

## 1951 Chronology

### January

- 1/2 **LBJ (Lyndon Johnson)** is elected Democratic whip, and Ernest McFarland is elected Democratic majority leader.
- 1/3 Congress convenes.
- 1/5 Senator Taft delivers a speech attacking the Truman Administration's foreign and military policies, saying that the U.S. should not become involved in a European or Asian land war, and charging Truman with usurping the power of Congress to declare war by involving U.S. troops in Europe and Asia.
- 1/6 At Truman's request, LBJ, McFarland, J. Percy Priest and John McCormack meet with Truman at 10:45 a.m. Truman had just held a meeting with General Eisenhower, who is leaving today for Europe.
- Luci and Lynda host a birthday party for Speaker Rayburn during the afternoon. That evening the Speaker and Miss Lou Rayburn attend a reception in his honor at the Women's National Democratic Club. They also attend the traditional birthday dinner in his honor given by long-time friend and recent widow, Mrs. J.L. Aston. In the late evening, Rayburn and LBJ attend the annual stag awards dinner of the Touchdown Club.
- 1/8 Truman delivers his State of the Union message to Congress.
- 1/10 Charles I. Francis is in Washington.
- Senate Armed Services subcommittee chaired by LBJ opens hearings on the draft. General Marshall testifies, accompanied by Assistant Secretary of Defense Anna Rosenberg. Hearings are held both morning and afternoon, when Senate business permits it, until 1/27/51.
- 1/12 Alvin Wirtz is in Washington, and the Johnsons have dinner at the Carlton Hotel with Wirtz and George Brown.
- 1/13 CTJ attends a meeting of the Business and Professional Women's Club.
- 1/16 LBJ and Truman attend a party at Clark Clifford's home. Truman asks LBJ to come see him soon.
- 1/18 The Air Force calls up 150,000 reserves and National Guard forces to active duty, and gives Congress the choice of drafting 18-year-olds or fathers and non-veterans ages 19-25. Defense Department favors draft of 18-year olds.

- 1/19 **CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** attends a luncheon given by Mrs. Fritz Lanham in honor of Miss Lou Rayburn.
- LBJ attends stag dinner in honor of the President, hosted by George H. Baker of Business Magazine Editors Association.
- 1/23 LBJ is scheduled to meet with Truman, but cancels. Later that day LBJ hosts dinner for John Connally, Cameron McElroy and Ray Roberts.
- 1/26 The Economic Stabilization Agency orders a wage price freeze.
- 1/27 LBJ and other members of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee meet with Truman at Blair House. Also present were Leslie Biffle, secretary of state, Felton Johnston, secretary to the majority, and David Stowe, administrative assistant to the President.
- LBJ issues a statement listing recommendations that the Preparedness Subcommittee will make on the draft bill: 1) lower standards to draft a larger number of men that are now classified 4-F; 2) require non-veteran, non- fathers ages 19-26 to be eligible for military service; 3) require definite provisions that when and if 18-year olds must be drafted, older ones go first.
- Senator Wayne Morse demands an investigation by the Senate Armed Services Committee of training conditions at Lackland A.F.B. in Texas. The next day Eugene Zuckert, John Connally, Horace Bushy, Mark Galusha and Lyon Tyler are sent to Lackland by the Preparedness Subcommittee to investigate the allegations.
- 1/28 CTJ and LBJ attend a Texas State Society reception honoring the Texas delegation at the Women's National Democratic Club.
- 1/29 CTJ attends a luncheon at the Women's National Democratic Club where Joe Alsop is the guest speaker.
- 1/30 Speaker Rayburn sets an all-time record for his term of service as speaker of the House. Truman honors him at a special ceremony at his White House office, and LBJ, Miss Lou Rayburn, Tom Connally, Alben Barkley and Fred Vinson attend. Later that day Rayburn hosts a dinner at the Carlton Hotel in honor of Miss Lou.

## February

- 2/1 Truman telephones LBJ concerning the wildcat railroad strike.
- Eisenhower addresses an informal joint session of Congress in the Library of Congress and emphasizes the need for U.S. assistance for Europe. The next day

he testifies before the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee and House Armed Services Committee, lunches with LBJ, and makes a TV and radio address in support of the NATO alliance and insists American troops are needed in Europe.

