

## 1953 Chronology

### January

- 1/2 **LBJ (Lyndon Johnson)** is unanimously elected minority leader of the Senate at the Democratic caucus; he is nominated by Russell and seconded by Greene and Chavez. Earle Clements is elected Democratic whip. Later LBJ is photographed with President Truman in Senate Secretary Leslie Biffle's office.
- 1/3 Congress convenes. New senators are sworn in, including Price Daniel, who replaces Senator Tom Connally. Republicans control both houses of Congress. The party breakdown in the Senate is 48 Republicans, 47 Democrats, and 1 Independent (Senator Wayne Morse).
- LBJ and **CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** are guests of Sarah McClendon at the Women's Press Club dinner that night.
- 1/6 LBJ and CTJ attend a cocktail party given by the Dale Millers in honor of Speaker Rayburn on his birthday.
- 1/7 LBJ, as chairman of the Democratic Policy and Steering Committees, announces new appointments to fill vacancies on the two committees. The Policy Committee will meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. to discuss legislative schedules and strategy, and political problems.
- Truman delivers his final State of the Union Message.
- Senator Bricker and 63 other cosponsors introduce a proposed constitutional amendment that provides that a treaty that denies or abridges any right enumerated in the Constitution will not be of any force and that a treaty will be effective as internal law only after the enactment of appropriate legislation by Congress. It also provides that all executive agreements between the president and any foreign power or international organization should be made in the manner to be prescribed by law and subject to the limitations imposed on treaties. Controversy over the Bricker Amendment continues throughout the year. The Eisenhower Administration opposes the amendment, saying it will stifle the conduct of foreign affairs. Many members of the Republican Party support the amendment, however.
- 1/8 LBJ is invited to tea at the British Embassy by Winston Churchill.
- 1/10 Arthur Perry, formerly Senator Tom Connally's administrative assistant, joins LBJ's Senate staff. Walter Jenkins will work on the Senate Policy Committee staff. Warren Woodward has resigned to open a public relations firm in Dallas in partnership with Harding Lawrence.

At Truman's request, LBJ, Barkley, Rayburn and McCormack meet with the President off-the-record at the White House.

1/12 The Democratic Steering Committee meets to decide on committee assignments. Despite the tradition of seniority, each Democratic freshman senator is given at least one important committee assignment. Stuart Symington is placed on Armed Services, Mike Mansfield on Foreign Relations, John Kennedy on Labor and Public Welfare, Price Daniel and Henry Jackson on Interior and Insular Affairs. Kennedy, Symington and Jackson will also serve on Government Operations. (Senator Humphrey is also assigned to the Foreign Relations Committee.)

After both political parties made their committee assignments, Independent Senator Wayne Morse nominates himself for a seat on the Armed Services Committee. His motion is rejected by the Senate, 81-7. Morse remains without a committee assignment.

Gene Worley hosts a stag chili supper for Speaker Rayburn.

1/13 At LBJ's request, Truman appoints James William Johnson, Jr. to be U.S. attorney for the district of Nevada.

LBJ writes Truman urging him not to issue an executive order establishing the tidelands as a naval oil reserve. On 1/16/53, four days before leaving office, Truman issues the executive order.

1/15 The Senate Armed Services Committee meets to consider the nomination of Charles Wilson, former president of General Motors, as secretary of defense. Under pressure from the Armed Services Committee, and after considerable controversy, Wilson agrees to sell his GM stock and is confirmed by the Senate on 1/26/53.

A passenger train with defective brakes crashes into the terminal, wrecking Union Station in Washington, and injuring 41 persons.

1/16 LBJ takes Oveta Culp Hobby, nominee for Federal Security Administrator, to meet Senator Millikin and other members of the Senate Finance Committee, before which she will appear for confirmation hearings.

1/18 The Johnsons host breakfast for Sid Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Bass, and Speaker Rayburn. That afternoon they attend an afternoon reception for distinguished guests and governors of the states, given by the Inaugural Committee.

- 1/19 Senators Johnson and Daniel host an open house in Senator Johnson's office for Texans visiting Washington for the inauguration.
- LBJ escorts Mrs. Hobby to her confirmation hearings before the Finance Committee.
- LBJ addresses a group of students from Southwest Texas in Washington for the inaugural.
- The Texas State Society reception is held in the Senate Caucus Room.
- 1/20 Eisenhower is sworn-in as president on the Capitol steps; Richard Nixon is sworn in as vice president. Senators Byrd, Russell, Stennis and LBJ postpone a meeting they held after the inauguration regarding Wilson's nomination hearing, because Russell wanted to watch the parade. LBJ returns to his office, and Mary Rather noted that he was looking puzzled that anyone would want to see a parade. The meeting is held the following morning.
- Reporter* magazine publishes an article by Douglass Cater on LBJ: "Lyndon Johnson, Rising Democratic Star."
- 1/23 CTJ hosts a luncheon for Mrs. Bernard Hanks.
- 1/25 Uncle Tom Johnson dies in Johnson City. LBJ flies to Texas on 1/26. The funeral is held on 1/27 at the family cemetery in Johnson City. LBJ returns to Washington very early on 1/23 after visiting his mother in Austin.
- 1/28 The Armed Services Committee approves the nomination of Roger Kyes as deputy secretary of defense after Kyes, a former vice president of GM, agrees to sell his GM stock.
- LBJ meets with Don Cook, Clark Clifford and Stuart Symington to discuss what to do about Drew Pearson's columns.
- 1/29 LBJ meets with Secretary of State Dulles at the State Department to discuss Dulles' plans to go to Europe.
- The Armed Services Committee approves the nomination of the three service secretaries: Secretary of the Army Roger Stevens, Secretary of the Navy Robert Anderson, and Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott. On 1/30 LBJ praises the appointment of Anderson, but believes the "big business" image of Defense Secretary Wilson and the other nominees will be a handicap in their jobs.

