapter of the KKK with a suitably unhinged website, had announced that they would be holding a victory parade on 3 December. In the weeks since, there had been no word on the Knights' website or anywhere else about when or where the parade would be.

But the initial declaration was perhaps the most dramatic manifestation of what we might call the New Emboldening – a coast-to-coast rise in everyday American racism and bigotry spurred by the rhetoric and election of a billionaire who had taken swipes at certain Mexican-Americans and all Mexicans, certain women and all women, certain Muslim-Americans and all Muslims, all African Americans and all immigrants.

In the month after the election, the Southern Poverty Law Center had tracked more than 900 incidents targeting non-whites. A Muslim college student in Ann Arbor had been told, by a young white man, to remove her hijab or he would light her on fire. At a Utah high school, two Mexican-American sisters were told by their white classmates, "You get a free trip back to Mexico. You should be happy."

The idea of a Klan rally in this kind of atmosphere was potentially explosive. The KKK had demonstrated a year earlier, in Columbia, South Carolina, and the results had been ugly. Three hundred Klan members had been there. The New Black Panthers had countered with 400 of their own members. In all, there were 2,000 protesters. There were cops in body armour. Ripped Confederate flags. A grandmother with a bloody nose. A Klan member, trying to flee in his vehicle, ran into a lamppost.

This 3 December parade, then, coming after Trump's election and during this New Emboldening, had the potential to be far worse. The promise that the parade was coming was a blight on the soul of the nation; the vast majority of the country, whether they supported Trump or not, dreaded it. There is no more wretched and horrifying segment of the American people or history than the Klan, who in their darkest years had lynched black men and women and had terrorised anyone who wasn't white or Christian. At their height, in 1924, the Klan's membership was 4 million. In 2016, estimates put their strength at no more than 8,000.

But Trump, like a snake charmer, had coaxed the rise of the "alt-right", who embodied the spirit of the Klan, but in different robes and with better social media. And because the depth of Trump's support – so much of it invisible to polls and data – had shocked much of the nation, there existed the possibility that the Klan, too, would emerge with far greater numbers than anyone thought possible.

But for a month, no one knew where the rally would take place. Activists marked it on their calendars but had no clue where to go, other than Pelham, North Carolina – a tiny town of 3,592 souls, with no central business district through which to parade. The night before, I'd driven

around Pelham and found nowhere a potential parade might happen. Guessing the Klan might be gathering at the home of Amanda and Christopher Barker, the only Knights listed on their website, I drove past the home listed as their address. It was a humble clapboard house in nearby Eden. There were no cars parked outside, no sign of an assembling of regional racists.

Then, late on the night of 2 December, an article appeared on the website of the Times-News of Burlington, North Carolina. A reporter there, Natalie Janicello, spoke with a Loyal White Knights representative who called himself the chapter's "exalted cyclops". He confirmed that the Klan would indeed parade. Probably at 9am, he said, and in the vicinity of Pelham.

So here we were, at the rest stop, waiting for word. The sky was grey and the temperature hovered at 40F. Cars continued to arrive, and their passengers disembarked to use the facilities. Most were young and dressed in black boots, pants, hoodies and sunglasses. A few were wearing bandanas to cover their faces. These were black-bloc activists – some anarchist, some communist, some apolitical – in general more willing to engage in confrontation and property damage (thus the efforts to anonymise themselves). There were six of them. Then 10. Then 20. Thirty. They made up the largest group of the assembling activists, but there were also members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a few people with Black Lives Matter signs, and a smattering of unaffiliateds – men and women, most of them under 30, standing in the cold, waiting for word of when and where. But 9am was fast approaching and there was no update.

I befriended a trio of activists who seemed to have the most up-to-date information. Megan Squire, a red-haired professor of computing sciences at nearby Elon University, was earnest and funny and determined to confront the Klan. She was with her husband, Tony Crider, a professor of physics, who, in Ray-Bans and a leather jacket, was a bit more detached and sceptical (for reasons that would become clear later). With them was Sugelema Lynch, a bright-eyed second-grade teacher from nearby Alamance County.

"I'm more of a tag-along," she said. She was wearing a lime-green scarf and teal-coloured sneakers, and had an enormous camera around her neck. "I just want to get a couple cool photos and tell my kids, 'Look what I did this weekend!'" She had moved from California five years earlier, when she'd married a man who grew up nearby. She was still getting used to this once-Confederate state, whose Latino population had grown from 76,000 in 1990 to 800,000 in 2016.

"When I first moved here," she said, "living in the Burlington area, you just felt the tension. As a Hispanic woman, just walking around felt awkward." She is one of two Latino teachers at her elementary school, where most of the students are the children of Latino immigrants. "It's not really a surprise to hear about the Klan here. Things don't ever just go away. But I'm not offended just looking at the Confederate flag. I grew up watching *The Dukes of Hazzard*, too."

Megan was periodically checking in with the IWW and black-bloc groups, and returned with news. "OK," she said. "The rumour now is that the Klan is organising itself, planning to go to Danville via Highway 29. Everyone's trying to find someone who might have a car shitty enough to block the highway."

Danville was a city of 43,000, just over the Virginia border. It had been on the list of possible sites for the Klan march. As we waited, Tony told a story of a recent Trump-fuelled incident on the Elon campus. The day after the election, he had arrived at his classroom to find the words

“Bye bye Latinos. Hasta la Vista” written in large letters on his whiteboard. There had been recent activity in the area by another neo-white supremacist group called Actbac (Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County), and Tony thought this might have something to do with them. Deciding to make it a teachable moment, he took a picture of the board and posted it on his Facebook account.

When his first class arrived that morning, he left the words up. He asked the students to write down their thoughts on the election and drop them in a bin, so each student’s opinion would remain anonymous. (He planned to read them aloud a week later, when they had some distance.) He taught the class as planned, then went back to his office, closed the door, and cried.

Meanwhile, his photo had been shared with a student reporter at Elon, who tweeted it. That tweet was retweeted 2,000 times, and by the next day, it had been reported in the Daily Mail and the Associated Press. It was referenced all over the world.

“Then we found out it was a hoax,” Tony said. It turned out that a Latino student at Elon had written it. The student considered it satire.

Now the assembled protesters gathered around Greg Williams, an organiser from the IWW. With long dark hair and a beard, he was calm and in control. He introduced the protesters to four men and women wearing bright green baseball caps. They were from the National Lawyers Guild, he said – if anyone got arrested, they would be available. He provided one of their phone numbers. It had a San Francisco area code. The activists passed around a black marker and wrote it on their arms.

“Anyone with a smartphone that can be opened with your fingerprints should disable that function,” Megan said. If you’re arrested, she explained, police can’t make you give up your password, but they can compel you to use your fingerprint. The heads of the assembled protesters bent downward as they busily made adjustments to their phones.

Finally, Williams instructed the protesters to “think about your positionality”. White protesters should, he said, try to keep at least two of them (white protesters) between the Klan and any protesters of colour. “Speak for yourself,” a black protester said, and there were laughs. “The bottom line,” Williams said, “is look after each other.”

A parking attendant had been making her way through, marking tires. The police would soon have reason to move the group, so everyone got in their cars and caravanned to the Pelham Community Center just across the highway. A sign out front promised a visit from Santa Claus later that week.

Behind the community centre was a dirt road with a narrow stretch of grass running alongside it. The area was flanked by a high wire fence on one side and a dense forest on another. Everyone parked their cars, got out and waited. The protesters milled and talked and looked at each other’s placards. “RAPIST PRESIDENT” read one. “NO HATE IN OUR STATE” read another. A white man in shorts held a sign declaring that “The Worst Thing to Ever Come Out of a Vagina Was a WHITE MAN.” Another white man – demonstrating every protest’s struggle to keep focus – had a sign pushing for a \$15 minimum wage.

Word was that the parade would happen at 11am. Now the black bloc got serious. Baseball bats were removed from car trunks. Masks were adjusted. One man wore a leather jacket covered with silver studs. Another put on a motorcycle helmet. The scene began to have the look of troops assembling before battle.

More members of the media appeared. There were about a dozen small video crews and an equal number of journalists walking around with notebooks and tape recorders. They roamed among the assembled and waiting protesters, and, with nothing else to do, pretty much every journalist and photographer interviewed and photographed pretty much every protester. A trio of young activists with hand-drawn signs were photographed at least 10 times in precisely the same pose. Sugelema took a picture, too. "What the hell," she said.

An SUV with tinted windows arrived. Two men emerged wearing identical outfits – fleece jackets, khaki pants, sunglasses and hats. Security contractors with a group called ESG, they were there to protect a TV newscaster, an older gentleman, well-tanned, who emerged from the SUV with a cameraman in tow. His security detail followed.

Two young men removed two crates from their car trunk, one full of bottled water, the other Red Bull, and distributed them. The mood was upbeat. "The current joke," Megan said, "is that we're just a bunch of goth kids playing Pokémon Go."

With an hour to kill before the Klan parade, there was general anxiety that some faction of the protesters would start a drum circle. "The anarchists don't like drum circles," Megan noted. Sugelema pointed to a man with a red drum at his feet. Two other men were carrying cymbals. Another man with an elaborate moustache appeared with a saxophone. A few days before, at the Standing Rock protests, Sioux tribal leaders had asked the white people, arriving in great numbers and in festive spirit, not to treat the protests like Burning Man.

Megan checked in with Natalie Janicello, the reporter who had the trust of the Loyal White Knights. Janicello happened to have been a student of Megan's at Elon University. She conveyed the latest: the Loyal White Knights had pushed their parade back to 3pm. The theory circulated that the Klan had been scared off by the size of the counter-protest, and had postponed their rally to gather a comparable volume of paraders of their own. One woman with hair dyed blue carried around a sign, newly made, that said "Big Bad KKK: 2 Scared 2 March".

Sugelema and I went to get snacks. At the local mini-mart, where the staff and customers were all black, there was no awareness at all of the parade and counter-rally happening down the road. Next door, three young African American men were offering car washes. It was business as usual. We drove through Danville, quiet as a tomb.

"They used to make socks here," Sugelema noted. A wide river, the Dan, cut through the town, and there were abandoned factories decomposing alongside its grey water. Around this part of North Carolina, there had been textile factories specialising in hosiery. In 1951, two local manufacturers, the Riverside Cotton Mill and Schoolfield, merged and became the largest single-unit textile mill in the world. But the plant closed in 2006. Now the city looked like the kind of place that might see its red-brick warehouses turned into lofts, and its riverside factories transformed by non-profits. But this kind of revival had yet to arrive in Danville.

Sugelema's parents were migrant farmworkers from Mexico. "We moved every couple months," she said, following harvests up and down the Pacific coast. They picked apples in Washington and Oregon, melon and strawberries in California's central valley. That's where she was born, between harvests, and was given an unprecedented name.

"It's Estonian. In the hospital, my mom didn't know what to name me, so the nurse suggested Sugelema," making her name at birth Sugelema Guadalupe Gonzalez – probably the only person with that name the world has ever known. As an adult, Sugelema had looked up the meaning of her first name. According to the internet, in Estonian her name means "itchy".

Of the 17 students in her classroom this year, 14 are from immigrant families, most of them from Mexico. Since Trump's election, some of the families were worried, fearing that he would follow through on promises to deport millions of people, but Sugelema had not rushed to judgment. Growing up, her parents had admired another Republican, Ronald Reagan. With the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, Reagan had granted amnesty to millions of undocumented immigrants, including many seasonal agricultural workers like her parents. "It was Reagan who allowed us stay in the US," she said.

Her parents found a small town in Oregon and settled down. Sugelema and her older brother were sent to a public school where most of the kids were white. Later, her brother joined the marines and became a successful IT specialist, with most of his contracts coming from the US military. He now lives in San Diego, where Sugelema's mother is comfortably retired. Sugelema went to college and is the mother of five. Her oldest son is on the local football team.

The American dream is not perfect, but it is real. Sugelema's parents arrived in the 1970s from Mexico with nothing. They worked the fields, and now their daughter is a teacher and an indie-rock singer-songwriter. This I learned on the drive. Later, Sugelema showed me one of the music videos she had made with her husband. The song was called All Things Considered, and the video has the manic energy and lurid colours of 1980s MTV. In it, Sugelema wears Tweety Bird pyjamas as a cast of costumed partygoers dances around her. Megan is dressed in lederhosen; Tony wears the mask of a devil. In the centre of the frame, Sugelema sings, not quite awake and not quite asleep.

We returned from the convenience store to find that the protesters had decided to have an impromptu march down the dirt road. The Caswell County sheriff had blocked off one entrance, so we went around to the other, parked, and arrived in time to see the march in full swing. The photographers dutifully took pictures and the videographers filmed. In every way it had the look of a real protest, and any close-cropped photo would imply a rousing demonstration in favour of equality and diversity.

But there was no Klan and there were no spectators. It was about 60 activists marching for about 100ft on a road in the woods. After a few minutes, the group stopped marching and went back to waiting. It was not quite noon.

Soon there was news. Apparently there was a group of white supremacists demonstrating in nearby Danville. Sugelema and I had just come back from there, and had seen nothing of the kind. "I think we should head out there!" Williams roared, and the crowd cheered. Someone

started drumming. The saxophonist played a ditty as everyone ran to their cars. "Saxman, you're my hero," someone yelled.

We followed the 30 cars back on to Highway 29. There was one catch: no one had an address. There had been some mention of "the centre of town". Someone else had heard the word "Sutherlin". Megan sleuthed that this might be the Sutherlin home in downtown Danville. During the waning days of the civil war, when Union troops had overrun and burned Richmond to the ground, the home of Major WT Sutherin in Danville had become the last capital of the Confederacy. For a week at least – 3-10 April 1865. It was now a museum.

