

1952 Chronology

Early 1952

LBJ (Lyndon Johnson) is buying heifers.

January

1st week Maury Maverick is in Washington promoting his candidacy for the congressman-at-large seat among Texans there.

John Lee Smith, former Texas lieutenant governor, is an announced candidate for the congressman-at-large seat also, which Texas gained when the legislature did not redistrict the state in 1951. There is also speculation that Martin Dies may announce.

Early January

Olin Teague is touring Korea for about 2 1/2 weeks, and he hopes to visit the front lines there.

1/3 Truman announces that Stuart Symington is leaving government service as head of the RFC next month.

1/4 LBJ speaks at the Denton Chamber of Commerce annual dinner, and says that the USSR must be represented at Korean truce talks. This is his last visit in Texas before returning to Washington for the opening of the new session of Congress.

1/7 Henry Cabot Lodge announces that he is entering Eisenhower's name in the 3/11 New Hampshire primary. The next day Eisenhower, on duty in Paris as NATO commander, announces he will run for president as a Republican if he receives a "clear-cut call to political duty," but will not actively seek the nomination. The other Republican candidates are Robert Taft, Earl Warren and Harold Stassen.

1/9 Truman delivers the State of the Union Message. [?] is appointed to the committee to escort Truman to the chamber.

1/11-1/12 LBJ, Estes Kefauver, Lester Hunt and John Stennis conducted hearings in New York City, checking on the cost of constructing overseas military bases, and on the use of private employment services charging fees to find government jobs overseas.

Senate considers S. 1976, the District of Columbia Home Rule bill, one of the first measures to be considered in this session, which would establish a representative local government for the District of Columbia.

1/14 LBJ has an appointment with President Truman, as requested by Truman on 12/28/51. They discuss the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee, and Truman makes suggestions as to matters for the committee to investigate. LBJ then

leaves for a routine checkup at Mayo Clinic and for treatment of a bronchial condition.

- 1/16 First organizational meeting of the Democratic National Committee at the Mayflower Hotel.
- 1/21 Price Daniel announces in a radio broadcast that he will oppose Tom Connally for his U.S. Senate seat.
- 1/24 Senator Pat McCarran writes LBJ soliciting his opinion regarding the relationship between Congress and the Executive regarding treaties and executive agreements.
- Jake Pickle writes LBJ about Price Daniel's campaign activities and about Sugar Pickle's worsening health.
- 1/25 Sugar Pickle dies. The funeral service is held on Sunday 1/27.
- 1/26 LBJ attends the White House ceremony at which Truman presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Stuart Symington.
- LBJ attends stag Alfalfa Club dinner.
- 1/28 Reception at the Cuban Embassy.
- 1/29 LBJ attends the Majority Policy Committee luncheon.
- 1/30 Tea hosted by the 81st Club for the 82nd Club at Mrs. Bob Kerr's.
- 1/31 Style show luncheon. CTJ sits at the celebrity table.

February

- 2/3 King George VI of England dies.
- 2/4 Reception at the Women's Democratic Club hosted by Judge Jones for his two nieces. Later in the week Fritz Lanham hosts a cocktail party for them.
- 2/6 **CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** attends a luncheon hosted by Mrs. Tom Connally and Mrs. George Mahon in the Senate wing of the Capitol honoring Billie Bob Murphy, and that afternoon attends the 2:30 funeral of Harold Ickes, who died 2/3. That evening she sees Cornelia Otis Skinner.
- 2/8 The Johnsons dine at the Dick Byrds.

- 2/9 CTJ hosts a luncheon for George Ann [Perry?] and Diana [Taylor?] at the Raleigh Hotel.
- 2/12 LBJ stops in Dallas en route from Washington to Temple for a board of directors' meeting of Scott & White.
- 2/14 Congressional Club reception for President Truman.
- 2/20 CTJ and LBJ are in Austin. Mary Rather writes CTJ there that Lucy became ill during the night and was unable to model in the Women's National Democratic Club style show luncheon as planned. She also writes that the Senate has just gotten an agreement to vote on the motion to recommit the Alaskan statehood bill for Wednesday, 2/27, and that there will be a Policy Committee meeting on Tuesday, 2/26 that Senator McFarland hopes LBJ will be in Washington to attend.
- 2/26 *The Washington Times Herald* reports that Donald Cook was appointed by Truman today as chairman of the SEC to succeed Harry McDonald, who takes his oath of office as head of the RFC on 2/27/52.
- 2/27 81st Club luncheon and ballet.
- The Senate votes 45-44 to recommit the Alaska statehood bill to committee.
- 2/28 Senator McCarran writes LBJ again regarding his views on S. J. Res. 122, a bill concerning treaties and executive agreements. LBJ writes him on 2/28 that he shared his conviction that "there is a pressing need for a careful re-examination of the whole question of the relationships between Congress and the President in regard to executive agreements with foreign powers." But he points out his lack of expertise in this field and the need for greater study to make some determination. This issue heightens in 1953 and 1954 in the controversy over the Bricker Amendment.
- March**
- 3/1 LBJ and CTJ attend Woody's [Warren Woodward?] wedding at Mt. Vernon Methodist Church, followed by a luncheon at Wardman Park.
- Conference scheduled with Leonard Marks. [LBJ and/or CTJ attend?]
- 3/2 LBJ discloses that investigators for the Preparedness Subcommittee have discovered that Navy officials had allowed 43,000 pounds of frozen smoked ham, valued at \$23,000, to spoil in a supply depot in San Diego, California.

- 3/3 Monday, the Senate begins debate on the pending tidelands legislation, which would permit the federal government to supervise development of natural resources in the tidelands while courts are deciding what lands are to be controlled by the states or the federal government. LBJ and Tom Connally submit an amendment which would substitute a "quit claim" bill. Tuesday (3/4) they inform colleagues of their intentions. The House has already passed a quit claim bill. Truman will almost certainly veto such a bill if it passes since he had vetoed a similar bill in 1946.
- 3/4 LBJ and the Speaker have dinner with Tony Buford.
- 3/7 LBJ announces that the Preparedness Subcommittee will make an intensive investigation of the slowdown in expanding the readiness of the Air Force. The target date for full Air Force readiness was recently postponed from 1954 to 1955. While subcommittee investigators will begin gathering information from military officials and aircraft manufacturers immediately, formal hearings are tentatively scheduled to start March 31. Some will be public, but others will be closed for security purposes.
- 3/9 LBJ announces an end to the shipment of mainland Army recruits to Hawaii for basic training, and says that Secretary of the Army Pace agreed to discontinue the "wasteful, costly and discriminatory" program after the subcommittee protested this program on 12/17/51.
- 3/10 LBJ gives a speech on the floor of the Senate on tidelands, urging rejection of interim legislation pending before the Senate. "At best . . . the interim bill is merely a temporary expedient to get oil into production while Congress decides the basic questions. At worse, it represents an end run play whereby the federal government will wind up with all the property without a congressional determination . . . so-called interim legislation does not meet the issues, the wishes of Congress, or the desires of the people who are directly affected. It can do little other than to protract an argument for another five years."
- Senator Taft makes a speech in Houston in which he attacks the administration's foreign policy and charges that it has "invited" communists into Korea with an "assist" from Senator Connally, in his role as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. His remarks spark a lengthy and stormy debate in the Senate after Senator Connally takes the floor and charges that Taft is a "chameleon Senator" and that his remarks are "outrageous, preposterous and untrue." Soon other senators join the ruckus. Hickenlooper demands that Connally be seated under Senate rules for impugning the honor of another senator. LBJ moves that Connally be permitted to "proceed in order," and the Senate approves his motion by voice vote.