## February

- 2/2      Eisenhower delivers his first State of the Union address at noon. Eisenhower pledges a bipartisan foreign policy and announces that the 7th Fleet will no longer be used to prevent the Nationalist forces on Formosa from invading Red China. Referring to the “enslavement” of Eastern Europe by the USSR, Eisenhower also asks Congress to pass a resolution “making clear that this government recognizes no kind of commitment contained in secret understandings of the past with foreign government which permits this kind of enslavement.” LBJ later praises Eisenhower’s call for a bipartisan foreign policy but says that the order affecting the 7th Fleet is “fraught with many consequences and the country should know how far we propose to go on from there with further moves which may logically flow from this act.”
- 2/3      *The Houston Press* reports that 5 IRS agents have resigned within the past 30 days, unhappy over the recent appointment of Robert Phinney as director of the IRS for the southern region, and elimination of the post of deputy collector.
- 2/4      Mrs. Sam Johnson writes LBJ that she is glad Sam Houston is under hospital care, and that CTJ is helping Josefa.
- 2/4-2/5      Albert Jackson is visiting in Washington.
- 2/5      LBJ attends the dedicatory prayer breakfast honoring President Eisenhower, hosted by Conrad Hilton at the Mayflower Hotel.
- 2/6      The Senate renews the Reorganization Act of 1949, giving Eisenhower the same powers to reorganize the government’s executive agencies that Truman. LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in support of the bill.
- LBJ attends a stag dinner honoring Senator Taft, given by James Crowell.
- CTJ hosts a buffet supper for the women staff members and the wives of male staff members.
- 2/7      LBJ attends the Radio Correspondents Association annual dinner.
- Senator Joe McCarthy arrives in Houston to investigate whether improper influence was exercised in a recent pipeline construction case before the Federal Power Commission.
- 2/9      General Omar Bradley, chairman of the JCS, testifies before the Armed Services Committee on the overseas military base program and the general military situation.

- 2/10 The Preparedness Subcommittee holds its final meeting with LBJ as chairman.
- Governor Shivers arrives in Washington and is met by LBJ, Secretary Anderson and Walter Hornaday.
- 2/11 The Armed Services Committee continues to hold hearings on overseas bases.
- 2/12 LBJ and Don Cook meet with the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon regarding the North African report.
- 2/13 The Texas congressional delegation honors LBJ at a luncheon and presents him with an engraved plaque commemorating his service to Texas, and for attaining the leadership at a younger age than any other man in history. Governor Shivers, Secretary Anderson, Judge Marvin Jones, Sam Houston Johnson, Senators Clements and Symington also attend. While Governor Shivers makes no mention of his future political plans in a speech he delivers, he also gave no evidence that he would oppose LBJ in the 1954 Senate race.
- 2/14 LBJ, Speaker Rayburn and Stephen Mitchell attend a reception hosted by Averell Harriman in honor of Adlai Stevenson, in New York. LBJ then makes a short speech at the Eastern States Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner. LBJ, Rayburn, Mitchell and Stevenson then return to Washington by a late train that night.
- 2/15 CTJ and LBJ attend a reception hosted by the Stephen Mitchells in honor of Democratic members of Congress. Stevenson also attends. A stag dinner followed the reception.
- 2/16 The Interior Committee begins consideration of the tidelands bill.
- LBJ attends an afternoon reception for Adlai Stevenson.
- CTJ and LBJ attend a Congressional Club reception for President and Mrs. Eisenhower.
- 2/17 LBJ meets with Defense Secretary Wilson and Daniel Sarnoff, who has been appointed by Eisenhower to draw up the proposed reorganization of the Defense Department.
- 2/18 The Preparedness Subcommittee meets to consider the report on the Moroccan air base.
- 2/19 LBJ and other congressional leaders meet with Eisenhower at the White House for a briefing on the world situation and security problems.

- 2/25 LBJ has lunch with Eisenhower at the White House.
- 2/26 LBJ has a physical exam at Bethesda Naval Hospital.
- 2/27 The Texas State Society gives a dinner and dance in honor of Robert Anderson and Oveta Culp Hobby. Rayburn introduces Anderson; LBJ introduces Hobby. LBJ is elected president of the Texas State Society.
- March**
- The Senate Armed Services Committee is holding hearings on Korea and the Far East.
- 3/1 LBJ begins a series of monthly radio broadcasts from Washington over the Texas State Network.
- 3/2 LBJ attends a luncheon for Gene Autry.
- CTJ and LBJ attend the Texas Exes annual dinner at the National Press Club, honoring Oveta Hobby and Bob Anderson.
- 3/4 As part of Ike's "New Look," the NSC requests that the Defense budget be cut by about \$4 billion in fiscal 1954 and another \$6.6 billion in fiscal 1955 in order to reduce the deficit and achieve a balanced budget by 1955. Proposed cuts were transmitted to Congress on 5/7 over the protests of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Most of the cuts were sustained by the Air Force, whose goal of 143 wings was reduced to 120. Democrats charge that the cuts would imperil the nation's security. On Armed Forces Day, 5/16/53, Truman, Symington and Omar Bradley make speeches critical of the cuts. Eisenhower makes a radio speech on 5/19 defending the "New Look." Eisenhower's prestige, the Korean truce, and the death of Stalin make the outlook for the cuts likely. Eisenhower requested \$35.8 billion, the House voted \$34.4 billion, and the Senate voted \$34.5 billion on 7/23. A conference report on 7/29/53 approved less than \$34.4 billion for the Defense Department.
- 3/4-3/5 LBJ meets with Horace Smith of the State Department concerning the "enslavement" resolution. Eisenhower had asked Congress for such a resolution in his State of the Union address, but the proposal submitted by Dulles focused on Soviet violations of wartime agreements and not on repudiating the Yalta agreements as the conservative Republicans had wanted. On 3/3 the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, by an 8-6 vote, had approved an amendment to the administration proposal stating that the adoption of the resolution "does not constitute any determination by Congress as to the validity or invalidity of any provision of the Yalta agreements." No further action was taken on the

resolution after the death of Stalin on 3/5, due to the uncertainty of Soviet relations.

