

1943 Chronology

By the end of 1942, the Johnsons have bought 4921 Thirtieth Place.

Atmosphere in Washington in 1943: rubber and fuel oil shortages, gasoline rationing.

Early in 1943 **LBJ (Lyndon Johnson)** moves his office from 1320 New House Office Building to 504 Old House Office Building.

January

Johnsons return to Washington the first week in January.

- 1/4 Roy Hofheinz visits KTBC.
- 1/6 Congress convenes. LBJ is present at a birthday party for Sam Rayburn, who receives hat from FDR.
- 1/20 Letter: LBJ appointed chairman of special subcommittee to investigate personnel in the Navy Department. LBJ has selected Donald Cook special counsel of subcommittee. Harry Coles and John Connally also worked for subcommittee.
- 1/21 Laying of "Big Inch" Pipeline is completed from Longview, Texas to Norris City, Illinois.
- 1/26 Rayburn appoints LBJ member of the Board of Visitors of the Naval Academy.
- CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** announces purchase of KTBC. Station operates only during the day and shares time with UT, has no network affiliation.

Early 1943

LBJ helps Ernest Kurth of Lufkin (Southland Paper Mills) to cut red tape in order to expand into a complete unit.

February

- 2/1 FDR withdraws nomination of Ed Flynn as minister to Australia.
- 2/2 Letter: location and site for civilian war housing project for the San Marcos Navigation School is selected.
- 2/11 President Roosevelt nominates Thurman Arnold as an associate justice of the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia.
- 2/16 Ida Nell Connally has a baby daughter.

- 2/17 Letter to Ed Cape: CTJ asks, "How has the Navigation School affected the life of San Marcos?"
- 2/18 LBJ makes speech on House floor re: absenteeism.
- 2/18-19 Walter Winchell is called to testify before the Naval Affairs Committee.
- 2/26 LBJ makes speech on House floor.
- 2/26-27 LBJ criticizes Paul McNutt, Manpower administrator, re: absenteeism. Threats of strikes in Boeing West Coast increases pressure for legislation.
- 2/28 Eddie Rickenbacker to be called on to testify on work-or-fight bill. The bill is broadened to be more general: LBJ's original measure affected workers only in naval yards. People take positions on the bill: Henry Knox, Frances Perkins, Jim Rowe, Margaret Chase Smith, Emory Land.
- March**
- LBJ, as head of special House subcommittee, busy investigating expenditures and operations in Navy Department.
- 3/10-11 Frances Perkins appears before Vinson's Naval Affairs Committee on absenteeism bill.
- 3/15 John L. Lewis, president United Mine Workers of America, threatens to call a strike of 450,000 soft coal miners in the Appalachian region unless his union's demands for a \$2/day wage increase is granted by midnight March 31.
- 3/17 Naval Affairs Committee votes 19 to 7 to send LBJ bill to the House. Only contractors with more than 200 employees must file reports with Bureau of Labor Statistics. House Labor Committee demanded that Naval Affairs Committee cease action on absentee legislation until it had completed its own hearings. Labor Committee chairwoman Mary Norton said: "LBJ's bill is labor-baiting." Vinson said his investigation began first. The measure was revised in executive session.
- 3/22 HR 1876 (LBJ's absenteeism bill) with amendment (H Rpt. 273) is reported to House Rules Committee (before going to House floor).
- 3/23 Ben Powell letter to LBJ: LBJ helped Camp Mystic lease its property to the government.

Judge Allred confirmation hearings for his federal judgeship position result in 9 to 9 tie vote.

3/24 House of Representatives approves conference report on resolution raising the national debt limit and prohibiting reduction in salaries.

3/25 Sam Houston Johnson goes to work for War Production Board. Senate confirms Tom Clark's appointment as assistant attorney general of Justice's Antitrust Division. Clark remembers LBJ being instrumental in his appointment.

Late March

CTJ apparently leaves for Austin.

April

CTJ is in Austin working on the radio station, trying to hold down expenses there.

4/1 LBJ, Magnuson, Sterling Cole and William Hess are selected to study bases at Dakar, Casablanca, etc.

LBJ has breakfast with Tom Clark.

LBJ goes to New York with John Connally. They planned to have dinner with Eddie Weisl and Dick Berlin of INS.

4/2 LBJ has appointment to see Bill Paley of CBS and also the SeSac people.

4/6 CTJ contemplating moving station to Brown Building.

4/8 President Roosevelt issues executive Hold-the-Line order freezing wages, salaries, and prices and barring the shifting from one job to another for higher pay.

Senate approves bill to appropriate \$40 million for recruiting and transporting farm labor. President Roosevelt appoints committee to coordinate federal, state and local efforts to combat commercialized vice and deal with other social problems in overcrowded war centers.

4/11 Gene Latimer and O.P. Bobbitt are with LBJ in Washington.

4/12 Letter: CTJ plans to make station a paying proposition: nighttime increased power, network connection, contracts with ASCAP, AP, Standard Library.