We raced into Danville and were the first to find the building. It was a grand, red-stone home in the Italian villa style, on a hilltop, with a wide lawn and a stone obelisk on which were engraved the words "Guarding Our Future by Preserving Our Past". The property occupied an entire city block, and would have been a fitting site for any demonstration. But there was no one there. No white supremacists. No one at all.

We drove through Danville and soon found the ESG Security SUV in a parking lot on the edge of Danville's downtown. They'd found something. The white-haired newscaster stood outside, flanked by his private security guards, talking to a tall man with a wild grey beard. He wore a black leather cowboy hat and a denim jacket bearing at least 10 Confederate flag patches. There were two trucks nearby. One bore the Virginia license plate CNFEDRT.

The bearded man's was named George Randall. He and the two women with him were bewildered, like Custer caught in an ambush. "We're not part of the Klan," Randall said. They were part of a group called the Virginia Flaggers, whose motto was "Heritage, not hate". Periodically they held rallies to preserve Southern heritage and fly the Southern flag. He said he hadn't heard anything about a Klan rally, and hated getting confused with the Klan. This kind of mix-up, he said, was the fault of the media. And the young people. And the liberals. He monologued for a time, at one point complaining about a woman he'd seen on the internet defecating on a picture of Trump. While he was speaking two more cars, carrying activists and journalists, pulled into the parking lot. Randall looked alarmed.

"We better get out of here," said one of the women in the CNFEDRT truck. Randall jumped in and they took off.

Back at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History, a handful of black-bloc activists stood on the corner. Passing motorists, most of them African American, gawked and pointed. Thought experiment: what would the reaction have been in a reciprocal situation? If 30 or so young black people, most of them men, showed up in a small predominantly white town, wearing masks and carrying baseball bats, what might happen?

Megan's phone dinged. The activists were headed back to the rest stop where we had started the day almost five hours earlier. Sugelema and I left Danville and got on the highway. When we got to the rest stop, the 30 cars were leaving. They were going back to the Danville Museum. They'd heard that a different Confederate group was about to demonstrate. We tried to convince them that we had just come from Danville and that nothing was happening there, but it was too late. They were gone. We followed. It was a lot like high school, where dozens of cars roamed the same few suburban miles, looking for a party, stopping at the mini-mart, getting a Slurpee,

exchanging specious information and driving off – only to repeat the whole process half an hour later.

We arrived at the museum to find a few disappointed black-bloc members. No Klan, no Confederates, no neo-Confederates. Megan and Tony arrived with news. Tony had seen some police cars a few blocks away, parked near a playground. He thought it might be the protest, or at least a protest. We raced to the park, but there were no Klansmen there, no black bloc. Instead, about 25 Danville residents, most of them African American, had assembled before a video camera, in rows, as if posing for a school picture. “Put down the guns!” they all said in unison. The gathering had nothing to do with white supremacists or Trump. It was about ending a recent cycle of violence in Danville.

David L Wilson, who split his time between selling life insurance and working at a tyre-manufacturing plant, explained. “We’ve had a lot of shootings in our city. We’ve had 14 murders recently. Even last night, a young lady here had a gunshots outside of her house.” He took the arm of an older man next to him; he had tired eyes. “This was the idea of this man, Gerald Holmes,” Wilson said. Holmes had organised a movement called 434 Lives Matter, named for the local area code.

“We have to change the mindset of the people,” Wilson said. “We can’t do it from a top-down position. We can’t do it just with the police. If we don’t change the mindset of the people in the community, and change the way they’re dealing with each other in terms of conflict resolution, we’re going to continue to see this robbing and shooting and killing.”

The members of 434 Lives Matter planned to go canvassing that day, door to door, in the neighbourhoods affected by the violence. For a moment, what the rest of us had been doing all day seemed hopelessly irrelevant. A mass of interlopers, many of whom were in costume, were chasing the Klan like it was some urban scavenger hunt. Meanwhile, the actual residents of the town were trying to figure out why their young men were shooting each other.

“Sometimes they do things out of their character,” Wilson said. “But they’re doing what they think they have to do in order to survive. They’re trying to do what they can to make ends meet, to take care of their families. Our main thing is listening now. We have to listen to what people’s hurts are.”

We left the park. Megan’s phone went off again. The protesters were marching in downtown Danville. Apparently they were tired of waiting for the Klan. We raced to Main Street and found them. It was happening. And their numbers had grown – there were now about 100 people marching. There were more locals. There were parents with their children. It was loud and it was real. “No hate! No Fear! The KKK’s not welcome here!” they chanted. Leading the march were the black bloc, their baseball bats dragging on the pavement. Minutes before, I had felt like whatever the anti-KKK activists were doing had no tangible meaning, but now, seeing it happen, it seemed vital and necessary. The last vestiges of the Ku Klux Klan must be met with this kind of demonstration of resistance.

Trailing the marchers were three Danville police cars, their lights spinning brightly. They had sanctioned the march and were ensuring that it had the run of the road. All of which was remarkable. The police had allowed the protest on incredibly short notice, and were OK with

dozens of black-clad protesters marching down their street with bats. It was a model of accommodation and restraint.

But because it was a Saturday, and because the stretch of road they marched was not a busy pedestrian thoroughfare, and because the march had been organized in the last half-hour, there were only a few people to watch it. A beautician peeked out the window of her shop, but otherwise the witnesses to the march were entirely members of the media.

After a few blocks, the protesters gathered in a parking lot. Williams spoke first. "We shut shit down!" he said, and the crowd repeated it: "We shut shit down!" they roared. The mood was ebullient. "We shut shit down," they roared again and again, their baseball bats hammering the pavement. Then, in the call-and-response style he had used earlier, Williams added a coda.

"One more good piece of news before you go," he said.

"One more good piece of news before you go," the crowd repeated.

"We just heard from folks," he said.

"We just heard from folks," the crowd repeated.

"Who are watching the Twitter account," he said.

"Who are watching the Twitter account," the crowd repeated.

"Of the official spokesperson," he said.

"Of the official spokesperson," the crowd repeated.

"Of the Loyal White Knights," he said.

"Of the Loyal White Knights," the crowd repeated.

"Who says they fucking cancelled their march."

"One more good piece of news before you go," he said. "We just heard from folks who are watching the Twitter account of the official spokesperson of the Loyal White Knights – who says they fucking cancelled their march."

The crowd erupted. Megan was ecstatic. The Klan, she and the activists had deduced, had been scared off by the strength of the counter-protests. Maybe the Loyal White Knights were really only two people – Amanda and Chris Barker. And maybe they had been trying to gather enough people all day to make their parade worthwhile, and had failed. It seemed like a suitably pathetic end to a hateful but powerless cabal. There was still the alt-right, and David Duke was running for office again, but at least the KKK, or this head of the serpent, was dead.

Since the Loyal White Knights' announcement of the rally, there had been much debate about what to do. There was a school of thought that said paying the Klan any attention at all was only

encouraging them. There were those – elsewhere in North Carolina, from Greensboro to Raleigh to Charlotte – who preferred to hold counter-rallies, focusing on inclusion and featuring speakers and songs, far away from any confrontation. But the people in Danville believed it would be a terrible thing, in 2016, if a Klan rally happened, and happened uncontested. Slightly better would be a Klan rally that was vociferously confronted. Best of all, though, would be a Klan rally cancelled in the face of opposition. And this is what had just happened. And even though this was a modest counter-protest in a modest city, it mattered – just as Birmingham had mattered in 1963, and Ferguson had mattered in 2014. Maybe it mattered more because it was Danville, the last home of the Confederacy.

Terrell Simmons was feeling good. A tall African American man wearing combat boots and a red bandana, he had led some of the post-march chants. “The Klan don’t have the people, so they don’t have the power!” he had yelled. “The establishment don’t have the people, so they don’t have the power!” He was a high school test-prep teacher from Mobile, Alabama, and had driven 12 hours to confront the Klan. Now he was basking in the victory and planning what would come next. “We’re going to have a lot of cohesion between the groups that have been divided,” he said. “We’re going to see that we can’t build this country without one another. A lot of the things that have held us up in the past are going to go away. Reality is going to set in that without actually meeting the needs of the poor people, the sick people, this nation is doomed to fail.”

He walked away smiling, joining the black bloc, whose members were taking off their masks and disbanding. Soon there were only a few people left on Main Street. Tony and Sugelema were looking for a place to get a beer. “Shit,” Megan said. In the parking lot, now nearly empty, she was reading her phone. Natalie Janicello had just posted a tweet. “IT’S HAPPENING,” she wrote. “KKK just came through Roxboro. Battle flags and shouting WHITE POWER.”

While the anti-Klan protesters marched through Danville, the Klan had paraded through a different town, 45 minutes away. Janicello had embedded film of it into her Twitter feed.

In the video, about 20 vehicles speed through an intersection. Some of the cars have Confederate flags flapping from their windows. Some cars are unadorned – just gray sedans driving down the street. No spectators are visible. None of the drivers are visible. A woman in one of the cars yells “White power” from a window. Then it’s over.

Megan was despondent. Not just because the Klan had trolled the protesters and had pulled off their parade. But there was the matter of her former student, Natalie Janicello, who must have known about the location of the parade, and had opted not to tell any of the protesters or members of the media. She was the only media member, and maybe the only person, who saw it.

The next day brought one last twist. A Klan member named Richard Dillon, who had made the trip from Indiana, was in the hospital with multiple stab wounds to the chest. Two other Klansmen, Chris Barker and William Ernest Hagen of California, were charged with the crime. Apparently, in the early morning before the planned parade, the Klan had assembled at the Barker’s house. Drinks were drunk. Dillon had hassled Hagen about a Klan rally Hagen had put on in Orange County, where the Klansmen had been beaten up by counter-protesters. Hagen didn’t much appreciate that, so he stabbed Dillon repeatedly, while Barker blocked the door. Bleeding profusely, Dillon managed to escape, drove to Danville, went to the hospital and told the doctors on duty what had happened.

Police arrested Barker and Hagen that morning. So they didn't get to see the parade, either.

The Guardian (Barbara Kingsolver): Trump changed everything. Now everything counts
November 23, 2016

If you're among the majority of American voters who just voted against the party soon to control all three branches of our government, you've probably had a run of bad days. You felt this loss like a death in the family and coped with it as such: grieved with friends, comforted scared kids, got out the bottle of whisky, binge-watched Netflix. But we can't hole up for four years waiting for something that's gone. We just woke up in another country.

It's hard to guess much from Trump's campaign promises but we know the goals of the legislators now taking charge, plus Trump's VP and those he's tapping to head our government agencies. Losses are coming at us in these areas: freedom of speech and the press; women's reproductive rights; affordable healthcare; security for immigrants and Muslims; racial and LGBTQ civil rights; environmental protection; scientific research and education; international cooperation on limiting climate change; international cooperation on anything; any restraints on who may possess firearms; restraint on the upper-class wealth accumulation that's gutting our middle class; limits on corporate influence over our laws. That's the opening volley.

A well-documented majority of Americans want to keep all those things, and in some cases expand them. We now find ourselves seriously opposed to our government-elect. We went to bed as voters, and got up as outsiders to the program.

How uncomfortable. We crave to believe our country is still safe for mainstream folks like us and the things we hold dear. Our civic momentum is to trust the famous checks and balances and resist any notion of a new era that will require a new kind of response. Anti-Trump demonstrations have already brought out a parental tone in the media, and Michael Moore is still being labeled a demagogue. Many Democrats look askance at Keith Ellison, the sudden shooting star of the party's leadership, as too different, too progressive and feisty. Even if we agree with these people in spirit, our herd instinct recoils from extreme tactics and unconventional leaders on the grounds that they'll never muster any real support.

That instinct is officially obsolete.

Wariness of extremism doesn't seem to trouble anyone young enough to claim Lady Gaga as a folk hero. I'm mostly addressing my generation, the baby boomers. We may have cut our teeth on disrespect for the Man, but now we've counted on majority rule for so long we think it's the air we breathe. In human decency we trust, so our duty is to go quietly when our team loses. It feels wrong to speak ill of the president. We're not like the bigoted, vulgar bad sports who slandered Obama and spread birther conspiracies, oh, wait. Now we're to honor a president who made a career of debasing the presidency?

We're in new historical territory. A majority of American voters just cast our vote for a candidate who won't take office. A supreme court seat meant to be filled by our elected president was denied us. Congressional districts are now gerrymandered so most of us are represented by the party we voted against. The FBI and Russia meddled with our election. Our president-elect has no tolerance for disagreement, and a stunningly effective propaganda apparatus. Now we get to send this outfit every dime of our taxes and watch it cement its power. It's not going to slink away peacefully in the next election.

Many millions of horrified Americans are starting to grasp that we can't politely stand by watching families, lands and liberties get slashed beyond repair. But it's a stretch to identify ourselves as an angry opposition. We're the types to write letters to Congress maybe, but can't see how marching in the streets really changes anything. Strikes and work stoppages won us great deals historically, but now we think of them as chaotic outbursts that trouble foreign countries. Our disagreements are polite. Forget radical, even being labeled "political", which is code for opposing the civic status quo, is a kind of castigation.

But politeness is no substitute for morality, and won't save us in the end. We only get to decide who we are. As a writer and a person my bedrock is perennial hope for a better world than this one, and for that I've borne the radical brand, not by choice. As outlaws go I'm as boring as toast, a polite, southern female who's never broken any law but the speed limit. Despite this gentility I've endured FBI investigations and personal threats, and once had to travel on book tour with a bodyguard. This was during Republican administrations that sounded infinitely friendlier to dissent than the one that's now on deck. So you'll forgive my weak faith in broad-shouldered American tolerance and the guaranteed free pass for good behavior.