3/6 LBJ has lunch at the White House with Eisenhower and Anthony Eden, and later attends a stag cocktail party at the British Embassy honoring Eden.

3/7 LBJ attends a session of the Model Senate held by Betty Ann Kilday and other high school students in the Old Supreme Court Room.

3/9 LBJ meets with Oveta Culp Hobby and Jerry Morgan of the White House staff concerning the proposed reorganization of the Federal Security Organization into a new cabinet-level department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Senate passes a joint resolution approving the plan on 3/30. Eisenhower signs the bill on 4/1, and it takes effect on 4/11. Mrs. Hobby becomes the first secretary of HEW.

LBJ and CTJ are invited to dinner at the Chinese Embassy to meet Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

3/11 LBJ attends a luncheon given by Senator Bridges and Speaker Martin in honor of Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

3/12 CAB hearings on Pioneer and other airlines in Texas.

Luci appears in the Founders Day program at the Congressional Club.

3/13 Lynda appears on a TV program.

3/14 McCarthy's investigating subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee asks the State Department to list all newspapers, periodicals and commentators used in the information program, and the authors of books placed in overseas libraries. In April his two staff investigators, Roy Cohn and David Schine, make a highly publicized tour of European International Information Administration libraries. An official of the US High Commission in Germany, Theodore Kaghan, testifies before the subcommittee on 4/28 and 4/29, calling Cohn and Schine "junketeering gumshoes." He resigns from the State Department on 5/11, saying that the Department had requested his resignation.

3/14-3/15 The Weisls are visiting in Washington.

3/18 LBJ attends a luncheon for officers of the Texas State Society.

- LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor urging that the Preparedness Subcommittee be continued. Because the Republicans control the Senate, LBJ will no longer serve as chairman.
- 3/19 Birthday party for Lynda.
- 3/20 Senator Morse requests that his seat be changed from the Republican to the Democratic side of the aisle.
- 3/21 CTJ attends the Business and Professional Women's Club luncheon.
- 3/25 Luci appears on WMAL-TV. CTJ attends a tea given for Mrs. Eisenhower by Mrs. Taft.
- LBJ hosts a luncheon for 30 representatives of the Brazos Rural Electric Cooperative.
- 3/26 LBJ attends a luncheon aboard the *Williamson* for the French premier.
- 3/27 The Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee reports a bill supporting the states' right to the submerged land within their historic boundaries. A filibuster against the bill, led by Senators Hill', Lehman and Douglas, proved unsuccessful, although Morse set a new record by speaking for 22 hours and 26 minutes on 4/27. On 5/5 the Senate approved the bill with only minor changes by a roll-call vote of 56-35. The House approved the bill on 5/13 and Eisenhower signed the bill on 5/22.
- Senator McCarthy announces that his investigating subcommittee has negotiated an agreement with Greek ship owners to halt trade with Communist China, North Korea and the USSR. Mutual Security Director Harold Stassen tells the subcommittee on 3/30 that its negotiations have "harmed" and "undermined" broader efforts by the Defense and State Departments to restrict trade with communist countries. On 4/1 McCarthy meets with Secretary of State Dulles at the State Department, where Dulles points out to him the dangers of congressional committees interfering in the area of foreign relations. McCarthy later tells the press that his talk with Dulles will in no way affect the subcommittee's work, but that he will keep the State Department better informed in the future.
- LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in support of the nomination of Charles Bohlen as ambassador to the USSR. Bohlen's nomination had been cleared by the Foreign Relations Committee by a 15-0 vote, but Senator McCarthy and other senators later charged that State Department security officer Scott McLeod had refused to clear Bohlen's appointment because of questionable FBI reports, but he had been overridden by Dulles. Senators Taft and Sparkman are



chosen by the Foreign Relations Committee to examine the reports. After studying the files for 3 hours, the 2 senators report that there was nothing in them that was not previously known to the committee. Bohlen's appointment is confirmed on 3/27 by a vote of 74 to 13. Of the 13 opposing the nomination, 11 were Republicans.

3/28 LBJ attends a luncheon given by Senator Taft for the French premier.

Communists agree to an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners in Korea. Two days later they agree to exchange prisoners not desiring repatriation to a neutral agency. The exchange begins on 4/20, and full negotiations for an armistice begin on 4/26.

3/29 LBJ makes a radio and TV speech over the Texas State Network, along with Price Daniel. They discuss the tidelands bill.

3/30 LBJ attends a luncheon given by Speaker Martin for Mary Pickford, who is starting a nationwide savings bond drive.

## April

4/1 LBJ attends a stag dinner of the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee at the Mayflower.

4/5 LBJ makes the first in a series of regular monthly television appearances for Texas TV stations. Oveta Culp Hobby is his first guest.

4/8 Early morning meeting of the board of directors of Scott & White.

4/9 LBJ writes Dulles requesting that the State Department give urgent consideration to determining what can be done to halt the upward trend in imports of crude oil.

LBJ attends a luncheon at the White House for Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

4/11 LBJ attends the swearing-in ceremony for Oveta Culp Hobby as HEW secretary at the White House.

LBJ delivers a speech at the Gridiron Dinner. Commenting on the divisions within the Republican Party, LBJ says "Hardly a day passes that the President doesn't find a new Republican Party on his White House doorstep. They have the Republican Party of President Eisenhower. They have the Republican Party of Senator Taft. They have the Republican Party of Senator Morse. And somewhere--way out behind the Chicago Tribune Tower--is the Republican Party of Senator McCarthy with one foot heavy in Greece and the other foot in

Secretary Dulles' security files. It makes bipartisanship right difficult. We Democrats need to know which one of the Republican Parties to be bipartisan with."

