

1950 Chronology

The Johnsons spend Christmas of 1949 in Texas, having dinner and the tree at Mrs. Sam Johnson's home and stockings at 1901 Dillman Street.

January

- 1/3 Congress convenes; Sam Rayburn is sworn in as Speaker of the House.
- 1/4 President Truman delivers the State of the Union Message to the joint session of Congress at 1 p.m.
- 1/6 **LBJ (Lyndon Johnson)** and Wright Patman arrange a birthday luncheon for Rayburn at which Truman is a surprise guest.
- 1/12 Tea for Mrs. Truman at Blair House.
- 1/13 LBJ writes Dorothy Plyler: "We are pretty well settled here. Patsy's husband, with the help of Lewis, and some carpenters, is fixing the basement into a more livable place with lots of paint, more closets, new curtains, some new furniture, et cetera."
- 1/20 Texas delegation dinner in honor of Tom Clark.
- 1/21 LBJ attends Alfalfa Dinner with Senator Tom Connally.

Late January – Early February

Over the opposition of Austin City Councilwoman Emma Long [and?] organized labor, Herman Brown gets a \$68,900 contract for the city power plant in Austin.

- 1/24 Meeting of the Senate Ladies Club.
- Admiral Forrest P. Sherman is confirmed as Chief of Naval Operations, after his nomination was at first blocked by Senator Joseph McCarthy. Senator Millard Tydings declared the opposition a "sham battle" raised by Republicans to make political capital.
- 1/25 The Senate passes a resolution for a proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for women, but no action is taken on the measure in the House.
- Alger Hiss is convicted of perjury and sentenced to five years in a federal penitentiary. Secretary of State Dean Acheson, when asked about the Hiss conviction in a news conference, tells reporters "I do not intend to turn my back on Alger Hiss."

- 1/28 John Connally's father dies in the San Antonio Nix Hospital. LBJ cables Connally: "Difficult to believe your dad has passed so quickly. You know Bird and I share your loss and wish we could be with you. We cannot be helpful in a telegram, but if you need me, let me know. Extend our sympathies to your family."
- 1/30 A.W. Moursund writes LBJ about his plan to succeed Arthur Stehling as counsel for the PEC, Perdernal Electric Coop.
- 1/31 LBJ, Secretary for Air Stuart Symington, and Congressmen Ed Gossett and W. R. Poage travel to Texas to dedicate air force bases in Waco and Wichita Falls. They return to Washington on February 2.

February

Early February

Neff visits in Washington.

- 2/2 Congressional Club reception honoring President and Mrs. Truman, 9 p.m.
- Stuart Long writes LBJ about the rumor in Austin that LBJ and Gordon Fulcher have bought the old St. Mary's tract of land for \$400,000 and are selling it to the Post Office for \$1,000,000 for the site of the new Post Office. LBJ denies knowing anything about the new Post Office contract.
- 2/3 Congressional Club tea; **CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** taking Mrs. Barkley.
- 2/4 Radio correspondents stag dinner honoring Truman.
- 2/6 Barkley reception, Shoreham Hotel.
- 2/9 Luncheon meeting of the 81st Club is held at the Congressional Hotel.
- Senator Joseph McCarthy makes a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, charging that 205 known communists are currently working in the State Department.
- 2/11 LBJ and Rayburn meet with Truman.
- LBJ and Senator Connally meet to discuss pending Texas appointments and arrive at an agreement for appointments.
- 2/13 At a news conference, LBJ called for an immediate review of the nation's guided missiles program because, he said, "Russia is far ahead in developing these weapons for push-button warfare." LBJ said that the US might be ahead in

developing the atomic bomb and the hydrogen bomb but is behind Russia in the ability to deliver explosives in battle.

2/14 LBJ makes a statement before the House Ways and Means Committee opposing the plan to reduce the depletion allowance which current income tax laws provided to oil producers.

LBJ has an 11:30 a.m. appointment with President Truman at the White House, accompanied by Mayor Oscar Holcomb of Houston, Charles Evans, president of the Houston Presidents Club, Harry Johnson and Douglas McGregor.

