

INTERVIEW I

DATE: October 24, 1985

INTERVIEWEE: CYNTHIA WILSON

INTERVIEWER: Lewis Gould

PLACE: Via telephone from LBJ Library to Ms. Wilson's office

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G: Why don't you start out by just telling us something about your own background, education, and professional experience before you got to the White House and then we can focus in more directly on what you did in the White House with Mrs. Johnson.

W: I grew up in Syracuse, New York. I went for undergraduate work to St. Lawrence University, which is a liberal arts college in upstate New York, majored in English, had a lot of interest in writing and decided during my senior year that I wanted to go on to graduate school. I graduated in 1962 in the spring, and I was Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude*.

Then I went on to the University of Texas, and this is kind of an interesting story because in a way, that's how I ultimately got to work for Mrs. Johnson. I chose Texas in part because they had a good journalism school. But ultimately, I wanted to go to a different part of the country to graduate school, and Texas, being a state university, had very low tuition for out of state students compared to private universities. So I chose Texas and trundled on out to Austin in the fall of 1962 for graduate school. I spent two years there in graduate work in journalism. Since I had not had any journalism as an undergraduate, I had to take a lot of undergraduate course work, which actually I found

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very useful because it was a sort of practical writing and editing, and I learned how to write on a typewriter during that period, which is very valuable at that. Anyway, I finished in June of 1964 and worked that summer on the Waco newspaper, which is the Waco--

G: *Times Herald*, I think.

W: --*Times Herald*. Well, they're both owned by the same--anyway, it was a fellowship arrangement with the university, and I worked there for the summer. That was good, sort of practical experience just writing, and I got to do lots of fun things like covering the court house, which is sort of exciting, except--it's interesting when I look back on it in that time, and that was the summer of 1964, there was a lot of activity on the national scene, of course, on the civil rights front. It was very clear to me, as a Yankee, that many of the people at the newspaper were not at all thrilled with the idea of a civil rights movement, and I got in fairly heated discussions, shall we say, with some of the people in the newspaper about their coverage of blacks and how they abused them in the newspaper.

Anyway, at the end of that summer, I had decided that I wanted to go to New York and work on a magazine, so I trundled off to New York City and much to my chagrin, discovered what I guess in those days everybody discovered sooner or later, was that if you were a woman, that the only way to get a job on a magazine was to start as a secretary. And it didn't matter what else you'd done, I mean that was how you got in. And I kept failing the typing test, which was very aggravating because I did know how to type and I had even taken the precaution of taking shorthand. But I would get so uptight and aggravated with having to take the typing test that I kept making mistakes and failing typing tests.

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Well, this was a great blow to my ego. I never did get a job on a magazine, and eventually, after knocking on a lot of doors, I took a job that I got through family connections really, working for Columbia Records. It was basically a secretarial job, or as they said in those days, a girl Friday job. I started in there in the fall of 1964, and just after I had started that job, one day in the mail I got a letter from out of the blue, a letter from Liz Carpenter, whom I did not know. I knew who she was, but she was, of course, a very well-known person in Texas and, because of her working for the Johnsons, of course, was well-known at the university.

Anyway, there was this letter in my mailbox from Liz Carpenter saying would I call her at the White House about a job, which just blew me away because I couldn't imagine how on earth (laughter) that she could be calling me or contacting me. I mean I realized obviously the connection must be the university, but it was a big surprise, particularly since I came from a family of dyed-in-the-wool Republicans, so I did not have any kind of political connections that could make me surface in some other way. Needless to say the next morning I called her, and she elaborated a little bit on her letter and said that--this was right after the election, by the way.

G: So it would be November, 1964.

W: Yes, November 1964, and I had just started this job. I had been on the job, I guess, about a week [inaudible]. Then she said that I had been recommended by Dr. [Dewitt C.] Reddick, who was the head of the journalism school. Mrs. Johnson had been his student at UT, and they would like to talk to me about the job.