Johnsons attend party hosted by Jacqueline Cochrane at The Statler.

- 2/2 LBJ writes his mother that his health is improved, but nearly everybody in the family has been sick and Zephyr has been in and out of the hospital. Josefa has started business college.
- 2/9 James Rowe and Tommy Corcoran advise LBJ of an attempt by George Brown and Charles Francis to have Mr. Hargrove appointed head of the Natural Gas Section of the Department of Interior, where he would have control of allocations. They have blocked the appointment and ask LBJ not to get involved on either side.
- 2/11 *The Dallas Morning News* reports that LBJ says a survey will be made soon to see how many combat-qualified men in the Armed Services can be moved into field forces by giving jobs to women.
- 2/14 After hearing 100 witnesses in 37 sessions, LBJ reports the draft bill (S. 1) to the Armed Services Committee.
- 2/15 The Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees begin public hearings on the plan to send four divisions to Europe (in addition to the two divisions already there). Secretary Marshall and the Joint Chiefs of Staff object to Congress placing any troop limitations on U.S. forces.
- 2/18 The Senate Preparedness Subcommittee issues a report criticizing the Air Force for a “total breakdown” in basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. The breakdown was a result of overcrowding due to the attempt by the Air Force to “hoard” manpower.
- 2/20 Former Senator Tydings and Senator Butler testify before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, which is conducting an investigation into charges that Butler supporters circulated false and misleading statements and a composite photo of Tydings with Community Party leader Earl Browder. In August the Committee reports that Butler was guilty of running a “back street campaign” and that Senator McCarthy was a leading force in the campaign against Tydings.
- 2/27 LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in support of the draft bill.

**March**

- 3/2 CTJ attends Congressional Club tea for Lady Astor.
- 3/4 In a fifty-six page report LBJ charges that Great Britain, Belgium and other allies are holding up the U.S. on tin prices by limiting production.
- 3/6 The government calls an immediate halt to all purchases of tin for the U.S. stockpile in an effort to force down soaring prices.
- 3/7 Mrs. Tydings hosts a luncheon for Lady Astor.
- 3/8 Senator Virgil Chapman dies as a result of injuries received in an auto accident.
- 3/9 The Senate passes the draft bill 79-5.
- 3/13-3/14 Reputed underworld boss Frank Costello testifies in televised hearings before a Senate special committee, headed by Senator Kefauver, investigating organized crime. Hearings continue throughout the year.
- 3/14 Jake Pickle writes LBJ commending him on his work on the draft and Universal Military Training bill.
- The FCC plans to release in the near future its plan of allocation of TV channels. The freeze on TV channels is not to be lifted immediately, however.
- Ed Barrett speaks at the 81st Club luncheon at the United Nations Club.
- The Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees report out two resolutions--neither having the force of law--approving Ike as NATO commander and a "fair share" contribution of American forces to Europe. The Senate passes the resolutions on April 4. Truman calls it a "clear endorsement" of his troop plans.
- 3/19 Lynda's birthday party [at S402?].
- 3/23 LBJ is in Bethesda Naval Hospital with a heavy cold and bronchial condition.
- 3/24 After being advised that Truman plans to invite Korean truce talks, General MacArthur issues his own offer to "confer in the field." This in effect torpedoes Truman's plan.
- 3/26-3/28 Betty Ann West is visiting in Washington.
- 3/30 The Johnsons have dinner with John Connally, then later attend a reception at 10:30 p.m. at the French Embassy for President Auriol of France.