- 3/11 Estes Kefauver defeats Truman in the New Hampshire primary by 19,800 to 15,927. He also wins a substantial write-in vote in the Minnesota primary on 3/18 and wins the Nebraska and Wisconsin primaries on 4/1. LBJ introduces a Senate bill to permit a young Iranian who served at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls to stay in this country. The youth, Gowerk Bunderlyan, also known as George Sandarian, jumped ship while in Baltimore and later joined the Air Force, where he told his story to a chaplain who advised him to give himself up. He is charged with illegal entry and is held on bond for immigration officials in Dallas.
- LBJ announces that the armed services have eliminated 2500 "chair corps" jobs at three bases to save military manpower. He said the move freed 2100 men for overseas duty. The three test projects were conducted at the army base at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the naval training center at Great Lakes, Illinois, and the air force base at Lackland, Texas.
- 3/18 The Senate Preparedness Subcommittee resumes hearings on charges of extravagant cost and flagrant waste in building air bases in Morocco.
- 3/19 Lynda Bird's birthday and birthday party.
- LBJ puts pressure on the Pentagon to halt its huge North African airbase program until it cleans up what he called "revolting" waste and corruption. This comes after two days of testimony in which witnesses swore that theft of US government property from Morocco bases might average one million dollars a month. They also told of costly blunders which might make some of the air bases unsafe.
- 3/20 The Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee publishes its annual report, which is concerned with the nation's rearmament program: "The objective has been ample supplies of both butter and guns. The result has been a small number of guns and a great amount of butter, with a considerable number of lollipops thrown in." The report blamed those responsible for the program for their "lack of a sense of urgency." While it did not name officials, it implied that President Truman and Charles E. Wilson, mobilization director, were responsible.
- 3/21 Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, Jr., relieves army engineers in charge of air base construction in North Africa. In a letter to LBJ as chairman of the investigating subcommittee, he promises to shut down the program if the shake-up did not prove "adequate." Pace also outlines a program for recovery of funds which had been improperly spent.
- 3/24 Senate investigators are studying reports that millions of dollars have been wasted on a super-secret air base in Greenland. The air base, code named

“Bluejay,” has already come under criticism by the Preparedness Subcommittee, and LBJ may order public hearings this week.

3/25

LBJ makes a statement on the Senate floor regarding air bases in Morocco, where original estimates were for \$300,000,000, and now one-third of construction is completed at a cost of \$455,000,000.

LBJ announces that Donald Cook has resigned as chief counsel of the Preparedness Subcommittee, because of the press of his new duties as chairman of the SEC. Cook is replaced by Ashbrook O. Bryant.

LBJ announces plans for the Preparedness Subcommittee to investigate secret intelligence reports on Russian air power. Both open and closed door hearings are scheduled to begin on 3/31.

In the opening round of his plan to send an uninstructed delegation to the Democratic National Convention, Governor Shivers addresses a mock precinct convention in an Austin precinct usually controlled by Loyalist Democrats. Shivers praised the caucus as one of the largest groups he had ever seen at a pre-convention meeting. Shivers supporters hope that such pre-convention meetings will spread throughout the state. The group adopted a resolution calling for an uninstructed delegation and for support for a presidential nominee who could lead the nation “out of chaos.”

3/26

Joseph McCarthy files a \$2,000,000 libel and slander suit against Senator Benton. On 9/28/51, the Senate Rules Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections began hearings under S. Res. 187 incorporating charges by Senator Benton that Senator McCarthy “has committed perjury and has practiced calculated deceit” and proposed hit ouster.

3/29

LBJ and CTJ attend the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner at the Washington National Guard Armory, where they sit at the head table. LBJ is a member of the executive committee for the dinner. Truman surprises the audience by announcing at the end of his speech that he will not seek re-election.

3/30

Reception in the Grand Ballroom hosted by Chairman McKinney in honor of President and Mrs. Truman.

3/31

Testimony before the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee, investigating air bases in North Africa, reveals that the wife of an army lieutenant colonel had a housing project there redesigned to give her greater privacy, at an additional cost of \$150 million.

Senate, by voice vote, passes a bill providing for a 3% pay increase plus varying increases for allowances paid military personnel. An amendment offered by

Senator Douglas to reduce all extra pay for flight and submarine duty to \$30 a month was rejected by the Senate. Douglas maintains that the flight pay “at times becomes a racket” with desk officers collecting flight pay for flying for as few as four hours a month. The Senate also approves a provision granting \$45 a month extra to all men and officers under actual enemy fire in Korea.

April

- 4/1 Senate investigators called on Army auditors for records on construction of the new air base in Greenland, in order to investigate charges of waste and irregularities.
- 4/2 LBJ makes a brief statement on the Senate floor before casting his vote for the Holland bill, regarding handling of federal leases on submerged lands. He says that while he and Senator Connally introduced a House bill as a substitute, and while he feels it is better legislation, he is voting for the Holland bill because of its greater voting strength and because it has a better chance of overriding a veto. (The Holland bill will confirm title of states and restore the concept of constitutionality to the federal-state relationship.
- 4/3 Reception at the Army-Navy Country Club, hosted by the Ambassador of the Netherlands in honor of Queen Juliana and Prince Bernard.
- Gene Latimer formally resigns from LBJ’s Senate staff to take a job as regional warden service coordinator for the Civil Defense Administration.
- 4/5 LBJ and CTJ are in Texas with Lynda, and won’t be back in Washington until a week after Easter (April 13). Luci is in Washington [with Mary Rather?].
- 4/6 Belden Poll shows 51% of the voters favor Daniel for the Senate, and 32% favor Tom Connally. Soon thereafter Tom Connally decides not to run again.
- 4/7 LBJ issues a statement regarding Tom Connally’s announced retirement: “Like all Texans I feel a sense of loss over the realization that Tom Connally will not be in the Senate next year.”
- 4/8 Late in the day the Senate votes overwhelmingly (55 to 8) to set up a fourteen-member joint committee on the budget, composed of seven members each from the House and Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is designed to give Congress a professional staff comparable to the President’s own budget-making facilities to watch over federal spending.
- 4/11 *U.S. News & World Report* publishes a lengthy interview with LBJ regarding problems in the arms programs. LBJ says the defense buildup is too slow due to

waste, mismanagement and inefficiency, and that Russia may be out-producing the U.S.

The Air Force discloses that six officers at Randolph Air Force Base went on a sit-down strike and refused to [?]. This action reportedly was the result of “long-smoldering dissension” on the part of reservists, mostly World War II combat flyers, who balked at going back to war.

4/13 Easter.

4/16 The Senate Preparedness Subcommittee calls Air Force Secretary Thomas K. Finletter, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Air Force chief of staff, and Admiral William M. Fechteler, chief of naval operations, to testify on extra flight pay for airmen. Other high armed services officials are also scheduled to give their views on hazard and incentive pay for servicemen.

4/17-4/18 CTJ’s calendar notes “in NYC.”

4/18 The Preparedness Subcommittee orders a study of the cost of housemaids and butlers for U.S. soldiers and their families in occupied Germany. The purpose is to show whether occupation forces live so extravagantly they have aroused resentment among West Germans and other occupied areas.

Loyal Democrats in Texas, seeking to take control of the state party from Governor Shivers, propose that Texas back LBJ as the “local nominee” for president.

4/21 LBJ issues a statement saying that Truman’s seizure of the steel mills is “extremely dangerous and could open the way to seizure of newspapers, labor unions and churches” and criticizes Truman’s use of the inherent powers of the presidency to justify his actions. Truman had seized the steel mills on 4/8. The Supreme Court ruled that the seizure was unconstitutional on 6/2.

4/22 Coke Stevenson declines to run for congressman-at-large as a warm-up for the 1954 Senate race. He still plans to run in 1954 against LBJ. He is not running for Connally’s seat because he doesn’t want to be a junior senator to LBJ.

General Spaatz, former chief of staff of the Air Force, in testimony before the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee, warns that Russians are stockpiling both atomic bombs and hydrogen bombs and “time is running out as far as we are concerned.” In testimony on 4/23, Spaatz tells subcommittee members that a scheduled slowdown in building a 143-wing Air Force is “an inexcusable risk.”

4/23 CTJ attends a Congressional Club breakfast for Mrs. Truman, and later in the day attends a tea honoring cabinet wives at the Democratic Club.

