

1955 Chronology

January

- 1/2 In his column, Drew Pearson criticizes “one-man rule” method used by **LBJ (Lyndon Johnson)** to make committee assignments. Pearson maintains that LBJ never calls a meeting of the Steering Committee, but instead has Democratic Whip Earle Clements telephone other Steering Committee members to decide on appointments.
- Pearson also criticizes LBJ’s support of Price Daniel over Herbert Lehman for a seat on the Judiciary Committee. Lehman has more seniority but is not a lawyer, an unofficial requirement for a seat on Judiciary.
- 1/3 Glen and Marie Wilson join LBJ’s Senate staff.
- 1/4 LBJ is elected Senate majority leader at the Democratic Caucus. Earle Clements is re-elected Democratic whip.
- 1/5 The 84th Congress convenes. The party ratio in the Senate is 48 Democrats, 47 Republicans, 1 Independent (Wayne Morse). Morse votes with the Democrats to organize the Senate, giving the Democrats a 49-47 majority. The party ratio in the House is 231 Democrats to 203 Republicans; Sam Rayburn is once again elected Speaker of the House.
- 1/6 Eisenhower delivers his State of the Union Message before a joint session of Congress. In foreign affairs Eisenhower promises that “America’s response to aggression will be swift and decisive” and calls for a military program that will cut back on manpower and place increased dependence on airpower and new weapons. Eisenhower also asks Congress for new tariff-cutting powers, revised labor laws, a lowered voting age, 90¢ minimum wage, statehood for Hawaii, federal health aid, and increased school facilities.
- Commenting on the speech, LBJ said: “The President’s various recommendations will receive reasonable consideration by reasonable men. In some instances, they will be accepted; in others they will be rejected; and in some others, there will be substitutes. But the attitude of the Democratic Party will be in keeping with its call to subordinate partisanship, pride and prejudice to the nation’s welfare.”
- Speaker Rayburn’s 73rd birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Miller host a reception in his honor and afterwards Rayburn follows his old birthday custom of having dinner with Mrs. James Lee Aston, the widow of an old friend.

- 1/7 LBJ and Senator Clements meet with Tony Buford and August Busch at Union Station. They are apparently en route from New York to Florida.
- 1/8 LBJ announces that Grace Tully, FDR's former secretary, has joined his staff as an executive assistant. He also announces that Isabel Brown, the daughter of George Brown, will join the staff on 2/1 as a research assistant.
- 1/9 **CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** is invited to a dinner for ladies only given by Mrs. Bob Kerr.
- 1/10 LBJ announces new committee assignments for Democratic senators. Former Vice President Alben Barkley is assigned to the Foreign Relations and Finance Committees, the posts he requested. Senator O'Mahoney, who was defeated in 1952 and re-elected in 1954, is assigned to Interior and Insular Affairs--the committee he once chaired--and Finance. Independent Wayne Morse is assigned by the Democrats to Foreign Affairs, Banking and Currency, and District of Columbia. Price Daniel moves from Interior and Insular Affairs to Judiciary, and LBJ moves from Interstate and Foreign Commerce to Finance.
- Eisenhower asks Congress for a three-year extension of the Reciprocal Trade Act and the authority to reduce tariffs by 5% a year, a total of 15%.
- 1/11 Eisenhower asks Congress for a 5% pay increase for postal workers and for the reclassification of certain postal workers, but recommends that postal rates be increased to help cover the cost of the raise. Both LBJ and Rayburn announce that they favor the pay raise but question the need for a postal increase.
- Minority Leader Knowland expresses his concern to reporters that the Democratic National Committee and the Americans for Democratic Action will "attempt to muscle in" on the legislative program of Congress. The DNC has circulated an analysis of the President's State of the Union Message attacking it on certain points. LBJ replies that the Democratic leadership is not surrendering and will never surrender its authority to schedule and control the course of legislation through Congress.
- 1/13 LBJ's diary notes that he met or talked on the phone with Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP.
- 1/14 The Johnsons attend the White House congressional reception.
- 1/17 LBJ, Senators Clements and Hennings appear on a 7-minute broadcast of the "Today" show with Dave Garroway.
- Eisenhower sends his budget message to Congress, estimating \$62.41 billion in expenditures and \$60 billion in receipts. Ike asks for cancellation of the

scheduled \$3 billion reduction in corporate and excise taxes to cover the deficit. His defense budget calls for \$32.9 billion in new spending authority for the Armed Services. Total military manpower is to drop from 2,961,000 in mid-1955 to 2,859,000 in mid-1956. The budget, however, calls for expansion and modernization of aircraft in both the air force and navy.

1/18 Chinese communist forces seize the island of Ichang, 210 miles north of Formosa and seem prepared to invade the Tachen Islands. LBJ's diary notes that the President called and talked with LBJ.

LBJ and **CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)**, leave late today by train for the Mayo Clinic, where LBJ will undergo an examination and tests in connection with a kidney stone ailment. Lynda and Luci remain in Washington with Willie Day Taylor. CTJ's diary indicates that the Johnsons had been planning to attend a White House dinner but cancelled. In LBJ's absence, Earle Clements will act as the Democratic leader.

1/19 Eisenhower holds the first presidential news conference at which television, newsreel, and newspaper camera equipment are present. Portions of the conference are released for broadcast over radio and television that evening. This practice is continued until 5/18 when the practice of releasing the entire conference begins.

1/21 LBJ undergoes a 50-minute operation at Mayo's for removal of a kidney stone. The operation was performed by Drs. Gersh Thompson and A. Culp, who report that there were no complications and that LBJ will remain at Mayo's for a week to 10 days, followed by about 3 weeks recuperation.

1/24 Eisenhower asks Congress for explicit authority to use American armed forces to protect Formosa, the adjoining Pescadores Islands, and "related positions and territories." The President does not clarify, however, U.S. policy regarding Quemoy, Matsu and other islands off the shore of mainland China. The Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees hold a joint executive session to discuss the resolution.

1/26 The Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, sitting jointly, vote 27-2 to report the Formosa Resolution without change after rejecting amendments to restrict the president's authority.

1/27 Sam Houston Johnson marries Mary Michelson Fish in Veracruz, Mexico.

1/28 The Senate passes the Formosa Resolution, 85-3. Senators Morse, Langer, and Lehman oppose the resolution.

The Joint Atomic Energy Committee approves, 10-8, a motion by Senator Gore disapproving the Dixon-Yates contract to build a steam power plant in West Memphis.

LBJ was expected to leave the Mayo Clinic today but his release is delayed because of an infection.

1/29 LBJ's scheduled address to the Women's forum on National Security is cancelled because of his continued hospitalization at Mayo's.

Juanita Roberts writes LBJ at Mayo's and reports on the progress of the redecoration of LBJ's office.

1/30 LBJ is released from Mayo's and goes to Austin for a 2-3 week recovery period at the Ranch.

February

2/1 Senate ratifies the SEATO treaty, 82-1, with only Senator Langer opposed. The treaty pledges the signatories (U.S., Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines) to restrict armed attack against "the general area of Southeast Asia and the southwest Pacific up to 21 degrees N. latitude" (a line excluding Formosa).

2/2 LBJ writes Styles Bridges concerning the Formosa Resolution: "I had to follow the progress of the Formosa Resolution at a great distance and through meager newspaper accounts, but it sounds as though everything came out all right in the end. That was a tough one and I am glad that the final vote went as high as it did."

2/5 In his radio broadcast, Drew Pearson reports that Alben Barkley had planned to deliver a speech in Dallas on FDR's birthday, but that LBJ told him not to. George Reedy prepares a memo denying the story: "This statement not only is false but can be interpreted only as a severe attack on the integrity and manhood of Senator Barkley."

2/8 Russell Long writes LBJ in support of Hawaiian statehood and notes the increasing Democratic strength in Hawaii: "I personally believe that if our party is saddled with political responsibility for killing or further delaying the Hawaiian statehood bill because of racial bias this may well be a very costly political mistake for our party."

2/9 Drew Pearson reports in his column that Senator Lehman has sent a bitter letter to LBJ complaining that LBJ cheated him out of his seniority privileges by failing to give him a seat on the Judiciary Committee.

- 2/12 LBJ and CTJ return to Washington by private plane. The lack of entries on LBJ's calendar indicates that he is still recuperating during the next week.
- 2/17 Wayne Morse officially changes his party affiliation from Independent to Democrat.
- 2/18 Senator Lister Hill, in a Senate speech, charges that Adolphe Wenzell, vice president of the First Boston Corporation, a company scheduled to help arrange financing for the Dixon-Yates West Memphis power plant, served in the Bureau of the Budget as a consultant on the TVA and Dixon-Yates contract from May-September 1953 and January-April, 1954, at the same time that he was working for First Boston.
- 2/19 After meeting with Democratic congressmen on the House Ways and Means Committee, Rayburn announces they will back a plan by Wilbur Mills to give each taxpayer a \$20-per-person tax cut plus \$20 for each dependent. It will be a rider on the administration bill to continue current corporate and excise rates.
- 2/22 In a special message to Congress, Eisenhower proposes a federal bond issue to finance highway improvement. Opponents favor direct appropriations from the general revenues of the Treasury for highways.
- 2/23 In a press conference, Eisenhower labels the tax cut bill irresponsible. His remark reportedly angers Rayburn.
- 2/25 House of Representatives passes the Democrats' \$20-per-person income tax cut by a 5-vote margin (210-205). The bill now goes to the Senate Finance Committee, where Senator Byrd has hearings scheduled with Treasury Secretary George Humphrey for 2/28.
- Reedy sends LBJ a memo saying that the tax bill was handled in such a way as to clearly label it a political move. "No hearings were held; no record was made, and the Committee votes were almost down straight party lines!" Press reaction is almost completely pro-Republican. Although Eisenhower invited trouble by suggesting he might recommend tax cuts next year, an election year, the Democrats nonetheless handled the issue poorly.
- 2/27 LBJ returns to Mayo Clinic by commercial plane for a checkup. Newspaper reports say he has been running fever and expects to remain at Mayo's for about two days.

March

- 3/1 In her column, Doris Fleenon writes that the Democrats may lose the fight over the \$20-per-person tax cut now pending in the Senate due to LBJ's hospitalization at Mayo's. Without LBJ's pressure, Senator George has apparently decided to oppose the bill in the Finance Committee. On 3/2, the Finance Committee votes 9-6 to oppose the measure; Democrats Byrd and George join the 7 Republican members in voting against the bill.
- 3/2 Drew Pearson reports that the White House is making an all-out effort to defeat the \$20-tax-cut amendment. The current tax bill expires 4/30 and Ike probably will not veto the entire bill even if it includes the amendment. Pearson also reports that Rayburn is angry over Ike's accusations that he is playing politics with taxes because he supported Ike on the Formosa resolution and the reciprocal trade bill.
- 3/3 William S. White reports that Acting Majority Leader Clements will delay further action on the income tax bill until LBJ returns to Washington.
- 3/5 LBJ is released from Mayo's and returns to Washington. He comes to work on Monday, 3/7, but must wear a steel back brace.
- 3/7 LBJ's first day back in the office. He meets with Senators Kerr, Clements, Smathers, Knowland, Stennis and McClellan during the day and has lunch with Senators George and Kerr. Later in the day, Rayburn confers with LBJ on the tax cut amendment in LBJ's office. Efforts are being made to reach a compromise which would satisfy both those favoring the reduction and the Senate's fiscal conservatives, Byrd and George. William Langer announces his support of the tax reduction, the sole Republican senator to do so. Senator George announces that he has at least 10 Democratic votes for the administration's tax bill.
- 3/9 LBJ holds a press conference to announce a compromise tax cut plan proposed by 6 Democratic members of the Finance Committee. The new plan would give each head of household a \$20 tax cut, plus \$10 for every dependent, effective July 1. The plan would provide surplus revenue to offset the tax cut by extending the present corporate and excise rates for 2 1/2 years instead of 1 year, as asked by the administration; by repealing the depreciation provisions of last year's tax bill; by repealing the dividend credit and exclusion provisions of last year's bill; and by repealing the "blooper" in last year's tax bill. That mistake inadvertently provided a loophole involving business expense deductions for revenues against future costs. LBJ says this plan will provide tax reduction without unbalancing the budget and will grant the greatest amount of relief to low-income wage earners.
- Senators Byrd and George both greet the proposal coldly, saying that it is unlikely to change their opposition.