I've come through terrible times and am writing this now on the strength of one long rescue: the solidarity of strangers. People who sent letters and messages, tearfully shook my hand or hugged me in the grocery store, always to say, "Thanks, you spoke up for me. I'm here for you." A handwritten note or a hug in the grocery store can save a life. Standing in the streets with a huge crowd of fellow believers really does change something, not just through the message sent out, but also the one that's absorbed.

So many of us have stood up for the marginalized, but never expected to be here ourselves. It happened to us overnight, not for anything we did wrong but for what we know is right. Our first task is to stop shaming ourselves and claim our agenda. It may feel rude, unprofessional and risky to break the habit of respecting our government; we never wanted to be enemies of the state. But when that animosity mounts against us, everything we do becomes political: speaking up or not speaking up. Either one will have difficult consequences. That's the choice we get.

With due respect for the colored ribbons we've worn for various solidarities, our next step is to wear something on our sleeve that takes actual courage: our hearts.

I'll go first. If we're artists, writers, critics, publishers, directors or producers of film or television, we reckon honestly with our role in shaping the American psyche. We ask ourselves why so many people just couldn't see a 69-year-old woman in our nation's leading role, and why they might choose instead a hero who dispatches opponents with glib cruelty. We consider the alternatives. We join the time-honored tradition of artists resisting government oppression through our work.

If we're journalists, we push back against every door that closes on freedom of information. We educate our public about objectivity, why it matters, and what it's like to work under a president who aggressively threatens news outlets and reporters.

If we're consumers of art, literature, film, TV and news, we think about what's true, and what we need. We reward those who are taking risks to provide it.

If we're teachers we explicitly help children of all kinds feel safe in our classrooms under a bullying season that's already opened in my town and probably yours. Language used by a president may enter this conversation. We say wrong is wrong.

If we're scientists we escalate our conversation about the dangers of suppressing science education and denying climate change. We shed our cautious traditions and explain what people should know. Why southern counties are burning now and Florida's coastal cities are flooding, unspared by any vote-count for denial.

If we're women suffering from sexual assault or body image disorders, or if we're their friends, partners or therapists, we acknowledge that the predatory persona of men like Trump is genuinely traumatizing. That revulsion and rage are necessary responses.

If our Facebook friends post racial or sexist slurs or celebrate assaults on our rights, we don't just delete them. We tell them why.

If we're getting up in the morning, we bring our whole selves to work. We talk with co-workers and clients, including Trump supporters, about our common frustrations when we lose our safety nets, see friends deported, lose our clean air and water, and all the harm to follow. We connect cause and effect. This government will blame everyone but itself.

We refuse to disappear. We keep our commitments to fairness in front of the legislators who oppose us, lock arms with the ones who are with us, and in the words of Congressman John Lewis, prepare to get ourselves in some good trouble. Every soul willing to do that is part of our team, starting with the massive crowd that shows up in DC in January to show the new president what we stand for, and what we won't.

There's safety in numbers, but only if we count ourselves out loud.

LA Times: Zadie Smith, in Los Angeles, says 'I am a voyeur'
January 11, 2017

"As a writer, I am stealing continually," Zadie Smith said. "I would use the word voyeurism. I am a voyeur. I want to know."

Smith was onstage at the sold-out Colburn School of performing arts in Los Angeles on Monday night, wearing a crimson red head wrap and matching lipstick. She possesses a stage presence as commanding and elegant as a dancer, what she considers "the most intensely pleasurable of the arts" and a central concern — along with cultural appropriation — of her latest novel, "Swing Time."

"The construction of the idea that a culture is delicate and needs utter protection, I find actually quite malignant," she said, expressing a nuanced perspective. "The question of appropriation of white culture doesn't come up. The monolith of it couldn't be hurt by me wearing those Converse," she said, tipping her head toward the shoes of her interlocutor, former Times critic David L. Ulin, to the absolute delight of the audience.

She recalled reading "Madame Bovary" for the first time. "I cannot say it occurred to me to be offended that it had been written by a man. I felt it was a fantastic act of drag ... I didn't feel he was appropriating a woman's role."

Ulin engaged Smith in a wide-ranging discussion that included literary technique and the social and political contexts in which literature is written and experienced. Ulin described the novel as a work that "doesn't come to any easy moral judgments," an equally apt description of Smith herself. Smith writes to discover the complexities and ambiguities within her characters. She said that she asks of herself, "In what ways am I wrong too?"

Ulin set the conversation on a broad course, asking Smith to riff on a recurring theme that he's noticed in her novels: the discord between what people assume about one another, and the reality beneath those assumptions — the tension between what we can or cannot know. Smith described the effect of those assumptions as a kind of "double consciousness."

"All of those assumptions that someone has about you for whatever reason — your gender, your race, some small feature of your face — creates a secondary person in you," she said, "How deforming is that?" Smith, however, was quick to offer a deeper examination of the phenomenon, a closer take. As a younger woman, she wished she were free of her double consciousness, "but when I got older, I thought that kind of freedom is its own blindness," she said. She quoted Phillip Larkin's idea of "being the less deceived" as an ethos to emulate.

"That's what I'm aiming for," she said, "I just want to see something clearly."

The evening had begun with Smith reading a passage from "Swing Time" befitting of both the venue and of the present political mood.

"I was told there was no time for dancing, or in a variation that this was not the time for dancing," she read in the voice of her narrator, looking up and over the crowd, "as if the historical moment itself forbade it."

After four acclaimed novels, including the highly acclaimed “White Teeth” and “On Beauty,” this book is Smith’s first written entirely in the first person. She admitted to a certain unease with the perspective — “even shopping lists are difficult for me” — but that she ultimately found that without the omniscient narrator, she had created “a first person that was a kind of absence.” To heighten that feeling, the narrator of “Swing Time” goes unnamed throughout to the novel.

“To me that’s a more interesting arrangement,” she said. “To discover who you are through what you do.”

“People are in each other’s skin more than they might admit,” Smith said, adding that the acknowledgement and embodiment and experience of that essential connection is “the revelation of fiction.”

The crowd was largely young, diverse and dressed for an evening out. Miranda July and Carrie Brownstein sat together in the second row. While waiting to have their books signed, sisters Fatima and Dara Hyacinthe, who, according to Fatima, “both really love to read,” discussed their favorite moments of the evening. “I’ve never thought of appropriation from a writing standpoint,” said Dara.

For Smith, fielding the broad assumptions of others — as well as her own — is one of the driving forces of her work as a writer and as a human being. From the lit stage she told her readers, “It’s this kind of dance you have to do.”

Vulture (Boris Kachka): In Conversation With Colson Whitehead

August 14

Colson Whitehead's latest novel, *The Underground Railroad* — rushed last week to early publication after being anointed by Oprah Winfrey — turns the metaphor of the American fugitive-slave network into a literal system of stations traveled by preternatural locomotives. The (painful, beautiful, brilliantly imagined) journey of the slave Cora from a cruel Georgia plantation through a handful of states, each “a state of possibility” portending America's fractured racial history, has gestated in Whitehead's mind for sixteen years — almost as long as he's been roving across his own series of bizarre fictional landscapes. There were the acclaimed early novels, *The Intuitionist* and *John Henry Days*, cheeky and weird extended metaphors for racial and industrial anxiety that earned him a MacArthur “genius” grant. There was the less admired satire *Apex Hides the Hurt*, followed by the autobiographical *Sag Harbor*, about Whitehead's upbringing as an upper-middle-class black New Yorker. Along came *Zone One*, a joke-splattered zombie thriller, and the midlife-crisis poker stunt memoir *The Noble Hustle*. And then, finally, the unlikely completion of the novel he never thought he'd write, followed by, probably, a level of fame and posterity he'd never imagined. Skinny and dreadlocked in a jaunty short-sleeved plaid shirt, Whitehead sat down with us on Tuesday over a cappuccino near his West Village home.

Are you having a good week?

Yeah, the best week of my professional career, so.

You got the call from Oprah months ago, and then had to keep it a secret until now. Did you tell your family?

Just my wife, who came out with me to Oprah Land in Southern California, and then we shot the interview that appeared last week, and then for three months people were like, “When's the pub date?” “September.” “How do you feel?” “Uh, I feel okay.”

Oprah hadn't read your other books, which are very different from this one. Was that weird?

Well, I've been publishing for 18 years and I'm sort of used to that because I've switched genres. The readership for *Sag Harbor* was different from people who'd read me before — it was linear and realistic, not as strange as *The Intuitionist*. Did they carry over to *Zone One*, a story about zombies in New York? Some, some not. I'm used to people not caring about my other books.

Did you have any sense, pre-Oprah, that this was going to be your big novel?

I don't go back to a finished book as often as I have with this one, and I'm still very much invested in Cora and Caesar and Mabel, and I think going back I can relive those months last fall and feel a sense of accomplishment, and also a weird...wonder? I'm still trying to figure out how to put it into words. But I felt like I did a good thing, and I still feel this kind of rush of accomplishment.

How did this concept — of the literal underground railroad — change since you first thought of it years ago?

I had a handwritten page in 2000, and in 2004 I put it on the computer — just a list of: “South Carolina, futuristic gene splicing question mark?” Every couple of years I would pull it out and add a sentence and move a couple of things around. Originally, “he” was going to come to New

York and then Canada. It was a guy on his own, then a man looking for a child, a child looking for a parent, and finally a daughter looking for a mother. All the states are really just arbitrary.

And you were all set to write a different novel, about a New Yorker having a midlife crisis, when you thought of developing this in 2014. How did you switch gears?

I was on my way to work at Princeton and wrote an email to my editor, Bill Thomas. "Here's another idea." It was a paragraph and he said sure, whatever you want to do. So I started doing research in the fall. I wrote the first 100 pages in January of 2015, and they said, "So do you think they can hand it in for next fall publication?" And I still had 200 pages to go, but I was in a real froth about the book and I said yes. So I finished the thing in early December. Usually it takes me a while to figure out the voice of the narrator, but when I wrote the first chapter, which deals with Cora's grandmother, the voice came fully formed and I stuck with it.

You must have been starting your research just as Michael Brown was shot in Ferguson. Did that, and subsequent shootings, fuel the story in any way?

I think today is the second anniversary of him being killed. But I came of age in New York in the '80s, when Yusuf Hawkins was beaten to death for being in the wrong neighborhood, Michael Stewart was beaten to death by cops for doing graffiti, Eleanor Bumpers was a mentally unstable woman killed by police. And so I was trained that whenever you leave the house you're a target, even in lovely Manhattan. So I think we do get these periodic eruptions and the conversation changes briefly to police brutality. There hasn't been an uptick in it, just in people recording it. It's not news to me and I don't know how long our present conversation about the vulnerability of the black body will continue. Since we're not changing the underlying causes, these moments are temporary, because our attention has always shifted elsewhere.

Do you think there's been any progress?

Sure — it's very slow progress. We have a black president and various laws have been implemented, and I'm at a big publisher, I'm talking to a big magazine, and I owe my career to writers who have come before me. So things have changed.

There are more writers, too. Chris Jackson edits a lot of them.

How many African-American editors are there? But yes, there's [Yaa Gyasi's slavery novel] *Homegoing*, [Brit Bennett's debut] *The Mothers*. You can actually point to young African-American writers debuting in their 20s and 30s and all doing different things. But it is incremental, it is slow. You're well known for comic riffs and wild inventions. *The Underground Railroad* is relatively dialed-back.

I think if I had done it ten years ago, the divisions between the states would have been more stark and more *Gulliver's Travels*-like — each state with its own reality, time period, codes, and customs.² And some of that is still in there, but everything's taking place around 18503 in terms of technology and slang. I wanted to be concise. I had given myself free rein to have digressions in various books, and I didn't feel I had to do that anymore. When I got to the section with the Museum of Natural Wonders, I wrote two pages and I was like: I'm done. I'm not gonna make this a big set piece like I've done in the past and pull out the bombast. It's nice and quiet the way it is now; let's keep it there.

What made you do that? Was it the gravity of the subject?

Well, you can do a lot of jokes in a slavery book. *Flight to Canada* by Ishmael Reed probably has a lot of jokes. But I'd just written a poker book that had a lot of jokes — I tried to cram in as many as I could. I got it out of my system, and then also as I did more research, I wanted to honor all the people who had been in slavery, to the dead, to my ancestors. So even though I play with history and time, in terms of moving the Tuskegee syphilis experiments down and bringing the implications of the Holocaust in, I wanted the first chapter to be as realistic as I could do it. And yeah, it is a serious subject that didn't seem to warrant my usual satire and joking.

In an essay of tongue-in-cheek advice about choosing a genre, you listed the “Southern Novel of Black Misery.” How did you aim to avoid the clichés?

I had my kitsch detector out, so hopefully it was working. I wanted to be realistic to my notion of psychology. We know a lot about PTSD. Well, these are people who experience trauma every day of their lives; how does that manifest itself? How could I make a realistic backdrop for Cora? In my experience, if you get 100 people in a room, 10 percent are really great, 10 percent are terrible, and the rest are mediocre. But if you go to a plantation where 100 percent have been tortured and abused, they're not on their best behavior. Everyone's out for themselves, fighting for a little piece of land, for an extra bite of food in the morning. In some portrayals of plantation life, there are some sellouts, but most people are sticking together. That just didn't seem true to my understanding of human nature. I was being true to my idea of a traumatized populace under siege, so I didn't worry about kitsch.

Cora's journey seems to encompass almost every feature of black history. One half-black preacher is described as a “beautiful hybrid,” and I couldn't help think of Obama.