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I was just absolutely bowled over at the thought, and I said, "Well gosh, of course I would like to talk to you, but could I come on the weekend?" And Liz said, "No, we're going to be in Texas every weekend, for the next"-- I don't know, [the] foreseeable future. "You'll have to come during the week." And I said, "Well, I can't come during the week. I have this job that I just started, and I can't tell them that I'm going to the White House for a job interview, (laughter) when I just started this job." And Liz, being the canny person that she is, she said, "Well, tell them that you've been invited to a tea. Tell them you've been invited to a tea at the White House for the Texas graduates." And I said "Okay," so that was a good cover because of course my employer knew that I would have gone to the reception, so that was a reasonable cover. It all seemed at the time like a dream, but I went and spent a whole week's salary on a dress, and, believe it or not, a hat because in those days, one still wore hats and gloves and other appropriate attire. And went down, I guess the next week, went down during the day, met with Liz, and then Mrs. Johnson. I didn't even know when I went whether I would actually meet with her or not, but she was very nice and chatty, and what she talked about and what I learned was the job was that they were interviewing me for. Mrs. Johnson was very particular about how her mail was answered, and she wanted it to be answered intelligently, and she wanted it--to the extent necessary, she wanted it answered responsively. While recognizing that a great many things can be answered by form letters, still there are a lot of other things that can't, so she wanted somebody that could give a hand to answering that sort of mail, and that sounded very exciting to me. I mean, anything in the White House line was exciting.

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G: Let me just interject and ask if you had any impressions of Mrs. Johnson as a person on this first meeting. I mean, do you remember where it was? In the White House--

W: Oh yes, yes, I do.

G: Well, go ahead. I just--

W: Yes. The interesting thing about this was that I had never been to the White House before even as a tourist, so it was all terribly intimidating, and when I arrived in the morning, I went to the East Wing, as I had been told by Liz to do, and Liz was tied up, and they said to me to wait. Well, I waited for a long, long time, and finally Marcia Maddox came down. She worked for Liz, and said, "Liz is still tied up. She told me to come and get you, and we're to go to lunch." So we went to lunch and had a nice lunch and then came back, and when we came back, the guard at the gate said, "Oh, Mrs. Johnson's been looking for you. Where have you been?" And I thought, "Oh, no! [inaudible]. Oh my Lord, I've blown it already." But anyway, they rushed me in, and we went upstairs to the family quarters, which was really, you know, just overwhelming, and sat me down on a little settee in this sort of nice parlor which was there in the long hallway. It was the end of a very nice sitting area, which Mrs. Johnson used a lot for her meeting with her staff. [Inaudible].

G: Do you remember what day this was, the day of the month or the year? I know it's late 1964, but--

W: Ah--

G: Well, anyway, it doesn't--we can probably figure it out.

W: I can probably find--I could probably track it down.

G: Well, it would help. We'll add it in later then, but it's just to be precise about it.

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W: Okay.

G: Go ahead. Pick up where--

W: But anyway, I know it was a weekday, and it seems like it was sort of the middle of the week.

G: Okay. Well, that's--

W: Anyway, Liz sat me down and told me to wait, and then she went on into what I later learned was Mrs. Johnson's bedroom. I sat down on this little settee, and I looked down at my legs. I realized that the night before my aunt, with good intentions, had taken a look at my shoes--this was back in New York--and said, "Oh, your shoes look terrible. I have this wonderful black dye that will make your shoes look like new!" And she had worked on my scuffed-up shoes. The dye had come off all over my legs, and there were all of these great big black marks on my legs. It looked like I had been wading through an ink well. It was awful, and there was no way that you could not see it. I mean it was just right out there, and I thought, "Oh, my God! What is Mrs. Johnson going to think? This is just terrible," and it wouldn't come off, of course. It was like any shoe dye. It was rather indelible in terms of taking a Kleenex to clean it, and there it was, and I just thought, "Oh my Lord, it's so terrible, and surely Mrs. Johnson is going to notice this and think I'm crazy," you know, to have all these black marks on my legs because it didn't look like--I mean, it just looked like I was really dirty or something. It was awful.

Anyway, Mrs. Johnson, when she came out, couldn't have been nicer. She just was very gracious and put me at ease as much as possible and, under the circumstances, she made me feel very comfortable. She was very firm--perhaps the best way I can describe it

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is almost motherly, in the sense that she talked about her daughters, and of course her daughters were younger than me but not tremendously younger. I think Lynda was then maybe starting college, and Mrs. Johnson talked about my good school grades and so forth, and said how much she hoped the girls would do well at school, and it was a very nice, sort of non-threatening conversation from my perspective, and she was really very gracious. And Liz was there too, and they both talked, and out of this evolved what the job was, which was essentially, as I said, working on the staff and answering letters. It was clear from what she said that she was very particular about the English language and how it was used and wanting well-written letters, which sounded great to me. One of the interesting things at the end of the interview, which was about forty-five minutes, quite long, [inaudible]--at the end of the interview. I think somehow or other it came up that I had never even set foot in the White House before, and she said, "Oh, well, my goodness. Then we'll have to have a tour."