The White House announces late in the day that earlier plans to transfer the civil functions of the Army Corps of Engineers to the Interior Department have been abandoned. The transfer had been recommended by the Hoover Commission on Reorganization of the Executive Branch.

4/25 Mrs. Bob Bartley hosts a tea for Miss Lou Rayburn.

Fagan Dickson, executive director of the Loyal Democrats faction of the Democratic Party in Texas, declines to appear on behalf of LBJ for president at a Fort Worth political rally on Saturday sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Dickson says LBJ prefers not to have his name brought up in that connection. John D. Cofer, another member of the Loyal Democrats group, asks the State Democratic Executive Committee to recommend LBJ as a favorite son candidate. The committee declines on grounds that it did not want to take sides for any of the Texans who have been mentioned for the presidency.

Two retired Air Force generals tell the Preparedness Subcommittee that the Air Force should have the overriding priority in the allotment of defense funds.

Late April

Ed Weisl, Jr., returns from the Pacific to be attached to the Judge Advocate in Washington. LBJ apparently played a role in securing his return.

4/27 LBJ declares today that reservists, including the fourteen Air Force "stay down" fliers, "have been treated very unfairly." "One war is enough--if not too much--for the lifetime of any man," he said in a radio interview. LBJ was asked specifically about dissatisfaction among reservists, including the fourteen who have refused to fly. "I believe that the reservists have been treated very unfairly. They did their part in the last war and now they have been called back for double duty," he said.

May

5/1 LBJ announces that the Housing and Home Finance Agency has moved to ease the critical defense housing situation in East Texas by allocating 100 defense housing units to be constructed by private builders in Avinger, Daingerfield, Hughes Springs, Naples, Ore City and Pittsburg.

Ralph Yarborough, Austin lawyer, former district judge and assistant attorney general of the state, announces that he will run for the Democratic nomination for governor against Allan Shivers.

The Senate Preparedness Subcommittee reports that it has been investigating the air force technician training programs for several months. Reservists who

went on strike against flying duty on April 1 have said that poor maintenance of airplanes was involved in their decision not to fly.

5/4

Congressional Club reception for Chief Justice and Mrs. Vinson.

5/6

James Harman is elected as Travis County Republican convention chairman at a rump convention of Taft forces. William H. Purdy is elected chairman of the regular Republican convention and heads up the Eisenhower forces. On 5/8, in a legal triumph for Purdy, District Judge Charles O. Betts issues an order restraining Harman from serving as county chairman.

Early May

CTJ is in Texas making important decisions about the house in Stonewall. She is working with Max Brooks, Melvin Winters and Marcus Burg on renovations on the house and repairs on the roof and dam. There have been delays caused by plan changes and problems in securing the necessary materials. LBJ writes Max Brooks on May 12: "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." The whole family talks to CTJ by phone on Mother's Day, May 11.

5/8

LBJ announces that the Preparedness Subcommittee will turn over a transcript of subcommittee testimony to the Justice Department for investigation of alleged wide-scale graft and malpractice at U.S. air bases in French Morocco. LBJ threatened possible perjury action against witnesses telling conflicting stories of waste.

E.W. Napier, candidate for Connally's Senate seat, comes out for an isolationist policy in foreign affairs. Lindley Beckworth generally supports Truman's foreign policy, while Daniel calls for a firm U.S. stance in Europe and the Far East, but sharply criticizes the State Department's liberals and urges removal of Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

5/10

Loyal Democrats, in a letter to Governor Shivers from Loyalist leaders Walter Hall of Dickson, Fagan Dickson of Austin, and Lillian Collier of Mumford, offer to make a deal with Shivers supporters who have dominated precinct and county conventions. They say they will agree to abide by the will of the majority of the Democrats in Texas, if the Shivers group will agree to go along with the will of the majority at the Democratic National Convention.

5/11

Senators Lister Hill and John Sparkman issue a statement in support of Senator Richard Russell for president.

Contests between rival delegations over some sixty delegates from Texas and other southern states may decide the GOP presidential nominee.

- 5/12 A Duval County grand jury, recalled by District Judge Sam G. Reams, begins an investigation into George Parr's political empire. Reams is in a bitter re-election campaign against Parr's political domination.
- Ralph Yarborough says he will reveal who is backing his campaign for governor in a statewide radio broadcast on May 19. Yarborough says he must do so to lay low the gossip being spread by his opponents.
- 5/13 Travis County Democratic convention reports show that most of the Loyal Democrats who bolted from Shivers' uninstructed delegation landslide at the Democratic county conventions voted for a blind loyalty oath pledge, requiring delegates to support national nominees of the Democratic Party, regardless of who they are.
- In a closed meeting of the Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, Senator Long moves that another across-the-board cut of an additional \$400 million be made out of the foreign aid bill. Long's move was reputedly approved by a 5-1 vote. LBJ is the only one to vote no. Because there was not a quorum of the committee, however, acting chairman Harry Byrd of Virginia ordered the other seven members polled for 5 p.m. Wednesday. The bill will then be reported back to the Senate with the resulting recommendation.
- 5/14 A Rayburn-for-President Club has been formed by 73 House Democrats. This is the first real effort to draft the Speaker for the Democratic presidential nomination. All of the Texas delegation questioned, with the exception of Rep. J. Frank Wilson of Dallas, are supporting Rayburn; Wilson is for Russell.
- 5/15 Mrs. Leonard Haseman, wife of a lieutenant colonel until recently assigned to construction of airfields in North Africa, says that testimony in the Preparedness Subcommittee to the effect that she altered plans on an air base housing project in Morocco is "absolutely incorrect." She said plans were redrawn to correct a scaling error, and made homes about fifty feet apart. "I think Mr. Johnson owes me an apology for some of the things that were said . . . I saw one statement that Army officials shouldn't marry such women--or that wives shouldn't be allowed overseas."
- 5/17 Over the weekend, in a speech to Americans for Democratic Action, President Truman denounces the oil lobby and offers this promise regarding tidelands: "As far as I am concerned, I intend to stand up and fight to protect the people's interest in this matter." This is interpreted as a promise to veto the legislation giving the states title over the tidelands.
- 5/18 The week of 5/18 both Loyalists and Shivers forces are in Washington trying to drum up support from national party leaders. Shivers is also attempting to secure passage of the tidelands bill.

- 5/19-5/24 Belden Texas Poll state survey shows that 71% of the voters polled favor Allan Shivers, and 14% favor Ralph Yarborough for governor.
- 5/20 LBJ reports that he has received 247 telegrams and letters endorsing the selection of Joe W. Sheehy of Tyler for federal judge for the Eastern District of Texas.
- 5/21 Horace Bushy writes LBJ about the political situation in Texas: "The Texas political situation is unusually uncertain at the moment. The departure of Mr. Truman and Senator Connally removed most of the 'anti' pressure. Governor Shivers apparently suffered most by Mr. Truman's departure--it left him in the position of whipping a retired mule, and, as a consequence, some small resentment is building. Ralph Yarborough--with a strictly 'Jimmy Allred' opening speech--will probably get in the neighborhood of 400,000 votes. Lindley Beckworth apparently has no conception of a statewide race. He is cutting no swath at all yet. Lloyd Bentsen could have made it close."
- 5/22 Shivers, recently returned from Washington, reiterates his support of Richard Russell for the Democratic presidential nominee and his intention to send an uninstructed Texas delegation to the national convention. Loyalist Democrats, meanwhile, are openly planning to bolt the state convention in San Antonio next week and send a rival delegation to Chicago.
- 5/24 Children's annual party at the Congressional Club.
- Oilman Hugh Roy Cullen, millionaire-philanthropist and Republican Party backer, wires Sen. Robert Taft that his backers on the Texas State Executive Committee "plan to ride rough-shod over the will of the majority at the state convention . . . the Texas GOP leaders to attempt to throw out the legally elected delegates and seat the bolting delegations simply because they are for you will have serious repercussions all over the nation."
- 5/25 Fagan Dickson, executive director of the Loyal Democrats, returning home from a recent trip to Washington where he talked to national party leaders, claims that Shivers told certain high-ranking Democrats he would take the pledge to support the national nominees, regardless of who they are. Dickson says he's planning a double cross.
- The Dallas Morning News* publishes a letter written by Sam Smithwick, former deputy sheriff of Jim Wells County, on 3/25/52, to former Governor Coke Stevenson, in regard to the 1948 senatorial race. Smithwick claimed to have recovered the stolen election box from Jim Wells County. Smithwick died of an

apparent suicide before Stevenson could reach him at Huntsville State Prison. Smithwick had been serving a life sentence for murdering W.H. Mason, a crusading radio commentator in Alice. On 5/26, Stevenson declares "My position four years ago--that the U.S. Senate seat was stolen from me--has been vindicated."

