

Sunday, July 6

Happy Birthday Nancy! A morning phone call from John P. The V.P. candidate on the Marcos election is holed up in a Manila hotel surrounded by several thousand of his demonstrators. Had himself sworn in as acting Pres. of Philippines per orders of Marcos. Aquino is on Mindano—500 miles away. Don't feel civil war will result. Army remains loyal to Aquino. Nothing for us to get involved in.

Quiet day—then to the Wicks for dinner. Just the 4 of us I think. Still waiting for news on Nakasone & the Japanese election. Dinner turned out to be at the Jockey Club. We slipped out of the W.H.—no flags or police escort or press. It was nice for a change.

Monday, July 7

A waiter leaked the word about last night & the press is horrified that I went someplace without them knowing. They are now threatening to stake out all the gates to the W.H.

[Desk work; photo session with Antonin Scalia; short staff and NSC meetings.]

Tonite a dinner at John & Ann McLaughlin's with the Charlton Hestons & the Jack Welch's—he's the new & sensationally successful head of G.E. It was a lot of fun. We did something unusual—we slipped out of the W.H.—no we didn't. This time we went in the usual procession.

Tuesday, July 8

[Noted Congress in recess, commented, "It's so nice with Cong. gone"; economic briefing with Baker and Treasury Undersecretary Beryl Sprinkle and staff, report that economy is sluggish, projections have been revised to the downside; interviewed by John Casserly for biography of Barry Goldwater (later published as Goldwater); lunch with Vice President Bush; interviewed by New York Daily News.]

A meeting with Strom Thurmond who feels it's time to have a Sup. Ct. Justice from the South. His name is Wilkins & he's a good man. I think maybe it's time. Strom also thinks Justice Powell is soon going to resign.

[Cocktail hour with W.H. press.]

Back home & lonesome—Nancy is in N.Y. tonite.

Wednesday, July 9

Another short day—upstairs by 2:30 to await Nancy's return. A lengthy meeting re the appt. of Bob Brown as Amb. to S. Africa. I had some doubts. He's Black. My 2 concerns were would S.A. be receptive & would run into the Uncle Tom syndrome among their Blacks & our own Black community. Bob is a remarkable person, extremely well qualified to be a middleman in S. Africa's situation. Now all that remains is for us to quietly probe Pres. Botha's attitude.