- 4/14 Jim Rowe reports on a conversation he had with a friend who had been on a six-week tour of Texas and had encountered extensive opposition to LBJ. Most people in Texas, he reports, expect Shivers to run for LBJ's Senate seat in 1954. Senator Saltonstall gives a luncheon for Field Marshall Montgomery and General Collins.
- 4/15 E.H. Perry, John Connally, George and Herman Brown, Sid Richardson and the Wesley Wests are visiting in Washington, and the Johnsons host a dinner for them.
- 4/16 LBJ accompanies Eisenhower to the opening baseball game in Washington.
- The Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee holds hearings on educational TV.
- 4/17 LBJ addresses the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Senators George, Mansfield, Symington and Russell also speak.
- LBJ and CTJ host a cocktail party at the Carlton Hotel in honor of the Hobbys and the Andersons.
- 4/18 LBJ [and CTJ?] go to New York for a newspaper luncheon on 4/20, as guests of John Runyon.
- 4/19 On LBJ's broadcast over the Texas State Network, LBJ is questioned about legislation that would allow working mothers to deduct salaries they pay for maids to care for their children from their income tax. LBJ replies "I'm for it. . . . The services of these maids are just as important to working mothers as a stenographer is to a business man, and I hope we can get the working mothers that relief to which they are entitled in simple justice."
- 4/21 LBJ speaks at the Texas State Society breakfast on San Jacinto Day. President and Mrs. Eisenhower are presented with gold life membership cards in the Texas State Society.
- 4/25 CTJ makes an industrial tour of Longview as a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Estes. CTJ has been in East Texas several days visiting her father.
- 4/29 CTJ attends the Senate Ladies luncheon for Mrs. Eisenhower in the Senate Caucus Room.

4/30

LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in support of the tidelands bill.

CTJ and LBJ take the train to Kentucky to attend the Kentucky Derby. They return by private plane on May 3.

**May**

- 5/1 Wayne Morse has proposed a referendum in Texas on the tidelands issue.
- 5/4 CTJ takes an early-morning train to Delaware.
- 5/5 The tidelands bill passes the Senate.
- 5/6 LBJ flies to Texas in Jim Abercrombie's plane and stays at the LBJ Ranch until 5/11. CTJ remains in Washington.
- 5/7 CTJ attends a breakfast for Mrs. Eisenhower at the Congressional Club.
- 5/11 LBJ goes to Austin and then to Houston to attend the funeral on 5/12 of Wesley West's mother.
- 5/14 LBJ flies from Houston to Hillsboro to attend the funeral of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rather, who died in an auto accident. LBJ returns to Houston later that day. The Rathers are survived by three small children, and Mary Rather writes LBJ from Hillsboro on 5/28 that she must resign from the office staff to care for the children in Hillsboro.
- 5/15 LBJ returns to Washington from Houston.
- CTJ hosts the 75th Club luncheon at her home.
- 5/17 Byron Skelton and 295 other Texas Democrats meet at Lake Buchanan to decide what to do to promote the interests of the Democratic Party in Texas. Since Texas does not have a Democratic National Committeeman and the official Democratic Party machinery is not in the hands of true Democrats, they decide to set up a temporary organization until a permanent organization can be formed at a statewide meeting in the fall.
- 5/18 LBJ attends a White House luncheon for the Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- 5/19 Over the opposition of the administration, the Senate passes a bill authorizing the President to freeze prices, wages and rents for 90 days in a national emergency. When the bill reaches the House they drop the controls provision and insert a provision creating the Small Business Administration. On June 22, the Senate rejects the conference report, arguing that the SBA provision had not been considered by the Senate. Republican Senators Langer, Young, Williams and Independent Senator Morse join all 43 Democrats in opposing the report. The vote is 42-47. The second conference report, minus the SBA provision, was accepted by both houses on 6/30. (See the Doris Fleeson column.)

- 5/22 LBJ attends the signing of the tidelands bill at the White House.  
Mrs. Hobby addresses the Congressional Club at 3 p.m.
- 5/24 LBJ and CTJ are luncheon guests of Senator Byrd at Rosemont.  
LBJ's regular TV program is broadcast.
- 5/25 LBJ addresses the Women's National Democratic Club luncheon.
- 5/26 LBJ and CTJ host a coffee for the Texas ladies attending the Federated Women's Clubs Convention, and host a luncheon for the Karnack graduating class.
- 5/28 CTJ hosts a tea of ice cream and cake for Karnack graduates.
- 5/29 LBJ is the guest speaker at the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner in Jackson, Mississippi; he criticizes Republicans who are opposing Eisenhower's programs. LBJ returns to Washington on 5/30.
- June**
- 6/1 *The Christian Science Monitor* publishes an article speculating on whether or not Governor Shivers will run for LBJ's Senate seat in 1954.  
CTJ attends a luncheon at the White House.
- 6/2 CTJ attends a reception at the British Embassy in celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, which took place today.
- 6/3 The *Time* magazine photographer is scheduled to photograph LBJ, Rayburn and Russell.
- 6/6 The *Time* photographer takes pictures at the Johnson home. *Time* does a cover story on LBJ later in the month. (6/22 issue)
- 6/9 Robert Taft announces that he will relinquish the post of majority leader due to serious illness. William Knowland will serve as majority leader for the remainder of the session. LBJ speaks on the Senate floor expressing his regret that Taft will not act as majority leader.  
Walter Reuther hosts an informal dinner for members of Congress.
- 6/10-6/12 LBJ goes to New York.