President Roosevelt dedicates the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington.

- 4/16 LBJ talks to Ed Weisl, who reports they're doing everything they can. Gene Latimer staying with LBJ while CTJ is in Texas. Albertine, Sam Houston and children are settled in their apartment.
- 4/21 Wirtz to LBJ: the investigating committee of the Texas State Legislature, appointed to investigate the sale of the San Antonio Public Service Company, held a meeting which Wirtz attended.
- 4/25 LBJ goes to Texas.
- 4/28 Asserting that it had been defied by John L. Lewis, the War Labor Board refers bituminous coal controversy to the President. 67,300 workers quit mines; 130 mines closed.
- 4/30 LBJ speaks in front of UT's Main Building, Austin, re: bond sale rally. LBJ and CTJ go to Dallas to talk to Harfield Weedin, who will take over management of the radio station on May 17.
- May**
- 5/1 LBJ returns to Washington with the Speaker.
- 5/5 Rebekah Bobbitt joins her husband in Washington and visits LBJ at his office.
- 5/6 LBJ has dinner with Bill Douglas.
- 5/13 CTJ receives priority on building materials, will start construction of studios immediately.
- 5/15 LBJ hits Navy Department's use of able-bodied clerks. Drew Pearson column says LBJ's reports on how the Navy Department helped get deferments for civilian employees were hushed up by Vinson and Knox.
- 5/17 Harfield Weedin replaces Escoe as KTBC station manager. John Hicks is becoming program director. KTBC is moving to Brown Building. KTBC staff picnic.
- 5/25 House of Representatives, by a vote of 265 to 110, passes the Anti-Poll Tax Bill and sends measure to the Senate.
- Late May CTJ plans to drive to East Texas with Gene Lasseter.
- 5/31 LBJ makes graduation speech at Southwestern University and receives honorary doctor of law degree. C.E. Evans was present at ceremony. LBJ was active in helping Southwestern get navy unit and training center.

June

- 6/6 News report: LBJ is in Texas for 10-14 days, plans to visit Austin, Corpus, Houston and Orange, to investigate a program of the Naval Affairs Subcommittee, which he heads, to streamline the internal organization of the Navy Department. Donald Cook, head of the investigative force, was sent to Corpus Christi. Serious personnel problems exist there. LBJ stated that he had voted for every amendment to strengthen the Connally-Smith Anti-strike Act and said John L. Lewis' striking miners were guilty of high treason.
- 6/11 LBJ attends Texas Press Association Convention in Galveston, which paid tribute to Ernest L. Kurth, "Pioneer in the Newsprint Industry."
- 6/14 LBJ arrives in Corpus Christi from Austin and conducts conferences at the Plaza Hotel and then goes to NATC (National Air Training Center) for more discussions before leaving for Houston on the afternoon of the 15th.
- 6/16 Letter: CTJ is working on the radio station until early hours of the morning.
- Mid-June Bill Deason assigned to Washington to work for Commander Bird.
- 6/19 LBJ visits with Kellam, Bill, and Otto in Washington over the weekend.
- 6/25 LBJ writes Kellam that CTJ is home [in Washington] now. LBJ votes to override FDR's veto on the Smith-Connally bill.

July

- 7/2 FDR vetoes bill abolishing use of subsidies to roll back food prices. House sustains veto, 154 to 228--28 short of necessary two-thirds to override.
- 7/5 Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby takes oath as colonel in the army, under bill making the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps a part of the army, which was signed by FDR a few days earlier.
- 7/6 LBJ effects restoration of Austin's passenger and airmail service. Bergstrom sets up temporary control tower to direct Braniff air flights. LBJ worked with city and Bergstrom officials in this effort.
- 7/8 Congress adjourns until September 14, for longest recess since 1938.
- 7/13 News report: Rayburn meets with LBJ, War Stabilization Director Vinson, Rep. Disney, Jim Abercrombie, J.K. Brimm, and Ernest O. Thompson to discuss seeking an increase in the price of crude oil.