Also present at the news conference were Senators Barkley, Kerr, Long, Smathers, Frear and Clements, the 6 members of the Finance Committee proposing the plan.

3/10 LBJ's calendar indicates he attended the funeral of Col. J.K. Stacey this morning.

LBJ announces that the Senate will act on the nomination of John Marshall Harlan to the Supreme Court after it votes on the tax bill.

Six Republican senators and 8 House members accuse Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler of using smear tactics when he recently suggested that Eisenhower may not run again because of Mrs. Eisenhower's poor health. LBJ, commenting on the controversy, says it's strange the Republicans are so upset since in the past they have been guilty of commenting on "the president's wife, the president's daughter, the president's piano and everything else they could think of which concerned the president."

3/11 LBJ meets with Paul Butler at 4921 30th Place and at his Senate office.

Mrs. Ava Lee Bright, 82, LBJ's aunt, dies in a Blanco hospital after a long illness.

3/12 LBJ has lunch with Senators Clements and George and later delivers a speech on the Senate floor in support of the compromise tax plan.

3/14 LBJ attends a luncheon at the White House for Prime Minister Robert Menzies of Australia.

LBJ holds an informal press conference to reply to Treasury Secretary Humphrey's criticism of the Democratic tax plan. Humphrey had called the plan a "political quickie gimmick." Johnson replied, "It looks like Mr. Humphrey is trying to be the best big business secretary of the Treasury-since Andrew Mellon."

3/15 Price Daniel and Oklahoma Governor Raymond Gary, testifying before the Senate Finance Committee, propose an amendment to the reciprocal trade bill which would limit foreign oil imports to 10% of domestic output. Daniel says that the independent petroleum producers are being hurt by foreign competition and that the major oil companies oppose import restrictions because they own 90% of the foreign oil reserves in the free world. LBJ is scheduled to attend the session.

LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor in support of the compromise tax plan. The Senate rejects the plan, however, 50-44. Five Democrats (Byrd, Robertson, Ellender, George and Holland) join 45 Republicans to defeat the measure. Senator Langer was the sole Republican to vote for the measure.

The Senate also votes down the House measure to give everyone a \$20 tax cut by a 61-32 vote and passes the administration's tax bill, a straight extension of present corporate and excise taxes. The bill now goes to a conference committee where Speaker Rayburn is expected to fight to restore the tax cut. The vote was LBJ's first major legislative defeat this year.

3/16

LBJ attends Finance Committee hearings on the reciprocal trade bill, a Democratic Policy Committee luncheon, and a meeting of the Texas delegation. He holds a 10-minute press conference before meeting Prime Minister Menzies in Vice President Nixon's office.

Senate confirms the nomination of John Marshall Harlan to the Supreme Court.

The State Department releases the proceedings of the 1945 Yalta Conference. The New York Times obtained copies of the documents late yesterday and Secretary of State Dulles later ordered copies made available to all reporters. Winston Churchill, the last survivor of the Big Three leaders at the conference, challenges the accuracy of the report.

3/18

Senator Knowland makes a speech on the Senate floor charging that the Yalta papers show that FDR made virtually a "false official report" on the conference to Congress. LBJ replies by pointing out that Churchill has challenged the accuracy of the report and that Senator George, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has stated that publication of the papers will have a bad effect on foreign relations. George Reedy reports to LBJ that newspapermen by and large share the Democrats' position on the release of the Yalta papers and that Dulles "knuckled under" to the extreme right wing of the Republican Party in releasing them.

Charles Frances writes LBJ concerning some changes he proposes to the natural gas bill now pending in the House. He also writes about the results of his recent physical check-up: "The doctors there insisted that I stop smoking cigarettes and this I have done, and I must say that I am feeling considerably better. It might be well for you to consider following a like course. Dr. Oschner thinks the habit not only conducive to cancer but that it is very detrimental to the heart, to the arteries, and to the digestive processes." LBJ replies, "I suspect that your counsel on cigarette smoking would be excellent for me if I would just take it."

CTJ and Mrs. Walter George attend a reception at the Australian Embassy in honor of Prime Minister Menzies.

3/19

LBJ hosts a luncheon for newsmen: Bill Theis, Sam Shaffer, Roy Lahr, Jack Bell, John Steele, and George Reedy attend. Later LBJ attends a cocktail party given by *Life* Magazine at the Statler preceding the White House News Photographers

Association Annual Dinner. LBJ apparently sits at the head table with the President and other dignitaries.

3/22

Democrats and Republicans exchange heated remarks on the Senate floor regarding release of the Yalta papers. Knowland tells the Senate: "Any criticism that the publication of these documents was hasty, ill-advised or for serving an ulterior purpose cannot be substantiated by the fact." LBJ, in shouting tones, according to newspaper reports, replied that there are indications that the papers had been "carefully culled for ammunition to be used not against the Communists but against the Democratic Party." LBJ says that a week ago Dulles had said that the publication of the papers would adversely affect our security but two days later the *New York Times* had obtained copies of the papers "under circumstances which strongly suggest official collusion." Hubert Humphrey called upon Dulles to disclose who is responsible for giving out the papers.

Senator Anderson introduces an amendment to the cotton acreage bill which would increase the allocation of cotton acreage in New Mexico, California, Arizona, Nevada, and Illinois by 2% of the 1955 allotment. When LBJ and Daniel protest Anderson's action, Anderson charges that Texas has 100,000 in its state reserve that is unallocated. LBJ and Daniel call Representative Poage to the Senate floor to dispute Anderson's charges. Poage calls the state Agricultural Committee and determines Anderson's charge is false. The state has 20,554 unallocated acres which are to go to new farmers. However, there are requests from new farmers totaling twice that amount of acreage. The dispute causes the cotton bill to be sent back to committee for revamping.

3/23

Senate Agriculture Committee reports a revised cotton acreage bill which displeases both western and southwestern farmers, by giving them less acreage than they had in the Senate's original bill. LBJ and Daniel announce that they will vote for the Stennis Amendment to tie bill, which would give Texas 114,000 additional acres.

3/25

Senate passes a 10% pay increase for federal workers and a 10% increase for postal workers. The postal bill does not include the reclassification measures or a postal rate increase as asked by the administration.

LBJ and CTJ host a reception for 400 people at the Carlton Room honoring newlyweds Bess and Tyler Abell. Mrs. Abell is the daughter of Senator and Mrs. Earle Clements; Tyler Abell is the son of Mrs. Drew Pearson by a previous marriage.

3/26

A newspaper story appears this weekend reporting that Admiral Robert B. Carney, chief of naval operations, told a group of newspapermen at a background conference that the Red Chinese probably would start an attack on Quemoy and Matsu by mid-April.

- 3/27 Senators Knowland and Bridges, appearing on separate television programs, call for vigorous retaliation by the U.S. if the islands of Quemoy and Matsu are attacked by the Chinese Communists. Bridges says that he would favor the use of atomic weapons on military targets in the event of war with the Chinese Communists in the Formosa Straits.
- 3/28 LBJ, apparently referring to TV appearances made by Knowland and Bridges yesterday, accuses Republican leaders with putting pressure on Eisenhower and indulging in "irresponsible talk" concerning the Far East. In a speech on the Senate floor, LBJ says that the American people do not want either a war party or an appeasement party.
- Knowland replies that there is no war party in this country but there are senators on both sides of the aisle who do not want peace at any price. Senator McCarthy then calls upon the White House to declare "before another day has passed what America will do in the event Quemoy and Matsu are attacked."
- Newspaper reports say that LBJ consulted with his Democratic colleagues over the weekend and that his statement today reflects their general viewpoint.
- Hearings continue before the Finance Committee on the reciprocal trade bill.
- 3/29 In a press conference, LBJ says that the President's reciprocal trade bill "is in deep trouble and is getting in more trouble every day." The Senate Finance Committee completed public hearings last week and is in executive session on the bill. Senators from textile, coal and oil-producing states are demanding curbs on the President's tariff-cutting powers.
- LBJ apparently spoke off-the-record, criticizing the Eisenhower Administration's leaks concerning the Far East situation which have "scared hell" out of the country. Marshall McNeil heard of the remarks indirectly, however, and published them on 3/30 attributed to LBJ.
- Mary Rather writes LBJ that she has accepted an appointment to the Executive Committee of the National Democratic Advisory Council and has attended a meeting in Waco where the plans for a fund-raising dinner were discussed. The members of the council in her district would like to hold a \$10-per-plate dinner in either Cleburne or Whitney with LBJ as guest speaker. The dinner would be held in May, October or November--whichever LBJ prefers.
- 3/30 Senate approves a resolution by LBJ ordering the rubber facilities disposal commission to continue negotiations to sell the synthetic rubber plant in Baytown, Texas and 23 other government-owned plants.

3/31 Senate defeats the cotton acreage increase bill, 39-51. The bill would have raised the acreage allotment by 1.5%, half the amount the House had voted. LBJ and Daniel had supported the measure as a compromise. The bill was defeated because of the objections of western senators who objected to the southeastern states getting most of the benefits of the bill. It is doubtful if another bill can be reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee and voted on in time to be of any help before the 1955 planting season.
LBJ and other Senate leaders from both parties meet with Eisenhower over lunch at the White House to discuss foreign affairs. LBJ holds a press conference later in the afternoon.

Fess Parker, star of the "Davy Crockett" television show visits with LBJ and Rayburn at the Capitol. Parker is in Washington to take part in the National Rifle Association annual meeting and is a luncheon guest of Rayburn.

Reedy reports to LBJ that Ray Lahr feels the story by Marshall McNeil about LBJ leaking his views on Admiral Carney was a breach of good faith. Reedy also writes that LBJ might consider a change in the ground rules for "background" information.

April

4/1 Senate ratifies the protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty to admit West Germany to NATO.

4/3 *Dallas News* reports that LBJ is being besieged with telegrams from oilmen to back legislation to limit oil imports.

Congress is in recess for Easter until 4/13.

The Johnsons go to Daytona Beach, Florida with the Thornberrys and the Ikards, returning 4/9. LBJ writes Mary Rather on 4/11, "I feel much better after having had one of the most complete rests possible." Speaking of her earlier request that LBJ be the speaker at a fund-raising dinner in Texas, LBJ replies, "Certainly I want to be with you at your meeting and if you will set it as you suggest in October or November I will be there."

4/4 Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Irrigation and Reclamations Subcommittee begins hearings on a bill sponsored by Wayne Morse and 28 other senators to authorize federal construction on the high Hells Canyon Dam on the Snake River. On 5/2 the administration expressed its opinion on the bill in a letter from Interior Secretary McKay to the subcommittee, in which he stated that the administration favors a plan by the Idaho Power Company to build three low dams in the Hells Canyon area.

- 4/5 Winston Churchill, 80, resigns as prime minister of England. Anthony Eden becomes prime minister the next day.
- 4/7 Tex Easley reports in his column that Sam Rayburn and LBJ do not send out weekly newsletters to his constituents. LBJ did last year but has not this year because he is in almost daily contact with the press because of his leadership position.
- 4/10 Easter
- 4/11 Adlai Stevenson makes a foreign policy speech in Chicago, cautioning against the risks which he says exist in any decision by the U.S. to defend Quemoy and Matsu against Chinese Communist attack without the backing of U.S. allies. Stevenson's speech receives praise from almost all Senate Democrats. LBJ comments that Stevenson was "correct in asserting that the only real solution lies in due regard to realities in Asia rather than in saber-rattling and bluster."
- 4/12 LBJ is back in the office after his Florida vacation.
- Scientists approve the polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk.
- 4/13 Eisenhower announces that he has approved an agreement to share information on atomic weapons with other NATO nations.
- Congress reconvenes after the Easter recess. Twenty-three Democratic senators, led by LBJ, held the Senate floor for 2 1/2 hours in a tribute to FDR, who died ten years ago yesterday. Two Republicans, Wiley and Thye, also participated in the tribute. The 23 Democrats are a vast majority of all the Democrats actually present and represent all sections of the party. In a *New York Times* article, William S. White writes that LBJ's strategy was to present the Democrats, as "belligerently united as they confronted the climactic part of the congressional session now opening."
- 4/15 Johnsons attend a reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Woodward honoring President and Mrs. Truman and later attend a dinner given by Les Biffle honoring Barkley, Truman and Rayburn.
- Democratic National Committee meets in Washington.
- LBJ speaks by long distance to 150 people gathered at Big Bend National Park to dedicate the installation of their first long-distance telephone service. Their first call was to the director of the Parks Service, the second to LBJ.
- 4/16 CTJ and LBJ host a coffee for 74 Democratic National committeemen and women and then attend a coffee given by Burris Jackson in the Speaker's Dining Room. CTJ also attends a tea given by Mrs. Bob Kerr.