So then she called, picked up the phone and called, I--in those days some of the White House police were used as tour guards, and as I recall it was one of them that she called, and one of them came and got me and then gave me a private tour of the state floor, which you could see if you'd been on a tour, but which I had not seen because I had come in via the staff entrance and then been whisked upstairs in the elevator. So I had not seen any of that, so I was really very appreciative of that thoughtfulness, inviting me to have that tour because [inaudible] it was sort of the icing on the cake.

G: At this point in the conversation was there any reference or discussion of beautification or what would become beautification or beautification-related subjects at that point?

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W: No, I don't remember anything being mentioned about that at all. It was strictly [about] helping out, answering the mail, writing intelligent letters, and that sounded fine to me.

G: I could see where it would.

W: Yes, and the way it was left--it was interesting. Basically, they more or less offered me a job but subject to the fact that I would have to be cleared, and they said, "Now that takes several weeks," [inaudible] and "We'll be in touch with you until we formally, finally offer you the job when that formality is done," and then in the meantime, of course, I couldn't really--I didn't feel that I could really tell--I was in sort of a dilemma since I really didn't feel like I could tell my employer that I was being considered for this job, because I had this terrible fear that they were going to find out that in Texas I had belonged to the Young Republicans [inaudible] (laughter), and really, I mean I was terrified of that. I thought, "They're going to find out, and they're going to find out that Mother and Daddy are Republicans, and they're probably not going to want me." So as it happened, they did not discover--or if they did discover, it didn't make any difference. I don't know which is true, but anyway, after several weeks what happened--and this is kind of funny--the FBI came around to my boss and spilled the beans, and then he, in a nice way, confronted me and said, "What is this?" I just came here looking for a job, and then I confessed that that was true, and fortunately in the circumstances they were very excited about it, and they were very nice, and they were not mad at me for so abruptly leaving and for being less than candid.

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But anyway, so I guess I heard from Liz about a month later--three or four weeks later and then gave notice and then left New York--I left New York, I think, on New Year's day. I took the train down to Washington with my belongings, bags and boxes.

Anyway, I came down the day after New Year's day, and when I arrived, I was told that Ashton Gonella--who was Mrs. Johnson's personal secretary, as distinct from Bess [Abell], who was social secretary--Ashton had been, in the interim period--[ill with] I think flu or appendicitis--she had something--I'm pretty sure it was appendicitis. She had had to be rushed to the hospital at some time over the holidays, so they were shorthanded; there was nobody who could answer the phone up there. At that time, in the Mansion on the third floor there was an office for the personal secretary, up near the solarium, and so I was told when I arrived--as soon as I arrived, when I was whisked upstairs--to sit in that office. And it was terrifying because there I was in the Mansion, and it was very, very unreal.

But I remember very shortly after I arrived--I also remember Mrs. Johnson called me down--and one of the questions she had asked me--and I guess on my résumé I had indicated that I had taken shorthand because I remember her commenting that she had taken shorthand when she was in--I don't know when [inaudible].

G: College, yes.

W: --and had always found it very useful, and I said, "Yes," that I had taken it and found it useful and that while I was not terrifically proficient, I could get along.

Well anyway, one of the first things that happened--the first day or so I got a call to come to her room, that she was going to dictate some letters to me. Well, I was very uptight, of course, and the letters turned out to be her thank-you letters for personal

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Christmas presents, and the only one I really remember was to Perle Mesta, and I think I retyped that letter probably five times before I got--I'm not a very good typist anyway--before I got it right, all the mistakes out of it, perfect on this very beautiful, elegant stationery, only to discover that I had misspelled Perle and that Perle Mesta spelled her name "P-E-R-L-E" not "P-E-A-R-L"--

G: Yes, indeed.

W: --but nobody fussed at me for that, and I was just embarrassed. You wouldn't have known, and I guess the others were all right, but I remember I was just sort of, absolutely--it was just as I said; it was like a dream. It was Perle Mesta, and here I am taking this dictation in the First Lady's bedroom. It was terribly, terribly exciting.

I think for the first--and I stayed upstairs for about two weeks, I think, and then Ashton was better and came back, and I went back down to the correspondence section, which was in the East Wing. You need to understand that at that time, on the second floor of the East Wing, Liz had her office, and of course she was chief of staff as well as press secretary, and then Bess had her office, and then there was a correspondence office, which I sat in, and then there was the calligrapher's office. That's what we called the social office, which handled all the calligraphy and all the invitation lists, and all that stuff. And there was also a Secret Service office, and the office of the military aides was also on the floor.