**April**

- 4/1 Drew Pearson makes a radio broadcast referring to a washroom argument between LBJ and McFarland. McFarland writes LBJ that the statement is “false in its entirety.”
- 4/2 Joint session for President Auriol of France.
- 4/4 CTJ attends a Congressional Club breakfast for Mrs. Truman.
- 4/5 Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are sentenced to death for treason.
- House Minority Leader Joe Martin discloses a letter from General MacArthur criticizing Truman’s defense strategy.
- 4/11 CTJ’s calendar notes that LBJ is arriving. [From where?]
- Truman removes MacArthur from command. On April 19 MacArthur makes a dramatic speech before a joint session of Congress. Closed hearings into the firing will be conducted by the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees. A move to have open hearings is rejected on April 30.
- 4/14 CTJ and LBJ attend the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner at Washington National Guard Armory. Truman delivers a speech at the dinner.
- 4/15 CTJ attends a reception at the Statler honoring President and Mrs. Truman, hosted by the Democratic National Committee.
- 4/16 LBJ speaks at the annual spring meeting of the Scripps- Howard newspaper editors.
- Jake Pickle writes LBJ that now that the passion concerning the MacArthur firing is subsiding, the current view is that Truman was right in taking the steps he did.
- 4/17 Senate Ladies host a luncheon for Mrs. Truman in the Senate Caucus Room.
- Doris Fleenon reports in her column that Stuart Symington’s nomination as administrator of the RFC is due to be sent to the Senate soon.
- 4/18 Members of the Texas delegation present Rayburn with a bronze plaque commemorating him for holding the longest term of service as speaker of the House in the nation’s history.
- 4/20 Madame Bonnet addresses the Congressional Club.

4/23 Pickle writes LBJ that E.H. Perry has had a minor stroke and is in poor health.

4/25 Anna Rosenberg speaks at the 81st Club luncheon.

4/26 CTJ takes Bess Beaman, Mrs. Rowe, and Mrs. Ed Kilman to the Texas Ladies luncheon.

LBJ writes H.L. Hunt that he has been receiving as many as 4000 letters a day on MacArthur's removal. The Armed Services Committee will begin hearings on the incident on May 3 with MacArthur as the principal witness.

4/30 Iran nationalizes the oil industry and expropriates property of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

The "Big Four" (Rayburn, McCormack, McFarland, and LBJ) meet with Truman at the White House.

## May

5/3 Joint committee hearings open on MacArthur firing with MacArthur as the first witness, testifying from May 3-5. He states that the war would have been "100% different" if Chinese Nationalist troops had been used, and that Red China would have sued for peace if his plan for all-out air attacks would have been accepted. He denied charges that the attacks would have brought Russia into the war. Two days later General Marshall challenges MacArthur's assertion. LBJ issues a statement on May 6 praising the bipartisan spirit of the hearings.

5/5 Mrs. Sam Johnson and Diana Taylor are visiting in Washington.

Children's party at the Congressional Club.

5/15 General Omar Bradley testifies before the Senate committee investigating the firing of General MacArthur, and says that MacArthur's plans would have put the U.S. "in the wrong war, at the wrong time and with the wrong enemy." After hearing numerous witnesses, the committee votes on August 17 not to make a formal report on its investigation.

5/16 LBJ, Lister Hill, O'Mahoney, Blair Moody, Percy Priest, Mansfield, Sidney Yates, William Dawson, John Shelley, Richard Bolling, David Stowe, and John Carroll attend an off-the-record meeting with Truman at Blair House.

Senate passes a conference report on the Tidelands bill. The bill would give the states title to undersea lands out to the 3-mile limit, or in the case of Texas and Florida, the 10 1/2-mile limit with which those states claimed to have entered the union. Truman vetoes the bill on 5/29, saying that it "makes a free gift of

immensely valuable resources which belong to the entire nation to the states which happen to be located nearest them." No attempt is made to override the veto.

Late May      *The Saturday Evening Post* publishes an article about LBJ as a possible vice presidential nominee in 1952.

## June

6/7              LBJ and Tom Connally meet to discuss appointments for the federal district attorney position for the Western District of Texas. Connally agrees to support LBJ's nomination of Charlie Herring for the post.

6/9              CTJ's calendar notes: "Mrs. Johnson and Lynda may leave."

6/10             LBJ issues the twenty-sixth report of the Preparedness Subcommittee, criticizing the use of able-bodied men for desk jobs in the armed services.

6/13             General MacArthur is scheduled to visit Austin and will address the Texas legislature. He is also scheduled to visit Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth on the following days. Pickle wrote LBJ on June 4: "There is no enthusiasm here for the General's visit....do not believe he will have any of the Eastern seaboard hysteria."

6/19             LBJ and other congressional leaders are present at the White House when Truman signs S.1, the draft and Universal Military Training bill. At Anna Rosenberg's suggestion, Telenews films the event and a copy of the film is given to LBJ.

6/23             LBJ speaks at a luncheon honoring Judge Joe Sheehy in Tyler.