- 7/16 Ray Lee to LBJ: "Your letter to the men in the service apparently made a big hit."
(re: LBJ letters to service-men overseas)
- 7/19 "Big Inch," the great 24-inch oil pipeline from Texas to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania is completed and dedicated by Secretary Ickes. From there, 20-inch branch lines will carry oil to Bayway, New Jersey, and Marcus Hook, Penn.
- 7/27 LBJ flies to Bonham and spends the afternoon with the Speaker.
- 7/29 Austin testimonial dinner for Senator Tom Connally.
- 7/31 LBJ plans to speak in Brenham.
- August**
- 8/5 LBJ writes: "On Monday of each week I will be in my office at 718 Brown Building and the balance of each week I am out in the other parts of the Tenth Congressional District."
- 8/6 LBJ goes to Commerce for the unveiling of the Speaker's portrait at the Teachers College there and the conferring upon the Speaker of an honorary doctor of law degree by all the Teachers Colleges in Texas.
- Mid-August
- Abe Fortas, new undersecretary of the Interior, was in Austin for a brief visit (a day and a night).
- LBJ reported on UT war training facilities.
- 8/24 LBJ speaks in Summerville and visits in Brenham.
- Late August
- LBJ attends Austin Bond Rally featuring Robert Taylor, Jack Dempsey, Nancy Gates, Governor Stevenson, Senator Tom Connally, among others. All Texas networks carried the entire program and NBC had a 30-minute nationwide hook-up, 5 minutes of which was LBJ introducing Senator Connally.
- 8/27 LBJ goes to Buchanan Dam with friends, relaxes until Sunday afternoon when he goes to a Czech settlement near Smithville to make a speech.
- 8/29 KTBC goes on CBS. Frank Sinatra on the air.
- 8/31 Letter: LBJ plans to wind up his schedule for the summer and wants to go back to the Dam for about five or six days straight-running vacation. He and CTJ plan to leave Texas in time to reach Washington by 9/14.

Summer/Fall

LBJ worked to get increase in depository bonds for State Bank and Trust, San Marcos (with Ed Cape).

September

- 9/10 Kellam in Bryn Mawr, Penn., sells his land on river in Austin to Tom Miller.
- 9/11 LBJ flies to Washington to see people on very important matter before Congress convenes. CTJ leaves for 2-day visit with her father, then to Washington on 9/13.
- 9/14 Congress convenes.
- 9/15 LBJ arranges luncheon with Marvin Jones, food administrator, and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Grover Hill; wants to raise the price of milk or reduce the price of feed, especially cottonseed.
- 9/16 LBJ is very upset with Tom Miller's insinuations about the purchase of Dillman Street property and CTJ's inheritance. Apparently a personal letter from her to Tom Miller concerning his charges was discussed.
- Fall LBJ is using public relations to "avoid a hard spring."
- LBJ helps NYA boys get jobs with other government agencies.
- 9/24 Ed Clark has been in Washington, D.C. for two weeks. Senator Wirtz has also been in Washington, will stay an extra week. George Brown is also there, but ill. Jake and Sugar Pickle are in Washington for a few days. Pickle, John, Bill and LBJ have domino tournaments.
- 9/30 House committee holds hearings on Eugene Cox charges against the FCC. Cox resigns as chairman and member.

October

- 10/2 Funeral of Luther Johnson's daughter. That evening LBJ goes out to Arlington to Commander Bird's house.
- LBJ reported to Vinson on personnel and other problems at the Naval Air Training Center and suggested remedial measures.
- 10/15 Charlie Herring told to report to Tucson.
- 10/22 LBJ has been sick with terrible cold.

November

11/15 Jim Blundell to LBJ: "Main basis of opposition to you and encouragement to Miller being based on your alleged failure to fight OPA regulations on beef, poultry and other products in which Miller and East are interested. . . . I do think you should spend the month of December in the district, or as much time as you possibly can, since it is apparent the opposition is building its fences at this time.

11/16 Wave of rebellion against federal government is sweeping the people of Austin, writes Gordon Fulcher.

Late November

Joe Carrington is interested in running for LBJ's Congressional seat.

11/23 Wirtz to LBJ: Wirtz expresses view that LBJ had better get down to Austin and have it out with Tom Miller.

December

12/1 E.H. Perry to LBJ: "The opposition has found out that Bird has come into some money and therefore insinuations that the purchases made by you were with your own money has fallen flat, but if these things were discussed in public speeches throughout the District there would unfortunately be too many people who would think they had something to talk about and instead of just a few hundred people having heard of the insinuations all the people would hear them before it is through Of course, if the thing got worse, instead of better, you might find it necessary to jump into the fray and take the consequences."

12/9 Tom Miller is evidently planning to run Buck Taylor against LBJ.

12/17-12/28 Charles Marsh in Hillcrest Hospital, Waco, Texas.

Late December

In an 11/27/44 letter to LBJ, Jake Pickle wrote: "Wish to goodness I was there and could have a good time as we had last Christmas. Remember? You, Bill, John, Mack, Charlie, myself and all the 'missuses'! Snow on the ground, the house full of food, and you getting beaten in dominoes! My, what a memory."

12/20 Apparently LBJ returns to Austin around this time. CTJ stays in Washington.

12/24 LBJ in Austin until end of first week in January.

12/25 Strikes halt production of steel in four states; 70,000 workers said to have walked out.

- 12/26 LBJ planned meeting of postmasters from the principal localities in the district.
- 12/27 To prevent a strike, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson takes over temporarily at 7 p.m. all railroads in the continental U.S., under orders issued an hour earlier by FDR.
- 12/28 LBJ meets with 100 farmers in Georgetown.
- 12/30 LBJ speaks at Taylor at American Legion Hall.
- December – January
LBJ reinspects Texas naval activities in Austin, Georgetown, and Corpus Christi.