LBJ has lunch with the Speaker, Governor Stevenson and Paul Butler at the Mayflower.

LBJ writes his mother about the day's activities and requests that she airmail him the letters from San Houston she has obtained as part of her genealogical research.

Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner honoring Speaker Rayburn is held at the National Guard Armory. LBJ, Adlai Stevenson, Eleanor Roosevelt and Harry Truman speak at the dinner, with Truman in particular lashing out at the Eisenhower Administration. Truman alternately praises Rayburn and accuses the Republicans of bad management, blundering and of "playing political tricks with the grave and serious issues of both foreign and domestic policies." In his speech, LBJ promises Rayburn a little birthday present in 1957 in the form of at least 25 more House Democrats, and he predicts that the Democrats will sweep the country "from the courthouse to the White House" in the 1956 elections.

4/17 Johnsons attend a barbecue at the George McGhees honoring Speaker Rayburn. Stevenson, Kefauver, Fulbright, Tom Clark and Bill Kittrell also attend. Later LBJ attends a stag dinner at Clark Clifford's for Truman. Earlier in the week Clifford had asked LBJ to attend saying that Truman had asked that LBJ be among the eight people invited.

4/18 In a story based on an interview with Truman yesterday, the *New York Times* quotes Truman as saying, "I have got tired a long time ago of some mealy-mouthed Democratic senators who kiss Ike on both cheeks." Truman did not name the senators but the implication was that he was referring to LBJ.

Truman visits Capitol Hill, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the revision of the U.N. charter. He recommends that the U.S. not make any inflexible demands to change the charter which would meet strong communist opposition, but that we must use the United Nations to make it work. The committee is scheduled to hear President Hoover later this week.

LBJ attends a luncheon for Truman given by Senators Hennings and Symington.

4/19 The Senate Finance Committee meets in executive session to begin voting on the reciprocal trade bill.

LBJ meets with a group of telecasters at 3:30.

4/20 Eisenhower asks Congress for \$3.5 billion to extend the Mutual Security (foreign aid) Program.

Two important convocations are being held in Washington this week: the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Senate passes a bill authorizing the Reclamation Bureau to construct the Upper Colorado River multi-purpose project. As passed, the bill includes the Echo Park Dam and Reservoir in the project. Conservationists oppose this dam because it will be located within the Dinosaur National Monument. Before passage, the Senate rejected an amendment by Richard Neuberger to delete the authorization for Echo Park Dam.

Upper Colorado River project advocates ultimately reach a compromise with the conservationists under which the project's backers agree to drop the proposed Echo Park Dam if the conservationists drop their opposition to the project as a whole.

George Reedy sends LBJ a memo regarding the political problems that may ensue in the distribution of the Salk polio vaccine. Preliminary figures indicate that for the next year and a half supplies will be adequate to inoculate only six to ten-year olds. There are reports that a black market is operating in Detroit and others will follow if supplies remain inadequate. Secretary Hobby is scheduled to meet with the AMA and representatives of pharmaceutical houses later in the week to discuss the situation. Reedy recommends that LBJ have an informal conference with Hobby to find out what course, if any, she is planning to take.

4/21

The Armed Services Committee meets to consider a bill concerning the Texas tin smelter and Camp Mabry in Austin.

LBJ attends a baseball luncheon given by Lowell Mason in the Family Dining Room and then attends the baseball game.

LBJ and Knowland address the DAR 64th Continental Congress tonight at Constitution Hall; CTJ sits on the platform. Comparing atomic weapons to the Maginot Line, LBJ says that we must not base our nation's defense solely on atomic weapons but must also maintain the military manpower of the army, navy and air force. The speech is an implied criticism of the administration's cuts in military manpower.

4/22

LBJ meets with women newspaper correspondents in Skeeter Johnston's office.

LBJ, CTJ, Deputy Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Anderson host a buffet supper aboard the Sequoia for the editors of major Texas newspapers who are in Washington for the American Society of Newspaper Editors Association convention. A surprise birthday cake is served to Mrs. Diana Hobby, wife of William P. Hobby, Jr., during the three-hour voyage.

4/23 LBJ's sister Josefa marries James B. Moss.

In a speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Senator George, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, made a plea that the U.S. engage in talks with Communist China. George's speech was sparked by an offer by Chou En-Lai to discuss tensions in the Far East, including Formosa. The State Department is demanding certain acts by the Chinese first to show good faith. On 4/25 LBJ urged the administration to give George's suggestion careful consideration and he inserted George's speech in the *Congressional Record*.

4/24 Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey and Senator George meet to discuss the reciprocal trade bill. The administration regards the proposed Neely amendment, which would place a limitation on oil imports, as the chief threat to its bill. George presents Humphrey with a proposal backed by LBJ which would authorize the President to impose a quota on oil imports after consulting with the Senate Finance and the House Ways and Means Committees. Humphrey offers a counter-proposal under which Eisenhower would recommend that Congress pass a bill imposing a quota on oil imports, but LBJ maintained that this was not a true compromise because Eisenhower did not need authorization to make such a recommendation to Congress. Action on the bill in the Finance Committee has been delayed until 4/26. Division on the oil import amendment is said to be so close that Senator Malone might cast the deciding vote in the committee. Malone has not made his position clear on the issue. George Reedy has sent LBJ a memo on the Neely amendment, saying it has some "booby traps" which could harm the oil industry.

4/25 Hilda Weinert writes LBJ, thanking him for the coffee she attended with other members of the National Committee. Writing about the efforts to unite the Democratic Party in Texas and Allan Shivers' planned visit to Washington, she says, "Allan does not expect any special privileges but the same welcome extended other governors by Paul Butler will go a far way toward healing old wounds. A word from you to Paul will bring this about." Shivers is to attend a governors' conference in Washington in May.

4/26 Senate Finance Committee approves a provision to the reciprocal trade bill which authorizes the President, at his discretion, to limit imports into the U.S. of any product being imported in a volume great enough to "threaten to impair the national security." The amendment is a substitute for the proposal to limit oil imports to 10% of domestic output. The bill is reported on 4/28 and Eisenhower calls it a "tremendous victory."

CTJ attends a luncheon at the White House.

4/28 The Senate Armed Services Committee is considering Defense appropriations. LBJ has lunch with the Speaker, Congressman McCormack and Senate leaders in LBJ's office and at 4:30 he meets with Fred Weber and Harold Thoms (?) concerning the Ultra High Frequency Committee.

4/29 LBJ meets with Leonard Marks and Walter Jenkins.

4/30 LBJ, Rayburn and Nixon address the Washington Pilgrimage in the Old Supreme Court Room of the Capitol. The group is an interdenominational group that travels to Washington annually.

May

5/1 400 people attend a Texas State Society brunch at the Mayflower honoring Rayburn and LBJ. John Henry Faulk is scheduled to entertain.

Tex Easley's column notes that Mrs. Dale Miller was recently elected president of the Texas State Society. Other officers are: Robert Anderson and CTJ, vice presidents; Mrs. Herbert Brownell, Sarah McClendon, Price Daniel, Jack Brooks, Tom Bartle (shipping company executive), directors; and Jim Kilday, historian.

Governor Allan Shivers arrives in Washington to attend the White House governors conference and a meeting of Democratic governors. Although he does not have a specific appointment to meet Paul Butler, Shivers says that he undoubtedly will talk with Butler sometime during the week. Butler has also told reporters he will be glad to meet with Shivers.

Forces loyal to Premier Ngo Dinh Diem enter the palace in Saigon. They announce the ouster of Bao Dai, South Vietnam's head of state, and call on Diem to form a new government pledged to drive the French from the country. On May 3, rebels are reported retreating from Saigon, and on May 6 the U.S. reaffirms its support for Diem and indicates that we will not interfere if the South Vietnamese decide to depose Bao Dai.

5/2 Reedy sends LBJ a memo on the mutual security program and the question of economic aid to Asia. He raises the question of how effectively the underdeveloped Asian countries can utilize large sums of money, and what objectives are we trying to achieve with economic aid, to win friends for the U.S. or to preserve the status quo? Should the U.S. give aid only to its friends and withhold it from neutral nations such as India?

5/3 LBJ and 28 other key congressional leaders meet with Eisenhower this morning at the White House to discuss the foreign aid program.

5/4 Senate passes the reciprocal trade bill, 75-13, after rejecting the Neely amendment to limit oil imports. The conference report is approved by the House on 6/14 and the Senate on 6/15. As finally enacted, the bill contains essentially the provisions Eisenhower requested. Eisenhower personally calls LBJ to say that the passage of the bill was one of the most significant performances he had ever observed.

5/5 LBJ addresses the Democratic Governors Conference at a breakfast meeting in the Speaker's Dining Room. He stresses the divisions in the Republican Party and the achievements of the Democratic Congress.

During the meeting, Shivers and Paul Butler have a 15-minute private talk in the pantry off the dining room. Shivers later told reporters that Butler assured him that no attempt would be made to punish him and others who had bolted the party in 1952. Shivers also said that he would not support Stevenson in 1957 for the presidential nomination unless he made a lot of changes. Butler in a separate interview said that "penitent" Democrats would be welcomed back into the party by next year's convention. While he didn't personally characterize Shivers as penitent, he did express confidence that Shivers would work with the Democratic Party. Shivers flew to Austin immediately after the breakfast conference.

CTJ and Bess V attend a breakfast for Mrs. Eisenhower.

U.S., Britain and France end the occupation of West Germany; West Germany formally joins NATO the next day.

A nuclear test explosion almost twice as powerful as the atomic bombs dropped on Japan is dropped on Yucca Flats, Nevada. 3,200 yards from the explosion, an armored task force of tanks with servicemen inside rode out the blast with no injury to the men.

5/6 Shivers holds a press conference in Austin and praises Butler, Rayburn and LBJ. He also declares that the Democratic Party will have to pick a moderate as its presidential nominee next year. This statement, coupled with his praise for LBJ, leads to speculation that he will lead a delegation to the convention next year with LBJ as their favorite son candidate.

LBJ's diary notes that he leaves for the Kentucky Derby this morning by private plane, returning on Sunday afternoon, 5/8. LBJ cancels his plans to attend the Gridiron Dinner on 5/7.

5/7 Gridiron Dinner. LBJ is characterized in one sketch as "Larrupin' Lyndon Johnson, the Marginal Democrat from Texas."

- 5/9 LBJ delivers a speech on the Senate floor commemorating the 10th anniversary of VE Day.
- House passes the conference report on the postal pay bill; Senate passes the report on 5/11. The compromise measure grants an average 8.6% increase and provides for the reclassification of certain employees. As expected, Eisenhower vetoes the bill on 5/19, urging Congress to enact a bill containing a postal rate increase.
- 5/10 LBJ introduces Texas Railroad Commissioner Ernest O. Thompson when he appears before the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee to testify about the natural gas bill. CTJ accompanies Thompson to the hearings also.
- Mid-May Reedy sends LBJ a memo on the pending highway bill, emphasizing that the administration bill would abolish the state apportionment formula for highway funds and lodge in a federal agency complete power to determine where, when and how, and at what amounts money would be spent on interstate highways. The members of the Federal Highway Commission would serve without terms and at the will of the president.
- By contrast, the Democratic-sponsored bill would maintain the cooperative relationship between the states' highway departments and the Federal Bureau of Roads, and would provide funds for all types of highways, not just interstate highways.
- 5/11 Assistant Attorney General Warren Burger testifies before a House Judiciary subcommittee on the bill sponsored by Rep. Clark Thompson to settle claims resulting from the 1947 Texas City disaster. LBJ and Daniel are cosponsors of an identical bill in the Senate. Burger opposes the Thompson bill because he says it is too broad; he says it would require the government to pay some \$40 million to insurance companies and additional millions to others who did not have adequate insurance. He also said that the federal responsibility for the disaster has never been clearly established but that he might remove his objections to the bill if it were limited to individual claimants with a limit of \$10,000 to \$20,000 per claim.
- 5/12 LBJ holds a press conference for Texas newspaper correspondents and comments on the recent "harmony" meeting between Shivers and Butler. LBJ says that while he doesn't always agree with his party, "the Democratic Party is big enough for all men who believe in doing what's best for America." He is also quoted as saying that "the Democratic Party at its worst is better than the Republican Party at its best."

