

March 11, 1942.

11 A. M.

Darling:

Here goes the volume, written in the morning because if I wait until seven or eight o'clock at night there is never time enough.

Your letter of March 9, in which you tell me that you really are not using 100% of your ability out there, has just come and it brings to a point a myriad host of ideas that have been boiling around in my head for the past week. Everywhere I turn there is confusion, and distrust between Congressmen and the Bureaus, and a running around from one agency to another trying to find out whose job it is to do what. I was about to decide that I thought you ought to come back here and be put in one of these spots where you could make things move, and let your political career turn out as God and the tenth district sees fit. I wish you were head of some agency that ~~sees that~~ has to do with speeding up production, or ~~co-ordinating~~ getting the goods to the place where it is supposed to go, with a corps of Young-Men-Who-Can working with you, like George Brown and Roy Hofheinz and anybody who can make things move. All this was very hazy in my mind--all I knew for sure was that I wanted you in the place where you give all your talent and energy and personality toward stemming the tide (and it is bad here) and I was afraid you weren't in that spot.

Then last night I went to Gray Bane's (Mrs. Frank Bane's) for cocktails and saw Aubrey Williams there. I was more interested in hearing about you all's training program than anything and there isn't a human I can talk to about it, so I got him off in a corner and we talked about you. He said he was going to see Harry about you in a day or two. Of course, I was quite in the dark on this but I supposed he meant Harry Hopkin's Lease Lend business and I think that would be splendid. He said "I want to bring Lyndon back here and put him in Harry's outfit." Then this morning came your letter, with the reference to it! The last thing Aubrey said to me as I left was that he was "going to tend to that about Lyndon." I want to go to see him about it and remind him and I have no reluctance to call him for some of his time either at his home or at the office. Would you like me to and do you have any suggestions as to what I should say to him? My idea is simply that when we need all our

*I don't*  
*there be*  
*Lyndon*  
*Williams*



Brain Power and Can-Do Power as never before in our National life you are not in the spot where you can give all you've got. That is the way I would put it, if and when I have the chance, to our friends such as Aubrey and Mr. Ickes and maybe Tom or the Douglasses. Is that unwise to say, in view of the fact that you are working for the Navy and under orders from the Navy?

I remember my conversation with Sam, when he asked me "What do you think about me going to the President and asking him to call all those boys back?" And I told him that I would hate for him to do it, as far as you are concerned, because I felt you wanted to sefve where you were and could to good advantage. Since then the tempo has greatly increased here in Washington--I see so much need for you on every hand--I no longer feel that way. I want to go to Sam and tell him that my ideas have changed. However, what Sam wants you back here for is to help him take care of those elections next November and I imagine to help corral some of the boys now. And I don't know whether that is the field you want to play in when you do come back. Is it? *Does* *Anything*

Just this minute I stopped long enough to call Mrs. Ickes, because I want to start some ball rolling on this, however meager; she was out of town but was returning Friday and I asked Mrs. Connelly, her private secretary, to tell her I would very much like to talk to her then and gave her my telephone numbers. I believe she will call me and I shall ask her to have lunch with me, just us two, and just talk about things in general and feel my way around. I know from the way she talked to me when she asked us out to Sunday dinner a day or two before we left Washington in December that they saw you go into the Navy with regret and would like to see you back here for the same reasons I would. *Good*

Sweetheart, my shoe size is  $6\frac{1}{2}$ AAAA, my hose  $8\frac{1}{2}$ , my hat 22, my suit size usually 12 but in some models, especially less expensive clothes, it is 14. (Give them the measurements you have and that will help.) I love my linens and appreciate your thinking of me with all my heart. I shall remember not to talk about all the presents. ✓

Yesterday afternoon I went to see Elizabeth Rowe and took Betsy Jr. her present. The little robe fitted beautifully right now, she will have to grow to the shoes, but both she and her mother loved both. I am getting to feel that Elizabeth is a real friend of ours; she rather grows on one and that is the kind of folks I like best after all. I sat down long enough to have a glass of sherry and to hear that they are moving into a really lovely house in Georgetown this summer and are all thrilled about it. You know *0000* *Rings* *Jr* *Betsy* *Rowe*

*Elizabeth told the baby they were from her "Uncle Sigismund."*



how Jim would feel about your coming back here. Unless you think my simple honest feeling about it is an unwise approach, even among our best and closest friends, I would surely like to start talking to Aubrey and Sam and Jim and the Ickes about it. I'm sending this Airmail, so you can send me back your reactions by next Monday.