LBJ, in response to reporters' questions about the Sam Smithwick letter, says the letter appeared to be "a continuation of a fight by a group of disgruntled, disappointed people."

5/26 Loyal Democrats, lead by Maury Maverick, Harry Seay of Dallas, Walter Hall of Dickinson, and Fagan Dickson of Austin, gather for a pre-convention rally at La Villita, where the Loyalists will hold their rump version of the state Democratic convention on 5/27.

E.B. Germany writes LBJ regarding the Smithwick matter and says, "I hope that it does not give you much concern, for I do not fear that any serious opposition in the next campaign can be developed."

Texas Democratic State Executive Committee passes a resolution calling for Texas delegates to the national convention to be instructed as to principles--anti-Roosevelt and anti-Truman--but uninstructed as to candidates for the presidential and vice-presidential nomination.

Dallas delegates who are supporting Governor Shivers' anti-Fair Deal program are divided here in San Antonio over whether Rayburn should be nominated at the state Democratic convention to be a delegate to the national convention. Shivers favors the nomination, due to Rayburn's position in the House, but others of his supporters disagree with him, marking the first noticeable rift among those opposing Truman.

Meeting on the eve of the state GOP convention in Mineral Wells, the GOP state executive committee in Texas placed on the convention's temporary role the names of a rump delegation from Dallas composed of Taft-MacArthur forces, despite the fact that Eisenhower delegates dominated the Dallas precinct and county conventions.

5/27 LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in support of full appropriations for NATO and U.S. forces in Europe. Meeting of the Democratic State Convention in San Antonio. There the State Democratic Executive Committee, dominated by Shivers, votes to seat the conservative delegations from contested counties. Loyal Democrats make a token protest at the convention, then hold their rump session. Rival delegations will argue their right to seats at the national convention in Chicago. Stuart Long, a liberal member of the executive committee, made a minority report to the convention itself. Loyalist Democrats

named their district delegates to the national convention during their rump session. At their meeting, Maury Maverick insisted that there was no bolt, his group merely set up a legal convention of real Democrats.

The Republican Party of Texas split wide open Tuesday when Eisenhower supporters appealed directly to the convention to override the state executive committee's action in seating practically all of the Taft delegations from thirty-two contested counties. The convention rejected their appeal by a 762 to 222 vote, and went even further by rejecting additional Eisenhower delegations. That caused Eisenhower supporters to bolt the convention in Mineral Wells. Both delegations will go to the national convention in Chicago on July 8.

5/28 Luncheon for Senate ladies at the White House. Mrs. Edith Helms had written CTJ on 5/14: "Mrs. Truman, the ladies of the cabinet, and the wives of the secretaries of the Army, Navy and the Air Force hope that you can come to a luncheon at the White House that they are giving for the members of the Senate Ladies Luncheon Club, on May 28 at one o'clock."

Barnard M. Baruch appears before the Preparedness Subcommittee and advocates a complete overhaul of the defense mobilization program, including imposing effective controls on wages, prices and civilian production. In response, LBJ observes that "our dismal lack of strength" is behind the failure to reach an armistice agreement in Korea.

5/29 Price Daniel officially opens his campaign for senator on the courthouse lawn in Waco on Thursday night.

Senator Walter F. George, chairman of Richard Russell's campaign advisory committee, publicly claims that the Texas Democratic delegation will cast all of its fifty-two votes at Chicago for Senator Russell.

Truman vetoes the tidelands bill. While recognizing the "unique" claim of Texas, in his veto message to Congress Truman said that the Supreme Court had disposed of the legal questions. Because Congress had passed a bill restoring the tidelands to the states, it had in effect decided that all the coastal lands should be treated in the same manner as Texas. In view of that, he said, "it obviously is impossible for me to consider the resolution exclusively from the standpoint of the unique situation relating to Texas." This was interpreted in some quarters as a sign that he might give more favorable treatment to separate legislation for Texas.

LBJ's mother writes him about the Sam Smithwick affair.

Ed Weisl, Jr., joins the Preparedness Subcommittee staff as liaison for the Navy.

Last week of May

The federal budget director, under Truman's orders, authorizes an amendment to the budget to provide \$2 million for the long-planned Dallas Floodway Project, which will entail the virtual reconstruction of the levees, based upon the latest techniques in levee design. Last week the Senate Appropriations Committee held hearings on the matter; LBJ, Senator Tom Connally, Harry Seay, representing the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and John M. Fouts, representing the Trinity Improvement Association, appeared in behalf of the project.

June

- 6/2 LBJ issues a statement in support of the Supreme Court decision striking down Truman's seizure of the steel mills.
- 6/3 The Senate Privileges and Elections Subcommittee decides to conduct parallel inquiries under Senate Resolutions 187 and 304, incorporating Senator McCarthy's countercharges concerning Senator Benton's finances, campaign tactics, record on subversion and on labor practices.
- 6/5 In a news conference in Washington, Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee points out that he carried the California Democratic presidential primary despite the fact that he openly stated in California that he would vote to sustain President Truman's veto of the tidelands bill.
- 6/6 Ralph Yarborough opens his campaign for governor with a kickoff rally on the courthouse lawn of Athens, Texas, where he levies a heavy attack on Shivers in which he hints of corruption and mismanagement by the Shivers administration.
- Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., of Massachusetts, national campaign manager for Eisenhower, and Jack Porter, oilman and leader of the Texas Eisenhower forces, reject Senator Taft's expressed willingness to compromise "on a fair basis" the Taft-Eisenhower, Texas Republican dispute. Lodge says in his statement: "It is never right to compromise with dishonesty. We are in the right both on the facts and on the law. . . ." Taft's call for a compromise was considered significant because his forces apparently control the party machinery at the convention.
- 6/7 Ralph Yarborough speaks in East Texas, calling for local rule in building farm-to-market roads, soil and water conservation, and in administration of the old-age pension program.
- Six South Texas radio stations announce the formation of the Texas Coast Network. Roy Hofheinz of Houston, owner of KTHT in Houston, is elected president.