And the interesting thing was, Mrs. Johnson's staff really functioned quite cohesively. There was a great deal of, oh, I think camaraderie and pulling together and even though--like there were two women who worked for Bess specifically, and then there were three women who were specifically in Liz's office. For example, Liz would call me

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down and have me do something or Bess' staff or something, so that there was a lot of back and forth. It was not rigid like it gets sometimes in offices where there is no cross-over. It was all pretty much whoever needed what.

G: Turf was not a big factor then?

W: No, and I really appreciate how relatively little of that there was when I look back on it, in the meantime having seen a lot of places where it has been a factor since. And Liz and Bess, even though they're very different personalities and styles, really got along and functioned very well. And they each had their own orbit, but they had some--you know--they had some occasions, but for the most part there wasn't a lot of petty turf among them--now where the turf stuff came up was the rest of them.

G: Yes. Before going on about that or asking you about that, to what extent do you attribute that result to Mrs. Johnson's style as--I guess "administrator" or "leader" might make it more ominous than it really was--you know, [more] formal than it was. But did she create an atmosphere in which people pulled together rather than having turf fights or--?

W: I rather think so. My sense of that is that everybody always wanted to do whatever was best for her and felt a tremendous loyalty to her in a protective kind of a way, in the good sense of wanting to do your best because she deserved the best from you.

And so you all had a common goal, and I think that did--and because her personality was so gentle and so nonauthoritarian, unlike the President, there wasn't a lot of throwing around--visibly, at least, a lot of throwing around of weight. Everything was done--I'm sure you've heard the expression [inaudible] "the velvet glove" or "the iron

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butterfly." You know, the kind of thing--everything is done in a very gentle way. Even though there is a lot of power there, it's not obvious.

G: Let's say that somebody did something good and was to be complimented. How did she make it known, or did she make it known, or was there a way she made it known that you had done well and that she was pleased?

W: She'd often write you little notes. It would be usually very informal, like on the corner of something--

G: Yes.

W: --or like--say you'd written a particularly good letter, and she might on the carbon--remember the carbons?

G: Yes, indeed.

W: Yes. On the carbon she might scribble a little note down at the bottom, you know. "This is a really good letter."

G: And then it would say, "CTJ" or something.

W: Yes, and that's how you knew it was her. It was always "CTJ." It was her, as opposed to somebody else signing her initials.

G: Let's say on the other hand that something went wrong or something didn't go exactly the way she wanted. How did she let people know that their performance had not met her expectations and that she hoped the next time they would do better? I don't mean reprimand, but--

W: Yes.

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G: --you know, when you faced the situation where it wasn't the performance she wanted, how did she let the message get across that way?

W: I was trying to think. I can never remember her directly reprimanding anybody. I think what probably happened would be that she would say something to Bess or Liz, who might then say something to the guilty party. But it was all very low key. But now for instance Liz, on the other hand, as you know, is a very volatile personality. She would on her own blow up at people in her office, say. You know, on something that she was doing--she'd get mad and pop off, but she's the kind of person who blows up and then it's over with. I mean she's very--she doesn't really hold grudges, doesn't let it linger. But if it were something of Mrs. Johnson's, it wouldn't be handled that way. It would be [inaudible]--you know, the only example I can think of is one--and this is one--[inaudible] example. It's just the same kind of thing that--I don't know if I was there or if I just was told this by somebody, but Mrs. Johnson had [inaudible] on the Ranch, and she was out walking and had an agent with her, and the agent saw a rattlesnake right close by--[inaudible]--

G: Oh, yes.

W: --and he shot it, and she was very upset. I know I wasn't there; somebody must have told me. Anyway, she very gently reprimanded the agent, said that it really wasn't necessary. That's sort of the way that I would imagine she would deal with anybody, that she would not yell at you or do anything like that, but she would just very gently say that she was disappointed in you or whatever. But I can't think of any time I ever saw her blow up at anybody.

G: Yes. Well, that certainly tracks what everybody else says.

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W: Yes. Like I remember, I went on that trip when we went up to Williams College and Yale and had all those pickets. It was real tense.

G: Yes, 1967. Yes.