- 6/13 National Press Club barbecue, rodeo and Navy Band concert.
- 6/17 The Senate Armed Services Committee meets to discuss the Mutual Security Act of 1953.
- 6/19 LBJ meets with Secretary Dulles to discuss the Korean situation.
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed after Eisenhower declines to intervene in the case.
- 6/20 More than 1000 attend the Texas State Society barbecue. Gene Autry entertains and boosts LBJ as a candidate for president.
- 6/22 RCA is sponsoring a buffet luncheon and color TV demonstration.
- 6/24 LBJ hosts a luncheon for Truman at the Capitol and later attends a stag dinner in Truman's honor given by Senator Lucas.
- 6/25 LBJ attends a luncheon at the White House and discusses the drought in Texas.
- CTJ goes to the Phipps Clinic, at Johns Hopkins Hospital.
- 6/27 LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor on the drought situation in Texas. Eisenhower has declared the area a drought disaster area, but LBJ says further legislation is needed and that he is ready to introduce whatever legislation is necessary as soon as Eisenhower indicates that it is needed.
- 6/29 LBJ and 10 other senators introduce legislation to authorize immediate aid to farmers and ranchers stricken by drought in the Southwest.
- LBJ makes a radio broadcast over the Texas State Network with Congressmen Wright Patman and Walter Rogers. They discuss the increased interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board and the drought in Texas.
- 6/30 LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in support of the Mutual Assistance Program.
- Late June-Early July  
Steve Mitchell is traveling in Texas.
- July**
- 7/2 Luci's birthday party.

- 7/5 LBJ makes his regular radio broadcast over the Texas State Network and discusses the accomplishments of the legislative session: Tideland's, one-year extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement, the Reorganization bill. He points out that many of Eisenhower's programs were passed over the opposition of members of the Republican Party and with the support of the Democrats.
- 7/6 LBJ writes Morine Scofield (Wesley West's secretary) that Mary [Rather] "has come and gone. We miss her a great deal and the office isn't the same without her." She had returned briefly to Washington to find and train a replacement and has now returned to Hillsboro.
- 7/8 Dudley Dougherty writes LBJ, assuring him of his support in the 1954 Senate election.
- LBJ speaks on the Senate floor concerning the drought relief program proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Benson. LBJ supports the program as the beginning of an answer to drought relief.
- 7/9 LBJ is scheduled to attend a conference of congressional leaders in Secretary Dulles' office, prior to a State Department conference with the foreign ministers of France and Britain.
- LBJ meets with Homer Gruenther at the White House.
- Senator Kerr offers an amendment to the pending drought-aid bill, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to support cattle prices at 90% parity. The amendment is defeated by voice vote, but \$130 million is added to the disaster loan fund for special livestock loans through 1955.
- McCarthy accepts the resignation of J.B. Matthews as executive director of the Investigating Subcommittee. Matthews had written an article in the July issue of *The American Mercury* entitled "Reds and Our Churches," which included the statement that "The largest single group supporting the communist apparatus in the United States today is composed of Protestant clergymen." The article brought protests from four of the seven subcommittee members. All three Democratic members of the subcommittee (Jackson, McClellan and Symington) resign in protest against a vote by the GOP majority to give McCarthy sole authority to hire and fire staff members.
- 7/10 LBJ goes to the White House for the signing of the bill establishing the Commission on Federal Trade Relations. There he is invited by Eisenhower to accompany him on a trip to Texas to investigate the drought situation. LBJ goes directly from the White House to the airport with Eisenhower, and they fly to Amarillo where Eisenhower meets with the governors of six states.

- 7/11 State Representative Joe Pool of Dallas criticizes LBJ for delaying issuance of a federal survey on Texas water needs. The report is dated 12/52 and it has just been released by LBJ.
- 7/14 LBJ attends a luncheon at the White House for visiting foreign ministers. Senator George rides over to the White House with LBJ.
- 7/15 CTJ and Luci are scheduled to leave for Texas. (LBJ writes Shivers on 7/25 that she has been in Austin several days.)
- 7/17 LBJ writes Jake Pickle about his fall schedule: "My best guess right now is that I will arrive in Texas on August 1. I would like to make the three engagements that weekend and then take off a few weeks for a rest. Then around the first of September I am ready to send a lot of time over the state and will look forward to your advice as to an itinerary."
- 7/18 LBJ and Congressman Wingate Lucas meet the train from Fort Worth bringing 500 Shriners to Washington. They all have a photo made on the Capitol steps on 7/19.
- 7/21 LBJ has a breakfast meeting with Bernard Baruch and Senator Gore. He later attends an executive meeting of the Armed Services Committee, which is considering the military and naval public works construction bill.
- 7/23 LBJ attends a morning meeting at the White House.
- 7/25 LBJ sends Allan Shivers a copy of the Reclamation Bureau's report on Texas water problems, which just came off the presses as a Senate document. He has reviewed the problem with Eisenhower and hopes that he and Shivers can meet with Reclamation Bureau officials to decide on a course of action.
- 7/27 The Korean armistice is formally signed.
- 7/29 LBJ, Senators Russell, Alexander Smith and Knowland are scheduled to accompany Secretary of State Dulles on Sunday to South Korea to meet with President Syngman Rhee to discuss converting the Korean truce into permanent peace in the Far East. LBJ will have to cancel two speaking engagements in Fort Worth to make the trip.
- 7/30 LBJ and other legislative leaders meet with Eisenhower for a breakfast meeting at the White House.
- 7/31 Senator Taft dies; LBJ delivers a tribute to him on the Senate floor.



Senators scheduled to go to Korea with Secretary Dulles cancel their participation in the trip because the scheduled adjournment of Congress will be delayed to work on Eisenhower's request that Congress consider an increase in the debt limitation.

## August

8/1 LBJ addresses the American Legion State Convention in Houston and that evening addresses the American GI Forum in Fort Worth.

8/3 LBJ addresses the Texas State Convention of the Sheriffs Association in Fort Worth.

Congress adjourns Monday night with both parties praising LBJ's leadership.

## Early August

LBJ is in Texas, vacationing at the Ranch. He travels to Austin each Monday to meet with constituents and soon begins an extensive speaking tour of Texas.

8/13 LBJ attends the Elgin festival and parade.

8/18 The Interior Department issues a broad policy statement, personally endorsed by Eisenhower, on federal water and power policy. The statement stressed that local interests, either private or state or local government, should construct water and hydroelectric power projects wherever possible. This policy led to the withdrawal of the federal commitment to projects which the federal government would have sought to build under the Roosevelt and Truman administrations. Thus the Interior Department ended attempts to prevent the private development of the hydroelectric power at Hells Canyon.