2/16 Truman addresses the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner in Washington at the National Guard Armory. LBJ and CTJ attend with Bess Beaman's daughter, Marion Storm, and Lillian Collier.

2/18 The Johnsons host a cocktail party for a group of Texans, including Marion Storm and Lillian Collier.

Plans are being made for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the *Daily Texan*, scheduled for May 13.

2/21 John Connally is visiting in Washington.

2/23 Cocktail party honoring Joseph H. McConnell, president of NBC. Later that evening dinner with Gene Autry.

Stuart Long makes his last broadcast of "Texas at Ten" news program after being fired by KVET. Long maintains that interests that pressured KVET to fire him include Brown & Root, Ed Clark, and Jack Harris. Most of the response to Long leaving KVET was negative.

March

3/1 LBJ addresses school superintendents convention in Atlantic City.

81st Club luncheon.

3/2 Texas Exes Dinner.

3/3 Texas delegation stag dinner for the Speaker, at the Mayflower.

3/7 Mrs. Sam Johnson writes LBJ about the family and about her work on the Johnson genealogy.

- 3/11 Clarence Whiteside, chairman of the Canadian River Project organizing committee, writes LBJ about the proposed testimony they he will make before the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in support of the Canadian River Dam.
- Stag dinner in honor of Sam Rayburn.
- 3/12 Congressional Club reception for Vice President and Mrs. Barkley.
- 3/13 Texas Ladies Luncheon. Later that day the Bill Whites, Doris Fleeson and Senator Russell have dinner at the Johnsons.
- 3/14 Drew Pearson writes article critical of LBJ and Senator Kerr's support of the natural gas bill. LBJ later accuses Pearson of inaccuracies.
- 3/15 During a vote on the housing bill, the Senate strikes down a billion dollar loan system to finance cooperative housing development by a vote of 43-38. LBJ and Senator Connally voted for the co-op loans.
- 3/18 Coke Stevenson denies rumors he is planning to run for the Texas Supreme Court, but says he will probably run for the U.S. Senate.
- 3/18 Birthday party is given for Lynda Bird.
- 3/19 Lynda Bird's birthday.
- Johnsons host a Sunday afternoon party for Olga and Carl Bredt, who arrive in Washington on 3/18 to visit the Homer Thornberrys.
- 3/24 75th Club luncheon.
- 3/27 Diana [Taylor?] is visiting in Washington, D.C.
- 3/28 LBJ speaks on the Senate floor for more than an hour on the natural gas bill. The House-approved bill, exempting natural gas producers from price regulation by the FPC, then passes the Senate by a narrow margin of 44 to 38 on March 29. The House passes the Senate version on March 31, after Speaker Rayburn personally took to the floor with a plea for passage of the bill. Truman vetoes the bill on April 15.
- 3/30 Press Club stag dinner.
- April**
- 4/2 Mrs. [Ed?] Cape is visiting in Washington until April 21.

- 4/3 Rayburn writes Truman that “the [natural gas] bill enacted by both houses is in the exact form in which you told us it would be acceptable to you.”
- 4/5-4/8 LBJ and CTJ take a short driving holiday. On 4/6 Mary Rather writes Mrs. Sam Johnson that LBJ and CTJ “got in the car early yesterday morning and decided to drive somewhere for a few days rest. He is pretty tired from the strain of getting the gas bill through the House and Senate. They will be back Saturday night in order to be here for the children’s Easter the next morning, and I am sleeping at the house while they are away.”
- 4/12 Style show and luncheon at the Democratic Club.
- 4/18 At hearings before the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee regarding the Canadian River Dam project, LBJ testifies in support of the dam project.
- 4/21 Congressional Club is scheduled to hear Clare Boothe Luce.
- 4/23 CTJ and LBJ go to New York City.
- 4/24 AP luncheon in New York City.
- Paul Bolton writes LBJ offering suggestions for a proposed weekly radio broadcast by LBJ from Washington.
- 4/25 Senate Ladies luncheon for Mrs. Truman.
- 4/26 81st Club luncheon in honor of Mrs. Barkley.
- 4/28 LBJ and CTJ have dinner at the Speaker’s home.
- May**
- 5/1 CTJ attends a tea honoring Mrs. Truman at the Shoreham.
- 5/2 Breakfast for Mrs. Truman. CTJ is to take Marjorie Jenkins.
- 5/8 Texas Ladies’ luncheon.
- The REA today made its first allocation of rural telephone loan funds in Texas-- \$25,000 to the Navasota Telephone Company, made in the presence of Senators Connally and Johnson, and Congressmen Poage, Pickett, Thornberry and Teague.
- 5/11 Black tie dinner for Senator and Mrs. Tom Connally.
- 5/13 50th anniversary of the founding of the *Daily Texan*.