- 6/9 Senator Richard Russell claims in an interview printed in *U.S. News & World Report* that he is the one Democratic candidate for president that can beat General Eisenhower, pointing out that polls show he is the only Democrat who can win the thirteen southern states, with their 146 electoral votes, if Eisenhower is the GOP candidate. He declined to say whether he would support the Democratic ticket or would refuse to head a third-party ticket. While opposing a compulsory FEPC, he said he would have no objection to a voluntary FEPC.
- 6/10 LBJ writes his mother that “my plans are to fly to Austin Saturday the 14th and be there until sometime Monday when I will have to go over to Carthage for Miss Margie Neal Day. Then I will have to come right back to Washington to finish this session.”
- c. 6/11 LBJ and Carl Vinson are conferees on the Extension of the Rubber Act.
- 6/12 Reagan Brown, a thirty-year-old from Terrell, is challenging Rayburn for his congressional seat. He launched his campaign on June 7 at Terrell, in Kaufman County, where he built a reputation for being an efficient and industrious county agent. Essentially a conservative candidate, he assails Rayburn as a Truman rubber stamp, and for his failure to speak out against graft, corruption and socialism. He wants a 15% reduction in taxes next year, and is against federal aid for education, socialized medicine, public housing and the large bureaucracy.
- 6/13 Tom C. Gooch, publisher of the *Times Herald*, dies.
- Yarborough attacks Shivers’ law enforcement record, claiming that he permitted a notorious gambling syndicate to flourish in Galveston, taking in more than \$2.5 million in rackets in 1950.
- 6/14 Shivers appoints Jack Dillard, executive secretary of the Baylor University Ex-Students’ Association at Waco, to be his statewide campaign manager for his re-election campaign. Advisors in the campaign are to be Weldon Hart and John Van Cronkhite. This action is viewed as the Governor’s first recognition of the fact that he has two opponents for re-election.
- 6/15 The Alvin Wirtz Dam is dedicated at Marble Falls, one of a chain of six dams which harnessed the Colorado River. LBJ, Homer Thornberry, Tom Miller and Allan Shivers pay tribute to Wirtz, and his granddaughter, Stephanie Cain, unveils a granite marker bearing the name Alvin Wirtz Dam.
- 6/16 Margie Neal Day in Carthage, Texas. LBJ appears at an appreciation party there in her honor. Margie Neal is Texas’ first female senator, and according to one news report, “is still one of the most influential political figures in East Texas.” She is serving on Governor Shivers’ statewide committee for an uninstructed

delegation to the Democratic national convention. Governor Shivers and Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby are among the speakers.

6/18 Carl Vinson writes LBJ about his concern that large cuts could be made on the Senate side with reference to the Fiscal 1953 Military Public Works bill. "I think it would be tragic if any sizeable cuts were made on any of the departmental requests solely in the name of economy and without regard to the effect on our defenses."

Drew Pearson reports in his column that after six months of meeting behind locked doors, the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee has sent to the printers a report on the nation's defenses in which they flatly charge that Truman ignored the warnings of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and put "fiscal consideration" ahead of the nation's security.

6/22 At a press conference at the Baker Hotel in Dallas Sunday morning, General Eisenhower says he has evidence to support his claim that majority rule was overridden by the Taft-dominated Republican machine in Texas.

6/23 LBJ, Alben Barkley, Rayburn and John McCormack meet with Truman at the White House. This meeting preceded another meeting Truman had with the members of the President's Commission on Materials Policy. The five-man commission, composed of William Paley, George Brown, Eric Hodgins, Arthur Bunker, and Edward Mason had been created by Truman to make a long-range study of the nation's material needs.

LBJ makes a short speech on the Senate floor about the first volume of the final report of the President's Materials Policy Commission. "Personally, I do not agree with all the recommendations in the report. But I believe it is a thorough, painstaking, yet bold and daring study of a complicated and vast field. It is a report which reflects the high caliber of the members of the commission."

LBJ is scheduled to attend a stag dinner hosted by Ralph Pittman for the Chief Justice.

6/24 LBJ makes a short speech on the floor of the Senate, "Where did the Defense dollars go?" He states that despite changes in the budget, "we are still putting too much money into manpower and not enough into guns."

At the state AFL convention in Amarillo, leaders call upon delegates to support the Democratic Party and New Deal programs.

Richard Russell, in Phoenix, Arizona, for a series of political appearances, advocates government seizure of the strike-bound steel industry under authority of the 1940 Selective Service Act.

- 6/25 News article reports that the fight over the civil rights plank in the national Democratic platform is taking shape. Texas conservative Neville G. Penrose of Fort Worth, a member of the Democratic State Executive Committee and chairman of Texas' Good Neighbor Commission, is proposing that the Democratic National convention opening July 21 call for each of the states to set up community councils to study minority groups problems and make recommendations through the National Conference of Governors to the federal government.
- 6/27 The House Agricultural Committee unveils a portrait of Judge Marvin Jones. Later that day the Johnsons are scheduled to attend a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer reception and buffet dinner at the Willard Hotel in honor of the Speaker. There is also a world premiere of "Washington Story" at the Louis Palace [?] Theater.
- Senators Paul Douglas and George Smathers write LBJ that they have written John McCormack, chairman of the Democratic Platform and Resolutions Subcommittee, requesting that the 1952 party platform include a plank favoring the establishment of a nationwide presidential primary. They ask that LBJ sign a petition to that effect before July 7.
- 6/28 Key Republican governors Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland and John S. Fine of Pennsylvania skip the National Governors' Conference in Houston on Saturday, because of the polio epidemic there. They control vital, uncommitted Republican delegation votes, and therefore their failure to attend the conference is seen as dulling the "political edge" of the conference.
- 6/29 Max and Marietta Brooks arrive in Washington. The Johnsons host a cocktail party and buffet supper for them, including the Thornberrys, the Speaker, Wright and Merle Patman, Albert and Lera Thomas, the Clarks, Frank and Jean Ikard, Lloyd and Beryl Ann Bentsen, and Bob and Frances [?].

July

- 7/2 John Lyle sends LBJ a memorandum on H.R. 6578, a bill to provide for research into a practical means for the economical conversion of saline waters into water suitable for agricultural, industrial and municipal use. He writes that the Senate Appropriations Committee today decided that the desalinization project was so important and so necessary that it should not be considered hastily and should wait until January before approving the appropriation. The program is of special interest to Texas because of the extreme water shortage.
- Judge James Allred enters a motion dismissing all charges against Lloyd Bentsen, Sr., Elmer Bentsen and thirteen other defendants who had been accused of fraud and conspiracy in the sale of Rio Grande Valley land. A jury had earlier cleared the defendants of the charges of conspiracy but was hung on the fraud issue.

- 7/4 The Senate Public Works Committee is considering the Port Mansfield bill and the Guadalupe River bill, and decides to wait for an omnibus civil functions bill.
- 7/7 LBJ, as chairman of the Preparedness Subcommittee, and Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, who heads an appropriations subcommittee, announce that they have sent a joint request to the Pentagon to set up an advisory committee to examine manpower utilization in all service branches and propose economic moves. According to a news report, the Preparedness Subcommittee views the U.S. armed forces today as "overloaded with a huge and costly 'chair corps' of non-fighting men."
- Republican National Convention opens in Chicago.
- 7/8 LBJ becomes a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. He is named to the post upon the resignation of Senator Connally from the committee.
- 7/11 Eisenhower is nominated for the presidency at the Republican National Convention; Richard Nixon is chosen as the vice-presidential nominee.
- 7/16 Truman signs a new G.I. Bill of Rights for Korean veterans. It provides free schooling, home and business loans, mustering-out pay, and unemployment compensation for servicemen honorably discharged since 6/27/50.
- Richard Russell made a bid for the support of the White House and organized labor in the North by reversing his 1947 position on the Taft-Hartley Act and calling for its repeal. He said the law was "weighted against labor." Russell also said that he could beat Eisenhower.
- The Preparedness Subcommittee issues a report which criticizes the international tin monopoly, but praises the U.S. officials for halting tin purchases and winning a victory over the tin cartel. It also recommended that the U.S. not buy any more tin until the price was reasonable and fair.
- 7/18 In Chicago, preparing for the Democratic National Convention, Averell Harriman is attempting to convince Democratic Party members that any retreat on New or Fair Deal programs, especially on civil rights, would be disastrous.
- Contesting Texas delegations to the Democratic National Convention exchange charges as they begin their fight to be seated.
- 7/19 The Credentials Committee votes to seat anti-Truman delegations from Texas and Mississippi, but provides that the delegations' leaders--Governors Allan Shivers and Hugh White--must appear on Monday, July 21, and declare whether they will support the party's nominees. The declaration is not binding, however,

and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., launches a move to make every state delegation take a “party loyalty pledge.”