8/19 LBJ attends a morning meeting of the board of directors of Scott and White Hospital in Temple.

LBJ discusses the recent Stevenson press conference in New York with Sam Rayburn.

8/20 LBJ apparently flies to Houston Wesley West's plane.

8/21 LBJ flies to Tyler en route in Quitman, where he addresses the Old Settlers Reunion.

8/26 LBJ addresses a joint meeting of Lion and Rotary Clubs in Fredericksburg.

8/28 LBJ celebrates his birthday with a party.

8/30 Senator Russell's mother dies in Winder, Georgia. LBJ attends the funeral.

8/31 Secretary of Labor Martin Durkin submits his resignation to Eisenhower. Durkin, who had previously been president of the AFL Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union, later tells a news conference he resigned because the administration had broken an understanding with him to request revision of the Taft-Hartley law.

## September

9/3 LBJ flies to Fort Worth, where he is met by John Connally. They drive to Mineral Wells where LBJ and Sam Rayburn address the Texas Power Reserve Electric Cooperative Meeting. That afternoon LBJ rides in the Palo Pinto Livestock Association parade and speaks at their rodeo that night. He returns to Austin the next day.

9/4 Meeting of district men in Stonewall.

9/6 Belden Poll shows that LBJ's popularity in Texas is higher than ever before. 62 percent of the adult population approves of the way he is handling his job. A *Dallas News* article reports on long-range talk of LBJ as a candidate for president in 1956.

9/8 Chief Justice Fred Vinson dies; Eisenhower appoints Earl Warren to replace Vinson.

9/14 LBJ makes his weekly broadcast in Austin and discusses the Bricker Amendment. LBJ feels the opposing sides will be able to write a satisfactory amendment in the next congressional session that will guarantee the American people their constitutional rights and at the same time give the President the freedom he needs to conduct foreign affairs.

LBJ visits the Austin Kiwanis Club with Sherman Birdwell, then leaves that afternoon for Lubbock.

9/15 LBJ is in Lubbock for a two-day visit to the Panhandle. He meets with the High Plains water group, the Lions Club, addresses 2,400 students at convocation exercises, meets with a Texas Tech group about PanTex Ordnance and addresses 800 people at the annual Inter-City Rotary meeting.

9/16 LBJ attends a breakfast and open house in Levelland, a 10 a.m. coffee in Littlefield, and a noon meeting of Plainview Civic Clubs. That afternoon he makes brief stops in Abernathy and Hale Center before flying to Houston.

- 9/17 LBJ is in Houston all day. He addresses the Constitution Day Dinner in Galveston that night where he says that the tide is turning against the communists throughout the world.
- 9/18 LBJ is in his Houston office, and flies to Dallas that night where he is met by John Connally, who drives him to Fort Worth.
- 9/19 LBJ addresses the Reunion of the First Officers' Training Camp Association in Fort Worth at ten a.m. Then LBJ flies to Paris, Texas to address the Lamar County Electric Coop and flies to the West ranch that evening.
- 9/21 LBJ attends a meeting of bank directors of Citizens State Bank in Johnson City, then spends the day in the Austin office.
- 9/22 LBJ addresses civic groups in Hillsboro at noon, then visits Waxahachie, Ennis, Corsicana and Blooming Grove, spending the night in Corsicana.
- 9/23 LBJ breakfasts in Mexia, then visits Teague, Fairfield, Buffalo, attends an "LBJ Day" barbecue in Hearne. In the afternoon he visits Calvert, Bremond, Franklin, Marlin and spends the night in Waco.
- 9/24 LBJ addresses freshmen and sophomores at Baylor University at 10 a.m., addresses a Rotary Club luncheon in Temple and visits Belton, Killeen, Copperas Cove, and Catesville. He spends the night in Waco.
- 9/25 LBJ spends the day in Waco at the Roosevelt Hotel, breakfasts with local leaders, addresses the meeting of county judges and commissioners, where he is introduced by Congressman Poage, and lunches with 100 important citizens. He also holds an open house and a press reception in the afternoon before returning to Stonewall that night.
- 9/27 LBJ makes his weekly radio broadcast about tax relief. A 10 percent tax cut is scheduled for next year and the Excess Profits Tax is scheduled to expire. Therefore the government must come up with \$5 billion more revenue or cut spending.
- 9/28 Austin office appointments.
- 9/30 LBJ speaks in Gonzales, Cuero, Kenedy, Beeville and Sinton and spends the night in Corpus Christi.

**October**

- 10/1 LBJ spends the day in Corpus Christi, beginning his day with a breakfast meeting of 100 community leaders, visiting high schools, inspecting a home show, addressing a Rotary and Kiwanis Club luncheon. He meets with union members, Latin Americans, LBJ county chairmen, Farm Bureau directors and officials from the REA. He holds an open house in the Robert Driscall Hotel from 4:30 to 5:30 before leaving for Harlingen.
- 10/2 LBJ spends the day in the Valley, visiting San Benito, Weslaco and Pharr in the morning. He addresses a joint service club luncheon in McAllen and visits Mission, Edinburg, and Raymondville in the afternoon. Returning to McAllen, he attends a Democratic Women's Club reception at 6 p.m. and addresses the Elks Club's annual dinner honoring working newspaper people. He flies to the West ranch later that evening.
- 10/4 In his weekly radio broadcast LBJ says that while the drought has broken in some parts of the state, there is still a need for drought relief. He quotes a telegram he sent Agriculture Secretary Benson urging him to establish a cattle-buying program to shore up declining cattle prices.
- 10/5 Austin office appointments. LBJ leaves for Houston that night.
- 10/6 LBJ spends the morning meeting with Negro and union leaders in his Houston office. He addresses the Rosenberg Lions Club at noon and holds an open house at the YMCA from 4:30 to 6:30.
- 10/7 Warren Bellows, Allen Carruta and John Crooker, Jr., host a breakfast for business and professional leaders in honor of LBJ. LBJ then addresses the Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association at the Rice Hotel and attends a luncheon meeting of the Heights Rotary Club.
- 10/8 LBJ returns to Austin and addresses the Austin Lions Club luncheon, praising past president Jake Pickle and current president Bob Phinney. He talks about how he and Pickle are traveling throughout the state and intend to cover the whole state that fall. LBJ then visits Buda, Kyle and San Marcos, and addresses a dinner meeting of the business men's club.
- 10/9 LBJ addresses a dinner meeting of the Texas Association of Broadcasters in Mineral Wells.
- 10/10 LBJ drives from Mineral Wells to Dallas, where he rides in the State Fair parade and attends the Texas-O.U. football game.

