

1941 Chronology

January

- 1/1 **CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** leaves Marshall for Washington, D.C. with Ray Roberts.
- 1/2 **LBJ (Lyndon Johnson)** hospitalized in Washington, D.C. with severe bronchitis; friends said he was worn out and needed a rest; by 1/15 he is still being ordered to rest at home
- 1/15 LBJ and Albert Thomas vie for seat on Appropriations Committee; the Texas delegation in caucus has been unable to decide whom it should endorse for the position.
- 1/20 FDR inauguration.

February

- 2/1 LBJ unanimously chosen as the Texas member of the Democratic National Congressional Committee.
- 2/8 Lend Lease Bill passed by the House.
- 2/10 O. J. Weber joins LBJ's congressional staff.
- 2/12 FDR presents to Congress \$898 million program for additional Navy ship construction and fortifications in Guam, Samoa and Alaska.
- 2/13 CTJ goes to first White House dinner for Grand Duchess of Luxembourg; CTJ's impressions of Mrs. Roosevelt.
- 2/18 Rebekah Baines Johnson has operation, San Antonio.
- 2/23 LBJ and CTJ have lunch with Secretary Ickes at his Maryland farm.

March

- 3/11 FDR signs Lend Lease Bill.
- 3/12 Dedication of Corpus Christi Naval Air Station; LBJ in Texas.
- Mid-March John Connally is appointed to LCRA board; LBJ and Senator Wirtz have been very upset with the attitude of the LCRA board.
- 3/17 National Gallery of Art officially opens.

Late March – Early April

- 4/9 CTJ changing residences in Washington, D.C.
Senator Morris Sheppard dies.
- Mid-April LBJ is appointed to congressional committee investigating Naval defense establishments.
- 4/16 Navy Secretary Knox states view that it is not necessary to draft business; LBJ proposed drafting “executive brains” for government service.
- 4/19 W. Lee O’Daniel announces special election for Sheppard’s senatorial seat will be 6/28.
- 4/21 LBJ addresses state House of Representatives in Austin; afterwards, LBJ held meeting with O’Daniel, sounded out his intentions; O’Daniel tells him he will not run; O’Daniel announces he is naming Sam Houston’s last surviving son, General Andrew Jackson Houston, as interim senator.
- 4/22 LBJ flies from Austin; upon arrival in Washington, D.C., LBJ goes straight to White House, tells FDR about his speech to the state legislature and his discussion with O’Daniel, shows FDR his statement announcing his candidacy for Senate seat; FDR suggests he read it from White House steps.
- Juanita Roberts remembers being present at a tea given by CTJ for Nan Honeyman, congresswoman from Oregon, when LBJ called to tell CTJ that he had announced for Sheppard’s seat; she remembers that LBJ flew to Texas and CTJ drove down with Juanita Roberts.
- Wright Patman reportedly thinking about announcing for Sheppard’s seat, but FDR opposes candidacy.
- May**
- Wirtz resigns his position as Undersecretary of Interior.
- 5/3 LBJ makes opening campaign speech in San Marcos.
- 5/10 Rebekah Johnson marries O.P. Bobbitt in Monterrey, Mexico.
- 5/19 W. Lee O’Daniel announces his candidacy for Senate seat
- Rebekah Baines Johnson (LBJ’s mother) has operation at Scott-White hospital in Temple.
- 5/23 LBJ makes speech in Fort Worth in which he advises FDR to declare a state of national emergency.

5/27 FDR declares state of national emergency.

June

LBJ develops skin rash and throat irritation.

6/2 Andrew Jackson Houston sworn in as interim senator.

6/12 FDR wires LBJ to remain in Texas and campaign; CTJ campaigns for LBJ in Elgin, Giddings, Brenham and Washington County, accompanied by Mrs. Bob Long.

6/13-6/14 LBJ tours West Texas.

6/16 Giant LBJ homecoming rally in Wooldridge Park, Austin.

6/18 National leaders support LBJ for Senate: Navy Secretary Frank Knox, Carl Vinson, and Melvin J. Maas.

6/19 LBJ urges Ickes to buy Texas oil for British with Defense dollars under Lend Lease program; LBJ speaks in Marshall after flying from Rio Grande Valley.

6/20 LBJ speaks in Waco.

6/22 Germany invades the Soviet Union.

6/23 Amarillo

6/24 Cuero and Fort Worth; FDR promises all possible aid to Soviet Union, orders Treasury to release 40 million in Soviet credits which had been frozen in early June; LBJ supports move to give lend lease aid to Russia.

6/25 Dallas; Secretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wickard, has breakfast with LBJ, discusses agricultural problems, FDR announces he will not apply Neutrality Act against the Soviet Union, thereby permitting shipment of American arms to the USSR.

6/26 Andrew Jackson Houston dies in Washington; LBJ rally in San Antonio; motor caravan from Waco to San Antonio; Rebekah Baines Johnson leaves hospital in Temple to attend rally.

6/27 LBJ winds up campaign in Houston on Friday night.

6/28 Election Day: LBJ goes to Johnson City and speaks on radio from porch of his old Johnson City home, talked about his mother and father; goes to Austin hotel to await returns.

July

7/1 W. Lee O'Daniel declared winner in Texas senatorial race.

7/3 Texas Senate votes to permit its investigating committee to examine election results; E.B. Germany, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, wires U.S. Senate Committee on Elections to examine vote; LBJ flies back to Washington, D.C. to reclaim House seat; Jake Pickle remembers a meeting at Number Four Happy Hollow Lane late Sunday afternoon to discuss whether LBJ should contest the election; they decide not.

7/6 CTJ, in Austin, visits Rebekah Baines Johnson.

7/7 Drew Pearson and Walter Winchell question late returns.