From the Rowe's I went to drop the present at Dorothy's and she is the one who appreciated it most of all. She is fine and said give you their love. She is one of the happiest people I know.

✓  
Give her a  
hug for me

From there I went to the Bane's. It was like a regular gathering of a clan, to which we used to belong, rather oddly but to the mutual benefit of all, I think....The Aubrey Williams, Maury Mavericks, Mrs. John Corson, Altmeyers, a Mrs. Ellen Woodward of Mississippi--quite a slew of ardent New Dealers, that now nearly extinct breed. Mr. Corson has been drafted by Altmeyer into holding three jobs, one of which, re-training for temporarily unemployed workers is of mammoth importance and ought to have all the time of a darn smart fellow. He was out of town but I got Mrs. Corson to give me his secretary's number so I can call up and find out about these re-training schools that she says are already in operation.

June

There have been a host of visitors: Roy Hofheinz, Martin Winfrey, Tony Buford, Taylor Thomas of Luling, Mr. Carter of Luling again. It is difficult to get anything done with many interruptions. Last night the force stayed here until after eleven putting out Year Books. I am sorry to say I went home about 10:15 because Nellie and I were in different cars anyway and I thought they were leaving in about five minutes. I should have stayed until the last one.

Hope  
you saw  
all of them

Roy says Mr. Allred is going to run and that he believes he will resign from his Judgeship, or at least not run for re-election in order to work full time for him. I am glad and do not feel in the least sad about our lost chances. I know the day will come, in spite of Senator Connally's contention that he is a very very young man, and I believe you and Allred would be a great team for Texas! Roy said Jimmy was just waiting for the go-signal from the White House, and that "If Lyndon were here he would have had it two weeks ago." Darling love, do not feel sad about it....I know how you well could feel. Do you think Jimmy will get the go-signal???

✓

Roy has on his mind three deals to make some money --still the radio license, about which he intends to go to see Cliff Durr if he can; something about selling the by-product of a new steel defense plant (the by-product is something like rock) to cities and counties as road-

Help Roy  
All you can



building material--this after he is out of the Judgeship of course; and one other thing he didn't tell me about. He is deeply, bitterly disgusted at our lack of progress in this war and would like to get in there himself in some place to make things move. However, he can't forget about his wife and two children and another coming on and owing \$21,000...So he wants to make a living right quick, and then get into this maelstrom, somehow. He and George Brown have dickered with the idea of starting a morale-building program to step up production in the ship-building and other defense plants in Houston; letters from a Houston boy in Java telling in piteous terms how badly they need guns or ships; medals to the workers who drive the most rivets of whatever it is; pep talks to the workmen in the plants--maybe fetch down an Admiral or General to do it; starting a contest between ship-yards or between cities to work up the competitive spirit. The way Roy would handle it, it might be something to it!

Roy is terribly anxious that you come on back here. He, too, envisions you handling the November campaign. He said he was going to talk to Sam and to Mr. Marsh. (By the way, he said Mr. Marsh would help Jimmy all he could.)

No, I havn't had any interesting dates--or any trips to New York. I have been much too busy with my job, and my own very real romance. Gene writes me that our good friend came to see her the other day and would drop in to see me soon. I do not think he will come.

It would be heavenly to spend a while with you in New Orleans! I am waiting only on Senator for the Alabama trip and will wire you when he wires me to meet him in Montgomery, as our plans go at present. It should be within the next two weeks. I remind him of it every few days.

Dearest, I must tell you that when I said I "thought I had done pretty well and wanted to report" I meant purely in the financial field. I know I have made several mistakes; I am slow; every now and then a letter waits over longer than twenty-four hours. But I have learned a lot!! I am far from satisfied, and I have a picture of you doing like poor Gerry Mann did last summer--"Mrs. Johnson made that mistake and the poor little thing didn't know any better though she tried hard." But certainly I am improving.

Must stop now. All my love, always. Tell me how to proceed when I talk to our friends, else I may proceed in too frank a manner. I want to get started soon.