Senate Public Works Committee approves by an 8-5 vote an \$18 billion, 5-year highway construction bill. Introduced by Senator Gore, the bill provides for financing highways by congressional appropriation rather than by 30-year, 3% bonds as proposed by the administration.

CTJ's calendar notes that Lynda Bird is to meet President and Mrs. Eisenhower at the White House.

5/13 George Reedy sends LBJ a memo regarding the current Soviet moves to ease world tensions. He raises the possibility that the Russians may be abandoning the concept of hot war and adopting the political methods of cold war. Reedy notes that while a cold war is preferable to a hot war, the U.S. should be fully prepared "to wage a giant political struggle with the communists."

5/14 Soviet Union agrees to meet for a Big Four conference.

The Warsaw Pact, a 20-year mutual defense treaty, is signed by Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, East Germany and the U.S.S.R.

5/15 LBJ addresses a dinner honoring General David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of RCA, at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. In his speech LBJ endorses a plan Sarnoff presented to the President on 4/5 to wage a multibillion-dollar cold war, "the greatest political offensive in history," to avert a hot war. The effort would be led by a general staff, similar in nature to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a military offensive, headed by a cabinet rank officer. LBJ says that Eisenhower has endorsed the basic elements of the plan.

The Independent Editorial Services newsletter notes on 5/20 that "Lyndon Johnson charmed the New York crowd out of their chairs at the Sarnoff dinner. The handsome, urbane majority leader of the Senate was in direct contrast to cartooned Texas characters. Quite a few of the kingmakers in the crowd looked him over as a presidential possibility."

5/16 LBJ outlines for newsmen a legislative program for the Senate, proposing the passage of highway, housing, minimum wage and other programs, but ignoring Eisenhower's recommendations for a postal rate increase, Taft-Hartley revisions, and immigration law amendments.

Eisenhower asks Congress for \$28 million to finance polio shots for children up to age 19 whose parents cannot afford to pay for the shots.

5/17 LBJ meets with John Connally, Charlie Herring and Don Cook.

George Reedy writes LBJ a memo on the prospects of Senate passage of the 90% parity price support bill which has passed the House. While Reedy notes that it is a politically potent issue, Senate passage would be difficult. The Democrats have a one-vote margin in the Senate but nine of the ten Democrats who voted for the flexible price supports last year are still in the Senate and unlikely to change their stand. Reedy recommends that a careful check of voting strength on the issue be made before the issue is raised. If there isn't enough strength, aid to low income farmers or drought aid could be the subject of a major farm bill.

Senator Russell announces that the Senate Armed Services Committee is preparing an inquiry into the strength of U.S. airpower in light of recent revelations that the USSR has an operational intercontinental bomber. The American equivalent, the B-52, has not yet been delivered. Senator Symington had proposed a Senate investigation into U.S. strength as compared to the USSR's in all military categories, but Russell has limited the investigation to airpower. It will be a limited, closed-door investigation with the basic work being done by LBJ's Preparedness Subcommittee.

5/18 LBJ's diary notes "TV film, you, Liz Carpenter, Bill White." He views the film the next day.

5/19 Johnsons attend the Women's National Press Club black-tie dinner and stunt party at the Statler in honor of Eisenhower. Eisenhower is presented with an eight-month-old heifer calf named "Bluebonnet." Presentation of the calf, an Angus Aberdeen, was made possible by LBJ and Sam Rayburn. Eisenhower declined to answer Liz Carpenter's question as to whether he will run again for president next year. Carpenter is president of the club.

5/20 LBJ makes a statement on the Senate floor regarding reports of flooding in Brady, Texas yesterday. LBJ has received reports that 4 dams which have been completed on the Brady Creek watershed have prevented serious flooding. LBJ cites the Brady project as "American government at its best--cooperation between Washington and a Texas community in the interests of the people." But he urges that other structures on the watershed that have not been completed due to inadequate appropriations be completed as soon as possible.

5/21 LBJ announces that he favors a bill proposed by Senator Hill to give Eisenhower standby authority to control the manufacture and distribution of Salk polio vaccine. The administration opposes such a measure, preferring a voluntary distribution system.

Meanwhile, a scientific conference will meet on 5/23 to review the findings of a team of government experts which has spent the last two weeks visiting the manufacturers of the vaccine and studying the processes used. There has been

concern because 79 cases of polio have been reported among the approximately 6 million children who have been inoculated with the vaccine.

Stewart Alsop writes a column about the efficiency of the Senate under LBJ as majority leader. Asking LBJ how he does it, LBJ credits the committee chairmen, his efficient, experienced staff, a thorough knowledge of the rules of the Senate, and instinct. Alsop writes, "Johnson is the kind of man the American system has always had to have--a man who makes the system work."

5/23

LBJ says today that the Democratic Policy Committee has agreed unanimously that Eisenhower's highway program is "a bad bill." He has obtained unanimous consent to limit debate on Wednesday to two hours for each amendment and two hours on final action on the Democratic-sponsored Gore highway bill. The Eisenhower bill was rejected by the Public Works Committee and will be offered as a substitute amendment to the Gore bill.

New Republic publishes an article, "The Prosecution Rests," by Elizabeth Donahue, noting the lack of vigorous investigations in this year's Senate. She writes that one reason is that LBJ feels that the public is tired of controversy and partisan recriminations which have resulted from past investigations and has blocked efforts to conduct investigations in three areas. First, he maneuvered Estes Kefauver out of the chairmanship of the subcommittee scheduled to investigate the Dixon-Yates contract. Second, he softened an investigation into the administration's security firings proposed by Olin Johnston. Third, an investigation pushed by Senator Magnuson, chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, of the television and radio industry is running short of funds. Magnuson's investigation, Donahue writes, would focus on the NBC and CBS blockage of the 70 UHF channels and the extent to which FCC licensing power has encouraged the blockage and fostered a television monopoly.

During debate in the Senate on the highway bill, Senator George succeeds in having a provision of the bill dropped which would have given the federal government power to control advertising rights along interstate highways. "Adorned in all his wrath and majesty," writes Russell Baker in the New York Times, "Senator George demonstrated today how to bend the United States Senate to his wishes." Senators Gore, Neuberger and Kerr spoke in favor of the provision, but George declared it a device to extend federal power over state lands and announced he would be against the entire bill if the provision remained in it. Shortly thereafter Senator Thurmond offered an amendment to drop the advertising-control provision from the bill and it was unanimously accepted.

5/24

The Senate attempts to override the President's veto of the postal pay bill, but the attempt fails, 54-39.

LBJ attends a luncheon given by Senator George for President Auriol of France. Eisenhower also attends.

5/25 LBJ meets with Senators Symington, Clements, Gore, Kerr, Thurmond and Hennings, and Bobby Baker at 10:45.

Senate passes the Democrats' highway bill after rejecting an amendment to substitute the administration's highway plan, 31-60. JFK is the only Democratic senator to vote for the amendment. The measure fails to pass the House this session, however.

LBJ addresses a group of Texas broadcasters in Washington for the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters convention.

Johnsons are invited to a reception for the broadcasters and later to a black tie dinner given by Jacqueline Cochran and Floyd Odlum for General and Mrs. Wade, at the Sulgrave Club.

5/26 LBJ attends a stag breakfast for the Texas Association of Broadcasters.

Air Force Secretary Harold Talbott testifies in an all-day session before the Armed Services Committee. He announces that the B-52 production rate will be stepped up 35% in light of recent revelations about Soviet air superiority. The air force plans to ask Congress for more than \$300 million in additional funds to carry out the increased production.

5/27 AP news article says that Democratic congressional leaders appear to be driving for a July 15 adjournment date. LBJ declined to fix an adjournment date but has taken a personal effort to have all regular money bills passed by June 30, the end of the fiscal year. He also has outlined a program for passage of bills on housing, minimum wage, health research, draft extension, postal and civil service pay increases, and foreign aid. LBJ is also understood to have told the Senate Labor Committee that unless they can reach a compromise on anti-segregation provisions in the school construction bill, or delete such provisions, he doesn't plan to bring the bill before the Senate.

5/28 LBJ tells newsmen that he believes the President should "personally" re-examine the nation's defenses. He indicates that he will support a Democratic move to postpone for one year the 110,000-man cut in the armed forces recommended by the administration and passed by the House.

Russell and LBJ attend the Preakness in Baltimore as the guests of former congressman Herbert O'Connor.

- 5/29 Walter Hornaday writes an article in the *Dallas News* speculating on LBJ as a possible presidential candidate in 1956.
- 5/31 Eisenhower issues a statement on the polio vaccine situation. He outlines a voluntary control plan for distribution of the vaccine which had been presented to him by Secretary Hobby two weeks ago. The plan calls for vaccination of children ages 5-9 first. The secretary of HEW will allocate vaccine to the states on the basis of its population of unvaccinated children ages 5-9. The states may then establish mass free vaccination programs or provide free vaccinations only for those children whose parents are unable to pay. Eisenhower has asked Congress for \$28 million to assist the states in purchasing the vaccine for needy children.
- The Supreme Court issues its decision implementing the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which declared segregated schools unconstitutional. In its decision, the Court ruled that local school boards were to make a “prompt and reasonable start” toward desegregation. District courts retain jurisdiction over such cases and may grant additional time in implementing desegregation but school authorities must justify any delay. The Court set no deadline for desegregation but remanded district courts to admit to integrated schools “with all deliberate speed the parties to these cases.” LBJ issues a statement concerning the decision: “The Supreme Court, in effect, has placed the problem in the hands of the lower courts. It is hoped that the lower courts will exercise discretion and judgment in working out the very difficult and delicate problem. Ultimately, education is the responsibility of the local community and the wishes and desires of a community should not be ignored.”
- June**
- 6/1 Charles Herring writes LBJ declining with regret LBJ’s recent offer of a position as counsel for the Preparedness Subcommittee. Herring cites his obligations to his family and to his law partners, Perry and Herman Jones, as reasons for declining the offer.
- Senate passes a new compromise postal pay bill, 78-0; House passes it on 6/7. The new bill grants an average 8% pay raise retroactive to 3/1/55. Eisenhower signs the bill on 6/10.
- LBJ has dinner with Tony Buford in his private railroad car.
- 6/2 Senate passes the foreign aid appropriation bill, 59-18, after rejecting a number of amendments to reduce the amount requested by the administration,

- 6/4 In a press conference, LBJ issues statements in support of the Democratic housing bill, \$1-an-hour minimum wage, and the military reserve bill pending in the Senate.
- 6/5 ADA issues a denunciation of the Democratic leadership in Congress: "The Democratic leadership, in affably acquiescing in the Republican assault upon liberalism, is betraying the Democratic Party's traditional claim to be the party of the people."
- LBJ announces his support for a Democratic measure in the House to liberalize Social Security benefits. The two-part plan would lower the retirement age for women under Social Security from 65 to 60 and would enable anyone who becomes totally disabled to receive benefits at once. LBJ says if the measures are approved in the House, he would schedule Senate debate and action on them during this session. No action is taken on the measures in the Senate before adjournment, however.
- LBJ apparently appears on "Youth Wants to Know" and the American Forum of the Air.
- 6/6 LBJ announces that it is imperative to U.S. security that Congress break the deadlock over an anti-segregation amendment to the military reserve bill which is stalling action in the House.
- LBJ testifies before the Senate Public Works Committee in support of appropriations to construct the Canyon Dam and Reservoir on the Guadalupe River in Comal County, Texas.
- 6/7 LBJ meets with Senators Sparkman, Fulbright, Frear, Morse and Douglas, and later meets with Ambassador Kennedy.
- In a surprise victory for the Democrats, the Senate defeats Eisenhower's housing bill and adopts a more liberal program. The administration's bill, proposed by Senator Capehart, would have provided a total of 70,000 housing units over a 2-year period. It was defeated 44-38 and the Democrats substituted a program calling for a maximum of 800,000 units and a minimum of 200,000 units over a 4-year period. The vote is considered a triumph for LBJ. Republicans had predicted a 7-vote margin of victory for the administration bill. LBJ delayed action on the bill for 2 hours while rounding up all possible votes, including that of Hubert Humphrey, who was flying in from his home state. Bad weather held up Humphrey's plane and he arrived, panting, at 5:30 to cast his vote. LBJ meets with Humphrey and Bob Oliver later in the day.
- 6/8 Senate passes \$1-an-hour minimum wage bill by voice vote. Eisenhower had asked Congress to increase the minimum wage from 75¢ to 90¢ an hour. On 6/9,

Doris Fleenon writes that “when the minimum wage was so suddenly and suavely enacted, senators came out of the chamber laughing. But the best political brains among the Democrats soberly confessed that it would have been better if they had been able to cast loud, clear ayes for the record”

Irrigation and Reclamation Subcommittee of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee approves the Morse Hells Canyon bill and sends it to the full committee. No further action is taken on the bill in the Senate, however.