- 7/20 Senator Richard Russell explains that his labor statement did not mean outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley legislation, but it did mean revising it in line with the recommendations of a special non-partisan commission.
- 7/21 The Democratic National Convention opens in Chicago. The day before Adlai Stevenson told the Illinois delegation that he had “no desire” for the presidency, but support for Stevenson, which had already been strong, increases on 7/24 after Truman’s alternate as a delegate announces that he will cast his vote for Stevenson on Truman’s instructions. Other candidates include Estes Kefauver, Richard Russell, Averell Harriman and Robert Kerr. LBJ remains in Stonewall; John Connally is working on the Russell campaign in Chicago.
- 7/22 The Democratic National Convention today adopted a sweeping “party loyalty” resolution sponsored by Senator Blair Moody of Michigan. This action was taken after a watered-down version offered by Senator Spessard Holland of Florida was voted down.
- 7/23 Congress unanimously approves the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, adopted March 3, 1952. On 7/25, Puerto Rico officially becomes the first overseas U.S. Commonwealth.
- 7/24 Governor Shivers says that the only promise made in Chicago was that no Texas delegate will cause the name of the Democratic Party candidate to be kept off the ballot in Texas. He did say, however, that “it does not bind any delegate to personally support that nominee.”
- 7/26 Governor Stevenson is nominated for the presidency at the Democratic convention after Averell Harriman withdraws in his favor. The next day Stevenson chooses Senator John Sparkman of Alabama as his running mate.

August

- 8/2 Bexar County Democratic Convention.
- 8/4 Clint Murchison writes LBJ requesting that he determine from the ICC board when the full board will meet to make their report on the Missouri-Pacific situation. He also writes him that he has been talking with Sid Richardson concerning the movement to bolt the Democratic Party for Eisenhower, and says: “I have asked Sid to call you, because if my judgment is correct, out of this movement might come some strong young man who might be your competition in the next senatorial election. From my own affection for you, I think you should ponder seriously whether or not to join this movement. If I am correct in my assumption, I believe you should be made a part of this movement.”

Adrian Spears resigns from the State Democratic Executive Committee to protest the actions of the Shivers forces at the county convention in San Antonio.

8/7 Jim Cain writes LBJ and CTJ thanking them for having the radio station send transcription records of the speeches from the Wirtz Dam dedication on June 15. He also congratulates them on receiving the new television station permit.

8/8 LBJ addresses the American Legion convention in Dallas. He and Legion National Commander Donald R. Wilson are the two principal speakers. LBJ declares present foreign policy a failure. He discusses the lessons learned from Korea also: "But there is still another lesson to be drawn from Korea and it is becoming clearer every day. It is a lesson punctuated by our mounting casualty rates; underlined by our soaring budgets; driven home by the strains and tensions that are tearing our economy apart. It is simply this: we cannot go on fighting 'police actions' all over the world. We cannot continue to waste our lives and our substance in futile wars that offer no hope of settlement--no hope of victory. Korea, of course, cannot be abandoned. We cannot--in honor--mock the sacrifice of our soldiers who have already shed their blood on that far-off peninsula. We cannot--in honor--desert the freedom-loving South Koreans whose integrity we have guaranteed. . . ."

8/12 Issue of Downey Rice and George Martin leaving the Preparedness Subcommittee staff.

8/16 Bob Kerr writes Senator McFarland requesting, as he had in 1949 and 1951, that he be appointed to the Appropriations Committee and replaced as a member of the Public Works Committee, if he is successful in being appointed to Appropriations. LBJ writes Kerr that "Everybody that I know, including myself, wants to be on the Appropriations Committee, but there isn't anybody I would rather see on it more than you. I will certainly put in my nickel's worth for you when the Steering Committee meets."

Maury Maverick, Jr. writes LBJ about the "unpleasant situation" in San Antonio. "At the county convention --the Kilday forces won and a list of delegates are now being sent to the state convention at least a third of whom are not for Adlai Stevenson. . . . The progressive forces in Texas have been advised that you helped cut their throat at Chicago. Now we are told that you are entering the San Antonio picture in behalf of the Shivers' forces to knock us out from any participation at all with Stevenson I have known you for a long time and I want to continue that friendly relationship. Therefore, this report to you is made in a pleasant manner and with the hope that things can be worked out for the general good of the Party."

LBJ writes him on August 25: "I haven't cut anybody's throat. I know nothing about San Antonio and the Stevenson organization. I haven't talked to anyone there. I haven't heard anything about what happened at your convention. Your letter was the first news I had about it. I am for Stevenson and Sparkman and the Democratic Party, and I am going to do everything I can to help them win the election, and I hope every other good Democrat in Texas will do the same."

8/20 Steve Mitchell replaces Frank McKinney as Democratic National Committee chairman.

8/22 LBJ addresses Stephen F. Austin State College commencement exercises in Nacogdoches, and a banquet is held in his honor there.

8/23 KTBC-TV officials announce the signing of a contract for equipment that will give it more power and range than any station now operating in Texas.

After a conference with Allan Shivers in Springfield, Illinois, Governor Adlai Stevenson announces that he supports federal ownership of the tidelands. Shivers announces that he will not support Stevenson.

8/27 Maury Maverick, Jr., cables LBJ in Austin. "Politely and respectfully urge you to make an affirmative stand in behalf of Stevenson and Sparkman before state convention. We need your help now. . . ."

8/28 Lee O'Williams, Jr., writes LBJ a letter of appreciation for his help in Williams' "successful attempt to receive the benefits of 'Operation Bootstrap.'"

Texas committeeman Wright Morrow issues a statement in which he says that "Texas politics is a holocaust" resulting from Stevenson's stand on tidelands.

Responding to inquiries from the press, LBJ makes a statement in Austin in support of Governor Stevenson for the presidency. He says he will support the Democratic nominees for president and vice president. "I thoroughly disagree with Governor Stevenson on his views regarding ownership of our Texas tidelands. The fact Governor Stevenson is wrong on this issue does not automatically make General Eisenhower right on all other issues."

The Senate Preparedness Subcommittee issues a report on U.S. airpower in which it condemns the failure of the Truman Administration to build up U.S. airpower. The committee blamed the present situation on top-level indecision and a tendency to weigh down combat aircraft with too many gimmicks, and recommended appointment of a "production czar" with powers to decide and act.

8/30 At the Air Force Association's convention banquet in Detroit's Masonic Temple, LBJ and Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney jointly receive the H.H. Arnold trophy and are named "Aviation's Men of the Year." The award is made in recognition of their congressional leadership contributing to a stronger and more efficient airpower.

Adlai Stevenson writes LBJ: "I am most grateful for your support in Texas and I can only do this job step-by-step as I see it according to my own best lights and let the chips fall where they may, with the hope, forlorn perhaps, that people will at least give me the credit for sincerity. You have heartened me."

September

9/1 A tornado wrecks Carswell field in Texas. The Air Force estimated the loss at \$48 million; one B-36 is destroyed and 106 are damaged.

9/2 Jesse Andrews cables Sam Rayburn that he is delighted to read that he intends to broadcast on 9/4 on the tidelands issue. Andrews says there is "great popular misconception" about tidelands which is being increased by Shivers and Daniel, and "is doing great harm to the national campaign." Jesse Andrews also writes Rayburn on this same date about the obstacles presented by the Texas Election Code to the Shivers-Daniel plan to cause the Democratic vote to count towards Republican electors.

9/8 LBJ writes Adlai Stevenson "Even though I disagree strongly with your position on the tidelands, I believe you are doing a magnificent job of stating your views to a country that has long needed some plain speaking. . . ." Stevenson writes LBJ on 9/17, thanking him for his letter and for his help. "I know about your feeling on the tidelands, and I hope we can have a thorough talk about it some day. It is difficult for me to see how a candidate for president could take any position inconsistent with the conservation of our national assets."

LBJ writes Maury Maverick that most of the mail he has received has supported his position on the Democratic nominee.

9/9 James Rowe writes LBJ soliciting contributions for Mike Mansfield, who is running for senator from Montana against the Republican incumbent, Senator Ecton.