Yours,  
Ledy Bird

*Don't wait  
on you all*

*You are  
doing 100%*



Dear friend:

Thank you very much for your wire of the seventeenth regarding the labor situation. Because I know how interested he will be in having your views I am forwarding them on to Mr. Johnson today. Also I am bringing them to the attention of the Honorable Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, with whom we are in frequent touch.

Mr. Johnson is, as you know, at the present time serving his country where the President considers he is needed most. While he is away I am contributing my time here in the office doing what I can to help out. We are always happy to have your views and suggestions. I hope you will write us on any matters of public concern in which you are particularly interested.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson







March 11, 1942

11 A. M.

Darling:

Here goes the volume, written in the morning because if I wait until seven or eight o'clock at night there is never time enough.

Your letter of March 9, in which you tell me that you really are not using 100% of your ability out there, has just come and it brings to a point a myriad host of ideas that have been boiling around in my head for the past week. Everywhere I turn there is confusion and distrust between Congressmen and the Bureaus and a running around from one agency to another trying to find out whose job it is to do what. I was about to decide that I thought you ought to come back here and be put in one of these spots where you could make things move and let your political career turn out as God and the tenth district sees fit. I wish you were head of some agency that sees that has to do with speeding up production, or co-ordinating getting the goods to the place where it is supposed to go, with a corps of Young-Men-Who-Can working with you, like George Brown and Roy Hofheinz and anybody who can make things move. All this was very hazy in my mind--all I knew for sure was that I wanted you in the place where you give all your talent and energy and personality toward stemming the tide (and it is bad here) and I was afraid you weren't in that spot.

Then last night I went to Gray Bane's (Mrs. Frank Bane's) for cocktails and saw Aubrey Williams there. I was more interested in hearing about youall's training program than anything and there isn't a human I can talk to about it, so I got him off in a corner and we talked about you. He said he was going to see Harry about you in a day or two. Of course, I was quite in the dark on this but I supposed he meant Harry Hopkin's Lease Lend business and I think that would be splendid. He said "I want to bring Lyndon back here and put him in Harry's outfit." Then this morning came your letter, with the reference to it! The last thing Aubrey said to me as I left was that he was "going to tend to that about Lyndon." I want to go to see him about it and remind him and I have no reluctance to call him for some of his time either at his home or at the office. Would you like me to and do you have any suggestions as to what I should say to him? My idea is simply that when we need all our



Brain Power and Can-Do Power as never before in our National life you are not in the spot where you can give all you've got. That is the way I would put it, if and when I have the chance, to our friends such as Aubrey and Mr. Ickes and maybe Tom or the Douglasses. Is that unwise to say, in view of the fact that you are working for the Navy and under orders from the Navy?

I remember my conversation with Sam, when he asked me "What do you think about me going to the President and asking him to call all those boys back?" And I told him that I would hate for him to do it, as far as you are concerned, because I felt you wanted to seive where you were and could to good advantage. Since then the tempo has greatly increased here in Washington--I see so much need for you on every hand--I no longer feel that way. I want to go to Sam and tell him that my ideas have changed. However, what Sam wants you back here for is to help him take care of those elections next November and I imagine to help corral some of the boys now. And I don't know whether that is the field you want to play in when you do come back. Is it?

Just this minute I stopped long enough to call Mrs. Ickes, because I want to start some ball rolling on this, however meager; she was out of town but was returning Friday and I asked Mrs. Connelly, her private secretary, to tell her I would very much like to talk to her then and gave her my telephone numbers. I believe she will call me and I shall ask her to have lunch with me, just us two, and just talk about things in general and feel my way around. I know from the way she talked to me when she asked us out to Sunday dinner a day or two before we left Washington in December that they saw you go into the Navy with regret and would like to see you back here for the same reasons I would.

Sweetheart, my shoe size is 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ AAAA, my hose 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , my hat 22, my suit size usually 12 but in some models, especially less expensive clothes, it is 14. (Give them the measurements you have and that will help.) I love my linens and appreciate your thinking of me with all my heart. I shall remember not to talk about all the presents.