6/9 LBJ attends Armed Services Committee hearings on the doctors’ draft and the Selective Service bill. He also holds a Texas press conference and meets Justice Douglas for lunch before leaving for Texas that afternoon to attend a dinner honoring Governor Miriam Ferguson on 6/13.

6/12 Leslie Carpenter writes a column on the efficient way LBJ is managing the Senate. He also notes the amount of time and energy the job requires of LBJ. Carpenter quotes CTJ as saying that LBJ returned home for dinner one night last week at 12:30 so tired she served him his dinner on a tray in bed. She often attends embassy parties with the wives of other senators because LBJ’s heavy work schedule prevents him from going.

Drew Pearson writes a column about Paul Butler’s tour of Texas this week. According to Pearson, Shivers supporters are angry because the Butler schedule was arranged by Judge Jim Sewell, chairman of the Democratic Advisory Council. Hilda Weinert had originally called a meeting of Sewell, George Sandlin (chairman of the state executive committee and a Shivers supporter), and herself to arrange the schedule, but that she had been unable to attend because of the death of her brother-in-law. Consequently, Sewell arranged the tour and Shivers, Weinert, Sandlin and other conservatives announced they would not attend any of the functions on the tour.

6/13 Paul Butler arrives in Dallas to begin his Texas tour. Shivers had earlier invited Butler to lunch on 6/20 in Austin, but Butler declined because he said his schedule did not permit it. He said, however, that he would be happy to meet with the Governor at any of the meetings he was attending in Texas.

Over 300 people gather at the Driskill Hotel in Austin to celebrate Governor Miriam Ferguson’s 80th birthday. Allan Shivers serves as master of ceremonies, and Jimmie Allred and LBJ sit at the head table. LBJ, calling the occasion a sentimental journey back to his boyhood, addresses the group.

While in Texas, LBJ talks to his cousin Margaret Kimball, whose husband Henry is dying of cancer. He then returns to Washington on 6/14.

Joint Atomic Energy Committee rejects Eisenhower's proposal to construct an atomic peace ship and approves a proposal to construct a "practical" atomic power plant that would lead to the development of an atomic merchant ship.

Konrad Adenauer, West German Chancellor, arrives in the U.S. to discuss plans for the Big Four conference.

6/14 The Joint Atomic Energy Committee reports the AEC construction authorization bill and bars the use of any funds in the bill for the construction of transmission lines to bring power from the proposed Dixon Yates steam plant to the TVA system.

Senate Armed Services Committee reports the draft extension bill.

Marshall McNeil reports in his column that LBJ has told the press that a new elevator will be installed in the Senate wing of the Capitol for the exclusive use of the press. LBJ was reportedly upset about the number of reporters using one of the Senate elevators and had it designated for the exclusive use of senators. This rule was later relaxed when the press complained but elevator operators were assigned the job of counting those who used the elevator.

6/16 LBJ meets with Bryce Harlow and General Meedger at 3:00 and with Senators Smathers and Russell later in the day.

Senate passes by voice vote a bill extending the draft for 4 years, including the doctors' draft which was opposed by the AMA.

6/20 Senator McCarthy submits a resolution concerning the upcoming Big Four conference in Geneva in which he asks Secretary Dulles to secure agreement to a discussion at the conference of the "present and future status of the nations of Eastern Europe and Asia now under communist control." LBJ asks the Senate to send the resolution to the Foreign Relations Committee, "where all its implications can be discussed calmly and reasonably."

In a continuing controversy over the advisability of reducing military manpower, Symington moves to add \$46 million to the defense appropriation bill to maintain the Marine Corps strength at 22,000 over the projected mid-1956 level. The amendment is agreed to, 40-39, and is accepted by both houses of Congress in the conference report on 6/30.

The Senate vote was significant in that it was the first time the Senate had failed to accept a military recommendation from Eisenhower and also because Byrd and other conservative Democrats voted to increase an appropriation. Eisenhower signs the bill on 7/13, but Defense Secretary Wilson impounds the extra Marine Corps funds the next day.

- 6/21 LBJ meets with Carl Estes at 10:00 and later with Senators Barkley, Monroney, Fulbright, Morse and Sparkman. At 11:00 he meets with Governor Munoz-Marin of Puerto Rico and Abe Fortas. At 12:15 he attends the signing ceremony for the reciprocal trade bill at the White House and later attends the conference committee meeting on the Selective Service bill. Later that evening he meets with John Connally, Senator Fulbright, Louis Parsons, vice president of U.S. Steel, and finally with George Reedy and staff members.
- George Reedy sends LBJ a memo regarding the McCarthy resolution saying it will “place a loaded gun at the President’s temple” and would “tell the world that Congress--which represents the people of the U.S.--does not trust the President and the Secretary of State to negotiate for our country.” He says the resolution lays down a directive of where and when to discuss the question of satellite nations and implies a ban on discussions of other tensions leading to war until the issue of satellite nations is settled.
- 6/22 The Senate Foreign Relations Committee votes 14-0 to report the McCarthy resolution unfavorably after Senator Knowland unsuccessfully tries to have the measure buried in committee. He lost on a straight party-line vote, 8-7. Senator George votes by proxy; he is hospitalized. LBJ leads the Senate in two days of debate on the resolution in what comes to be regarded as a test of the Senate’s confidence in Eisenhower before he attends the Big Four conference. The resolution is ultimately defeated, 77-4, after a watered-down version offered by McCarthy and Jenner is defeated. Senate Republicans were placed in the position of publicly opposing McCarthy with even such strong McCarthy supporters as Senators Hickenlooper and Capehart speaking against the resolution. The defeat of the resolution is seen by the press as a defeat of the isolationist wing of the Republican Party and as a “virtuosic performance” by LBJ.
- 6/23 Reedy sends LBJ a memo on the atomic peace ship, one of the four things Eisenhower has designated as key items for the Congress to act upon this session. Reedy points out that Eisenhower wants to build a merchant ship immediately for goodwill purposes using the same type engine as used in the Nautilus submarine. Opponents claim that this type engine would be inefficient in a merchant ship and propose the ship be delayed until a better atomic engine is developed. Reedy recommends that LBJ oppose Eisenhower on this item.
- 6/24 U.S. announces that 2 Soviet MIG planes fired on a U.S. Naval patrol plane on routine flight over international waters in the Bering Strait, 6/22. Three crewmen were injured by gunfire and 4 by crash landing. Dulles personally protests the incident at the U.N. meeting in San Francisco to Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov. On 6/25 the USSR replies that the incident was probably the result of U.S. carelessness but expressed regret and offered to pay 50% of the damages. It was the first regret ever expressed by the Soviet government.

6/27 *Newsweek* publishes an article by Sam Shaffer entitled "Senator Lyndon Johnson, The Texan Who Is Jolting Washington." Shaffer describes LBJ as "the dominant force in Congress," a description usually assigned to Rayburn. The article also says that LBJ now watches over "aging Sam Rayburn" as Rayburn once watched over LBJ, and that LBJ has recently rescued Rayburn from serious parliamentary difficulties such as a vote on the reciprocal trade bill that Rayburn came within one vote of losing.

LBJ issues a statement on the *Newsweek* article: "I had nothing to do with writing the *Newsweek* article and had I done so, the phrase concerning Speaker Rayburn and myself would have been reversed. He is a man who has stood with me throughout the years and whose wisdom and judgment have guided me--and still guide me--through difficult times. Speaker Rayburn and I are not going to be divided in our friendship or in our working relationship either by a *Newsweek* writer or a Dallas News reporter." (The *News* had printed excerpts from the article concerning the relationship between LBJ and Rayburn.)

6/28 The Democratic Policy Committee issues a memorandum listing 50 important pieces of legislation passed by the Senate. When LBJ issued the list he commented that the list contradicted Eisenhower's assertion in the 1954 election campaign that the election of a Democratic Congress would result in "a cold war of partisan politics."

6/29 Eisenhower and LBJ exchange sharp remarks in the press over congressional action this session. At a press conference in the morning, Eisenhower cements on the list of senatorial accomplishments LBJ issued yesterday and his remarks about Eisenhower's 1954 campaign statements. Eisenhower reads a list of 16 legislative items that he wants that have not yet been passed.

LBJ replies at noon that Eisenhower did not answer the point he had talked about, namely that there has not been "a cold war" and that Congress has not bottled up the President's program. He does say, however, "we will give just, fair and reasonable consideration to the President's views. But that doesn't mean we will gulp down anything he sends to Congress."

Liz Carpenter, in her column on 6/30, writes that the chill in the relationship between LBJ and Eisenhower is partly due to the fact that Eisenhower failed to telephone LBJ to thank him after the defeat of the McCarthy resolution. Eisenhower, in turn, is irritated because of LBJ's maneuvering in the Senate to beat the atomic peace ship.

Drew Pearson reports that LBJ's Preparedness Subcommittee will investigate a number of scandals in the Defense Department, including an air force construction scandal in England and the improper disposal of B-36s and B-52s

because the Budget Bureau allegedly will not approve enough funds to disperse the planes to more bases.

6/30

In a press conference LBJ issues a statement on the recently released Hoover Commission report on water resources and power. LBJ says that while he has not been able to thoroughly study the report, certain statements and conclusions in the report have bothered him, including the proposal to eliminate the preference rights of municipalities and REA cooperatives to buy power from the federal power projects, and the statement by James Farley, a member of the commission, that "the cumulative effect of the recommendations in this report come dangerously close to inviting an abdication of the federal government of its responsibilities to insure the proper development of this country's great natural resources.

July

7/1

Sam Houston Johnson and his wife, Mary Fish Johnson, join LBJ's Senate staff.

LBJ makes a speech on the Senate floor recommending that Congress drop the appropriation to build transmission lines to carry power from the proposed Dixon-Yates plant to Memphis.

LBJ's diary indicates that he saw Dr. Gifford for a blood smear and met with Rowland Evans, Bill Kittrell, CTJ and the Heaths during the day.

In his oral history, Stuart Symington recalls that he and his wife, CTJ, LBJ and Rayburn all went to dinner together tonight at Chevy Chase. Symington remembers that LBJ was very nervous, talking politics with Senator Prescott Bush, who they ran into at dinner. Rayburn commented after they had left CTJ and LBJ off that LBJ couldn't relax. LBJ asked Symington to accompany him to Middleburg the next day but Symington declined.

7/2

Liz Carpenter writes an article commenting on speculation in Washington that LBJ's recent criticism of the Eisenhower Administration may be the first stages of an LBJ-for-President movement.

An editorial in the *Orlando Sentinel* published today says that the nomination of Lyndon Johnson for president would restore peace in the Democratic Party and restore the solid South.

LBJ talks to the following people on the phone today: Jim McKennon of Senator Pastore's office, Senator Pastore, Senator Kerr, Walter Jenkins, Rebekah Babbitt, Senator Russell, George Brown, CTJ. At 2:00 he has an appointment with his tailor and at 3:00 he holds a press conference with Bill Theis, Ray Lahr, Ed Haakinson, Joe Hall and John Chadwick.

Bill Theis recalls in his oral history that John Chadwick repeatedly questioned LBJ about a particular bill and that LBJ remained silent on the issue. When Chadwick again asked LBJ about the bill at the end of the session, LBJ exploded and berated Chadwick for being so offensive. Theis recalls that all the others were shocked by LBJ's uncharacteristic behavior and quickly ended the session. After the press conference LBJ visits Senator George, who is recovering from a recent bronchial attack, before driving to Middleburg to spend the weekend at the home of George Brown. On the way, LBJ complains to his driver, Norman Edwards, that he is not feeling well and when they arrive at George Brown's home he asks Edwards to remain in case he wants to return to Washington. LBJ complains to Brown of indigestion, takes some bicarbonate of soda and lays down to rest.