Uhm [*laughs*], no I think there's a tradition of the biracial person who can move through both worlds. But the preacher's antagonist represents respectability politics: We can't save every slave who's damaged; we have to save the ones we can. And we hear that kind of rhetoric today. Pull your pants up; you're too damaged in the inner city to join us in this new America.

That reminds me of someone too.

So, comparing the rhetoric of black progress then and now, it was so similar I didn't have to force it. That was true of comparing slave patrollers to stop-and-frisk now.

You were handcuffed as a teenager in Manhattan — a case of mistaken identity. Have you had other encounters?

Just being stopped. One time my friend was in med school and a cop stopped us. I guess he had MD plates, and the cop said, “I've never seen doctor's plates before.”

Is it just a coincidence that you spent almost all of the Obama years not writing about race, except in satirical riffs like “Finally, a Thin President” and “The Year of Living Postracially”?

There were just other things I wanted to talk about. I'm fortunate, being at the same publisher for eight books, that whenever I have an idea, they're like, “Let's do it. We trust you to pull it off.” I knew that a zombie book would not particularly appeal to some of my previous readers, but it was artistically compelling, and being able to do a short nonfiction book about poker was really fun and great. But looking back, I was able to say to myself, “Well, you had your book for you. Now I want you to talk about something serious.”

You're not done being unserious, are you?

I'm not sure, but in writing this book I was stopping myself from doing things the way I've done in the past — in terms of economy, of a less satirical voice. I gave myself a lot of digressions in *Sag Harbor* and *The Noble Hustle*. And so I don't have to do them anymore. There are ways of tackling material that I felt didn't serve the book and maybe will come back later. But there are clichés about slavery and also clichés I've made myself, ways of writing.

The style of this novel reminds me of Toni Morrison — completely apart from the subject matter. The sentences are more aphoristic, more gemlike, than anything you've ever done.⁷

Yeah, I've been thinking about sentences the last couple of years. My more modern narrators like to have these big clause-heavy sentences, but not in this particular book. I think part of it is that shaping metaphors out of life from the 1850s made some of the similes and analogies simpler. You know, a sentence that comes easily to me is, "The street was busier than a 7-Eleven parking lot on free meth day." I could make a weird modern joke, and that's a long sentence. But when you try to make a simile or a metaphor out of the nouns of 1850s, simplicity and clarity make more sense.

There is a theme in the recent reviews — kind of praising you for putting away childish things. Is that how you see it?

It's an imposed narrative, and it's fine. Eighteen years have passed since my first book and I do feel older and wiser, and while hopefully I can write a book with humor again, there are certain broad gestures I don't have to do anymore — certain pyrotechnic effects I've gotten out of my system. I felt more in control when I was writing this book. I was teaching a lot and I was a pretty ruthless editor of my students' fiction. It seemed unfair to spare myself the knife. Putting out all these principles, I should probably apply them to myself! And so I became a much better editor of my own stuff over the last couple of years.

Have you changed in other ways? You've had children⁸

I guess mature is the word. Cora is not someone who would have occurred to me 15 years ago. I was just younger and more self-centered and didn't have the empathy. Lila Mae in *The Intuitionist* doesn't have a team, but Mark Spitz in *Zone One* and Cora in *The Underground Railroad* have people they can rely on. Not everyone makes it to the other side, but they have a team, a community. I was attracted to the loner in my first couple of books who's apart from all these systems, breaking them down, analyzing them. And Cora is a slave, she's enmeshed in the slave system and has to figure out her way out and she can't do it alone. She has to rely on other people to give her the notion that she can do it and also show her the path. And yes, as a parent who's lived longer, you understand what it actually means to have no agency, to see your children, your mother, your relatives, your friends, at the mercy of a capricious master with all that entails. Slavery meant something different to me when I was 8, and 20, and then now.

But you didn't have to write about slavery, did you?

I would joke about having to do [a slavery novel] at talks, knowing in the back of my head I had this idea sitting there. I started writing in the '90s, so I was free to just have an eccentric career and not conform to some idea of what a black writer has to do. I didn't have the burden of representation. Growing up as a product of the black civil-rights movement, I had a lot of different models for black weirdness, whether it's Richard Pryor or James Baldwin or Jimmy Walker.

And you wanted to be weird?

I was very self-conscious starting out. I worked in the book section of the *Village Voice* and I would see all these new novels come in. I didn't want to write a Gen-X sex-drugs-and-rock-and-roll book, and there was a certain Southern Novel of Black Misery I just couldn't relate to, just being a New Yorker. I didn't want to write something autobiographical. I didn't want to do what I'm supposed to do as a black writer or as a young writer. In *The Intuitionist* I wanted to write about race and a city, and as I started writing about elevators, metaphors of black uplift crept in. It was about race, but in a way that I could handle when I was 27, just a weird way no one else would do.

***The Underground Railroad* is probably as straight-ahead as you could get. You even reprinted actual classified ads for fugitive slaves. Where did you get them and why did you open every section with one?**

Those are from the University of North Carolina, which digitized their old newspapers. It's fun to make up stuff, but sometimes you can't really compete with the actual rhythms of historical documents. They're only eight lines or so, but they tell so much about the person who's writing them down and the person who fled and the entire culture that enables them to come into being. And writing one for Cora seemed like a nice gift from the narrator to her, because I was sort of bummed out about what I was doing to her.

There are some truly horrific scenes in the novel, especially involving slaves who were caught escaping. Were those all real punishments from your research?

You want to set an example, and so yes, you would burn people alive, yes, you would cut off their feet and their hands. I would go back and forth and think, is that too crazy, and go back to a couple of narratives and think, actually no. I did originally have a crucifixion, but I couldn't find any evidence of that so I took it out.

You've said you couldn't sit through *12 Years a Slave* after doing that research. But you depicted worse. You must have been a mess.

I was a mess mostly before I started writing. I have a protagonist, and realistically she will be sexually assaulted before the book starts, realistically her mother will be assaulted. So just wrapping my head around what was a realistic backstory for her was terrible. And then I think it has affected how I feel about her at the end of the book. When I reread the last couple of pages, I feel bad for having put her through it.

This is your first book to come out to universal acclaim in a long time. How did you react when *Apex Hides the Hurt* was widely considered a disappointment?

I really liked the voice! I thought it was a really clean narrator, unadorned. But just because you like it, it doesn't mean everyone else will — or will pick up on it. And all I could do is just write the next one. Sometimes people will figure out what you're doing, sometimes they won't, but that's out of your hands. And then with *The Underground Railroad*, I assumed I would still have my regular readers, maybe gain a few because it's in the historical mode. Having people like the book this much — and Oprah and the *Times* thing [last week's stand-alone print excerpt] — it's never gonna happen again. So I should enjoy it, and the next book might be received *Apex*-like.

What is the next book — the midlife-crisis book you were working on?

No, I think I got that out of my system. I don't know if I'll stick to it, but I think it's going to take place in the '60s in Harlem. It's subject to change.

We've talked a lot about how this book is a departure. But what makes it a Colson Whitehead book?

Stepping back, my latest theory is that with the first couple of books, I had some sort of problem I was trying to figure out, or proposition. How do I update this industrial-age anxiety myth for the information age? And then I think *Sag Harbor* and *Zone One* and *Noble Hustle* are about characters finding their way in the world. And in *The Underground Railroad* I'm taking both: What if it was an actual railroad, and also, this person had to navigate these different Americas on her way to freedom. The character portrait of the last couple of books merged with the larger abstract question.

Why did you choose to thank bands in your acknowledgments?

With the last eight books, whenever I had two pages to go, I would just put on *Purple Rain* and *Daydream Nation*, and that's been my last-day ritual for the past 20 years. After Bowie died, I said to myself, I want to put this down on paper just so *they know*. And then Prince died after I put the acknowledgments in! Not that he was going read it anyway.

Do you think it was the bleak subject matter that kept you away from this for 16 years?

Well, I think *Zone One* is pretty bleak, but this one is very grim going. I think I got to a point where I had avoided the book for so many years it was worth examining why I was avoiding it. And it seemed that if it was daunting to tackle slavery, well, maybe the hard thing is the thing you're supposed to be doing.

New York Times (Michiko Kakutani): Times Critics' Top Books of 2016

December 14

'MOONGLOW' *By Michael Chabon (Harper).* Told as a faux memoir, this moving novel recounts the story of the narrator's grandfather: a larger-than-life, Augie March-like hero — a former soldier who's also a dreamer, roughneck, pool shark and jailbird, by turns naïve and proud, impulsive and romantic. Mr. Chabon is one of the most gifted prose stylists at work today, and he writes here with both easy lyricism and caffeinated ardor, capturing his hero's love affair with a French refugee (who becomes his wife), and his growing obsession with the moon shot and the space race. Through the lives of these two World War II survivors, he gives us an indelible portrait of one family and America's lurching progress through the 20th century.

'HITLER: ASCENT, 1889-1939' *By Volker Ullrich (Alfred A. Knopf).* How did a man described as a "half-insane rascal" and "pathetic dunderhead" rise to power in the land of Goethe and Beethoven? Why did millions of ordinary Germans embrace him and his doctrine of hatred? How did this "most unlikely pretender to high state office" assume complete control of a once democratic country and set it on a monstrous course through history? In this insightful and revealing biography, Mr. Ullrich shows how Hitler used an arsenal of demagogic tools (lies, fake promises, theatrical rallies, mantralike phrases) to exploit a "constellation of crises" in post-World War I Germany, including economic woes, unemployment and political dysfunction. He argues that Hitler's rise was not inevitable but that his domestic adversaries failed to appreciate his ruthlessness, while foreign statesmen naïvely believed that they could control his aggression. His book shows just how the unthinkable can happen.

'NIGHT SKY WITH EXIT WOUNDS' *By Ocean Vuong (Copper Canyon Press).* These fierce, startling poems capture the history of prejudice in America (where "trees know/ the weight of history") and the hopes and fears that bring immigrants to its shores. Mr. Vuong — who was born on a rice farm outside Saigon in 1988 and was the first in his immediate family to learn to read — writes with a musical appreciation for the sound and rhythm of words. He has a talent for capturing stories and memories (like those of his grandmother, who remembers the fall of Saigon) in unexpected and searing images, and uses the magic of language here to turn "bones to sonatas" and by pressing pen to paper, to touch his family "back from extinction."

'LAB GIRL' *By Hope Jahren (Alfred A. Knopf).* The geobiologist Hope Jahren possesses the two attributes Nabokov deemed essential to the writer: "the precision of a poet and the imagination of a scientist." Her memoir communicates the electric excitement of a scientific discovery; the discipline and tedium involved in conducting long-term experiments; and the arduous, sometimes thrilling experience of fieldwork. The volume is, at once, an enthralling account of her discovery of her vocation, and a gifted teacher's guidebook to the secret lives of plants — a book that should do for botany what Stephen Jay Gould's writings did for paleontology, and what Oliver Sacks's essays did for neurology.

'THE NORTH WATER' *By Ian McGuire (Henry Holt).* This novel about a 19th-century whaling expedition is as gory as Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd," as darkly melodramatic as a classic Jacobean drama. Its villain, Henry Drax, is a monster, reminiscent of the demonic Judge Holden in Cormac McCarthy's operatic masterpiece "Blood Meridian" and the sadistic bully Wolf Larsen in Jack London's "The Sea-Wolf"; and its action-stuffed plot reverberates with echoes of "Moby-Dick," "Lord Jim" and "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket."

Thanks to its author's gifts as a writer, however, the novel never reads like a patched-together literary homage, but instead emerges as a gripping and original act of bravura storytelling that immerses us in a Darwinian world that is as unforgiving as it is bloody.

'BORN A CRIME: STORIES FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDHOOD' *By Trevor Noah (Spiegel & Grau)*. Best known as the host of "The Daily Show," Mr. Noah brings to his comedy an outsider's gift for observation and an instinctive radar for the absurdities of life. His sense of humor was forged during his childhood in South Africa, where he grew up the son of a Xhosa mother and a Swiss-German father — a relationship whose very existence violated that country's racial laws during the apartheid era. Mr. Noah gives us a harrowing understanding of what it was like to grow up in a society where questions of race permeated every aspect of daily life, and at the same time has written a deeply affecting love letter to his mother, Patricia Nombuyiselo Noah, a remarkable woman who was determined that her son "be free to go anywhere, do anything, be anyone."

'THE RETURN: FATHERS, SONS AND THE LAND IN BETWEEN' *By Hisham Matar (Random House)*. The author's father, Jaballa Matar, a leading Libyan dissident, was kidnapped in 1990 by agents for that country's dictator Muammar el-Qaddafi, and sent to the notorious Abu Salim prison in Tripoli. In this beautifully chiseled book, the younger Mr. Matar chronicles his Telemachus-like search for his missing father, whose absence has haunted him for decades. It's a detective story of sorts, with Mr. Matar trying to piece together what happened to his father after his arrest. It's also a story of exile — how the author, his brother and their mother tried to invent new lives for themselves abroad — and a story of what's happened in Libya and the Middle East, as hopes fostered by the Arab Spring crashed and burned in one country after another.

'NUTSHELL' *By Ian McEwan (Nan A. Talese)*. It sounds like a ridiculous premise: a novel narrated by a talking fetus who's a kind of Hamlet in utero — a baby-to-be (or not-to-be, as the case may be), who eavesdrops on the affair between his mother, Trudy, and his Uncle Claude. It's a tribute to Mr. McEwan's inventiveness and sleight of hand that he turns this incongruous setup into a small tour de force that showcases his gifts as a writer — his authority, his imaginative verve, his sly delight in the gymnastics words can perform — while conjuring the uncertainties of a contemporary world, troubled by social upheaval, new and old inequities and unexpected political change.

'THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD' *By Colson Whitehead (Doubleday)*. In this haunting novel, Mr. Whitehead turns the Underground Railroad from a metaphor into an actual train that ferries fugitives north. In doing so, he's written a potent, hallucinatory novel that leaves us with a devastating understanding of the terrible human costs of slavery. He's found an elastic voice that accommodates both brute realism and fablelike allegory, the plain-spoken and the poetic — a voice that enables him to convey the emotional fallout of slavery with raw, shocking power, reminding us, in Faulkner's words: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

'THE REVENGE OF ANALOG: REAL THINGS AND WHY THEY MATTER' *By David Sax (PublicAffairs)*. In this captivating book, the reporter David Sax provides an entertaining account of how analog technologies are enjoying a spirited revival: vinyl record sales are booming, Polaroid-like cameras have caught on among millennials and their younger siblings, and old-fashioned paper notebooks and erasable whiteboards have become a go-to option in

many Silicon Valley offices. In an increasingly digital age, Mr. Sax reminds us of the human craving for tactile, physical things, and the persistence of the real.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

January 12, 2017

INTERVIEW WITH MICHIKO KATUTANI ON WRITING

DATE: January 13, 2017
LOCATION: The Oval Office
TIME: 1:40 – 2:00 PM
From: Shailagh Murray

I. PURPOSE

Following the authors lunch, you will have an on-the-record conversation with Michiko Kakutani, the chief book critic for the New York Times and an avid follower of your writing career and reading habits. She is particularly interested in fiction and poetry, and is likely to ask you about specific authors who have influenced you, including the lunch participants along with individuals like Jhumpa Lahiri, Marilynne Robinson, and Elizabeth Alexander (with whom she has spoken). Michiko is also interested in how your approach to governing was informed by your literary and reading consumption, as well as your return to writing in your post-Presidency. Additionally, she may ask you about specific books she has noted on your reading lists, including *The Three Body Problem*, *Seveneves* and *The Martian*. New York Times photographer Doug Mills will shoot the top of the interview in the Oval Office.

We have attached one of Michiko's reviews from September, which garnered a great deal of attention – and many took as a repudiation of then presidential candidate Donald Trump.

II. PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

Michiko Kakutani is an American Pulitzer Prize-winning critic for The New York Times. A Japanese American, she was born in New Haven, Connecticut and received her B.A. in English literature from Yale University in 1976. Kakutani started as a reporter for *The Washington Post*, before moving to *Time* magazine. In 1979, she joined *The New York Times* as a reporter. She has been a literary critic for *The New York Times* since 1983. Her reviews of prominent authors have garnered both attention and, on occasion, criticism. She has been known to write reviews in the voice of movie or book characters, including Holden Caulfield, Elle Woods of *Legally Blonde*, and Truman Capote's character Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

III. PRESS PLAN

Michiko's piece will run in the New York Times Style section on Monday or Tuesday of next week.

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU have prep in the Oval Office.
- YOU take part in a 20-minute interview, which will include photographs toward the beginning by New York Times photographer, Doug Mills.
- Interview concludes and Michiko departs.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- A. REVIEW: In 'Hitler,' an Ascent From 'Dunderhead' to Demagogue
- B. YOUR Previous Reading Lists

In 'Hitler,' an Ascent From 'Dunderhead' to Demagogue

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

Books of The Times

By MICHIKO KAKUTANI

How did Adolf Hitler — described by one eminent magazine editor in 1930 as a “half-insane rascal,” a “pathetic dunderhead,” a “nowhere fool,” a “big mouth” — rise to power in the land of Goethe and Beethoven? What persuaded millions of ordinary Germans to embrace him and his doctrine of hatred? How did this “most unlikely pretender to high state office” achieve absolute power in a once democratic country and set it on a course of monstrous horror?

A host of earlier biographers (most notably Alan Bullock, Joachim Fest and Ian Kershaw) have advanced theories about Hitler’s rise, and the dynamic between the man and his times. Some have focused on the social and political conditions in post-World War I Germany, which Hitler expertly exploited — bitterness over the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles and a yearning for a return to German greatness; unemployment and economic distress amid the worldwide Depression of the early 1930s; and longstanding ethnic prejudices and fears of “foreignization.”

Other writers — including the dictator’s latest biographer, the historian Volker Ullrich — have focused on Hitler as a politician who rose to power through demagoguery, showmanship and nativist appeals to the masses. In “Hitler: Ascent, 1889-1939,” Mr. Ullrich sets out to strip away the mythology that Hitler created around himself in “Mein Kampf,” and he also tries to look at this “mysterious, calamitous figure” not as a monster or madman, but as a human being with “undeniable talents and obviously deep-seated psychological complexes.”

“In a sense,” he says in an introduction, “Hitler will be ‘normalized’ — although this will not make him seem more ‘normal.’ If anything, he will emerge as even more horrific.”

This is the first of two volumes (it ends in 1939 with the dictator’s 50th birthday) and there is little here that is substantially new. However, Mr. Ullrich offers a fascinating Shakespearean parable about how the confluence of circumstance, chance, a ruthless individual and the willful blindness of others can transform a country — and, in Hitler’s case, lead to an unimaginable nightmare for the world.

Mr. Ullrich, like other biographers, provides vivid insight into some factors that helped turn a “Munich rabble-rouser” — regarded by many as a self-obsessed “clown” with a strangely “scattershot, impulsive style” — into “the lord and master of the German Reich.”

- Hitler was often described as an egomaniac who “only loved himself” — a narcissist with a taste for self-dramatization and what Mr. Ullrich calls a “characteristic fondness for superlatives.” His manic speeches and penchant for taking all-or-nothing risks raised questions about his capacity for self-control, even his sanity. But Mr. Ullrich underscores Hitler’s

shrewdness as a politician — with a “keen eye for the strengths and weaknesses of other people” and an ability to “instantaneously analyze and exploit situations.”

- Hitler was known, among colleagues, for a “bottomless mendacity” that would later be magnified by a slick propaganda machine that used the latest technology (radio, gramophone records, film) to spread his message. A former finance minister wrote that Hitler “was so thoroughly untruthful that he could no longer recognize the difference between lies and truth” and editors of one edition of “Mein Kampf” described it as a “swamp of lies, distortions, innuendoes, half-truths and real facts.”
- Hitler was an effective orator and actor, Mr. Ullrich reminds readers, adept at assuming various masks and feeding off the energy of his audiences. Although he concealed his anti-Semitism beneath a “mask of moderation” when trying to win the support of the socially liberal middle classes, he specialized in big, theatrical rallies staged with spectacular elements borrowed from the circus. Here, “Hitler adapted the content of his speeches to suit the tastes of his lower-middle-class, nationalist-conservative, ethnic-chauvinist and anti-Semitic listeners,” Mr. Ullrich writes. He peppered his speeches with coarse phrases and put-downs of hecklers. Even as he fomented chaos by playing to crowds’ fears and resentments, he offered himself as the visionary leader who could restore law and order.
- Hitler increasingly presented himself in messianic terms, promising “to lead Germany to a new era of national greatness,” though he was typically vague about his actual plans. He often harked back to a golden age for the country, Mr. Ullrich says, the better “to paint the present day in hues that were all the darker. Everywhere you looked now, there was only decline and decay.”
- Hitler’s repertoire of topics, Mr. Ullrich notes, was limited, and reading his speeches in retrospect, “it seems amazing that he attracted larger and larger audiences” with “repeated mantralike phrases” consisting largely of “accusations, vows of revenge and promises for the future.” But Hitler virtually wrote the modern playbook on demagoguery, arguing in “Mein Kampf” that propaganda must appeal to the emotions — not the reasoning powers — of the crowd. Its “purely intellectual level,” Hitler said, “will have to be that of the lowest mental common denominator among the public it is desired to reach.” Because the understanding of the masses “is feeble,” he went on, effective propaganda needed to be boiled down to a few slogans that should be “persistently repeated until the very last individual has come to grasp the idea that has been put forward.”
- Hitler’s rise was not inevitable, in Mr. Ullrich’s opinion. There were numerous points at which his ascent might have been derailed, he contends; even as late as January 1933, “it would have been eminently possible to prevent his nomination as Reich chancellor.” He benefited from a “constellation of crises that he was able to exploit cleverly and unscrupulously” — in addition to economic woes and unemployment, there was an “erosion of the political center” and a growing resentment of the elites. The unwillingness of Germany’s political parties to compromise had contributed to a perception of government dysfunction, Mr. Ullrich suggests, and the belief of

Hitler supporters that the country needed “a man of iron” who could shake things up. “Why not give the National Socialists a chance?” a prominent banker said of the Nazis. “They seem pretty gutsy to me.”

- Hitler’s ascension was aided and abetted by the naïveté of domestic adversaries who failed to appreciate his ruthlessness and tenacity, and by foreign statesmen who believed they could control his aggression. Early on, revulsion at Hitler’s style and appearance, Mr. Ullrich writes, led some critics to underestimate the man and his popularity, while others dismissed him as a celebrity, a repellent but fascinating “evening’s entertainment.” Politicians, for their part, suffered from the delusion that the dominance of traditional conservatives in the cabinet would neutralize the threat of Nazi abuse of power and “fence Hitler in.” “As far as Hitler’s long-term wishes were concerned,” Mr. Ullrich observes, “his conservative coalition partners believed either that he was not serious or that they could exert a moderating influence on him. In any case, they were severely mistaken.”

- Hitler, it became obvious, could not be tamed — he needed only five months to consolidate absolute power after becoming chancellor. “Non-National Socialist German states” were brought into line, Mr. Ullrich writes, “with pressure from the party grass roots combining effectively with pseudo-legal measures ordered by the Reich government.” Many Germans jumped on the Nazi bandwagon not out of political conviction but in hopes of improving their career opportunities, he argues, while fear kept others from speaking out against the persecution of the Jews. The independent press was banned or suppressed and books deemed “un-German” were burned. By March 1933, Hitler had made it clear, Mr. Ullrich says, “that his government was going to do away with all norms of separation of powers and the rule of law.”

- Hitler had a dark, Darwinian view of the world. And he would not only become, in Mr. Ullrich’s words, “a mouthpiece of the cultural pessimism” growing in right-wing circles in the Weimar Republic, but also the avatar of what Thomas Mann identified as a turning away from reason and the fundamental principles of a civil society — namely, “liberty, equality, education, optimism and belief in progress.”

YOUR PREVIOUS READING LISTS

Summer Reading List: This year:

"Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life" by William Finnegan
"The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead
"H Is for Hawk" by Helen Macdonald
"The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins
"Seveneves" by Neal Stephenson

Summer Reading List: Last year:

"All The Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr
"The Sixth Extinction" by Elizabeth Kolbert
"The Lowland" by Jhumpa Lahiri
"Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates
"Washington: A Life" by Ron Chernow

"Wired" List:

The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln
"Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63" by Taylor Branch
"The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York" by Robert A. Caro
"The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin
"Andy Grove: The Life and Times of an American" by Richard S. Tedlow
"Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari
"Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman
"In Dubious Battle" by John Steinbeck
"Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity" by Katherine Boo
"The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" by Elizabeth Kolbert

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

January 12, 2017

RECOGNITION PHOTO

DATE: January 13, 2017
LOCATION: Diplomatic Reception Room
TIME: 3:45 – 3:50 PM
From: Social Office

I. PURPOSE

YOU will take a group recognition photo with the White House Calligraphers

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Patricia Blair
- Debra Brown
- Becky Larimer
- Jonathan Lee

III. PRESS PLAN

CLOSED Press.

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU and the First Lady move into the Diplomatic Reception Room.
- YOU and the First Lady participate in a group photo with the White House Calligraphers.
- YOU move to the West Wing.

V. REMARKS

N/A

VI. PARTICIPANTS

N/A

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

January 13, 2017

DEPARTURE PHOTOS

DATE: January 13, 2017
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 4:15 PM – 5:15 PM
FROM: Anita Breckenridge

I. PURPOSE

To take photographs with 56 current and 4 former staffers who are departing the White House.

This group include staffers that have been here since '09, APs and USSS personnel.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Attached at Tab A

III. PRESS PLAN

CLOSED Press.

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Staff members and their families enter the Oval Office one-by-one, pose for a photograph with YOU, and depart.