7/21 LBJ charges that the Navy and OPM are ignoring small petroleum countries in buying oil and gas for Armed Forces.

7/30 LBJ meets with FDR.

7/31 Gasoline filling stations in 13 Atlantic Coast states, the District of Columbia, and parts of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia are asked to close between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. beginning 8/3 under a recommendation issued by Harold Ickes, defense petroleum coordinator, with the support of the oil industry.

Summer Juanita Roberts recalls enrolling in summer school shorthand courses in Arlington or Clarendon with CTJ and Nellie Connally.

August

House takes up issue of dropping or extending Selective Service Act.

8/5 W. Lee O'Daniel takes oath of office as U.S. senator.

8/7 House, by narrow margin of two votes, sustains FDR's veto of the \$320,000,000 defense highway authorization bill, just 24 hours after the Senate had overridden the veto by a 3 to 1 majority.

8/8 LBJ addresses House on Selective Service Act.

- 8/12 Date set for vote on 30-month extension of draft; vote carries.
- 8/14 Washington and London make public a joint declaration of eight bases for world peace, to follow “final destruction of the Navy tyranny,” agreed upon by FDR and Churchill--Atlantic Charter.
- 8/18 Congressional members hope for recess until after Labor Day.
- 8/22 LBJ addresses Young Democrats Convention in Louisville, Kentucky; other speakers include Biddle, Barkley, Berle.

September

- Walter Jenkins offered commission in Navy as ensign, decides to be private.
- 9/4 Greer destroyer incident.
- 9/7 FDR’s mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, dies.
- 9/8 LBJ promotes Navy advertising in small Texas newspapers.
- 9/11 American-owned cargo ship *Montana* torpedoed midway between Iceland and Greenland.
- [Mid?] September
LBJ and Sam Houston visit Mayo Clinic.
- 9/18 LBJ has appointment with FDR.
- 9/28 Two-day strike of 17,000 CIO workers in plants owned by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway Company at Ensley, Alabama is settled temporarily as Governor Frank Dixon orders removal of National Guardsmen; LBJ gets magnesium plant for Austin; first grandchild, Josefa Roxanne Johnson, is born to Albertine and Sam Houston Johnson.

October

- 10/5 LBJ addresses 10th District postmasters in Austin.
- 10/6 LBJ is guest speaker at Taylor, Texas for sailor luncheon.
- 10/9 LBJ leaves Texas for Washington, D.C.
- 10/12 Herbert Henderson dies.

Mid-October

LBJ meets with Jesse Jones to discuss the magnesium plant and expansion of LCRA.

c. 10/20 LBJ speaks at San Marcos, SWTTC

c. 10/22 LBJ speaks at Junior Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Tyler, Texas.

10/23 Secretary Ickes withdrawal of gasoline rationing on the East Coast as a result of the agreement with the British to return 25 more tankers to the U.S., and the rising of oil stores in 17 eastern states to approximately 1940 levels.

10/27 FDR rejects attempt by John L. Lewis to make captive coal mine dispute an issue between labor and the U.S. Steel Corporation, and for the third time requests him to authorize the immediate resumption of activities;

Federal Judge Robert J. McMillan dies; possible successors include Robert Lee Bobbitt, Everett Looney, James Hart and Senator Wirtz.

Late October

Rice-Texas game, Austin; LBJ, Allred and John Connally attend; Allred considered possible Senate candidate against O'Daniel in 1942.

November

11/7 FDR announces appointment of Ickes as "Solid Fuels Coordinator for National Defense," to assure an adequate supply of coal and coke for armaments, industry and civilian needs.

11/10-11 LBJ speaks in Beaumont and delivers Armistice Day address in Port Arthur.

11/12 FDR intervenes in the captive coal mine dispute and calls leaders of the United Mine Workers and steel companies involved to a conference at the White House on 11/14, while government completes preparations to seize the mines if a strike is called by John L. Lewis.

11/15 Officials of the United Mine Workers, in defiance of FDR, order 33,000 miners in the captive coal mines to cease work at midnight.

11/18 Mass picketing spreads throughout the captive coal area in Pennsylvania.

11/19 Steel companies involved in the captive coal mine dispute accept, while John L. Lewis rejects, an appeal by FDR to submit their differences on the union shop question to binding arbitration or postpone the issue until the end of the national emergency.

11/28 LBJ and Poage to go to bat with OPM for priorities on copper essential to REA development.

December

12/1 LBJ, Poage and Beckworth talk with Leon Henderson re: copper for REA.

12/5 LBJ confers with FDR for thirty minutes, urges proposed increase in price of crude oil in order to aid further oil exploration; LBJ also urges that everything be done to spread contracts among small businessmen; FDR picked up a first copy of the *Chicago Sun* and said to LBJ, "Look at this, Lyndon. Isn't it wonderful?" *Chicago Sun*, 12/6/41.

12/7 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.

12/10 LBJ offers bill for NYA-CCC merger.

12/11 LBJ reports to Chief of Naval Operations for instructions.

12/17 Speaker Rayburn bars Christmas recess.

12/19 House and Senate pass bill setting military age of Selective Service Act registrants at 20 to 44 inclusive, and calling for registration of all male citizens between 18 and 64 inclusive.

12/21 Rayburn changes mind about recess; Representative Cole elected temporary speaker.

12/22 Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrives in Washington accompanied by Lord Beaverbrook on surprise visit to U.S., is guest at White House where he and FDR are expected to confer on war.

12/24 LBJ leaves Washington, D.C. for Austin to spend Christmas with family.

12/26 Churchill delivers historic address to Congress in which he warns of dark days to come but insists that in the end victory is certain.

12/28 CTJ accompanies LBJ to San Antonio before leaving for San Francisco; LBJ announces that John Connally has also entered service but that his office would function as usual.