In his oral history, Clinton Anderson remembers that he stopped by the Brown residence en route to a dinner and Brown asked him to talk to LBJ, who was not feeling well. Anderson, who had had a heart attack, tells LBJ that his symptoms resemble those of a heart attack and that he should see a doctor. He recalls that LBJ became furious and insisted that he did not want to see a doctor.

In the meantime, Frank Oltorf, who was also at the Brown estate, had located a Dr. Gibson who arrived, examined LBJ, told him he had every symptom of a heart attack and advised him to return to Washington and enter a hospital. Dr. Gibson and Oltorf accompany LBJ to Bethesda Naval Hospital in an ambulance where he is admitted at about 10:30 p.m. CTJ, who was to join LBJ in Middleburg the next day, had been advised of LBJ's illness and meets him at the hospital. In his oral history, Oltorf remembers that Walter Jenkins was also at the hospital when LBJ was admitted.

A newspaper account published on 8/21 by Mary McGrory says LBJ asked to see three people when he arrived at the hospital: CTJ, Skeeter Johnston and George Reedy. He told CTJ where his will was and gave her his money clip, told Johnston to contact Earle Clements in Kentucky, and told Reedy to inform the press. He then asked for one last cigarette.

Dr. James Cain recalls in his oral history that he was paged at a play in Dallas. CTJ called him to ask his advice. He recommended that she contact Dr. Doug Gifford and Dr. Lawn Thompson in Washington. He called Dr. Harold Burchell at the Mayo Clinic, who flew to Washington. Cain himself flew to Washington that night from Dallas. Burchell, a cardiologist, stayed in Washington about two days, according to Cain's recollections, and determined that the cardiologist treating LBJ at Bethesda, Dr. Willis Hurst, was giving LBJ the best possible care. Bethesda issues a bulletin stating that LBJ has had a moderately severe heart attack and he is in serious condition.

- 7/3 LBJ remains in serious condition at Bethesda Naval Hospital although the hospital reports that he is more stable and resting comfortably. George Reedy reports to the press that LBJ has remained fully conscious since the attack and is in good spirits. CTJ is the only visitor he is permitted to see.
- Drs. Cain and Burchell arrive at the hospital. In his oral history, Cain recalls that he served as the coordinator of the medical team treating LBJ and answered many calls from prominent people, including President Truman, who offered the services of the best cardiologists in the country for LBJ. CTJ referred all such calls to Cain for his advice. President Eisenhower is notified of LBJ's illness while at Camp David and expresses deep regret. Earle Clements, who will take over as acting majority leader, is notified en route to his home in Morgantown, Kentucky. He is returning to Washington and tells reporters that his job as leader will not be a permanent one because of LBJ's great will to live. Many Senate leaders express their regret at LBJ's illness, including Russell, Humphrey, George, Kuchel, Symington, Millikin and Monroney.
- CTJ expresses her "deep appreciation and gratitude" for all the messages she has received from well wishers and asks for their prayers and contributions to the Heart Fund in lieu of flowers.
- Robert C. Albright writes a column in today's *Washington Post* about the LBJ-for-President boomlet. Speculation in Washington last week was that LBJ would be a candidate as Stevenson's running mate in 1956.
- 7/4 Mrs. Sam Johnson flies from Austin to Washington, her first plane trip, to be with LBJ. Only close relatives are allowed to visit him. The hospital issues the following bulletin today: "Senator Johnson had a comfortable day. His physicians consider that he is making satisfactory progress but his condition remains serious." Dr. Howard Burchell returns to the Mayo Clinic today.
- 7/5 Senator Clements delivers a report to the Senate on LBJ's condition, including a statement by Dr. Cain that LBJ should be able to return to the Senate in January. Senators of both parties joined in praise of LBJ, taking an almost unprecedented step of pausing for 75 seconds for silent prayer for his recovery. Eisenhower has sent LBJ a personal note and flowers.
- 7/6 Dr. Cain holds a press conference in LBJ's office to report on his condition. Cain says he consented to hold the conference because LBJ wanted to let reporters, especially those from Texas, know where he stands. Cain says he sees no reason why LBJ will not be able to resume his Senate duties in January, but that "he will have to slow down to a 48-hour week instead of a 72-hour one." Cain also reports that LBJ has improved since his admission to the hospital on Saturday and was much better today than at any time since his attack. He is eating well

but he is being denied access to a telephone and is not allowed to smoke, which Cain said has presented a problem for the doctors and nurses.

- 7/8 Testimony begins in the trial of Bascom Giles, former Texas Land Commissioner, who is accused of stealing \$6,800 in connection with a veterans land deal in Kinney County, Texas. Congressman John Bell is also indicted today on a charge of conspiracy to commit theft of more than \$150,000 for the state of Texas under the veterans' land program. Bell maintains that he took \$27,000 in legal fees from land promoters but he protests his innocence and plans to return to Texas from Washington as soon as practical.
- 7/11 Eisenhower cancels the Dixon-Yates contract.
- 7/15 Eisenhower pays a surprise 15-minute visit to LBJ at 10:25 a.m. The visit was known in advance by CTJ and some of LBJ's staff but not by LBJ himself. He was just finishing lunch when the President arrived. CTJ left them alone except for the presence of a nurse. LBJ gave Eisenhower a warm send-off for the Big Four conference and told CTJ later that the President seemed in a hopeful mood about the trip.
- 7/16 News reports say that LBJ has received nearly 4,000 get-well messages from throughout the United States and several foreign countries. LBJ's office says that CTJ, who has remained at the hospital throughout LBJ's illness, has read the letters to him and is answering them herself as fast as possible. She is quoted as saying, "I hope all these friends know how much they are contributing to Lyndon's recovery. When I read what they would say to him, urging him to give his full attention to getting well, I can actually see him gaining courage and strength. Both of us are deeply grateful to the most wonderful friends anybody ever had."
- 7/18 News story in the *Washington Daily News* credits CTJ with being the heroine in LBJ's recovery. She is acting as nurse, secretary and messenger and has not left Bethesda Naval Hospital in 16 days. An office and "second home" has been established for her in a suite at the opposite end of the 17th floor corridor from LBJ's room. The article says LBJ has received frequent visits from Lynda and Luci and has also been visited by Richard Russell and Homer Thornberry. In his oral history, Thornberry recalls playing dominoes with LBJ every night and that LBJ would say that Thornberry had let LBJ beat him.
- 7/19 The Big Four conference opens in Geneva with Eisenhower, Anthony Eden, Edgar Faure, and Bulganin representing the U.S., Great Britain, France and the USSR respectively. Nikita Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Communist Party, is also at the conference and appears to be emerging as the key leader in the USSR.

The Senate passes by voice vote the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Assistance Bill. As finally enacted, the bill authorized the surgeon general to make grants to the states for free polio vaccinations of children under 20 and pregnant women regardless of their ability to pay.

7/20 LBJ issues a statement expressing regret at the resignation of HEW Secretary Hobby, who resigned on 7/13, to be effective on 8/1. The statement is inserted in the Congressional Record for LBJ by Senator Clements.

7/21 Air Force Secretary Harold Talbott testifies before the Government Operations Investigating Subcommittee to defend his business interests. Talbott has continued as a partner in a New York engineering firm while serving as the air force secretary and has received \$132,032 in profits in the past two years. The inquiry centers on Talbott's use of air force stationery and on phone calls from his office relating to new business for his firm. Talbott resigns as air force secretary on 8-1. Eisenhower accepts the resignation and praises Talbott's performance as air force secretary. The next day DNC chairman Paul Butler says that Eisenhower's praise of Talbott makes a mockery of his campaign promise to have uncompromising honesty in government.

Eisenhower makes his "Open Skies" proposal at the Geneva conference. Under the proposal the U.S. and the USSR would give each other a complete blueprint of their military establishments and provide facilities within both countries for aerial photography by one nation of the other.

From Bethesda, LBJ issues a statement on the disarmament plan: "The President's proposal is the daring, imaginative stroke for which a war weary world has been waiting. It will test the good faith of the communists and will separate the war mongers from the peace makers. The American people yearn for peace--peace that will maintain our traditional freedoms. We are willing at any time to convert the instruments of war to the implements of a more abundant life providing only that we have guarantees of liberty. This proposal is our pledge of sincerity and good faith." LBJ also says that he was shown the plan in advance of its release in Geneva.

7/23 Walter Jenkins writes Mary Rather about LBJ's recovery: "Mary, you would be real happy if you could see how well the Senator is getting along. He is just as cheerful and chipper as he can be and the best thing about it is that he is so relaxed. He is not letting anything worry him or bother him. I played dominoes with him a little while last night and he seemed to get a lot of pleasure out of the game--particularly since he beat me overwhelmingly."

The Big Four conference ends in Geneva; foreign ministers of the four nations will meet again 10/27 to 11/6. Although the conference did not result in any

tangible agreements, the “spirit of Geneva” is viewed as an attempt by both the East and West at seeking accommodation and avoiding confrontation.

- 7/24 LBJ is invited to a cocktail party given by Liz and Les Carpenter. It is a farewell party for the Hobbys and the Robert Andersons. Anderson is resigning as assistant secretary of defense effective 8/15.
- 7/25-7/31 LBJ is beginning to have more visitors at Bethesda. CTJ’s calendar indicates he received visits from a number of people including: Senators Russell, Daniel, Clements, Symington, Smathers, Pastore, Kerr, Knowland, Malone, Tom Clark, Don Cook, George Brown, Arthur Krock, Secretary Hobby, Secretary Anderson, Bill Kittrell and John Connally. George Reedy, Bobby Baker and Homer Thornberry are regular visitors. CTJ remains at the hospital.
- 7/25 Wright Morrow is ousted as Texas Democratic national committeeman by the State Democratic Executive Committee on the recommendation of Governor Shivers.
- 7/30 Vice President Nixon visits with LBJ for an hour and five minutes before a group of Texas newspaper correspondents are admitted to LBJ’s first press conference since his heart attack. CTJ’s calendar lists Walter Hornaday, Les Carpenter, Sarah McClendon and Vernon Louviere as attending. LBJ tells reporters that he has reduced his weight from 220 pounds last January to 188 and that the doctors told him he could leave the hospital but he will remain another week while air conditioning is installed in his Washington home. He plans to fly back to the Ranch by his birthday, 8/27.

August

- 8/1 Mrs. Rebekah Johnson and Luci arrive in Austin by train. She reports that LBJ is doing “wonderfully well.” Luci will be staying with the Thornberrys in Austin.
- Congress adjourns. On the closing day of the congressional session Senator Clements delivers a speech on the Senate floor on LBJ’s behalf, expressing LBJ’s gratitude and appreciation for the senators’ cooperation and friendship during this session.
- 8/1-8/6 LBJ continues to receive visitors at Bethesda, including: the Speaker, George Mahon, Sid Richardson, Tom Corcoran, Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Byrd, Jackson, Hennings and John McCormack.
- 8/3 George Reedy sends LBJ a memo on Senator Clements’ difficulties with the press. Clements apparently failed to follow through on a pay raise for Senate press gallery employees. A raise for House press gallery employees was enacted, however. A group of correspondents, headed by Jack Bell, talked to various

senators about the situation. They got a sympathetic reaction from Knowland but an unsympathetic one from Clements. A joint resolution to equalize the salaries passed the Senate but failed in the House because it required unanimous consent and Clare Hoffman objected. Some correspondents also believe that LBJ sent word to Clements to straighten out the situation and that Clements failed to act on it.