- 5/19 The Senate rejects a cloture petition to force a vote on the bill to establish a compulsory FEPC. On May 25, Truman rejects a suggestion to establish a voluntary FEPC, for which there was some hope of Senate acceptance. A second cloture attempt fails on July 12.
- 5/21 CTJ and LBJ are invited to Rosemont, the home of Harry Byrd, for a luncheon.
- 5/22 81st Club luncheon.
- 5/23 CTJ attends Mrs. Truman's luncheon in the garden of Blair House.
- 5/27 LBJ flies to Austin with Vice President Barkley and Homer Thornberry to attend the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner. Rayburn, Governor Shivers, Wright Morrow and other Democratic leaders also attend.
- June**
- 6/6 Dinner with Senator and Mrs. Connally at the Women's National Democratic Club.
- 6/6-6/10 The Senate is in session all day Friday and until 4 a.m. on Saturday.
- 6/11 Sunday. LBJ leaves for Mayo Clinic, where he stays all week. Later LBJ reports to Judge Ben Powell that the doctor did find three tiny kidney stones, which should not give him trouble, and also recommended that he take a long vacation when Congress adjourns.
- 6/12 Diana [Taylor?] arriving in Washington to spend ten days.
- Mid-June Dinner at the French Embassy honoring Sam Rayburn.
- 6/24-6/25 Estes Kefauver spends weekend with LBJ on a trip.
- 6/24 North Korea invades South Korea. On 6/26 the U.N. Security Council, boycotted by the USSR, calls on U.N. members to expel the North Korean invasion. On 6/27 Truman orders U.S. Air Force to aid South Korea. After North Korean forces capture Seoul on 6/28, Truman on 6/30 authorizes the use of American ground troops. Douglas MacArthur is named U.N. Supreme Commander.
- 6/26 Ben and Kitty [Powell?] due to arrive in Washington today for a visit.
- 6/28 LBJ writes Truman expressing his support of Truman's action on the Korean situation.

6/29 Senate members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy vote 5-4 to deny Sumner T. Pike a new four-year term on the Atomic Energy Commission. On 7/10 the Senate votes 5-24 to confirm Pike for another term as AEC chairman.

6/30 The Senate unanimously approves LBJ's bill providing for a five-year extension of the government tin smelting program at Texas City.

July

7/2 Marion Storm dies after a car wreck in Temple.

7/6 Luci's birthday party.

7/10 Senate confirms Pike's nomination 55 to 24; LBJ votes to confirm Pike.

7/12 LBJ makes speech on Senate floor underlining the gravity of the Korean situation and suggesting a program of action.

7/17 LBJ makes speech to Senate Armed Services Committee, proposing the adoption of a committee resolution establishing a subcommittee to investigate the national military establishment, much as the earlier Truman Committee had done.

7/18 LBJ makes a speech for broadcast on the Texas Radio Network on the Korean situation. He calls for all-out military and industrial mobilization and says he expects the U.S. to use the atomic bomb "if and when it can be used to stem the tide of aggression."

7/22 Precinct conventions in Texas.

7/27 Senator Tydings appoints a watchdog subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee and names LBJ as chairman. Other members include Senators Saltonstall, Morse, Bridges, Kefauver, Virgil Chapman and Lester Hunt.

7/29 LBJ writes Sam Houston Johnson in Mexico City that CTJ is going to Texas next week. He also writes: "Nobody knows when we will recess here . . . I am chairman of a new Watchdog Committee of Armed Services, and we have our first meeting on Monday." Josefa and Rodney are living in Washington, and Josefa is working in the Senate office.