6/25             LBJ makes a speech welcoming the 27th Fighter Wing to Austin.

6/27             The Senate rejects an amendment to its pending price control bill, which would have limited the administration's power to roll back the price of live beef and other commodities. LBJ and Tom Connally vote against the amendment. The Senate therefore ratifies a provision declaring that the price must not be reduced below prevailing levels in January and February of 1951.

(In early July Jake Pickle writes LBJ about rumors circulating in Texas that Sam Houston is buying up cattle in Mexico to sell in Texas when rollbacks or stricter controls are established: "I realize that your vote last week in itself ought to be sufficient proof against such absurd rumors." LBJ asks Pickle to find out who started the rumors and is spreading them.)

Luci is admitted to the hospital [?].

Walter Jenkins resigns as LBJ's administrative assistant in order to enter the 13th Congressional District race. A special election will be held September 8 to fill the vacancy created when Ed Gossett resigned to accept a position with Bell Telephone Company. Frank Ikard, Wayne Wagonseller and Doug Crouch have also entered the race. Ikard wins the election on September 8.

6/28 LBJ and Senator Connally agree on nominations for district attorneyships in Northern and Southern Districts of Texas. Connally nominates Frank Potter for the Northern District, and LBJ nominates Brian Odem for the Southern District of Texas.

Summer The Johnsons purchase the Ranch sometime during this summer.

## July

7/2 Luci's birthday party.

7/5 The Preparedness Subcommittee criticizes the Army and Munitions Board for their failure to stockpile tungsten, a material used in armor-piercing shells.

7/6 Jake Pickle writes LBJ of a conversation with Governor Shivers in which Shivers asked Pickle to handle the State Democratic Convention next May. Pickle writes that he believes Shivers will use all of his influence to keep Texas from pledging itself to Truman in 1952.

7/9 The Preparedness Subcommittee issues a report on serious rent gouging of service men's families following an investigation of conditions around six Army camps.

Mid-July Jake Pickle and Bess Beaman are scheduled to start a letter-writing campaign to key women workers in order to keep up a working organization for LBJ.

7/10 LBJ cables JBC that Senator Russell will complete hearings on Friday and LBJ may then go to Bracketville.

7/12 LBJ, other congressional leaders meet with Truman in Cabinet Room at 10 a.m.

7/16 LBJ makes a statement before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Army Civil Functions, regarding the Fort Worth Floodway, the Dallas Floodway, the Port of Houston ship channel, the Neches-Angelina River, the McGee Bend Dam, the Colorado River Dredging Project in Bay City, and the Guadalupe River project in Victoria.

7/18 Picnic for the office force at Rock Creek Park.



7/19 LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor regarding the Preparedness Subcommittee investigation of complaints of substandard housing conditions for servicemen and their dependents, and unscrupulous practices by private landlords.

7/24 LBJ is appointed a member of the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee for the 1952 elections. Senator Anderson is chairman; other members include Edwin Johnson, Burnet Maybank, Russell Long, Paul Douglas, and Herbert Lehman.

7/24 LBJ writes his mother that CTJ, Mrs. Will Odom, and the children have left by car for Karnack, and will arrive in Austin in about a week. LBJ hopes to leave for Texas by the weekend. Sam Houston and Josefa are in Washington.

## August

LBJ apparently has a short vacation in August. Looney writes him on August 10 in Washington: "Your rest, short though it may have been, must have been very good." LBJ writes Amon Carter regarding his search for new staff members, "I am desperately short of good people now."

## Late August

The Alvin Wirtzes travel to South America when Senator Wirtz is appointed to serve as an adviser to the Brazilian-American Commission.

8/22 The Reconstruction Finance Corporation administrator Stuart Symington announces that he hopes to turn over the synthetic rubber plants the RFC now operates to private industry. Congress must approve the disposal next January. They had turned down a similar plan by Truman two years earlier. LBJ writes Symington that such action will be a great disservice to the public interest.

LBJ apparently returns to Washington in late August; CTJ and the children remain in Texas.

## September

9/4 Warren Woodward writes LBJ that LBJ is away for a day or two.

9/5 CTJ calendar entry notes "Dallas."

9/9 CTJ's calendar notes: "go September 9, return September 16." [Where?]

