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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

May 12, 1952

Dear Lady Bird:

I am enclosing copies of several letters I dictated as soon as I got to the office Monday morning.

We had a rather busy and satisfying day Sunday. The children had eaten dinner Saturday night with Molly and David in our kitchen, and the Thornberrys, Jesse and I had an old-fashioned, country-style dinner with cornbread, turnip greens, lamb chops, etc. Homer's mother has not been well so Helen stayed with her for a couple of hours while everyone dined at the Johnsons'.

Sunday morning we were all thrilled about getting a circuit through to Austin and talking to you on Mother's Day. There were several disagreements about when we should call, but no disagreements on the fact that you are the most wonderful mother in all the world. The children went to Sunday School and came back anxious to talk. They both seemed very satisfied after having just heard your voice.

We ate an early lunch and about one o'clock picked up Homer, David and Molly, and all of us went to Glen Echo for about two hours. Lynda Bird, as usual, supervised the party, and although they made a considerable dent in my pocket book, even more than that, they made me realize that they should be my grandchildren instead of my children. I tried to ride two or three of the whip outfits with them, and aside from being scared all the time myself, I found I was completely worn out with the experience. It started raining a little bit and that was all that saved me.

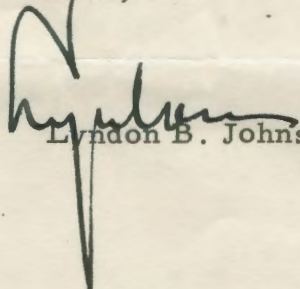
Lucy has a cold and decided she would not sleep with Lynda last night. Lynda got her feelings hurt at her sister's lack of affection and insisted on sleeping with me. That meant I did not sleep any. Then, at 3:30 and 5:30 in the morning Lucy woke up and insisted that she did not want to sleep alone and that she had a sore throat, and appealed to Lynda's maternalism which finally solved the situation, and the two girls wound up where they should be, and I wound up waiting for the seven o'clock news to come on.

Helen will keep Lucy in bed today and if she develops any fever I will call Dr. Washington.

All in all, things have been going well. We miss you greatly and are counting the days until you get the decisions down there made. There is a 10% chance that I will fly down Friday night, but if I do I will definitely notify you so don't make any plans that include me until you hear for sure.

The congressional and political situation gets worse by the day. We are accomplishing nothing in the Senate except contributing to the confusion in the country, and I am praying that God will see us through until next January. There is nobody else to do it.

Love,



Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson,
2519 Harris Boulevard,
Austin, Texas.

COPY

May 12, 1952

Dear Marcus:

Mrs. Johnson told me in her conversation Sunday night that another payment was due on the construction work you are doing on the house. I don't like to have to handle matters like this by telephone, but I am enclosing my check for \$3,000.00 as suggested by Mrs. Johnson to apply on the work done up to date. This check will make three \$3,000.00 payments that I have made on the work on the house, and I assume that the work is in the neighborhood of 70% complete.

In the future, when you need to present an estimate, I hope you will do so direct to Mr. Brooks, and I am sending him a copy of this letter in order that he can approve the estimate and forward it to me airmail for payment. We can then handle the matter in not to exceed two or three days, and I think it a better procedure than to have checks written by different people.

I want to try to get down there this weekend. I realize that no construction job ever goes as fast as you think in the beginning, and I realize that numerous change orders have been issued. I also know that there have been some delays in securing such things as paper and other materials that were to be supplied by the owner. However, I had hoped that the work would progress faster than it has, and although apparently we will not be inconvenienced any if we finish up a turnkey job by early in June, I certainly do not want to anticipate any delay beyond that point.

I assume by now you have the dam work and the corrections that were to be made on it completely worked out.

COPY

If you are being held up further by lack of materials that we are supposed to supply, by plumbing, by architects' plans, or any other reason, I hope you will let me know what the problem is, and I will do all I can to be helpful. I think you know since we started back the early part of February on the roof that I have hoped to finish this job by June, and I realize that there are always many delays both on our part and others. I believe Mrs. Johnson can make any decisions that need to be made on fixtures, colors, paper, etc., while she is there, and I doubt that she should stay longer than this weekend. I know Melvin (if you will call him on the telephone and talk to him personally) will cooperate fully and get all the work done that he has agreed to do. (I certainly want to get Melvin to do this work before he turns over his store and crew to the man that he has sold it to out in Lubbock.) I am sure Max will put this job ahead of anything he can, and I am hopeful that it won't be but a short time until we can start living in the house.

I assume it will not be necessary to make any additional payments between now and the first of the month, but I would suggest that you prepare an estimate and forward it to Max Brooks, Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, covering the amount of work completed, together with your request for additional payment. Ask him to "OK" it and forward it airmail to me when it comes time for you to make your next estimate.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Marcus Burg,
Stonewall,
Texas.

cc: Mr. R. Max Brooks
Mr. Melvin Winters
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson ✓

COPY

May 12, 1952

Dear Max:

I am enclosing copies of letters I have written Melvin Winters and Marcus Burg.

Evidently you did not get the information that I had paid Marcus an additional \$3,000.00 at Johnson City just before I left from my last trip down there. I have now given him three checks for \$3,000.00 each, or a total of \$9,000.00, for work done on the house. In addition to this, I paid him for the \$1250.00 job on the roof and for the \$6,000.00 job on the dam.

You will see from my letter to him the procedure I would like to have followed in connection with future estimates.

I know you and Bird are busy and I hope you will help her make every unmade decision this week because I am hopeful she will be able to leave the job practically finished by the time she has to come back here.

Love to you and Marietta.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. R. Max Brooks,
Perry-Brooks Building,
Austin, Texas.

cc: Mr. Melvin Winters
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson ✓

COPY

May 12, 1952

Dear Melvin:

I am enclosing copy of letter which I have sent to Marcus Burg which is self-explanatory.

He tells Lady Bird that he needs this payment promptly and that he has been delayed some by changes, delay in receipt of paper and other materials, and delay in some of the plumbing work, particularly the rough-in work in the powder room. Bird says she thinks you expected him to call and that may have accounted for the plumbing hold-up. I know when you have the information you can straighten it all out and see that things go according to plan.

I hope to be down this weekend, but if that is impossible, I will certainly be there ahead of the Wirtz Dam dedication the middle of June.

I am glad to hear that you made a good trade on your Johnson City store, and although I hate to see you move another 20 miles farther away from us, I am sure you and Wesley will locate that back road that will join us up.

Give my love to Nita and reserve a sizable portion for yourself.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. Melvin Winters,
Johnson City,
Texas.

cc: Mr. R. Max Brooks
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson ✓