7/31 First meeting of the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee. Donald Cook, vice chairman of the SEC, is serving without pay as the subcommittee's chief counsel and brain-truster on a part-time basis.

August

- 8/1 LBJ attends meeting with Speaker Rayburn, Symington, Patman, and others.
- 8/3 LBJ and the Preparedness Subcommittee meet with Defense Secretary Johnson.
- 8/5 CTJ is scheduled to leave Washington and arrive in Austin that evening for what is expected to be a six-week stay.
- 8/6 LBJ makes a speech broadcast over WBAP at Fort Worth, regarding the new war mobilization subcommittee and the need for the imposition of standby controls for prices, wages and manpower, as well as the necessity for a high excess profits tax.
- 8/8 LBJ's Aunt Lucy died shortly after midnight; CTJ cables LBJ that the funeral would be tomorrow in Blanco.
- LBJ meets with Truman at the White House concerning the subcommittee LBJ heads. Truman expresses his approval of the subcommittee and extends an invitation to the full subcommittee to visit him at the White House.
- 8/15 CTJ is hospitalized in Austin; LBJ leaves Washington at noon to join her.
- 8/18 LBJ announces that he has been informed by Jess Larson, the GSA administrator, that effective immediately there will be no more sales of surplus government property, both real and personal, until a thorough study can be made to determine if there is any possible use of this property for national defense purposes. The decision to freeze the sale of such property was made by Larson as a result of studies initiated by the Preparedness Subcommittee.
- 8/20 CTJ's condition has improved, and by 8/23 she was home from the hospital. LBJ returns to Washington.
- 8/25 Faced with an impending railroad strike, Truman issues an executive order seizing the nation's railroads. The U.S. Army operates the railroads until 5/23/52.
- 8/29 LBJ issues a statement calling for reduction of non-defense costs. He says that he has long championed rural roads, yet voted for the Byrd amendment to reduce appropriations for primary and secondary roads. He also voted to reduce non-defense items in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill by 10 per cent and supported the order to the Bureau of the Budget to trim \$550 million from non-defense funds.

September

- 9/12 State Democratic Convention at Mineral Wells.
- 9/12 Defense Secretary Louis Johnson resigns. Truman nominates General George Marshall to succeed Johnson, but before Marshall can be confirmed Congress must amend the National Security Act of 1947, which bars the appointment of a career officer within ten years of active duty. Despite criticism of Marshall by Republicans, both houses pass the amending bill on 9/15. Marshall is confirmed by the Senate on 9/20.
- 9/15 LBJ and Donald Cook meet with Truman regarding Preparedness Subcommittee work.
- LBJ attends stag dinner at the home of Judge Worley, where Truman and Rayburn are also guests.
- The current issue of *Time* magazine has an article on LBJ, calling him the “Texas Watch Dog.”
- U.S. troops in Korea successfully complete an amphibious assault on Inchon and retake Seoul.
- 9/17-9/23 Maury Maverick is visiting in Washington.
- 9/17 *The Washington Post* publishes an article on the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee.
- 9/20 LBJ makes a speech in support of General Marshall’s confirmation as defense secretary.
- LBJ writes Truman regarding the Universal Military Training program.
- 9/21 LBJ sends Truman a copy of his speech on the Marshall confirmation, and writes him that several senators told him his speech succeeded in changing a few votes.
- 9/22 LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor about the work of the Preparedness Subcommittee and the rising cost of military goods.
- Truman vetoes the Internal Security Act requiring registration of communist and communist-front organizations. Congress passes the bill over Truman’s veto the next day after a filibuster by Senate liberals fails.
- 9/23 Truman writes LBJ that he would like to talk to him about the Universal Military Training program before LBJ leaves for Texas.
- Congress adjourns until November 27, 1950.

- 9/25
October Truman writes LBJ a letter of thanks for their earlier correspondence.
CTJ and LBJ are in Austin.
- 10/10 Austin Women's Club dinner.
- 10/11 In Austin, Mrs. Beauford Jester hosts a buffet supper honoring Governor and Mrs. Allan Shivers.
- 10/15 Truman meets with General MacArthur at Wake Island.
- 10/22 LBJ flies from Washington to Houston.
- 10/23 LBJ speaks before the annual convention of the Independent Natural Gas Association of America in Houston.