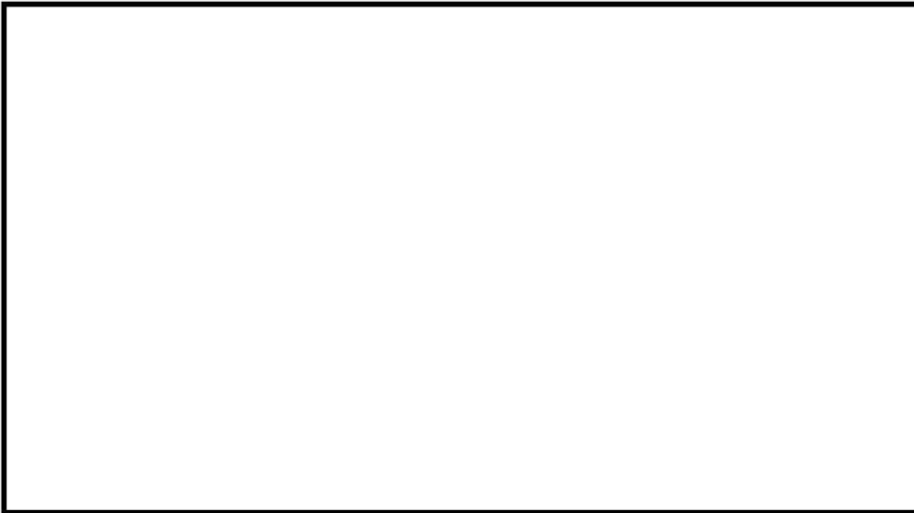
V. REMARKS

N/A.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Craig Magaw

Current Position: Deputy Director for United States Secret Service

Guests:

- Susan, wife
- Lindsey, daughter
- John, son
- Caitlin, daughter
- Blake, son

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Faron Paramore

Current Position: Assistant Director for United States Secret Service

Guests:

- Michelle, wife
- Julien, son

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b(7)e
b(7)f
P6/b(6)

Jonathan Wynn

Current Position: Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge for United States Secret Service

Guests:

- Yewande, wife
- Ayanna, daughter
- Jonathan, son

Kristie Canegallo

Current Position: Assistant to the President Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation

Guests:

- Mark Canegallo, Jr., brother
- Margaret ODea, mother
- Elizabeth Dill, sister

Chase Cushman

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling and Advance

Guests:

- Jean Cushman, mother
- Ashley Cushman, wife
- Mark Cushman, father
- Katrina Cushman, sister
- Joel Rude, brother-in-law
- Evelyn Cushman, daughter

Brian Deese

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor

Guests:

- Kara Deese, wife
- Clark Deese, son
- Adeline Deese, daughter

Michael Donovan

Current Position: Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Scheduling

Guests:

- Kathleen Donovan, sister
- Ann Donovan, mother

Josh Earnest

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Press Secretary

Guests:

- Natalie Earnest, wife
- Walker Earnest, son

Warren Eggleston

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Counsel to the President

Guests:

- Rachel Eggleston, daughter
- Nathanael Eggleston, son
- Penda Hair, wife

Michael Froman

Current Position: Ambassador, United State Trade Representative

Guests:

- Nancy Goodman, wife
- Sarah Froman, daughter
- Benjamin Froman, son

Jason Furman

Current Position: Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers

Guests:

- Eve Gerber, wife
- Louisa Furman, daughter
- Henry Furman, son
- Jay Furman, son

Suzanne (Suzy) George

Current Position: Deputy Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff of NSC

Guests:

- Nate Tibbits, husband
- Wilson Tibbits, son
- Katie Tibbits, daughter
- Amelia Tibbits, daughter
- David George, brother
- Devon George Eghdami, sister

Christina Goldfuss

Current Position: Managing Director for the Council of Environmental Quality

Guests:

- Jonathan Goldfuss, husband
- Charles Goldfuss, son
- Caroline Goldfuss, daughter

Avril Haines

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor

Guests:

- David Davighi, husband

Tim Hartz

Current Position: Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Advance

Guests:

- Jennifer Close, wife
- Charles Hartz, father
- Carol Hartz, mother
- Matt Hartz, brother

John Holdren

Current Position: Assistant to President & Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Guests:

- Cheryl Holdren, wife

Sarah Hurwitz

Current Position: Special Assistant to the President, Senior Strategic & Policy Advisor to Council of Women and Girls & Senior Presidential Speechwriter

Guests:

- Anita Hurwitz, sister
- William Hurwitz, brother
- Stephen Hurwitz, father

Lawrence Jackson

Current Position: Official Photographer

Guests:

- Alicia Jackson, wife
- Sophia Jackson, daughter
- Patrick Jackson, son

Valerie Jarrett

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor

Guest:

- Laura Jarrett, daughter

Broderick Johnson

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary

Guests:

- Luther Johnson, stepfather
- Michele Norris, wife
- Norris Johnson, son
- Broderick Jr. Johnson, son
- Aja Johnson, daughter

Colin Kahl

Current Position: Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor to the Vice President

Guests:

- Rebecca Kahl, wife
- Eleanor "Nora" Kahl, daughter

- Rylan Kahl, son

Noreen Kassam (Departed WH Staff)

Previous Position: Advance for Scheduling and Advance

Current Position: Director of Advance and Special Adviser to the Secretary, Department of Commerce

Guests:

- Alnasir Kassam, father
- Shellina Kassam, mother
- Sameera Kassam, sister
- Altaf Mohamed, uncle
- Feinula Mohamed, aunt

Cody Keenan

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Director of Speechwriting

Guests:

- Carly Keenan, sister
- Steven Keenan, father
- Marilyn Keenan, mother
- Kristen Bartoloni, wife

Charles Kennedy

Current Position: Assistant Director for the Photo Office

Guests:

- Brenna Maloney, wife
- Liam Kennedy, son
- Devin Kennedy, son

Meredith Koop

Current Position: Valet for the First Lady

Guests:

- tbd

Tyler Lechtenberg

Current Position: Senior Presidential Speechwriter

Guests:

- Deborah Lechtenberg, mother
- Marieme Thiandoum, family
- Abraham Thiandoum, family
- Kate Lechtenberg, sister

Jesse Lee

Current Position: Special Assistant to the President and Director of Rapid Response

Guests:

- Janet Lee, mother
- Namrita Chaudhary, wife

- Samantha Lee, sister
- Natalie Norkin, family

Robert Litt

Current Position: General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Guests:

- Deborah G. Litt, wife

Gregory Lorjuste

Current Position: Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling

Guests:

- Kimberly Lorjuste, wife
- Riley Lorjuste, daughter
- Aiden Lorjuste, son

Alexander Macgillivray

Current Position: Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer

Guests:

- Shona Louise Crabtree, wife
- Agreen Roger Macgillivray, son
- Asa August Macgillivray, son
- Sandra Macgillivray, mother
- Roderick Macgillivray, father

Denis McDonough

Current Position: Assistant to the President and White House Chief of Staff

Guests:

- Karin McDonough, wife
- Adeline McDonough, daughter
- Liam McDonough, son
- Edward McDonough, son

Brett McGurk

Current Position: Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL

Guests:

- Carol Ann Cogan, mother
- Gina Elizabeth Chon, wife
- Jin Chon, brother-in-law

Meg McLaughlin

Current Position: Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Presidential Personnel

Nick McQuaid

Current Position: Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel to the President

Guests:

- Clara McQuaid, daughter

- John McQuaid, son
- Katherine McQuaid, wife
- Janice McQuaid, mother
- Richard McQuaid, father

Rudy Mehrbani

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel

Guests:

- Shantel Meek, wife
- Elizabeth Meek, mother-in-law
- Shakara Meek, sister-in-law
- Alex Mehrbani, father
- Maryam Mehrbani, mother

Lisa Monaco

Current Position: Assistant to the President for Homeland Security & Counterterrorism & Deputy National Security Advisor

Guests:

- Anthony Monaco, father
- Mary Monaco, mother
- Christopher Monaco, brother
- Mark Monaco, brother

Cecilia Munoz

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council

Shailagh Murray

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor

Guests:

- Neil King, husband
- Frances King, daughter
- Lillian King, daughter
- Edward Murray, father
- Dianne Murray, mother

DJ Patil

Current Position: Chief Data Scientist and Deputy Chief Technology Officer

Guests:

- Devika Patil, wife
- Veyd Patil, son
- Samaara Patil, daughter

Emmaka Porchea-Venezsee (Departed WH Staffer)

Previous Position: Executive Assistant to Executive Director, President Intelligence Advisory Board

Current Position: Associate Chief of Staff to Chairman Tom Wheeler, Federal Communications Commission

Guests:

- Oscar Veneszee, spouse
- Kiristen Craig, child
- Marilyn Porchea, parent
- Jazsmin Smith, sibling
- Kristen David, sibling
- Freddie David, sibling

Jen Psaki

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Director of Communications

Guests:

- Stephanie Psaki, sister
- Adam Frankel, brother-in-law
- Soraya Frankel, niece
- Greg Mecher, husband
- Vivi Mecher, daughter

Fiona Reeves

Current Position: Special Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Correspondence

Guests:

- Christopher Liddell Westefeld, husband

Steve Ricchetti

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President

Guests:

- Amy Ricchetti, wife
- Daniel, son
- Shannon, daughter
- Tyler, son
- Jeffrey, son

Susan Rice

Current Position: Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor

Guests:

- Andrea Rice, family
- Peggy Cafritz, friend
- Ian Cameron, husband
- Hannah Rice-Cameron, daughter
- John Rice-Cameron, son
- Emmett Rice, Jr., brother

Roberto Rodriguez

Current Position: Deputy Assistant to the President for Education Policy

Guests:

- Rocio Inclan-Rodriguez, wife
- Rosana Rodriguez, mother
- David Rodriguez, father
- Isabela Rodriguez, daughter
- Roberto Rodriguez, son

Amy Rosenbaum

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs

Guests:

- Josh Lahey, husband
- Hannah Lahey, daughter
- Lewis Lahey, son
- Alice Lahey, daughter

Ellie Schafer

Current Position: Special Assistant to the President for Management & Administration and Director of the Visitors Office

Guests:

- Heather Rothenberg, wife

Kori Schulman

Current Position: Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief Digital Officer

Guests:

- Marc Schulman, father
- Elana Schulman, sister
- Maureen Schulman, mother
- Paul Kendrick, partner
- Haley Schulman, sister

David Simas

Current Position: Assistant to the President & Director of the Office of Political Strategy & Outreach

Guests:

- Shauna McCarty, wife
- Payton McCarty-Simas, daughter
- Rowan McCarty-Simas, daughter

Megan Smith

Current Position: U.S. Chief Technology Officer

Guests:

- Louis Swisher, son
- Elizabeth Boles, family
- Kara Swisher, wife
- Alexander Swisher, son

Ashley Tate-Gilmore

Current Position: Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling and Advance

Guests:

- Johnnie Tate, aunt
- Michael Tate, brother
- Desiree Tate, mother
- Jeannette Stinnette, sister
- Jennifer Keeney, sister

Austin Travis (Departed WH Staffer)

Previous Position: Executive Assistant to the Director of Scheduling and Advance

Guests:

- Alethia O'Bannon, mother
- Lindsey Travis, sister

Klevis Xharda (Departed WH Staffer)

Previous Position: Executive Assistant, Social Office

Current Position: Google Global Public Policy

Guests:

- Merlinda Xharda, sister
- Andon Xharda, father
- Limoza Xharda, mother

Jeffrey Zients

Current Position: Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council

Guests:

- Mary Zients, wife
- Jonathan Zients, son
- Joshua Zients, son
- Sasha Zients, daughter
- Matthew Zients, son

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Greeting the President: Nation leads Air Force One

Posted on November 20, 2014 by [uiuocm](#) in [Education](#), [Features](#) // 0 Comments



(<https://uiubridge.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/nation21-e1416501766494.jpg>)

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Nation is the first person to greet President Barack Obama when he boards Air Force One. In the nearly four years since he was promoted to serve as the 11th head steward for the presidential airplane, Nation says it's still exciting to go to work every day. "I'm very blessed to be in my position," he said. "I'm just a small town boy from Iowa; I never thought I would be greeting the president on an airplane every day."

Serving as a flight attendant for Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, Nation was promoted in October 2010 to lead Obama's Flight Attendant crew. He has touched every continent except the South Pole and has visited over 104 countries logging over 6,000 flight hours.

Nation said his most memorable flight was taking President Obama and former President Bush to Qunu, South Africa, for former South African President Nelson Mandela's funeral.

Nation has had quite an amazing career, and he hopes it will continue as he works toward promotion to Chief Master Sergeant in two years. The promotion will earn him another four years aboard Air Force One serving the next President of the United States.

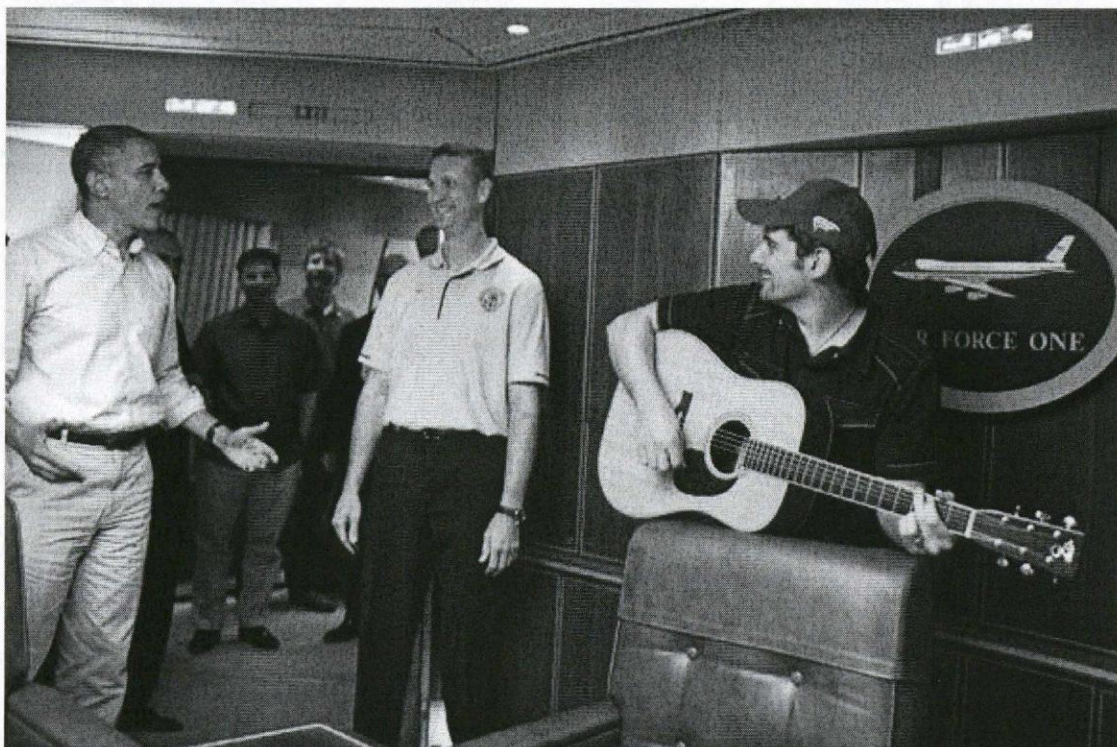
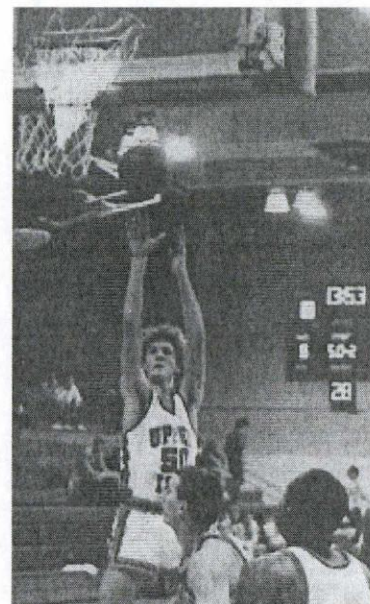
When he looks back on his college days, Nation can hardly believe how his life has changed. At one time, the former center on the Peacock Men's Basketball team was in danger of failing out of Upper Iowa. Luckily for him, junior varsity basketball coach James Foth took the freshman cager under his wing and mentored him through a tough time. As a result, the Jesup, Iowa, native battled back to be named Upper Iowa University's Men's Basketball 'Freshman of the Year.' Nation lettered all four years at Upper Iowa under the dedicated eye of coach Bill Prochaska (Pro).