- 10/11 LBJ makes his weekly radio broadcast and attends a brunch in Dallas.
- 10/12 LBJ attends a breakfast at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas and addresses the Texas Water Conservation Association luncheon meeting on the need for a statewide solution to Texas' water problems. In the afternoon LBJ attends an open house at the Baker Hotel arranged by Bob Clark, and then flies to Chicago that night.
- 10/13 LBJ addresses the National Association of Retail Druggists convention in Chicago and flies to Abilene, Texas that night.
- 10/14 LBJ addresses an assembly at Hardin-Simmons College at 9:45 and an assembly at Abilene Christian College at 11:15. He then speaks at the Kiwanis Club luncheon before attending an open house at the Wooten Hotel in Abilene. LBJ later flies to Fort Worth where he attends a "Thank you, Korean veterans" meeting at Will Rogers Auditorium.
- 10/15 LBJ flies to Austin and addresses the Texas Research League at noon, returning to Stonewall that night.
- 10/16 LBJ [and CTJ?] fly from the West Ranch to Snyder to attend a luncheon at the Diamond M Ranch arranged by C.T. McLaughlin. In the afternoon CTJ attends a party at the Snyder Country Club. That evening they attend a barbecue sponsored by the Snyder Chamber of Commerce celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of Snyder.
- 10/17 CTJ and LBJ fly to the West Ranch from Snyder.
- 10/19 LBJ attends a meeting of stockholders of the Citizens State Bank in Johnson City, makes his weekly broadcasts and keeps appointments in Austin before flying to El Paso.
- Eisenhower and the President of Mexico attend the dedication of the Falcon Dam on the Rio Grande River.
- 10/20 In El Paso, LBJ breakfasts with the El Paso Cotton Association, and addresses the El Paso Chamber of Commerce at noon. In the afternoon he addresses the Pan American Round Table. That evening he meets with the military affairs group and armed services group at the Fort Bliss Officers Club.
- 10/21 Still in El Paso, LBJ meets with county representatives from the lower counties of the 16th District in the morning. At noon he addresses the El Paso Kiwanis Club, before flying to Lubbock that afternoon. He spends the night in Brownfield.
- 10/22-10/24 CTJ's diary notes: "To Connallys and Dallas Fair."

- 10/22 LBJ rides in the parade at the Brownfield Harvest Festival and makes an address at the festival that afternoon. After the speech LBJ drives to Midland to address the dinner meeting of the Lions Club ladies meeting.
- 10/23 LBJ breakfasts with businessmen and key officials and makes informal visits in Midland before leaving that afternoon for Stonewall.
- 10/25 LBJ addresses the annual fall meeting of the 9th Congressional District American Legion in Scaly.
- In his weekly radio broadcast, LBJ applauds Agriculture Secretary Benson's decision to include hay in the emergency feed program as "a realistic note" in the drought relief program.
- 10/26 LBJ keeps Austin office appointments; he flies to Beaumont that evening.
- 10/27 LBJ breakfasts with key civic leaders in Beaumont and holds a press conference before attending the Rotary Club luncheon in Orange. That afternoon he tours the U.S. Steel plant and attends an informal coffee in Selshee. LBJ addresses the annual banquet of the Texas League of Municipalities in Beaumont.
- 10/28 LBJ attends a coffee and open house in the morning in Beaumont and addresses the Beaumont Rotary Club luncheon before returning to Stonewall.
- 10/29-11/1 LBJ is in Stonewall.

## November

- 11/4 LBJ flies to San Angelo to address a luncheon meeting at the St. Angelus Hotel. LBJ's right hand is bandaged because he has recently had a minor operation. After a brief television interview, LBJ flies to Uvalde and visits with John Nance Garner and addresses the regional water conservation meeting. He spends the night at Dolph Briscoe's ranch.
- 11/5 LBJ addresses the Kerrville Lions Club luncheon. The speech is broadcast over the local radio station. That evening he speaks at the Methodist brotherhood meeting in Blanco.
- 11/6 LBJ addresses the Texas Society of Architects luncheon meeting. LBJ has also been invited by Marietta Brooks. That afternoon CTJ and LBJ fly to Houston to attend a cocktail party given in their honor by the Wesley Wests.

In a speech in Chicago, Attorney General Brownell says that Truman knew that Harry Dexter White was a “Russian spy” when he appointed him to a post on the International Monetary Fund in 1946. The next day the House Un-American Activities Committee issues subpoenas for Truman, former Secretary of State James Byrnes and Justice Tom Clark, who had been attorney general at the time of the White appointment. All three men refuse to answer the subpoenas. On 11/16 Truman makes a nationwide radio and TV address to answer the charges. He maintains that he made the appointment with the approval of J. Edgar Hoover because failing to do so would have tipped off many other people then under surveillance by the FBI. Truman also charges that the Eisenhower Administration has “fully embraced, for political advantage, McCarthyism.”