Yesterday afternoon I went to see Elizabeth Rowe and took Betsy Jr. her present. The little robe fitted beautifully right now, she will have to grow to the shoes, but both she and her mother loved both. I am getting to feel that Elizabeth is a real friend of ours; she rather grows on one and that is the kind of folks I like best after all. I sat down long enough to have a glass of sherry and to hear that they are moving into a really lovely house in Georgetown this summer and are all thrilled about it. You know



how Jim would feel about your coming back here. Unless you think my simple honest feeling about it is an unwise approach, even among our best and closest friends, I would surely like to start talking to Aubrey and Sam and Jim and the Iokes about it. I'm sending this Airmail, so you can send me back your reactions by next Monday.

From the Rowe's I went to drop the present at Dorothy's and she is the one who appreciated it most of all. She is fine and said give you their love. She is one of the happiest people I know.

From there I went to the Bane's. It was like a regular gathering of a clan, to which we used to, ~~beathgy~~ rather oddly but to the ~~mutual~~ benefit of all, I think....The Aubrey Williams, Maury Mavericks, Mrs. John Corson, Altmeyers, a Mrs. Ellen Woodward of Mississippi--quite a slew of ardent New Dealers, that now nearly extinct breed. Mr. Corson has been drafted by Altmeyer into holding three jobs, one of which, re-training for temporarily unemployed workers is of mammoth importance and ought to have all the time of a darn smart fellow. He was out of town but I got Mrs. Corson to give me his secretary's number so I can call up and find out about these re-training schools that she says are already in operation.

There have been a host of visitors: Roy Hofheinz, Martin Winfrey, Tony Buford, Taylor Thomas of Luling, Mr. Carter ~~egiluling~~ again. It is difficult to get anything done with many interruptions. Last night the force stayed here until after eleven putting out Year Books. I am sorry to say I went home about 10:15 because Nellie and I were in different cars anyway and I thought they were leaving in about five minutes. I should have stayed until the last one.

Roy says Mr. Allred is going to run and that he believes he will resign from his Judgeship, or at least not run for re-election in order to work full time for him. I am glad and do not feel in the least sad about our lost chances. I know the day will come, in spite of Senator Connally's contention that he is a very very young man, and I believe you and Allred would be a great team for Texas! Roy said Jimmy was just waiting for the go-signal from the White House, and that "If Lyndon were here he would have had it two weeks ago." Darling love, do not feel sad about it....I know how you well could feel. Do you think Jimmy will get the go-signal???

Roy has on his mind three deals to make some money --still the radio license, about which he intends to go to see Cliff Durr if he can; something about selling the by-product of a new steel defense plant (the by-product is something like rock) to cities and counties as road-



building material--this after he is out of the Judgeship of course; and one other thing he didn't tell me about. He is deeply, bitterly disgusted at our lack of progress in this war and would like to get in there himself in some place to make things move. However, he can't forget about his wife and two children and another coming on and owing \$21,000...So he wants to make a living right quick, and then get into this maelstrom, somehow. He and George Brown have dickered with the idea of starting a morale-building program to step up production in the ship-building and other defense plants in Houston; letters from a Houston boy in Java telling in piteous terms how badly they need guns or ships; medals to the workers who drive the most rivets of whatever it is; pep talks to the workmen in the plants--maybe fetch down an Admiral or General to do it; starting a contest between ship-yards or between cities to work up the competitive spirit. The way Roy would handle it, it might be something to it!

Roy is terribly anxious that you come on back here. He, too, envisions you handling the November campaign. He said he was going to talk to Sam and to Mr. Marsh. (By the way, he said Mr. Marsh would help Jimmy all he could.)

No, I haven't had any interesting dates--or any trips to New York. I have been much too busy with my job, and my own very real romance. Gene writes me that our gadd friend came to see her the other day and would drop in to see me soon. I do not think he will come.

It would be heavenly to spend a while with you in New Orleans! I am waiting only on Senator for the Alabama trip and will wire you when he wires me to meet him in Montgomery, as our plans go at present. It should be within the next two weeks. I remind him of it every few days.

Dearest, I must tell you that when I said I thought I had done pretty well and wanted to report I meant purely in the financial field. I know I have made several mistakes; I am slow; every now and then a letter waits over longer than twenty-four hours. But I have learned a lot!! I am far from satisfied, and I have a picture of you doing like poor Gerry Mann did last summer--"Mrs. Johnson made that mistake and the poor little thing didn't know any better though she tried hard." But certainly I am improving.

Must stop now. All my love, always. Tell me how to proceed when I talk to our friends, else I may proceed in too frank a manner. I want to get started soon.