(<https://uiubridge.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/rob-bball.jpg>) "Robert was a very dedicated collegiate basketball player for the Peacocks," said Pro. "Tell him once and he followed the game plan and assignment to detail. He had a smooth jump shot and was a fierce rebounder. At 6 foot 5 inches, Robert was a three-year starter, a gentleman on campus, a skilled player on the court and a great teammate. It was a pleasure to coach Robert and I am very proud of all of his accomplishments."

Pro and his son, Mike Prochaska, who assisted in coaching one year, can both recall a huge upset against a local college team in the 1986-87 season where Nation starred. News coverage from the night stated, "...and Robert Nation, who had nine of his career-high 15 in the second half, keyed the upset victory. 'Nation played his best game of the season, of his career,'" Prochaska praised. 'He made a big difference.'"

In 1989, Nation graduated with a degree in physical education with an emphasis in recreation. He delayed enlistment in the U.S. Air Force later that summer and started boot camp in April 1990. After three years of working in morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) at Howard Air Force Base, and later, Columbus Air Force Base, Nation applied to be a flight attendant. He was then stationed at Andrews Air Force Base.

Nation and his wife, Michelle, who is a registered nurse at county hospital near their home in Dunkirk, Md., have three children, Tyler, 16, Natalie, 12, and Grace, 8.



<https://uiubridge.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/birthday.jpg>

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From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 7:22 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: EMBARGOED: WEEKLY ADDRESS: The Honor of Serving You as President

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6:00AM EDT, SATURDAY, January 14, 2017

WEEKLY ADDRESS: The Honor of Serving You as President

WASHINGTON, DC — This week, President Obama delivered his final weekly address thanking the American people for making him a better President and a better man. Over the past eight years, we have seen the goodness, resilience, and hope of the American people. We've seen what's possible when we come together in the hard, but vital work of self-government – but we can't take our democracy for granted. Our success as a Nation depends on our participation. It's up to all of us to be guardians of our democracy, and to embrace the task of continually trying to improve our Nation. Despite our differences, we all share the same title: Citizen. And that is why President Obama looks forward to working by your side, as a citizen, for all of his remaining days.

The audio of the address and video of the address will be available online at www.whitehouse.gov at 6:00AM EDT, January 14, 2017.

Remarks of President Barack Obama as Delivered
Weekly Address
The White House
January 14, 2017

This week, I traveled to Chicago to deliver my final farewell address to the nation, following in the tradition of Presidents before me. It was an opportunity to say thank you. Whether we've seen eye-to-eye or rarely agreed at all, my conversations with you, the American people – in living rooms and schools; at farms and on factory floors; at diners and on distant military outposts – are what have kept me honest, kept me inspired, and kept me going. Every day, I learned from you. You made me a better President, and you made me a better man.

Over the course of these eight years, I have seen the goodness, the resilience, and the hope of the American people. I've seen neighbors looking out for each other as we rescued our economy from the worst crisis of our lifetimes. I've hugged cancer survivors who finally know the security of affordable health care. I've seen communities like Joplin rebuild from disaster, and cities like Boston show the world that no terrorist will ever break the American spirit.

I've seen the hopeful faces of young graduates and our newest military officers. I've mourned with grieving families searching for answers, and found grace in a Charleston church. I've seen our

scientists help a paralyzed man regain his sense of touch, and our wounded warriors walk again. I've seen our doctors and volunteers rebuild after earthquakes and stop pandemics in their tracks. I've learned from students who are building robots and curing diseases and who will change the world in ways we can't even imagine. I've seen the youngest of children remind us of our obligations to care for our refugees, to work in peace, and above all to look out for each other.

That's what's possible when we come together in the hard, slow, sometimes frustrating, but always vital work of self-government. But we can't take our democracy for granted. All of us, regardless of party, should throw ourselves into the work of citizenship. Not just when there's an election, not just when our own narrow interest is at stake, but over the full span of a lifetime. If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the internet, try to talk with one in real life. If something needs fixing, lace up your shoes and do some organizing. If you're disappointed by your elected officials, then grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself.

Our success depends on our participation, regardless of which way the pendulum of power swings. It falls on each of us to be guardians of our democracy; to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this great nation of ours. Because for all our outward differences, we all share the same proud title: Citizen.

It has been the honor of my life to serve you as President. Eight years later, I am even more optimistic about our country's promise. And I look forward to working along your side, as a citizen, for all my days that remain.

Thanks, everybody. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: Young, Caitlin E. EOP/WHO
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:12 PM
Subject: Interview of the President by Michiko Kakutani, "The New York Times"

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

January 13, 2017

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY MICHIKO KAKUTANI, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Oval Office

2:16 P.M. EST

Q These books that you gave to your daughter on the Kindle, like, what were they? Like some of your favorites?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, I think some of them were sort of the usual suspects, so "The Naked and the Dead," or "100 Years of Solitude" I think she hadn't read yet, that's one of the great -- I had a chance to meet Márquez right in the first year of my presidency.

Q Wow. What was he like?

THE PRESIDENT: And he gave me a Spanish version that he signed as a gift. He was exactly as you'd expect. He was perfect. He was out of central casting. He was sort of grizzled but still kind of suave and gravelly.

Q We need someone like him at this moment in time to capture the sort of surreal sense of what's going on. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: That's exactly right. But it was fun. Then there were some books I think that are not on everybody's reading list these days but I remembered as being interesting, like "The Golden Notebook" by Doris Lessing, for example.

Q I remember reading that when I was --

THE PRESIDENT: And I thought as a young woman, it might be interesting for her. Or "The Woman Warrior," right? By Maxine, right?

. So part of what was interesting was me pulling back books that I thought were really powerful but were from a certain point in time that might not surface in -- when she goes to college or something. So, anyway.

Q Have you had a chance to, like, discuss them with her?

THE PRESIDENT: I've had the chance to discuss some. And she's interested in being a filmmaker, so just storytelling is of great interest to her. She came back -- she had just read "A Moveable Feast." I hadn't included that, and she was just captivated by the idea that Hemingway described, his goal of just writing one true thing every day. And so I think she's been trying to apply that.

Q What made you want to become a writer back -- you were talking about writing journals and short stories.

THE PRESIDENT: I loved reading when I was a kid, partly because I was traveling so much and there were times where in traveling, I'd be displaced, I'd be the outsider. When I first moved to Indonesia, I'm this big, dark-skinned kid that kind of stood out. And then when I moved back from Indonesia to Hawaii, I'm -- had the manners and habits probably of an Indonesian kid.

And so I think that the idea of having this -- these worlds that were portable that were yours that you could enter into was appealing to me. And then became a teenager and wasn't reading that much other than what was assigned to me in school, and playing basketball and chasing girls, and imbibing things that weren't very healthy.

Q I think all of us did.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. And then I think rediscovering writing and reading and thinking in my first or second year of college and using that as a way to rebuild myself, a process that I write about in "Dreams from My Father."

Q Dreams, that two-year -- whatever period in New York, where you were intensely reading.

THE PRESIDENT: Really just -- I was hermetic, and I was -- it really is true. I had one plate, one towel, and I'd buy clothes from thrift shops. And I was very intense, and sort of humorless. But what it did do is it reintroduced me to the power of words as a way to figure out who you are and what you think, and what you believe, and what's important, and to sort through and interpret this swirl of events that is happening around you every minute.

And so even though by the time I graduated I knew I wanted to be involved in public policy, or I had these vague notions of organizing, the idea of continuing to write stories and tell stories as part of that was

valuable to me. And so I would come home from work and I would either write in my journal or write a story or two.

The great thing was that it turned out it was actually useful in my organizing work. Because when I got there, the guy who had hired me said that the thing that brings people together to have the courage to take action on behalf of their lives is not just that they care about the same issue, it's that they have shared stories. And he told me that if you learn how to listen to people's stories and can find what's sacred in other people's stories, then you'll be able to forge a relationship that lasts. And he was right about that.

But my interest in public service and politics then merged with the idea of storytelling.

Q What were your short stories like?

THE PRESIDENT: It's interesting, when I read them, a lot of them had to do with older people, which I find interesting.

Q Well, for the portrait -- some of the people in this book are so vivid.

THE PRESIDENT: I think part of the reason was because I was working in communities with people who were significantly older than me. We were going into churches and probably the average age of these folks were 55, 60. They were more my age or older. A lot of them had scratched and clawed their way into the middle class, but just barely. They were seeing the communities in which they had invested their hopes and dreams and raised their kids starting to decay -- steel mills had closed, and there had been a lot of racial turnover in these communities. And so there was also this sense of loss and disappointment.

And so a bunch of the short stories I wrote had to do with that sense, that atmosphere. One story is about a old black pastor who seems to be about to lose his church, his lease is running out, and he's got this loyal woman deacon, who is trying to buck him up. And another is about an elderly couple -- a white couple in LA, who I think was based on a friend of my grandparents who I'd met -- and he's like in advertising, wrote jingles. And he's just retired and has gotten cranky. And his wife is trying to convince him that his life is not over.

So when I think back on what's interesting to me is that there is not a lot of Jack Kerouac, open-road, young kid on the make discovering stuff. It's more melancholy and reflective. But I do think it has to do with the stories I was hearing.

Q Was writing partly a way to -- like in "Dreams," like reading was part of figuring out your identity?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Or who you were -- was writing similar?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. For me, particularly at that time, writing was the way I sorted through a lot of cross-currents in my own life -- race, class, family. And I genuinely believe that it was part of the way in which I was able to integrate all these piece of myself into something relatively whole.

People now remark on this notion of me being very cool, or composed. And what is true is that I generally have a pretty good sense of place and who I am, and what's important to me. And I trace a lot of that back to that process of writing.

Q That's fascinating. And has that continued to be so in the presidency?

THE PRESIDENT: Not as much as I would have liked. I just didn't have time.

Q But you keep some form of journal?

THE PRESIDENT: I've kept some, but not with the sort of discipline that I would have hoped for. And so the main writing that I've done during the presidency has been my speeches, the ones at least that were important to me.

Q And how do you think the speechwriting and just the whole weirdness of the presidency, of being at the center of history and dealing with crises -- how has that affected you as a writer? Like how will that make your next book, or even as a prose writer, like how is that?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not sure yet. I'll have to see when I start writing the next book. Some of the craft of writing a good speech is identical to any other good writing -- is that word necessary? Is it the right word? Is there a rhythm to it that feels good? How does it sound aloud?

I actually think that one of the useful things about speechwriting is reminding yourself that the original words are spoken, and that there is a sound, a feel to words that, even if you're reading silently, transmits itself.

So in that sense, I think there will be some consistency.

But this is part of the reason why it was important for me to pick up the occasional novel during the course of the presidency because most of my reading every day was briefing books and memos and proposals. And so working that very analytical side of the brain all the time sometimes meant you lost track of not just the poetry of fiction, but also the depth of fiction.

And so fiction was useful as a reminder of the truths under the surface of what we argue about every day and was a way of seeing and hearing the voices, the multitudes of this country.

Q Like are there some examples or specific novels or writers where you --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the last novel I read was Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad." And the reminder of the ways in which the pain of slavery transmits itself across generations, not just in overt ways, but how it changes minds and hearts.

Q It's what you said in your speech about Atticus --

THE PRESIDENT: Exactly.

Q -- I think where you said people are so isolated in their little bubbles, fiction can leap --

THE PRESIDENT: It bridges them. But I mentioned earlier that I struck up a friendship with Marilynne Robison, who has become a good friend. And we've become sort of pen pals. I started reading her in Iowa where "Gilead" and some of her best novels are set. And I loved her writing in part because it -- I saw those people every day. And her -- the interior life she was describing that connected them -- the people I was shaking hands with and making speeches to -- it connected them with my grandparents, who were from Kansas, ended up journeying all the way to Hawaii, but whose foundation had been set in a very similar setting.

And so I think that I found myself better able to imagine what's going on in the lives of people throughout my presidency because of not just a specific novel, but the act of reading fiction. It exercises those muscles, and I think that has been helpful.

And then there's been occasion where I just want to get out of my own head. (Laughter.) Sometimes you read fiction just because you want to be someplace else.

Q Like what are some of those books?