- 11/7 CTJ hosts a luncheon at 1901 Dillman before the Texas-Baylor football game. Mary Rather is their guest and later writes LBJ: “Being with you and Bird Friday and Saturday was wonderful. I enjoyed every moment and love you both very much.”
- 11/8 LBJ makes his weekly radio broadcast.
- CTJ’s diary notes: “Marshall guests for weekend.”
- 11/9 LBJ holds his Monday office hours in Austin and then addresses the Texas Motor Carriers Association at their luncheon meeting.
- 11/10 LBJ addresses the combined civic clubs luncheons in Weatherford with Jim Wright. That afternoon he addresses the Texas Farm Bureau Federation in Mineral Wells and in the evening makes a speech in Stephenville to the local farmers and ranchers.
- CTJ makes a speech to the Texas Federation of Women’s Clubs 56th annual convention in Austin. They are also celebrating the 20th anniversary of their headquarters building in Austin.
- 11/11 LBJ spends the day in Austin and flies that evening to Houston.
- 11/12 LBJ meets with a railroad group in Houston for breakfast, attends a coffee at the Houston Club, and keeps appointments in his Houston office the rest of the day.
- 11/13 LBJ addresses the joint civic club luncheon in Jacksonville and then flies to Marshall to attend the Junior Chamber of Commerce banquet with CTJ. They return to Stonewall that night.
- 11/14 LBJ attends the Texas-TCU football game in Austin.

- 11/15 LBJ makes his weekly radio broadcast and attends a barbecue dinner at Herman Heep's ranch west of San Marcos.
- 11/16 LBJ writes a constituent that "we have enjoyed ourselves the last few months. I have been doing a good deal of traveling, of course, and Lady Bird has gone with me on quite a few trips."
- LBJ has no scheduled Austin office appointments, and leaves that afternoon for Wichita Falls for a three-day North Texas tour. He attends an open house at the Kemp Hotel, addresses a dinner meeting of the Wichita Falls Federated Business and Professional Women's Club, and addresses 400 civil service employees at the Courthouse.
- 11/17 LBJ visits Henrietta and Decatur, and addresses a joint civic club luncheon in Denton. That afternoon he attends a community center reception in Gainesville. He then flies to Electra to attend a reception and that night attends the annual chamber of commerce banquet. His address is broadcast over local radio. He returns to Wichita Falls for the night.
- 11/18 On his continuing North Texas tour, LBJ visits Archer City, Olney and Graham, where he addresses a luncheon meeting of the Lions Club. In the afternoon he visits Crowell and Vernon before returning to Wichita Falls.
- 11/19 LBJ flies from Wichita Falls to Georgetown to address the student body of Southwestern University. That afternoon he and Jake Pickle drive to Bellville to address the E.O.M. Club.
- 11/21 CTJ hosts a dinner for KTBC clients at the Ranch.
- 11/25 LBJ spends the day in San Antonio, speaking at Thomas Jefferson High School and a Lions Club luncheon, and visiting with supporters at the Plaza Hotel. That evening he has TV interviews with WOAI-TV and KEYL-TV before returning to Austin. LBJ later writes Adrian Spears that "the San Antonio visit was the most fruitful trip I have made this fall. . . ."
- LBJ writes James Henry, president of KTVE Longview, that he is planning to make a series of 1-2 minute film clips on spot news items when he returns to Washington next year. LBJ will make the clips available for broadcast at his own expense.
- 11/26 Thanksgiving.
- 11/27 LBJ addresses the Texas State Teachers Association convention in Dallas and talks about the importance of education: "A child who is denied education is also



denied participation in the affairs of this country. He is at best only a hyphenated citizen--half aware--of the problems of the world; half prepared to meet them. . . . There is nothing so penny-wise and pound-foolish as scrimping on our education."

11/28 CTJ hosts a dinner for KTBC clients at the Ranch.

11/30 LBJ flies to Childress and visits with supporters, then drives to Wellington.

## December

12/1 LBJ goes quail hunting in Collingworth County and that evening addresses farm bureau and civic clubs in Wellington. LBJ later writes about his fall tour to the owner of the ranch on which he hunted: "But best of all, for me, after the past three months of traveling at high speed over Texas, and making more than 200 speeches, was the rich pleasure you afforded me of just having a chance to relax in the company of some good friends."

12/2 LBJ speaks at the American Legion Hall in Shamrock at 9 a.m. and at a luncheon meeting in Pampa. That afternoon he attends a Water District Board meeting and a meeting of county chairmen. A free barbecue is given in his honor that night and LBJ's speech is broadcast over local stations. He spends the night in Jay Taylor's house.

12/3 LBJ goes quail hunting at Jay Taylor's ranch in Amarillo in the morning and addresses a civic club luncheon in Vega. That afternoon he visits the Producer's Grain Corporation annual stockholders meeting and in the evening addresses the annual chamber of commerce banquet in Tulia. He returns to Stonewall on 12/4 by private plane.

12/8 LBJ flies to Dallas to speak to the County Judges and Commissioners Association convention.

Ike makes his "Atoms for Peace" speech to the U.N. General Assembly, recommending creation of an international atomic energy agency to which governments would contribute fissionable materials to promote peaceful uses of atomic energy.

12/9 LBJ flies from Austin to Miami to meet Senator Russell. He stays in Florida until December 15.

12/14 CTJ attends a party for ladies of Stonewall.

- 12/15      Lloyd Bentsen writes LBJ of his decision not to seek re-election as congressman from the 15th District.
- 12/19      Bobby Baker writes LBJ of an encounter he had with Mike Mansfield, who asked if LBJ planned to hold a conference of Democratic senators prior to Congress' convening to discuss Attorney General Brownell's attack on Truman in the case of Harry Dexter White. News reports also indicate that some senators would like the Democrats to prepare an anti-McCarthy position.
- 12/22      Walter Jenkins wires Harry Byrd -- who is attempting to reach LBJ to discuss legislation to increase the U.S. debt limitation -- that LBJ is away on a hunting trip.
- 12/24      Estes Kefauver writes LBJ suggesting that the Democrats in the House and Senate confer to discuss a Democratic program for the next session.
- 12/26      Ike announces the withdrawal of two American divisions as an initial step in the reduction of U.S. forces in Korea.
- 12/28      LBJ returns to Washington.