State Democratic Convention begins at Amarillo. While compelled by Texas law to place the national Democratic ticket and Democratic nominees on the ballot, the convention passes a resolution directing the Democrats to vote for and support the Republican ticket, and decrees that no such action on their part should affect their standing as Democrats in Texas.

- 9/10 At the State Democratic Convention Shivers denounces Truman and urges support for the Eisenhower-Nixon ticket.
- LBJ addresses the 15th anniversary meeting of the Ma Valley Cooperative in Mercedes, Texas.
- 9/11 The LBJ Ranch is damaged by severe flooding. LBJ, in McAllen with Lloyd Bentsen at the time of the flood, flies to Johnson City after failing to reach CTJ by phone. After determining that his family is safe, LBJ and Bentsen attempt to fly back to the Valley for a scheduled barbecue, but the plane in which they are traveling crashes into a tree in an attempted take-off. Both men escape uninjured and return to McAllen in a different plane.
- In a speech later that month LBJ talked about the flood that hit the drought-plagued Hill Country: "All summer long, my 260-acre farm at Stonewall baked in the hot, pitiless sun. When the life-giving rains finally came, they came in torrents--26 inches of water that washed away precious topsoil, uprooted my trees, knocked down fences and smashed equipment I could ill afford to lose. My family was isolated by swirling flood waters that licked at the very doorstep of my house. I was away at the time"
- Drew Pearson writes in his column that the reason for Shivers' maneuverings in Texas is that he wants to run against LBJ in 1954. This means that LBJ will face two tough opponents: Shivers and Martin Dies. Pearson writes that both LBJ and Shivers are worried about Dies, because "both politically and physically, Martin Dies hasn't died."
- 9/17 District Judge Jack Roberts issued a temporary injunction in Austin today barring the Texas Democratic Party from putting the name of General Eisenhower on the November ballot as its candidate. After holding a state convention of ten delegates, the Texas Democratic Party got Secretary of State Jack Ross to certify Eisenhower as its candidate. But the Loyal Democrats, led by Maverick, got a court order temporarily undoing the certification until today's injunction. The Texas Democratic Party wants to get Eisenhower on the ballot under its banner so Democrats can vote for him and not have to say they ever voted Republican.
- 9/18 An article in the *New York Post* charges that vice presidential candidate Richard Nixon has been the recipient of a secret slush fund financed by California businessmen. Nixon maintains that the fund was used for political expenses and not for his personal use, but Eisenhower declines to take a firm stand as to whether Nixon will remain on the ticket. Nixon then makes a nationwide TV speech on 9/23 defending his actions and recounting his personal assets. Reaction to Nixon's speech was overwhelmingly favorable, and on the next day Eisenhower announces that Nixon had completely vindicated himself.

- 9/19 LBJ makes a speech at the dedication of the Texas Medical Association Medical Library building in Austin. He speaks out against socialized medicine. He also mentions that he is a member of the board of directors of Scott & White Hospital in Waco.
- 9/22 The Council of State Chambers of Commerce accuses LBJ and Senator Tom Connally of voting too often for bracer federal spending. In a tabulation of twenty votes, LBJ voted for spending fourteen times, economy five times, and was absent but pronounced for economy on the other issue. Connally was listed as being in favor of bigger government spending twelve times, for economy three times, and absent for five votes.
- 9/23 AFL convention delegates in New York endorse Governor Adlai Stevenson. It is the first time the union convention gave approval to a presidential candidate although its executive council had previously made endorsements.
- LBJ makes a speech at the Corsicana Service Clubs luncheon, where he speaks of the drought that has plagued Texas for twenty-seven months, with \$100 million in losses, and of the flood that recently hit the Hill Country.
- 9/25 LBJ is in Corsicana for the Livestock and Agricultural Show and forecasts that Stevenson will carry Texas and the South in the November election.

October

Severe drought situation in San Angelo, Texas.

- 10/3 LBJ delivers a speech at the Texas Rose Festival in Tyler.
- In a speech in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Eisenhower endorses Senator McCarthy's re-election saying that he and McCarthy have one and the same purpose in seeking to purge the "subversives and the disloyal" from government. "Our differences only apply to methods." Democrats later charge that Eisenhower deleted a defense of General George Marshall from a speech he gave in Milwaukee that day in order to appease McCarthy. Republicans deny the charge.
- 10/4 LBJ is scheduled to open the State Fair in Dallas. Robert Clark writes LBJ on 10/1 describing their plans. LBJ is to meet Clark and Albert Jackson for breakfast. Then LBJ will lead the parade through downtown Dallas to the fairgrounds where he will cut the ribbon opening the Fair and make a short speech. LBJ plans to leave shortly thereafter to catch a plane to Austin to attend the Notre Dame game at 2 p.m.
- 10/9 LBJ makes a speech at the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce regarding his Preparedness Subcommittee work and waste in the Defense Department.

LBJ makes a speech before the Farmers Home Administration meeting in Dallas, celebrating 300 Texas farm families who have paid their farm tenant loans under the Bankhead-Jones Act at least thirty years before they were due. LBJ talks about progress made in agriculture--loans, REA, soil conservation--in the last twenty years.

10/11 LBJ delivers a speech at the Rio Grande Electric Cooperative meeting in Bracketville, Texas on farm progress.

10/12 LBJ meets with the postmasters on Sunday.

10/13 In Dallas, LBJ delivers a speech over the Texas State Network in support of the Democratic platform. He states that "I will support the entire Democratic ticket in this election. That decision represents my convictions not only as a Democrat but as one who believes that his state and his country must come first. . . . I believe in rural electrification, in soil conservation and farm price supports, in home ownership, in flood control and rivers and harbor development, in lowered interest rates, in social security, in jobs for all at decent wages, and, above all, in defense. . . These principles and the long-term welfare of our country must come ahead of any personal, political, and social advantages of the moment."

10/14 LBJ makes a speech before the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet in Paris regarding his subcommittee work.

10/15 Senator Fulbright asks LBJ to talk to Senator Russell about supporting the Democratic nominee. Both Fulbright and Stevenson have talked to Russell and he appears to be on the brink of making a decision; Fulbright feels LBJ can persuade him. The next day Mary Rather writes Fulbright that LBJ talked to Russell a few days ago and urged him "as strongly as he felt that he could to speak for the Democratic Party."

LBJ, accompanied by Congressman Patman, meets and talks with supporters in Paris, Cox Field, and makes stops on the way to Lone Star Steel at Pattonville, Deport, Bogata, Talco, Mt. Pleasant, and Daingerfield. At Lone Star LBJ is to go through the Naval Laboratory and Steel Plant, as well as attend a luncheon. After leaving Lone Star, LBJ is to make brief stops at Hughes Springs, Linden, Atlanta, Queen City, Texarkana Dam on Sulphur, and arrive at the Grim Hotel in Texarkana, where a reception is to be held. He is to speak at a dinner later in the evening to the Northeast Texas Druggists Association.

The possibility is raised that many Texas newspapers are omitting from their radio programs the names of people who are speaking in behalf of the Democratic Party in Texas.