W: Pretty hateful, and the student protesters were saying some pretty awful things, and were kind of threatening because when you're walking along outside with an academic procession--you know, walking around outside with the crowds pushing around you--and I remember, I was simply furious at all this crowd, absolutely livid. And she just kept her composure. I had great admiration for this woman for just keeping her cool and not getting upset. On that trip, I remember, there was an incident with a protester who threw what turned out to be just a big black piece of cloth, sort of a funereal [inaudible] black piece of cloth--sort of threw it toward her, and one of the agents jumped him and intercepted it. He didn't really hurt the kid, but kind of shoved him, gave him a good shove, and I do remember, and she was concerned. [Inaudible] was not blowing up after the worst provocation. I have to think about the worst provocation for her [inaudible] and I never saw her lose her temper. But anyway, [inaudible], but you could tell from her that she was not comfortable, but I think she never would have lost it like most of us do.

G: Yes. Now when--now you're in the White House in the early part of 1965--

W: Yes.

G: --and your life is going to be moving into the beautification side, so let me ask you how that happened and what you remember about the early phase of that aspect.

W: Yes. I'll tell you as I recall I--I started in answering letters, and they're all the same, even given circumstances, and after a while that gets fairly routine. You know, amazingly. I

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mean, while there are always occasional letters that are different; it's amazing how many people say the same thing. And fairly soon I began to get kind of bored with answering letters, and wanting to do other things. You know, sort of break up the monotony because there was a lot to do. There was really a vast number of letters, and I expressed to Liz and Bess sort of the feeling, "Gee, I'm happy to be doing this, but if you have anything else I could do to break up the monotony, I sure would like it." So I made that known, and it seems to me about in March, or somewhere along in the spring, is when the beautification thing first sort of started percolating.

G: Yes. That would track because the interview and the committee are all [inaudible]--

W: And along the way there, we started very soon getting mail, tons of it, and so I said, "Well, gee, since I'm answering the mail, that's something that interests me. I'd rather answer letters about trees than about welfare states. Why don't I take on that mail?" And Sharon [Francis] was doing a lot of the mail, too. She was drafting some of the form letters and some of the early speeches and other sorts of responses to some of the issues that began to come up.

G: Do you remember your impressions of Sharon the first time you met her, or do we want to talk just a little bit about her as a person so that we have a sense of how she impressed you when you first met her?

W: That's funny; I don't remember the first time I met her. She came over from [Stewart] Udall's staff, [Department of] Interior. She was a kind of an interesting mixture of a sort of an intellectual hippie.

G: Okay.

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W: Or that's how I would try to describe her, a sort of a well-behaved, intellectual hippie and very cerebral but also sort of a non-conformist.

G: Do you want to say just a word or two about what she looked like at that time?

W: Yes. She had--and I think where the hippie comes from [is], she had really long hair, down--you know, like way down her back, and she wore glasses.

G: Short? Tall?

W: Small. Quite short, not tiny but more maybe five feet two or five-three and sort of what I would describe as wiry and athletic. Very outdoorsy; very much outdoorsy. Into things like backpacking; outdoor kinds of things. And very initially non-feminine in the traditional sense, not really interested in clothes and those kinds of traditional female stuff. She was not someone that you would think of as paying a lot of attention to what she wore. Now over the years that changed, and she became more aware of her wardrobe and started buying nicer clothes and [inaudible], but that occurred over time.

G: Now do you want to say a word about how your responsibilities evolved and what you did, and then a sense of what people that worked on beautification--how that side of the operation functioned?

W: Sharon came over--initially, I think she came over part-time. It seems to me like she would come over like half a day or something. She sort of did some of the earlier speeches, and she continued throughout to write speeches, and she drafted some of the kind of stock responses that we--right at the beginning when it started getting so big--lots of mail, and very quickly was overwhelmed by such volume, and I think it was at that point that I sort of spoke up and in some way said, "Why don't I work on that? That's something that would

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appeal to me." Then I sort of just somehow gravitated toward handling the mail, and over time somehow it just kind of evolved that I kind of handled most of the mail, and she would do some of it, but the majority of it I would do, which freed her up to do other things. And after a while, at some point--and I don't know really know when--she started coming over full time.

G: It's later in 1965. At some point, I--

W: Yes, and as Mrs. Johnson got more and more active the volume of activities and the volume of the mail grew and grew and grew. I don't remember at what point I started being involved in her committee. I know that at some point I started going and sitting in on the meetings, but it's not right--at some point later, I started sitting in on the meetings, and I would send out notices of the meetings. Marjorie Merriweather Post was on the committee, and she was deaf, so didn't usually attend. So every month, just as a courtesy, we would send her summaries of the meetings, and then she would always send these lovely little hand-written notes to Mrs. Johnson to apologize for not coming because she couldn't hear. And it was very touching. I mean it was just sort of very Victorian, just kind of wonderful good manners. And because we knew that, she really didn't need to reply every time--every once in a while when there was something going on here--you know, when hearing was not important she could come. But when it was strictly a meeting she didn't come.

