

February 6, 1942

Dearest:

If I wrote you about everything I want to talk to you about I'd be here until midnight. Heavens! How I miss you.

Thanks for your sweet letter. It came much sooner than I was looking for one. Your handwriting on an envelope is still one of the thrilling things to me.

Malcolm Bardwell just called me. He is married and they are living at the George Washington Inn. He said that he and his wife were going to start coming over at night, helping us out, advising us on political matters, and "just folding the mail or doing anything." Did you ask him to do that? I'd like to know because I'm wondering if we should let him read the mail, etc.??? Of course, I would recognize there were certain letters you wouldn't want him reading but how about general mail? I think Malcolm is a very canny politician and I have quite a lot of faith in him but just how much do you want us to be telling him of office affairs?

Several days ago there came to both of us a large box of glazed nuts from Mayor and Mrs. Miller. I promptly thanked them and proceeded to eat the nuts. They are delicious, darling. I felt bad about eating them and you not having any but that was before I had your letter and I really did not know where to catch you.

After all his efforts, Ray Lee was not able to rent the apartment. I wired Mrs. Johnson on January 30 to call several storage companies, get the lowest bid, store everything that is in the apartment, advise Mrs. Brownlee of course that we were giving it up and advise Ray the same. Day before yesterday I sent her an airmail special with a check for \$30. When I thought of storing the furniture one and a half years ago I got estimates and found that everything could be moved into storage and kept there one month for \$25, and then it would cost \$5.00 a month thereafter. I haven't heard

from her yet and am extremely anxious to. I sent a tracer out the wire to make sure she got it but Western Union told me that if they had not been able to make delivery they would have surely notified me....I was afraid she might be off on a visit to some child and I would be stuck with another two weeks rent. Of course I told her to take any peices of furniture she could use and parcel out any among friends that they might want....Well, well--its too bad but all in all we have nothing to complain about in that \$1000 investment in furniture; it's done pretty well for five years. Of course, I do not intend to let it remain in storage indefinitely; sometime I shall go to Austin and sell it or make some reasonably profitable disposition.

I went out to my own dear apartment a few days ago to get some records. It was looking so comfortable and attractive! The Edwards were both there and I liked them both very much. The place was in very nice order and I can learn something from her way of arranging the furniture. Their check came on the dot. Otha Ree was equipped with new uniforms and grinning like a Cheshire cat.

I have not missed a moment at the school and am getting up so much speed in shorthand that I wonder when I shall have an opportunity to use it. Last week end I did all the "home work" for the six days that I had been in school. As is very obvious, I still have a long way to go on the typewriter.

Exercises also come along apace--I believe I can already see some difference in my hips! The fact that there is never much time for either of us to cook a real meal no doubt has something to do with it. But that is not sensible and will certainly stop.

Now for the Social Front, which I have not entirely departed from. Sunday Nellie and I had tea out at Virginia's and I loved seeing her. Monday Mrs. Thomason had asked me to be her guest at the Texas Ladies luncheon but when I found that Mrs. Ben Powell, Sr., was in town I made my excuses to Abby and took Mrs. Powell and her daughter-in-law. It was just the sort of thing to do for Mrs. Powell and I'm very glad I did it. You know she was extremely nice to me in Austin and she is quite the grand dowager there--I don't mean to be facetious or Charlie-Marsh---she is a very worth while person really.

I was amazed at how glad all the ladies seemed to be to see me! They all asked me to come to see them and said

they were going to see that I did not get lonesome. Some time when you are feeling quite low I will tell you everything Mrs. Lanham said about you. It was mighty, mighty sweet. Just to summarize she said that nobody had ever done as much for her as you had. Of course, Frances Poage and Mrs. South ~~were~~ the other most really friendly ones-- and always, oddly enough, Mrs. Roy Miller.

Mary Margaret Jamieson was there. They are coming out to see my movies as soon as I get some passing to fetch them up.

Monday night we had Dorothy and Phil Nichols and a guest of theirs from Dallas out to dinner. There is CERTAINLY a difference between entertaining in my new set-up. (Darling, I love it where I am--I only mean that I see at once I must limit myself to the type of people I have out.)

Tonight Everett Looney is taking us to dinner after having refused to let us cook his dinner. And tomorrow night Roy Hofheing is coming out to eat with us. And I believe that finishes the social front.

Now for what you have undoubtedly been waiting for: the office.. I came down yesterday for the first time as per your instructions in the letter. The following questions arose: (see enclosed copies of letters.)

1. What about letters on legislation, such as the one marked (1)? Should we ask them to continue giving us, or this office, the benefit of his views on legislation, when there is no longer a vote here?? And you are too completely divorced from the office to say "give him the benefit of your views and suggestions", are you not?
2. In the letters marked (2) and (3) I suggested that we not mail them because of the paragraphs marked, which indicate that you are keeping in constant touch with the office and still are "playing politics". My idea is that you are far away in the service of your country and we are trying to do everything we can to get the job done while you are gone. I think the paragraph marked in letter (4) states it excellently and suggest we use a variation of that in all such letters.
3. Now as to the matter of how I refer to you. I think I should refer to you as "Lyndon" to all friends to whom I would naturally say that, such as Reese, Mr. Cape, etc; as Mr. Johnson to all

strangers, such as this Mr. McClain, and to all "punks"--forgive the expression--I don't really use it often; and as "Congressman Johnson" never. Tell me if you agree.

4. Would it be alright to use the expression "I am contributing my time down at the office in order to do what I can ~~with~~ help out while Lyndon is away"? "I am working without pay" is such a bald and ugly phrase--like saying "I am a good girl". But, as you know, we will continue to use it if you say so.

Dear, that's all that comes to mind right now, and well it may be, for I am sure you are on the ropes from reading all this. I will tell you about Roy Hofheins's business when next I write. Cliff is investigating it--nothing is known yet really.

All my love,

P. S. I wrote Tommy that I would sell him my car for \$750 and am waiting for his answer. They are going to have a baby!