- 10/16 LBJ continues his tour of Texas with Congressman Patman, speaking at the Red River Arsenal, the Lone Star Ordnance Plant, in Redwater, Maud, Douglassville, and Jefferson.
- 10/17 LBJ delivers the introduction speech for Governor Adlai Stevenson in Fort Worth, calling him a "straight shooter--a man who looks you in the eye and keeps his hands above the table." Stevenson delivers a speech there and started out for Dallas immediately afterward.
- Joseph Alsop reports in his column that Republicans have "at last become respectable in the South." While the pro-Eisenhower effort is intense, Rayburn, aided by LBJ and other congressmen, is trying to piece together a statewide loyal Democratic organization on a shoestring budget.
- 10/18 LBJ accompanies Governor Adlai Stevenson on his tour to Dallas, San Antonio and Uvalde. In San Antonio they appear at the Milam Square Plaza and at the Alamo Plaza.
- While LBJ is campaigning with Stevenson, he comes under fire in the press regarding the controversy over moving 900 Weaver Baker tuberculosis sanitarium patients from Mission to an unused portion of McCloskey hospital in Temple. State Representative-elect Eligio de la Garza accuses LBJ and his staff of dodging the issue by refusing to answer his telegrams.
- 10/20 A House appropriations subcommittee today forecast stricter scrutiny of military construction programs, but did not mention the North African air bases which the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee investigated. The House subcommittee criticized some phases of the construction project earlier, but said the record did not support "the legend of scandal and inefficiency" that the Senate subcommittee had charged. LBJ responded to this by writing the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force about these efforts to deceive the taxpayers and commended the air force for "not joining the attempts to whitewash the past bungling on this construction work."
- 10/21 LBJ travels to Bryan.
- 10/22 LBJ travels to Pasadena.
- 10/23 LBJ is scheduled to be in Houston to address Houston Rotary Club.
- LBJ travels from Houston to St. Louis, where stays with Tony Buford. While in Missouri LBJ gives speeches for Democratic candidates, especially Stuart Symington at a barbecue in Kennett and at Poplar Bluff. At Poplar Bluff he attacks past Republican administrations.

- 10/24 Senator Wayne Morse, considered an independent Republican, announces that he is resigning from the Republican Party. Morse disagreed with Republican domestic policies and believed the changes of all-out war would be increased by the election of Eisenhower.
- 10/26 LBJ flies from St. Louis to Phoenix, Arizona to make speeches, there for Senator McFarland.
- 10/27 LBJ gives a speech at a Yuma, Arizona rally in support of Senator McFarland's re-election.
- A political advertisement paid for by the Texas Stevenson-Sparkman Committee appears in all leading Texas papers, in which Richard Russell makes a statement of support for Stevenson. In it he concludes: "It is well known that I do not subscribe to every plank in the Democratic platform nor agree with all of the views of our party's presidential candidate. I am convinced, however, that Governor Stevenson has the potentialities which can make him one of the greatest presidents who has ever served our country. . . ." Russell made the statement on 10/22, but the Texas press had suppressed the statement.
- 10/30 Democratic National Committee chairman Stephen A. Mitchell fires Colonel Lawrence Westbrook, aide to Sam Rayburn and assistant chairman of the Democratic National Committee, for allegedly helping negotiate a government contract while employed by the committee. *The Herald Tribune* (NY) said Westbrook was involved in the biggest five percenter deal ever exposed in Washington--a \$9 million contract in which he and two other men stood to share a \$450,000 commission.

November

- 11/1 Letters are made public today that reveal that the Navy Department has answered the Preparedness Subcommittee's criticisms of substandard housing conditions at some defense bases. Francis P. Whitehair, undersecretary of the navy, writes LBJ describing the various approaches which the Navy has developed to raise the standards of existing housing units, increase the number of homes generally, and keep all rents at the lowest possible levels.
- 11/3 LBJ makes a non-political speech at the annual fox hunt in Center.
- 11/4 Eisenhower and Nixon are elected in an unexpected landslide, carrying 39 of 48 states, including the southern states of Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, Virginia and Tennessee. The Republicans won 442 electoral votes to 89 electoral votes for the Democrats. In other races, Ernest McFarland is defeated by Barry Goldwater; Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., is defeated by John F. Kennedy; Joseph O'Mahoney is defeated by Frank A. Barrett. Other senators elected include Albert Gore, Price Daniel and Henry Jackson.

- 11/6 LBJ makes a post-election speech at the annual membership meeting of the Texas Power Reserve Electric Cooperative in San Antonio. In his speech he says that he doesn't feel that the American public, by choosing Eisenhower, is rejecting twenty years of Democratic policy regarding the REA.
- 11/6 Counsel for Lawrence Westbrook denied today that he was a five percenter or that the company he had represented had violated its contract with the U.S. government.
- 11/8 By now there is already discussion of LBJ for minority leadership position. He is making plans and rounding up support.
- John Stennis writes LBJ recommending that he [LBJ] call Jim Eastland personally and seek his advice on the minority leadership post.
- 11/9 LBJ is to be in Washington all this week, and until the 17th, unless he can cancel the engagement he has for that date in Texas.
- 11/12 Richard Russell pledges to cooperate with Eisenhower in efforts "to achieve world peace." Russell has already announced he is throwing his support to LBJ for the Democratic leadership position, LBJ indicated that if he becomes the Democratic leader, as expected, he will cooperate with the Republicans on national defense and foreign policy matters. Their actions were apparently prompted by Eisenhower's tremendous vote.
- There is talk of Shivers getting a White House appointment, and that he is thinking of running for U.S. senator in 1954.
- 11/13 Jim Rowe leaves a message for LBJ that he just wanted to tell him that some of the liberals are getting ready to "knife" him. The play is to try to put the heat on Lister Hill to run."
- 11/14 LBJ writes Ed Idar regarding the resolutions adopted by the American GI Forum of Texas at San Antonio on July 6, which had just come to his attention. The resolutions condemned LBJ for voting against the appropriation for the Immigration Service, which the Service would have used to continue airlifting wetbacks to the interior of Mexico, and to strengthen its border patrol, as well as operating detention camps for wetbacks pending their deportation to Mexico. His vote was seen as being in line with efforts in South Texas to continue the "peonage" and "exploitation" of workers.
- 11/20 CTJ has gone to the hospital. LBJ is leaving for Texas in the morning. Dick Russell will spend three or four days with him until after Thanksgiving, and then he will take another four days before returning to Washington.

LBJ talks to Governor Stevenson by telephone regarding the minority leadership and the position of Stevenson as head of the Democratic Party. They agree that there is a need to reorganize the Democratic National Committee.

11/29 Eisenhower flies to Korea to make a three-day inspection tour on December 2-4. The trip is kept secret until 12/5.

December

Early Dec. LBJ returns to Washington for discussions regarding the minority leadership position.

Walter Jenkins is working on the television programming for KTBC-TV.

12/8 Texas Poll shows that 39% of those who voted for Eisenhower and 61% of those who voted for Stevenson approve of LBJ. Only 27% of the Eisenhower voters and 5% of the Stevenson voters disapprove of LBJ.

In many speeches LBJ talks of his experiences on Preparedness Subcommittee investigations and notes that military men don't mean to waste government money, but do not have the experience that businessmen have in handling it: "at Harvard and West Point they don't teach you that."

12/11-12/12 LBJ is hunting in South Texas.

12/12 Frank McKinney, Democratic Committee chairman, is under fire in the press due to disclosures that he made a \$68,000 profit on a \$26,000 investment in the stock market.

12/15 LBJ is back in Austin and Stonewall.

12/16 LBJ writes Houston Harte that "I still haven't decided on the leadership and it seems to get more confusing each day.

12/18 Lawrence Westbrook writes LBJ that he has been trying unsuccessfully to get Steve Mitchell to make some kind of investigation into the facts connected with the *Herald Tribune* story about Westbrook that caused Mitchell to fire him. Westbrook contends that Mitchell fired him on his own responsibility and not on the basis of a Democratic National Committee policy regarding such activities, and that Mitchell will do nothing at all to rectify the damage he has caused to Westbrook's reputation.

John Stennis writes LBJ in Austin before leaving for the holidays, and tells him of his support for Skeeter Johnson as secretary of the minority.

- 12/25 Johnsons spend Christmas Eve at the Ranch in Stonewall. They have Christmas dinner with Mrs. Rebekah Johnson in Austin.
- 12/26 LBJ leaves for Washington and the new session of Congress. CTJ and the children are to join him after the first of the year.
- 12/28 In separate interviews Sunday night, Senators Russell Long and Leverett Saltonstall disclose that the Senate Armed Services Committee is holding up the spending of “considerable” amounts of money for overseas air bases until further study can be made of the construction program amid charges of extravagance in construction.
- 12/30 James Rowe writes LBJ about a man writing an article on LBJ for the *Reporter* named Doug Cater, who thinks LBJ’s record is bad on tidelands, natural gas and labor.