That afternoon LBJ flies to St. Louis to address the National Association of Postmasters. LBJ later returns to Washington [according to news reports].
- 10/26 LBJ speaks at the meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Region 10 in San Antonio.
- 10/28 LBJ plans to return to Houston for the Rice-Texas game.
- November**
- 11/1 Puerto Rican nationalists attempt to assassinate Truman outside Blair House.
- 11/2 LBJ speaks at a luncheon meeting of the Theater Owners of America.
- 11/7 Republicans make significant gains in congressional elections. Senate Democratic Majority Leader Scott Lucas and Democratic Whip Francis Myers are defeated; Richard Nixon defeats Helen Gahagan Douglas in California Senate race.
- 11/8 Warren G. Moore, U.S. attorney in Tyler, sponsors a get-together breakfast for LBJ with his supporters.

LBJ attends the Tom Connally appreciation dinner in Tyler, where he introduces Connally. Rayburn, Poage and Thornberry also attend. The event is broadcast over the statewide Lone Star network.
- 11/9 LBJ announces that investigations by the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee have disclosed that the air force paid \$63,000 to repurchase valuable equipment which had been sold as surplus by the government for \$6.89.

- 11/10 LBJ meets with twenty representatives in Amarillo for a strategy conference on the proposed Canadian River Dam.
- 11/11 LBJ is the featured speaker at the Texas Technological College homecoming and building dedication in Lubbock, addressing 1500 people at the Armistice Day gathering in the gym on the Texas Tech campus.
- 11/12 LBJ makes speech to around 400 West Texans at a gathering at C.T. McLaughlin's Diamond M Ranch in Snyder. Houston Harte introduces him. Later that evening he returns to Austin by plane.
- 11/13 LBJ is scheduled to address students and faculty in the Main Auditorium of Southwestern University in Georgetown. Other speakers include Edwin C. Johnson and Mon C. Wallgren,
- 11/14 CTJ notes in her calendar: "LBJ to Houston."
- 11/18 CTJ notes in her calendar: "go to Johnson City."
- 11/22 LBJ addresses the final convention session of the meeting of Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association in Fort Worth, warning them of the critical position regarding wool in the U.S. and blaming the shortsightedness of the National Munitions Board for the present U.S. wool situation.
- 11/23 Hoping to bring the war to a close, MacArthur an assault on communist forces in Korea. On 11/28 he issues a communiqué saying that the U.N. forces face an "entirely new war" because an enemy force of 200,000 men, including a major segment of the Chinese Communist Army, has entered the war.
- 11/27 Congress reconvenes.
- 11/28 LBJ returns to Washington.

December

- 12/1 CTJ and the children arrive in Washington.
- 12/2 Library files contain a program for Truman's trip to the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia. Did CTJ and LBJ attend?

Mid-December

LBJ receives numerous letters calling for the firing of Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

- 12/9 Truman writes music critic Paul Hume criticizing Hume's unflattering review of Margaret Truman's singing recital in Washington.
- 12/12 LBJ makes a speech in the Senate calling for full mobilization and an end to the "circle of confusion" in the State and Defense Departments.
- 12/15 Senate passes \$85 million Canadian River Dam authorization. The bill passed the House earlier this year.
- Truman addresses the American people on the grave danger facing the nation because of the events in Korea. The next day he declares a state of national emergency, and on 12/18 he asks Congress for emergency legislation.
- 12/21 Senate, in a voice vote, confirms Anna Rosenberg as assistant secretary of defense, after the Armed Services Committee dismisses as wholly unfounded the charges that Rosenberg attended Communist Party meetings in 1935.

Late December

There is speculation in the press that LBJ will be elected Democratic whip to replace Francis Myers, who was defeated in the November elections.

The Johnsons spend Christmas in Washington. LBJ later writes a constituent that "Lady Bird, the girls and I enjoyed a quiet Christmas here in Washington. The work kept moving right along with a meeting of Congress, as you likely noticed, on New Year's Day. Walter brought his family back from Texas last weekend, and they are all well and doing fine."