THE PRESIDENT: It's interesting, the stuff I read just to escape ends up being a mix of things -- some science fiction. For a while, there was three-volume science fiction novel -- the "Three Body Problem" series --

Q Oh, the Chinese guy who won the Hugo.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chinese -- who won the Hugo, which was just wildly imaginative, really interesting. It wasn't so much sort of character studies as it was just this sweeping --

Q It's really about the fate of the universe.

THE PRESIDENT: Right, exactly. The scope of it was immense. So that was fun to read, partly because my day-to-day problems with Congress seem fairly petty -- not something to worry about. Aliens are about to invade. (Laughter.)

Q It puts things in perspective.

THE PRESIDENT: Exactly. There were books that would blend I think really good writing with thriller genres. I mean, I thought "Gone Girl" was a well-constructed, well-written book.

Q I loved that structure. Like a -- sort of thing.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, and it was really well-executed. And a similar structure, which was probably -- may have been accidental, but that I thought was a really powerful novel, the one I read last year, the Fates and the Furies, by Lauren Groff, which I thought was a terrific book.

Q I like those structures like Louise Erdrich too, where you actually see, like, different points of view.

THE PRESIDENT: How people's perspectives -- yeah. Which I have to do for this job, too. (Laughter.)

Q Have there been certain books, fiction or nonfiction, that have been touchstones for you in these eight years? You know, like --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, no, no, no, I understand. I would say, you know, Shakespeare continues to be a touchstone for me. I didn't -- like most teenagers in high school, when we were assigned, I don't know, "The Tempest" or something, I thought, my God, this is boring. And I took this wonderful Shakespeare class in college where I just started to read the tragedies and dig into them. And that, I think, is foundational for me in understanding how certain patterns repeat themselves and play themselves out between human beings.

Q Is that sort of comforting, or it gives you a sense of the universal?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, it gives me a sense of perspective. I think Toni Morrison's writings, particularly "Song of Solomon," is a book I think of when I imagine people going through hardship -- that it's not just pain, but there's joy and glory and mystery.

Q The Milkman, wasn't that his name?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I loved that character. You know, I think that there are writers who I don't necessarily agree with in terms of their politics, but whose writings are sort of a baseline for how to think about certain things -- V.S. Naipaul, for example. A book "The Bend in the River," which starts with the line, "The world is what it is; men who are

. nothing, who allow themselves to become nothing, have no place in it." And I always think about that line and I think about his novels when I'm thinking about the hardness of the world sometimes, in particularly in foreign policy, and I resist and fight against sometimes that very cynical, more realistic view of the world. And yet, there are times where it feels as if that may be true.

So in that sense, I'm using writing like that as a foil or something to debate against.

Q Like I've read that Lincoln found that reading -- he loved Shakespeare his whole life, but then when he was dealing with the Civil War, that reading the history plays helped give him a solace and perspective, and the sense that there are eternal things and the human condition.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, and Lincoln's own writings do that. He is a very fine writer.

Q He's an amazing writer.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. I mean I'd put the Second Inaugural up against any piece of American writing -- as good as anything. One of the great treats of being President is, in the Lincoln Bedroom, there's a copy of Gettysburg Address handwritten by him, one of five copies he did for charity. And there have been times in the evening where I'd just walk over because it's right next to my office, my home office, and I just read it.

And perspective is exactly what is wanted. At a time when events move so quickly and so much information is transmitted, the ability to slow down and get perspective, along with the ability to get in somebody else's shoes -- those two things have been invaluable to me. Whether they've made me a better President I can't say. But what I can say is that they have allowed me to sort of maintain my balance during the course of eight years, because this is a place that comes at you hard and fast and doesn't let up.

Q Like is there some poem or any sort of piece of writing or author that you would turn to when, say, like after Newtown, or in the midst of the darkest days of the financial crisis, any particular that you or -- like the Gettysburg or Lincoln sort of?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that during those periods of time, Lincoln's writings, King's writings, Gandhi's writings, Mandela's writings -- I found those particularly helpful, because what you wanted was a sense of solidarity. During very difficult moments, this job can be very isolating. So sometimes you have to sort of hop across history to find folks who have been similarly feeling isolated, and that's been useful. Churchill's a good writer. And I loved actually reading Roosevelt's -- Teddy Roosevelt's writing. He's just kind of a -- he's this big, outsized character.

Q Have you read a lot of the biographies of other Presidents? I know you've read McCullough and --

THE PRESIDENT: I have.

Q -- and what sort of perspective have you gotten from those?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, the biographies have been useful because I do think that there's a tendency, understandable, to think that whatever's going on right now is uniquely disastrous or amazing or difficult. And it just serves you well to think about Roosevelt trying to navigate through World War II or Lincoln trying to figure out whether he's going to fire McClellan when rebel troops are 20, 30, 40 miles away. Again, it gives you perspective.

Q I watched some of the episode of "Eyes on the Prize" after the election just to -- because I was upset.

THE PRESIDENT: It was useful.

Q And seeing that was useful because you do see how far we've come, and in the space of my lifetime. So they have improved.

THE PRESIDENT: And that's why seeing my daughters now picking up books that I read 30 years ago or 40 years ago is gratifying, because I want them to have perspective -- not for purposes of complacency, but rather to give them confidence that people with a sense of determination and courage and pluck can reshape things. It's empowering for them.

Q What books would you recommend that people read at this moment in time, given the situation, that both captures this sense of turmoil and watch this moment of turmoil, and also --

THE PRESIDENT: It's an interesting question. I mean, Michiko, I should probably ask you or some people who have had time to catch up on reading -- I'll confess that since the election, I've been busier than I expected. So one of the things I'm really looking forward to is to dig into a whole bunch of literature.

But one of the things I'm confident about is that, out of this moment, there are a whole bunch of writers -- a lot of them young -- who are probably writing the book I need to read. (Laughter.) They're ahead of me right now. And so in my post presidency, in addition to training the next generation of leaders to work on issues like climate change or gun violence or criminal justice reform, my hope is to link them up with their peers who see fiction or nonfiction as an important part of that process.

I think our -- at a time when so much of our politics is trying to manage this clash of cultures brought about by globalization and technology and migration, the role of stories to unify -- as opposed to

- divide -- to engage rather than to marginalize, the role is more important than ever. And you see it in hip-hop culture and you see it in spoken word and --

Q "Hamilton."

THE PRESIDENT: And "Hamilton" is I think a great example of that. But I do think there's something particular about quieting yourself and having a sustained stretch of time that is different from music or television or even the greatest movies.

And part of what I think we're all having to deal with right now is just a lot of information overload and a lack of time to process things. So we make quick judgments and assign stereotypes to things, block certain things out, because our brain is just trying to get through the day.

And to be able to carve out half an hour, an hour in a day to --

Q I mean, people are reading; it seems like indie bookstores are doing well.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, they're doing well.

Q And print books are doing well. But there is a generational change because we're bombarded with information. Technology is moving so rapidly.

THE PRESIDENT: Look, I don't worry about the survival of the novel. We're a storytelling species.

Q But what you're talking about -- that contemplative thing -- like, how does one encourage that, or what you were mentioning at lunch about your plans?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we were talking about trying to attract people initially to a conversation on issues or a playlist that I've put up on the presidential center website that quickly engages people. But my hope is then also that we can use that to widen the audience for good books, and then a conversation about books. Because I think that what one of the jobs of political leaders going forward is, is to tell a better story about what binds us together as a people. And America is unique in having to stitch together all these disparate elements -- we're not one race, we're not one tribe, folks didn't all arrive here at the same time.

What holds us together is an idea and it's a story about who we are and what's important to us. And I want to make sure that we continue that.

Q This was great.

THE PRESIDENT: It was fun.

Q Junot Diaz, and I know you like Jhumpa Lahiri's books and they speak to immigration or the American Dream.

THE PRESIDENT: And I will -- we can include this in the conversation. I think because you were asking about specific books, I think Lahiri's books, I think Diaz's books do speak to a very particular contemporary immigration experience. But also this combination of -- that I think is universal -- longing for this better place but also feeling displaced and looking backwards at the same time. I think in that sense, their novels are directly connected to a lot of American literature.

Q Like I was saying to a friend's kid about one of the Lahiri books that it could have been describing my parents and my childhood in Connecticut. My friend's kid said that -- she's white -- and she said that it's not just your experience; it's what I grew up with.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

Q She said it's about growing up. And I thought it was interesting.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you think about some of the great books by Jewish authors like Philip Roth or Saul Bellow -- it's steeped with this sense of being an outsider, longing to get in, not sure what you're giving up -- what you're willing to give up and what you're not willing to give up. So that particular aspect of American fiction I think is still of great relevance today.

END

3:00 P.M. EST

Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Fwd: Press Pool #2

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kaitlan Collins <kaitlan@dailycaller.com<mailto:kaitlan@dailycaller.com>>
Date: January 13, 2017 at 1:51:43 PM EST
To: Brian Gabriel <Brian_A_Gabriel@who.eop.gov<mailto:Brian_A_Gabriel@who.eop.gov>>
Subject: Press Pool #2

The pool was just informed that we have a lunch lid until 3:00 p.m., with the exception of the briefing happening now.

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 5:03 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Fwd: Press Pool #3

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kaitlan Collins <kaitlan@dailycaller.com<mailto:kaitlan@dailycaller.com>>
Date: January 13, 2017 at 4:51:59 PM EST
To: Brian Gabriel <Brian_A_Gabriel@who.eop.gov<mailto:Brian_A_Gabriel@who.eop.gov>>
Subject: Press Pool #3

A travel/photo lid was called at 4:50 p.m. Have a good night everybody.

--
Kaitlan Collins
White House Correspondent
The Daily Caller<<http://dailycaller.com>>
[@kaitlancollins](https://twitter.com/kaitlancollins)<<https://twitter.com/kaitlancollins>>
202-463-5051

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:25 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Presidential Proclamation -- Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2017
Attachments: 2017mlkj.prc.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

Attached and signed by the President today is the text of a proclamation regarding Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2017.

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:29 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Presidential Memorandum -- Continuing to Expand Opportunity for All Young People
Attachments: 2017mbkamended.mem.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

Attached for release and signed today by the President is a memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies on Continuing to Expand Opportunity for All Young People.

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Presidential Proclamation -- Religious Freedom Day, 2017
Attachments: 2017religiousfreedom.prc.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

Attached and signed by the President today is the text of a proclamation regarding Religious Freedom Day, 2017.

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:59 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Letters and Notices -- Continuation of National Emergency with Respect to Iran, Cuba, Libya, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Ukraine, and Terrorists Who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process
Attachments: 2017middleeast.idl.rel.pdf; 2017middleeast.not.rel.pdf; 2017libya.not.rel.pdf; 2017libya.idl.rel.pdf; 2017zimbabwe.not.rel.pdf; 2017zimbabwe.idl.rel.pdf; 2017venezuela.not.rel.pdf; 2017venezuela.idl.rel.pdf; 2017ukraine.not.rel.pdf; 2017ukraine.idl.rel.pdf; 2017iran.idl.rel.pdf; 2017iran.not.rel.pdf; 2017cuba.idl.rel.pdf; 2017cuba.not.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2017

Attached and signed by the President today is the text of seven letters to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate and the text of seven notices on the Continuation of National Emergencies with Respect to Iran, Cuba, Libya, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Ukraine, and Terrorists Who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process.

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 3:39 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Executive Orders -- Providing an Order of Succession Within the Environmental Protection Agency and Providing an Order of Succession With the Department of Justice
Attachments: 2017successioneopa.eo.rel.pdf; 2017successiondoj.eo.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

Attached and signed today by the President are two Executive Orders on Providing an Order of Succession Within the Environmental Protection Agency and Providing an Order of Succession With the Department of Justice.

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Presidential Memoranda -- Designation of Officers or Employees of OSTP to Act as Director, Providing an Order of Succession Within CEQ, and Providing an Order of Succession Within the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service
Attachments: 2017ostp.orderofsuccession.mem.rel.pdf; 2017ceq.orderofsuccession.mem.rel.pdf; 2017fmcs.orderofsuccession.mem.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2017

Attached and signed today by the President are three Presidential Memoranda on the Designation of Officers or Employees of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to Act as Director, Providing an Order of Succession Within the Council on Environmental Quality, and Providing an Order of Succession Within the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Letters from the President -- Designation of the Chair of the United States International Trade Commission
Attachments: 2017schmidtlein.idl.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

Attached for release and signed today by the President are letters to the Congress to notifying them of the designation of the Chair of the United States International Trade Commission.

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 9:47 AM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: Executive Order and Letters -- Recognizing Positive Actions by the Government of Sudan and Providing for the Revocation of Certain Sudan-Related Sanctions
Attachments: 2017sudan.idl.rel.pdf; 2017sudansanctions.eo.rel.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

Attached for release and signed by the President today is the text of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate and the text of an Executive Order on Recognizing Positive Actions by the Government of Sudan and Providing for the Revocation of Certain Sudan-Related Sanctions.

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 6:54 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2017

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017**

In the morning, the President will receive the Presidential Daily Briefing in the Oval Office. This meeting is closed press.

In the afternoon, the President will attend meetings at the White House.

In-Town Travel Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP
TV Corr & Crew: NBC
Print: Daily Caller
Radio: Sirius XM

EST

9:30AM In-Town Pool Call Time

10:00AM THE PRESIDENT receives the Presidential Daily Briefing
Oval Office
Closed Press

Briefing Schedule

12:30PM Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest

###

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Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO

From: White House Press Office <noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 7:08 PM
To: Carter, Debbie G. EOP/WHO
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND DR. JILL BIDEN

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Vice President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2017

DAILY GUIDANCE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND DR. JILL BIDEN
Friday, January 13, 2017

In the morning, the Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden will tape an interview on The View.

Afterwards, the Vice President and Dr. Jill Biden will travel to Wilmington, Delaware where they will remain overnight.

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