9/12 Defense Secretary Marshall retires and is replaced by Robert Lovett.

9/23 The Preparedness Subcommittee issues its second report on defense housing.

9/27 The Texas State Democratic Executive Committee meets in Snyder. Governor Shivers refuses to answer questions about whether he will run for the Senate seat held by Tom Connally. A recent poll showed that voters favor Shivers over Connally 59%-32%.

9/28 LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in opposition to the Humphrey amendment to lower the 27.5% oil depletion allowance to 15%.

9/28 CTJ's calendar notes "go to Dallas."

## October

10/1 CTJ's calendar notes: "? go to San Antonio." The same entry appears on 10/4.

10/10 LBJ flies to Dallas from Washington to address the opening banquet of the Texas State Fair. CTJ flies up from Austin to join him. Gov. Shivers and the governors of New Mexico, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arizona and Colorado are present.

10/11 LBJ addresses a civic club luncheon in Dallas, and is later interviewed on KRLD-TV. CTJ attends a tea at the Dallas Woman's Club. LBJ also attends a private meeting at the Baker Hotel during his three-day visit to Dallas, for organizational discussion.

10/12 LBJ is scheduled to visit McKinney and Collin County. CTJ is a judge in the cake competition at the State Fair in the morning, and attends a luncheon afterwards in her honor.

10/23 LBJ addresses the annual convention of the Independent Petroleum Association of America in Houston, arriving directly from Washington.

10/24 LBJ speaks in Brownwood, Texas in the morning at a "Lyndon B. Johnson Day" ceremony, then speaks at Brady that afternoon and attends a barbecue there that evening. He spends the night in San Angelo.

10/25 LBJ attends the Lions Club luncheon in San Angelo and visits neighboring towns.

10/27 Senator Wirtz suffers a fatal heart attack while attending the UT-Rice football game in Memorial Stadium.

## November

11/1 LBJ addresses the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner in Oklahoma City. Senators Kerr and Monroney are also present.

Early November

Johnsons are making plans for the Ranch.

- 11/4 LBJ is scheduled to address the Smithville American Legion Convention.
- 11/5 In response to persistent rumors that the Interior Department will issue federal leases on the tidelands, LBJ writes Truman asking him to give his assurance that no such action will be taken until congressional action is taken on the issue. Truman replies on November 13: "I labor under the impression that Missouri is just as much entitled to tidelands as Texas, California, or Louisiana and if I can help it as President of the United States, I'm going to see that the whole U.S. profits from the national ownership of tidelands oil."
- 11/5 Ike is scheduled to visit Washington to discuss the European situation with Truman.
- 11/6 LBJ is scheduled to visit at Blanco County P.M.A.
- Senator Lodge makes public a letter from LBJ disclosing that the Preparedness Subcommittee is inquiring into delays in the delivery of military supplies to NATO forces in Europe.
- 11/10 LBJ addresses the SWTSTC homecoming at 10:30 a.m. in Evans Auditorium.
- 11/12 LBJ is scheduled to address the Texas Motor Bus Association Convention at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin.
- 11/13 LBJ, accompanied by CTJ, addresses the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and denies any aspiration for the vice-presidential nomination.
- 11/14 The Air Force announces plans to activate two additional air bases in the near future in Texas and Michigan.
- CTJ's calendar notes: "Lyndon in Georgetown."
- 11/15 LBJ addresses the Sulphur Springs Chamber of Commerce annual dinner.
- 11/19 LBJ is scheduled to meet with the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce.
- 11/22 *The Marble Falls Messenger* reports that LBJ has returned to Washington after a brief trip to Texas.

## December

- 12/3 *Newsweek* features a cover story on LBJ and the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee.

- 12/11 LBJ writes Ed Weisl: "For the past week or so, Lady Bird and I have been away from Austin--and away from Texas."
- 12/14 LBJ, Wesley West, A.W. Moursund, Max Brooks, Melvin Winters and Clyburn Montgomery inspect a low-cost housing project in San Angelo and return to Johnson City that day.
- 12/16 Stuart Symington leaves San Antonio for Washington after a weekend visit to the LBJ Ranch.
- E.B. Germany is in Washington attempting to get a steel allocation for construction of the Lone Star Steel plant.