G: Who, in your judgment, were the really important and forceful personalities on the committee, as you watched and listened?

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W: Well, first, Secretary Udall. [Inaudible] He had a lot of opinions. He spent [inaudible] dollars [inaudible]. Nash Castro, although he was technically not a member of the committee, he was there. He could tell you [inaudible].

G: What is the key to Mr. Castro's ability? It's clear, as you had occasion to point out to me, that his role should not be underemphasized. But what made him so central a part of the activities?

W: It's because he was the one who got projects done that were actually visible. That was the real key, in terms of--because he was in the Park Service in the National Capital region. He was what? Deputy--

G: Yes. He was--

W: --Director was his title, and almost everything that was done--well, there were projects on D.C. land and there were projects on federal land. A great, many, many projects that were funded by donations from the beautification committee were on Park Service land.

G: He seems very efficient from the material in his papers. Is that--

W: Yes.

G: I take it that's obviously correct.

W: Yes, very much so and very sort of--also very correct and polite, and the sort of person [inaudible] and present.

G: Yes.

W: Always present, you know. I could barely [inaudible]. He just had the [inaudible] ability to be gentlemanly [inaudible], and interestingly and philosophically, [inaudible]. I think he was kind of a bad [inaudible] and he would come back, you know, Mrs. Johnson would

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look at the pictures. He was a very good salesman in the sense of not only doing things well but then also showing you the evidence that he had done them, so he is a very--what I would call, a superb bureaucrat.

G: Yes.

W: [Inaudible] --and also cover all the known bases [inaudible].

G: But you would agree though that it is correct that there was a, as you say, using your word, a spectrum of attitudes on--

W: [Inaudible]

G: --on where the emphasis should be? I gather Mrs. Johnson bridged all the spectrum--

W: Yes.

G: --but there is a spectrum within the people around her then?

W: Yes. Oh yes. Yes. Because you had on the national end of the spectrum you had Mrs. Lasker, Mary Lasker, who was very much for flowers, and then you had some other people who were more interested in the more civic--playgrounds-in-the-ghetto thing, such as Mrs. Astor and the [inaudible] and playgrounds [inaudible] and all those things that [inaudible]

G: And Walter Washington, I guess.

W: Yes, and Walter and public housing, although Walter of course was a consummate politician.

G: Yes.

W: He was one of those people that could bridge all the gaps, but certainly he was a voice for doing things in the public housing in the ghettos [inaudible]

G: Yes.

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W: So it was a nice mixture because you had this whole array of people representing both the-- the philanthropists, the Rockefellers, that whole group of people, and then you had various city officials. You had the head of the board of trade, and gosh, Danziger [?] who was then the head of Giants [?]. He was around, so it was an interesting mixture of people.

G: That's right. Well, one thing I've come to realize is that there was one person who was making sure that all of these people worked together, and that was Mrs. Johnson.

W: Oh yes.

G: And you know when disparate opinions are all going in the same direction, then you have to think that somebody is making it happen, and somehow she knew what she was doing. We're getting toward the end of the tape.

W: Okay.

G: Do you want to do another time or turn the tape over and keep going for a while? What is your pleasure?

W: I'd like to do it another time.

G: Okay. That's fine. That's great. Well, let me stop here, and then maybe I could--let me call you back and see when I can set it up with the library again because I do want to talk about highway beautification--

W: Okay.

G: We've done more than scratch the surface, but there's a lot more to be done.

End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

Legal Agreement Pertaining to the Oral History Interviews of

CYNTHIA WILSON

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 44, United States Code, and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, I, Cynthia Wilson, do hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America all rights, title, and interest in the tape recordings and transcripts of the personal interviews conducted with me, on October 24 and November 7, 1985 by telephone from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library to Washington, D.C. and prepared for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

This assignment is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The transcripts shall be available for use by researchers as soon as they have been deposited in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.
- (2) The tape recordings shall be available to researchers.
- (3) I hereby assign to the United States Government all copyright I may have in the interview transcripts and tapes.
- (4) Copies of the transcripts and the tape recordings may be provided by the Library to researchers upon request.
- (5) Copies of the transcripts and the tape recordings may be deposited in or loaned to institutions other than the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Cynthia E. Wilson

Donor

April 4, 2000

Date

John W. Paul
Archivist of the United States

5-22-00

Date