

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

20 February 1942

Dear Bird:

Had a nice note from you late Sunday then Friday morning the postman brought me Senator's note and a couple of paragraphs from you. It was a long time from Sunday to Friday, but the notes today pepped me up a lot and I am quite happy to know that you are getting along as well as you are in the office.

I hope you can hurry and finish your school because I feel if you could spend all day in the office, it wouldn't be long until we would be invincible. Think of the effect it would have if 2,000 of our best friends in the District had personal notes from you written at the rate of 25 a day for 60 days.

The next 60 days are going to be the most critical for sometime to come. If we can hold the line and inspire devotion, interest, etc., through the months of March and April, there is little likelihood that anyone will try to upset us as late as May. I only have two suggestions to make:

1. Please insist that every letter, every wire, every request of every kind have a reply the day it reaches us. If it is a wire, it should be replied to by wire. A sender who receives an answer within the hour gets as concerned about the promptness of the reply and the compliment to his ego as he does about the subject matter of the reply.
2. Get out as quickly as you as many personal letters as you can to people in the District. I am convinced that your idea about signing the mail is the best thing that has happened to us and if we can get in the mail chute within the next 60 days 500 letters to Austin and Travis County, 2 or 3 hundred to Williamson County, and a hundred or so to all the others, it will be the difference.

I think your letters are extremely well worded--better than I could do. They are obviously earnest, sincere, and intelligent, and that is all any letter should be. I would try to keep them as individual as I could and not resort to form at least to people in the same county.

I would make it a point to see that people like Bob Cooper, Georgetown, Don Scarbrough, Taylor, George Peeler, Taylor Walter Buckner, San Marcos; Tom Whitehead, Brenham;

Mrs. Johnson

Page Two

Mrs. Gliddon, Johnson City; Mrs. Dale, Blanco; the Mohleys, Lockhart; Hal Bridges, Luling; and the other newspaper people had more than one note. Be sure to try to write Gordon and Buck every few days asking for suggestions and keeping them alert and interested.

I don't know how you are going to find time to do all this and still take the people to lunch that I want you to take, and see the people in the evening that you must see, but I guess with your methodical planning you can work it out. I promise to let you have a long, pleasant rest after this spring, but in the meantime, I will meet the postman every morning for your long letter.

Sincerely,

Lyndon (successor to Baby Boy who
passed away the day the
postman forgot his letter
from 'Fritz')

Lyndon B. Johnson
Lt. Comdr., USNR

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
1320 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.