- 8/4 The FPC grants the Idaho Power Company's application to build the Oxbow, Brownlee, and Low Hell's Canyon dams at the Hell's Canyon area on the Snake River. This would preclude the possibility of construction of a federal high dam. Supporters of the high dam criticize the FPC not only for approving the license but also for waiting until two days after Congress has adjourned to announce the decision.
- 8/7 LBJ is released from Bethesda Naval Hospital. Neighbors gathered on the lawn of his home to greet him on his return. The Johnsons plan to remain in Washington for several more weeks before they return to Texas. LBJ receives a number of visitors during the next several days at his home. He also issues a press release on the accomplishments of the first session of the 84th Congress on 8/7.
- 8/8 LBJ meets with three wire service reporters (Rowland Evans, Ray Lahr and Al Spivak) at his home. LBJ challenges Eisenhower to compare the record of the Democratic Congress of this year with that of the Republican 83rd Congress. The remark came in response to a question about Eisenhower's press conference last week in which he criticized the Congress' record on domestic legislation.
- 8/13 CTJ writes Robert Clark, "Of all the many dear and wonderful things you have done for Lyndon and me I don't know of any that has meant more to him than this clipping service. He enjoys every word of them and has time to read them more thoroughly than he probably has ever read anything." She also reports that LBJ is reading "Professional Politicians" by Bill McGraw.
- 8/16 LBJ sees Senator Russell at 4:45 and Ed Jameson at 6:00. Jameson reports in his 8/20 news story that LBJ has only 2 speeches scheduled for the rest of the year, one at the State Fair in Dallas in October and the other in California at the American Hotel Association convention in December. Since he will not be traveling around the state in the congressional recess, he has divided his office staff to best serve his Texas constituency. Grace Tully, Jack Hight and George Reedy will be in his Austin office; Walter Jenkins, Arthur Perry and Booth Mooney will remain in Washington.
- 8/19 Don Cook, Bill White, Senator Morse and Mary McGrory visit LBJ today. Mary McGrory writes a story in the *Washington Star* on 8/21 saying that LBJ's Washington home looks like the headquarters of a political campaign with a secretary working in the living room and another in the dining room. LBJ is being

a model patient, however, watching his diet, reading and resting. He also tells McGrory how much all the messages he has received from ordinary citizens as well as VIPs has meant to him.

- 8/21 LBJ meets with Dulles today.
- 8/24 Paul Butler meets with LBJ to discuss the appointments of 6 vice chairmen of the Democratic Party. LBJ is entitled to select one of the men. After meeting with Butler, LBJ meets with a delegation of Texas reporters for the third time since his heart attack. LBJ reviews his plans for the next months and predicts the Democrats will “take everything from the courthouse to the White House” in 1956.
- 8/25 LBJ and CTJ fly to Fredericksburg in Wesley West’s private plane. They are accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Houston Johnson, Dr. Willis Hurst, Zephyr Wright, and the family dog, Little Beagle Johnson. They arrive at the Fredericksburg airport at 12:40.
- 8/26 Dr. Hurst returns to Washington.
- 8/27 LBJ’s 47th birthday is declared “Lyndon Johnson Day” in Austin and Johnson City. Governor Shivers, Mayor Tom Miller of Austin and Mayor George Byars of Johnson City issue statements wishing LBJ a happy birthday. Miller compares LBJ to FDR who conquered a serious illness to go on and become president. LBJ holds a press conference at the Ranch, predicts efforts will be made in the next congressional session to lower taxes. He also discusses the 1956 presidential race, the Geneva conference, Texas’ water problem and the accomplishments of the last congressional session.
- The press conference was followed by a quiet birthday celebration attended only by LBJ’s family and 6 close friends: the Moursunds, the Melvin Winters and the Thornberrys.
- LBJ remains at the Ranch recuperating for the next few weeks, receiving visits from friends, family and staff.
- 8/31 LBJ writes editors of Texas papers the first in a series of letters. Since he cannot visit around Texas this fall he will send such letters periodically about matters of importance to Texas, inviting comments from Texans on the subjects. This letter deals with the water problem in Texas.

September

- 9/1 LBJ’s cousin Margaret Kimball arrives at the Ranch for several days visit. George Reedy and Grace Tully, who are serving as LBJ’s staff in Austin, come to dinner at

the Ranch. Tully had arrived in Austin this morning by train and was met by Mayor Miller and Sam Houston Johnson.

9/3 LBJ takes his first trip since arriving at the Ranch when he drives to Johnson City to see Dr. Whaley for a check-up.

9/7 Jack McNairy arrives at the Ranch to discuss the building of a swimming pool.

9/8 LBJ writes Defense Secretary Wilson about recent newspaper reports that drastic cuts are planned in defense to balance the budget. LBJ asks Wilson to supply him with specific information about whether such cuts are indeed planned, why they are being made, and how they will be applied.

9/12 Governor Shivers and Jack Dillard visit LBJ in the afternoon and Bill Deason arrives for dinner and to spend the night. He is there to discuss a Waco radio station.

Reedy sends LBJ a memo dealing with plans for a press party for Washington correspondents to be held next month. Reedy suggests that it be a weekend meeting with the reporters flown down from Washington either Friday afternoon or Saturday morning for a Saturday night barbecue. They would be flown back Sunday afternoon.

The Senate Preparedness Subcommittee issues a report that reveals publicly for the first time that the subcommittee is conducting a broad investigation into the nation's defenses with special emphasis on airpower. Originally the investigation was concerned chiefly with the profits of aircraft manufacturers holding defense contracts but there have been serious misgivings among some members of Congress about the administration's plans to cut back defense spending.

9/17 LBJ goes to Austin for the first time since returning to Texas and spends the night at the Driskill Hotel. He lunches with Ed Clark and A. W. Moursund and plays dominoes with A. W., Judge Stout and Everett Looney.

9/21 CTJ writes Mr. O. F. Garrett of Ysleta, Texas about the proper planting and care of wildflower seeds which she purchased a year or two ago: "I am sorry to say that we have had very minimum results from the considerable amounts I have planted in the past and so I certainly need any instructions you can give me." She also asks for instructions on planting bluebonnet seeds and his current price on them in large amounts.

9/23 In Austin, LBJ meets with J. Waddy Bullion about his will, which he signs with Glynn and Mildred Stegall, Jack Hight and the notary public as witnesses. He also meets with Kellam and Jenkins about KANG in Waco, goes to his tailor for fittings

and alterations, and makes a five-minute recording at KTBC for the Texas Farm Bureau.

9/24 The Johnsons meet in Austin this morning with Kellam, Jenkins, Looney and a number of people from Waco concerning KANG. At 3:30 p.m. LBJ receives word that President Eisenhower has suffered a heart attack in Denver while staying at the home of his mother-in-law. Eisenhower is hospitalized at Fitzsimons Army Hospital. LBJ issues a statement to Dave Cheavens and Harry Provence and later talks long distance to Richard Harkness concerning the President's heart attack. That afternoon LBJ attends a U.T. football game with Looney, Jenkins and Moursund.

9/26 In response to Eisenhower's heart attack, the stock market has its worst day since 10/28/29.

9/28 Wright Patman writes LBJ suggesting he have a "heart to heart" talk with Rayburn. Patman thinks LBJ should head the Democratic ticket in 1956, possibly with Governor Averell Harriman as the vice presidential nominee. LBJ's calendar notes that he spent a bad night last night and was awake at 2 a.m. The shorthand notes on the calendar indicate that he was depressed and upset about reports that the press is coming to the Ranch tomorrow when Stevenson is here for a social visit.

Adlai Stevenson arrives in Austin to give a speech at the University of Texas "great issues" lecture series on "America, The Economic Colossus." After the speech he and Newton Minow will spend the night at the LBJ Ranch where they will be joined by Speaker Rayburn and Grace Tully.

9/29 LBJ, Rayburn and Stevenson hold a press conference on the front lawn of the LBJ Ranch, calling their meeting a social visit and not a political caucus. Referring to President Eisenhower's condition, CTJ tells the press, "I don't want anyone to think we are out here plotting and planning while a fine gentleman is in trouble." Stevenson tells reporters that he will announce his decision whether or not he will run for president in November. Stevenson also declines to discuss Governor Shivers' recent statement that he would not support Stevenson as the nominee. LBJ and Rayburn both assert that the Democrats will carry Texas in 1956. The three men had lunch together before Rayburn left for Bonham and Stevenson returned to Austin to catch a plane.

9/30 The Johnsons fly to Fort Clark in Brackettville, returning on 10/2.

October

10/3 Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bentsen visit LBJ for lunch. LBJ talks to Ben Ramsey by long distance and visits Johnson City for a check-up.

- 10/4 LBJ meets Ben Ramsey at the Fredericksburg airport at 11:30. He also talks to Speaker Rayburn long distance from Graceville, Florida, and to Wright Patman from Texarkana.
- 10/5 Reedy sends LBJ a memo concerning the current trend of the Preparedness Subcommittee investigation which he feels is unwisely leading directly into a study of profits and corporate structures. Reedy recommends instead that the subcommittee undertake a study of the adequacy of the Nations' airpower. If that investigation proves worthwhile, it could be followed by a study of land and sea power.
- 10/6 Drew Pearson writes a column stating that LBJ boarded Stevenson's campaign train in 1952 before it reached Texas and "begged that he not be put in the embarrassing position of staying on the train as it pulled through Texas." According to Pearson, Senator Fulbright told LBJ that if he did not stay on the train he would block LBJ's plans to become Senate leader. LBJ writes Fulbright for his comments on the article. Fulbright replies that the article is completely untrue.
- Lt. Gov. Ben Ramsey is appointed as Texas Democratic National Committeeman. LBJ and Rayburn support his selection but Mrs. Frankie Randolph of the DAC claims Ramsey was selected by Shivers' hand-picked committee and while Ramsey claims to have voted for Stevenson in 1952, he cross-filed on the Republican ticket when he ran for lieutenant governor in 1952.
- 10/7 LBJ talks to Senator Fulbright today and meets with E. H. Perry and Max Brooks at 3:00. Jake Pickle comes to the Ranch for dinner. He has been making arrangements for the speech LBJ will give at Whitney, Texas in November.
- 10/9 Senator and Mrs. Humphrey and their son Skipper arrive for a visit at the Ranch.
- 10/12 LBJ, CTJ and the Thornberrys fly to Dallas for the Johnson-Rayburn Day at the State Fair tomorrow. It will be LBJ's first public appearance since his heart attack.
- 10/13 Johnson-Rayburn Day. LBJ and CTJ attend a luncheon at the Baker Hotel and a reception at the fairgrounds. The Texas Observer writes on 10/26 that only about 50 people were at the reception although it has been well publicized.
- 10/14 CTJ and LBJ return from Dallas this afternoon. Arthur Godfrey, Bill White, Scoop Russell, *Baltimore Sun* correspondent Gerald Griffin, and Dorothy Nichols arrive at the Ranch for a visit, staying until 10/16. Apparently Walter Reuther was expected but did not arrive.

- 10/17 Gerald Griffin and William S. White run stories that Texas is the center of an effort to build a conservative coalition that would restore the South to the Democratic Party in 1956. This coalition would block the automatic nomination of Stevenson and force the party to adopt a platform acceptable to the South. The next day LBJ denies that he is the leader of such an attempt and that he is not even sure if he will continue as majority leader. He does say that moderates such as himself will try to influence the platform but that he will support the nominee whoever it is.
- Tommy Corcoran and Jim Rowe visit the Ranch, staying until 10/19.
- 10/18 Southern Governors Conference is meeting in Clear Point, Alabama. Gerald Griffin reports in the *Baltimore Sun* that much of the political discussion centers on the plan, allegedly led by LBJ, to build a coalition of southern conservatives to obtain a Democratic Party platform and candidates acceptable to the South.
- 10/19 Jim Rowe and Tom Corcoran leave for Houston, where they will visit George Brown before continuing onto Bonham to visit the Speaker.
- 10/20 LBJ, CTJ, Lynda and Luci go to Temple. CTJ reports that the doctors in Temple think LBJ is doing fine. Dr. Olin Gober reports to the press that LBJ is doing better than was expected at this stage of his recovery and that he is stronger than he was at his last examination, but he advised LBJ not to see so many people. He has been seeing as many as thirteen people a day at the Ranch.
- 10/21 Stuart Symington arrives at the Ranch this morning and stays until 10/23.
- 10/26 Jim Rowe writes LBJ about the recent visit he and Tom Corcoran had with Speaker Rayburn in Bonham after they left the Ranch. They discussed the Bill White story in the New York Times, which all agreed was harmful because it would make it more difficult for LBJ to maintain his razor-thin margin in the Senate. Rowe also writes that everyone in Washington believes the White story is accurate despite LBJ's denial. Rayburn also told Rowe that he had agreed to back LBJ as a favorite son from Texas next year, but has since regretted his decision because he wants to avoid a "first class row" at the convention next year and would like the nomination to go to Stevenson quickly. He said that LBJ could not have the first position on the ticket next year, but if he wanted the second spot Rayburn could demand that Stevenson give it to LBJ. Rayburn declined a serious desire for the presidential nomination himself but told Rowe that Symington had pled with him to let him start a Rayburn-for-President boom. Rowe detected no bitterness toward LBJ in his conversation with Rayburn, but there has been considerable talk in Washington that Rayburn is bitter. Rayburn also said that he has been under considerable pressure from Texas liberals to reject Ramsey as Democratic national committeeman but he had told Butler that Ramsey was okay.

10/27 LBJ talks to John Connally by long distance today about the Rayburn testimonial to be held tonight in Fort Worth. Apparently LBJ did not plan to go to the dinner and changed his mind. He and George Reedy fly to Fort Worth on Sid Richardson's plane from the West Ranch. After the dinner they return from Fort Worth on West's plane and spend the night at the West Ranch. About 1700 people attended the \$5-a-plate dinner honoring Rayburn, including LBJ, Ben Ramsey, Ralph Yarborough and ten Texas House members. LBJ made a brief speech praising Rayburn and asked for a moment of silent prayer for the recovery of President Eisenhower. Rayburn told the predominantly liberal crowd that Texas should send a delegation to the 1956 national convention that is pledged to support the party's nominees.

10/31 LBJ talks to General Jerry Persons at the White House concerning the proposed transfer of troops from Fort Hood to Fort Polk, Louisiana.

LBJ writes John Stennis in reply to a letter in which Stennis had said that he was going to publicly endorse LBJ for president in a speech in Mississippi. LBJ writes: "As for the presidential speech, I would appreciate it greatly, John, if you would not publicly announce that you are putting me forward. There have been a rash of stories in recent weeks about ambitions I do not have and maneuvers I am not making. All of them have combined to make matters very difficult for me."

November

11/1 Reedy sends LBJ a memo on a conversation he had with Stuart Long on Sunday which Reedy thinks is representational of the thinking of the more extreme elements of the Democratic Advisory Council. Long thinks that Shivers is dead politically and the only way he can control the Texas delegation is by backing LBJ as a favorite son candidate. Long fears that LBJ will be used by Shivers in any favorite son movement and is opposed to sending an unpledged delegation or a delegation pledged to a favorite son to the convention in 1956. Long says that the DAC has \$100,000 to spend and will sweep the state convention next year. Reedy also writes that Sam Wood and Edmunds Travis expressed similar thoughts about Shivers to him recently.

LBJ has a number of long distance telephone calls today with Walter Jenkins, General Persons, Army Secretary Brucker, Jack Martin, Nixon and Robert Anderson concerning the transfer of troops from Fort Hood.

Senator Kerr and Clark Clifford arrive at the Ranch and stay until tomorrow afternoon.

11/2 LBJ and Senator Kerr hold a press conference at the LBJ Ranch and discuss the Democratic program for the next session of Congress. A new farm program, school construction aid, a highway bill, broadening of the Social Security laws,

passage of the Harris natural gas bill and a tax cut for low income groups are all urgent Democratic goals. Kerr also announces that many Oklahomans as well as Texans would support LBJ for president or vice president. LBJ denies that he is a candidate.

- 11/6 Margaret Mayer and Bob Hollingsworth begin a series in the Dallas Times Herald on the Texas political scene. The results of three-month-long survey of Texas show that organizational work in the Democratic Party is being done much earlier this year than normal with the liberal faction far in front in grassroots organization. Speaker Rayburn and Governor Shivers lead the two opposite poles of the Party with LBJ occupying the key role in the center. The governor's race is wide open with the conservatives hoping that Price Daniel will become a candidate. Finally, they write that Republicanism has faced a setback in Texas with the President's heart attack: "They have come to a basic realization that support of President Eisenhower in 1952 did not necessarily mean support of the Republican Party."
- 11/8 CTJ has an operation at Scott and White Hospital today.
- 11/9 LBJ drives to Temple to see CTJ at Scott and White, and attends meetings concerning the Whitney dinner and Fort Hood. That evening he returns to Austin and has dinner with Governor Shivers.
- 11/11 CTJ returns from the hospital today.
- Eisenhower is released from Fitzsimons Hospital in Denver and flies to Washington.
- 11/12 Secretary of the Army Brucker tells LBJ by phone from Washington that a part of a proposed transfer of 16,000 troops from Fort Hood to Fort Polk, Louisiana, has been cancelled indefinitely.
- 11/15 Adlai Stevenson announces he is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.
- 11/19 "Lyndon Johnson Day" at Southwest Texas State Teachers College homecoming in San Marcos. LBJ, CTJ, Lynda and Luci arrive about 10 a.m. C.E. Evans, Professor H. M. Greene, Grace Tully and Mrs. Sam Johnson are also among the crowd of 2,000 gathered to honor LBJ.
- 11/21 LBJ attends a board of directors meeting at the Citizens State Bank in Johnson City before he and CTJ leave for Whitney to attend the Democratic fund raising dinner. CTJ, Mrs. Sam Johnson and Grace Tully attend a reception given in their honor from 5 to 7 p.m., and LBJ holds a 5:30 press conference.

That evening, LBJ addresses an overflow crowd of 1600 people at the \$10-a-plate fund-raising dinner in Whitney's high school gymnasium. LBJ assails the Republican administration and unveils his 13-point "program with a heart." Referring to the Texas political scene, LBJ says he hopes that the Democrats will send a delegation to next year's convention "ready to abide by the decision of the majority and prepared to fight for the election of the nominee." Governor Shivers had said last week that he would not pledge to support a party nominee until he knew who the nominee was. LBJ's thirteen proposals are: a social security bill, tax revision benefiting low income groups, a health program to aid medical research and provide larger grants for hospital construction; a school construction program; a farm program to restore 90% of parity, extend it to additional products and possibly a soil rental program; a public roads program similar to the Gore bill; a natural gas bill; a housing program; a water resources program; a depressed areas program; amendments to the immigration and naturalization laws; a constitutional amendment eliminating the poll tax; disaster insurance. Texas Supreme Court Justice Bob Calvert is master of ceremonies at the event. Lt. Gov. Ben Ramsey and Grace Tully speak briefly in tribute to LBJ. Governor Shivers was not present; he attended ceremonies near Alpine, Texas earlier in the day at the dedication of Big Bend National Park.

11/22 LBJ writes Stuart Symington in response to a suggestion he forwarded to LBJ from Abe Feinberg concerning the Middle East situation. Feinberg notes that tensions have increased in the Middle East because of Russian arms sales to Egypt, and that a security pact is needed between the U.S. and both sides guaranteeing that in the event of aggression against either Egypt or Israel, the U.S. will move against the aggressor. LBJ promises that he will give the idea serious consideration.

Senator Kefauver arrives at the Ranch for an overnight visit.

11/23 The AEC rules that the Dixon-Yates contract is invalid on the basis of the conflict of interest involved in Adolphe Wenzell's role in the contract. Therefore, the government should not recognize it as an obligation.

11/24 Thanksgiving. Senator and Mrs. Styles Bridges arrive en route to Phoenix, Arizona and have Thanksgiving dinner at the Ranch with the Johnsons, Wesley West and George Brown.

11/25 LBJ and Bridges meet with the press at the Fredericksburg airport. The two men said they had discussed the upcoming White House conference during Bridges' visit. LBJ also has a number of phone conversations today concerning his Whitney speech, including talks with Fenton Baker, Harry Provenge, Governor Averell Harriman and Frank McCulloch of Time.

11/28 LBJ goes to San Antonio to address the Golden Deeds Banquet honoring Harry Jersig, and returns to Austin after the speech.

In Florida on a 4-day campaign tour, Stevenson says that LBJ's 13-point program should serve as a rallying point for Democrats in the coming session of Congress.

11/29 LBJ, CTJ, Lynda, Luci, Mary Rather, and Mr. and Mrs. Wesley West fly to Los Angeles this morning on the West plane. They arrive at noon and stay at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. That afternoon LBJ meets with Noah Dietrich and Mr. Warren.

11/30 The Johnsons visit Disneyland.

December

12/1 LBJ addresses the American Hotel Association convention at a luncheon at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. LBJ expresses his pride in the bipartisan foreign policy developed in Congress under the leadership of Senator George. He says, however, that that policy does not mean that there will be an end to disagreement on methods or an end to discussion of foreign policy. George, Eisenhower and Dulles have recently suggested that foreign policy not be made a campaign issue in 1956.

12/2 The Johnsons visit CBS Television City.

12/3 The Johnsons go to Las Vegas and return to Austin on 12/4 at 8:30 p.m.

12/5 Jack Bell writes a column concerning LBJ's plans to confer with Senators George and Russell in Georgia next week. The three men will probably agree to seek a policy of moderation in political criticism of Eisenhower's foreign and defense policies, according to Bell. In a telephone interview, George said he hopes to review the foreign situation with LBJ before the White House briefing on 12/13, and that he cannot agree with recent statements by Stevenson and Harriman that the free world is in a worse position than before.

12/9 LBJ has a number of telephone conversations with Kellam, Jenkins, Paul Bolton, Don Thomas and Paul Taft of Galveston concerning KGUL.

12/11 LBJ, CTJ and Mr. and Mrs. West fly to Washington on the West plane. They have dinner that night with Senator Russell and the Wests at 4921 30th Place.

12/12 LBJ returns to the Capitol for the first time since his heart attack. He meets with Senators Murray, Mansfield, Hayden and Anderson at 11: 00 and later with Clark Clifford, Tom Corcoran and Jim Rowe. The Wests and CTJ join him for lunch in Skeeter Johnston's office.

That afternoon LBJ holds a standing-room-only press conference which 125 reporters attend. LBJ says he must consult with his doctors before he knows whether he will return as majority leader or not. When asked whether or not any man who has had a heart attack should be a candidate for office, LBJ replied that he could not even speak for himself on that subject, let alone speak for anyone else, but he hopes that Eisenhower's health is such that he can be a candidate if he chooses to run.

LBJ also meets with Doris Fleeson and Justice Douglas this afternoon, and that evening the Johnsons have Averell Harriman to dinner at their home.

Eisenhower holds the first of two conferences at the White House to discuss his State of the Union Message. The conference is the first he has had at the White House since his heart attack. Today's meeting is for Vice President Nixon and Republican congressional leaders.

12/13 LBJ attends a bipartisan conference at the White House.

The Johnsons, the Wests, Juanita Roberts, Gene Williams, George Reedy, Olaf Anderson and Senator Russell fly to Atlanta that afternoon on the West plane.

12/14 LBJ undergoes a checkup at Emory University Hospital by Dr. Willis Hurst. The Johnsons return to Texas that evening. Hurst reports that LBJ has returned to good health but "extraordinary pressures and abnormal tensions should be kept to a minimum."

12/15 Stewart and Joseph Alsop write that the natural gas bill may cause one of the biggest party fights in years in Congress. Forty utility companies have banded together to fight the bill, according to the Alsops, because they fear the increases in gas prices resulting from the bill will hurt their business. Senator Douglas has announced his intentions of giving the bill "very careful examination" and Senators Byrd and Robertson are reportedly Douglas' allies on this issue. Senator Russell is also reported to be wavering on the matter, and some northern Democrats are saying that they will push civil rights issues if the southerners push the natural gas issue.

12/16 Kefauver announces his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

12/18 Senator Smathers arrives for a visit.

12/22 Mayor Schroeder and the city officials of Fredericksburg come to the Ranch where LBJ presents them with landing field lights for the airport, a gift from Arthur Godfrey.

That afternoon LBJ goes Christmas shopping in Austin. In the evening the Johnsons have a Christmas party with fireworks at the Ranch.

- 12/24 The Johnsons have their first flag-raising this morning on the new flag pole given them by Mayor Tom Miller.
- The Kellams come to the Ranch for lunch and later the Johnsons go to Mrs. Sam Johnson's home in Austin for the family Christmas tree with LBJ's sisters, Sam Houston and their families.
- 12/25 The Johnsons spend Christmas Day at the Ranch.
- 12/27 The Johnsons fly to Houston and the next day leave for Rochester, Minnesota for LBJ's checkup at the Mayo Clinic.
- 12/29 East-West relations reach a new low since the July Geneva conference when Khrushchev and Bulganin denounce the West. Khrushchev rejects Eisenhower's "open skies" plan and denounces Eisenhower's Christmas message on the liberation of Soviet satellite nations.
- 12/30 The Johnsons arrive in Washington.
- 12/31 LBJ holds a press conference to discuss his doctor's statement concerning his health.