INTERVIEW I

DATE: October 1, 1969

INTERVIEWEE: JOHN CONNALLY

INTERVIEWER: Joe B. Frantz

PLACE: Governor Connally's office in Houston, Texas

Tape 1 of 1, Side 1

F: Governor, you and I, I think, share experiences in this. We must have both been undergraduates at the time that Lyndon Johnson first emerged from the crowd, and I would just like to have on record how you first became aware of him.

C: Well, I first became aware of him in my undergraduate days at the University of Texas in, I would guess, around 1934 or 1935. My family lived at Floresville, Texas. At that time he was secretary to Congressman Richard M. Kleberg.

F: You were in his district.

C: Yes. So he came to Floresville, the Congressman did, and Mr. Johnson did from time to time. My daddy was quite active in--of course, it's not a big county or big city, so obviously my daddy knew him. My daddy had known his father, as a matter of fact, years before. So I first heard of him at that time, around 1934-1935. I did not really become personally acquainted with him until after he became director of the National Youth Administration.

F: Were you in Alvin Wirtz' senatorial district, or does that lie outside?

C: We were not then in his district, as I recall.

F: He was not a factor in your life at that time?

C: Not at that time, no. Senator Wirtz was from Seguin, but he was not a factor in my life at that time.

In the latter part of 1935 or 1936 I was in the University, and through Mr. Sam Fore, who was the publisher of the ***Floresville Chronicle-Journal***, I applied for and got a job from the National Youth Administration, actually working principally restacking books in the state library in the capitol building and making the magnificent sum of seventeen cents an hour. At the time I got the job I went over and actually saw Mr. Johnson who, as I say, was then state administrator of the NYA. As I recall, that was the first time I met J. C. Kellam and Bill Deason. They were all part of the NYA.

F: You didn't know you were meeting part of your future, did you?

C: That's right. I didn't realize how much of my future I was meeting. Then in 1937, when Mr. Johnson resigned as National Youth [Administration] administrator to make the race for Congress, I again got involved in a very limited way, really.

F: You were in law school at that time?

C: Yes, I was in law school and did some work in his campaign headquarters.

F: Were you solicited or were you just an interested young prospective lawyer who wanted to get his feet wet?

C: Well, both. I was interested and also solicited, again by Mr. Fore. At that time Mr. Johnson had not lived in that congressional district for very long, and so a great many of his old friends from Mr. Kleberg's old district, which is the adjoining district, came over into the Tenth Congressional District and did an awful lot of campaigning. So on my own volition and also at the request of Mr. Fore, who called me and wrote me and so

forth, and wrote every friend he had in Austin asking them to go to work and help Mr. Johnson, why, I got involved in a very minor way in the campaign.

F: What did you do mainly?

C: Oh, answering telephones, putting up placards, mailing out material.

F: Just piecework.

C: Just the piecework, just the routine work, really, primarily around the headquarters office. Then I guess the third phase of my association began in the spring of 1939.

F: You were president of the student body what year?

C: I was president of the student body in 1938-39. I was elected in the spring of 1938, took office then and served until the end of school in 1939, so I was really elected in the spring for the school year 1938-39.

In the spring of 1939 I had a number of friends out on the campus, one of whom was Eddie Joseph, and I began to pick up [hints that I might get a federal job] from two or three sources, one of whom was Senator Wirtz, whom I'd gotten to know in the congressional campaign of 1937. I had been down and had talked to him. He asked me what I was going to do when I got out of school, and I told him I didn't know. Well, would I be interested in some federal job? I said, "I don't know. It depends on what it is."

In the meantime, to digress a moment, in 1938 in the summer, because of my campus political activities, I had gotten involved in Ernest Thompson's campaign for governor and had worked a great deal during the spring of 1938 and into the summer. We had late primaries back in those days, and I was working full time in the Thompson

headquarters. That was the year of the [W. Lee "Pappy"] O'Daniel blitz. O'Daniel had won the primary with a clear majority, so in the run-off election I went over and worked for Jerry Mann, who was running for attorney general that year. So in the spring of 1939 I had had some overtures and had every reason to believe that I could get a job down in the attorney general's department. But more and more I began to hear people out on the campus saying, "Say, I understand you're going to go to work for the federal government." And I said, "No, I don't know anything about it." They said, "We've been getting questions about you." I said, "I don't know anything about it, never heard of it." Eddie Joseph operated the Campus Man's Shop, I believe was the name of it, on the Drag [Guadalupe Street], and I recall specifically on two different occasions he brought it up and asked me what kind of federal job I was going to apply for.

F: To interrupt for a moment, this is the first time Eddie Joseph's name has come into any interviews. Was he close to Johnson at this stage?

C: Yes, he was. He'd worked for him, and Eddie was quite well known around town. I was at a loss to understand why he was asking me these questions about my applying for a federal job, because I hadn't applied for any. I didn't have any idea what he was talking about.

F: You were just trying to graduate.

C: Yes, I was just trying to get out of school and having a hard enough time doing that. The second time he brought it up I thought something must be going on, so I said, "Now, this is the second time you've brought this up. I have not applied for a job anywhere, and there's bound to be some reason why [you're saying this]. This is three or four times

people have mentioned this to me. Now what's going on?" He said, "Well, I can't tell you, but I've been asked about you. There are some folks that have been talking to me about you, and I've been asked to give my opinion of you. I just thought you'd applied for a job." He didn't tell me what it was. Later that summer--I was finishing up that summer in law school--I guess it was Senator Wirtz who called me and said Congressman Johnson was coming to town and would be there on a certain day and wanted to visit with me.

F: You hadn't had much if any direct contact with the Congressman since he'd gone off to Washington?

C: No, I had not. So I told him that was fine. I met the Congressman and talked to him, and to make a long story short, he persuaded me to go to Washington as his secretary. He told me that his secretary, Sherman Birdwell from Buda, who'd been with him since he first went to Congress, wanted to come back to Texas and was coming back, and he was going to have an opening and wanted me to go up there. He explained the job and what it was, and in his typical way he made it sound like you'd be right next to the throne. To a young fellow twenty-two years old who'd never been to Washington it sounded pretty exciting and pretty alluring.

F: I remember the announcement. We all thought, "Man, that lucky so-and-so!"

C: Well, in those days, you know, to get a job you were lucky. And although I had some reasonable hope that I could go with the attorney general's department, frankly at considerably more money, I nevertheless agreed to go to work for him at $175 a month as his secretary in Washington, and did do so. We went up. I don't recall the precise dates,

but it was the fall of 1939; as I recall, it was roughly the beginning of September to the first of October. President Roosevelt had called a special session of Congress, the so-called neutrality session of Congress.

F: That was back in the days when Congress didn't meet twelve months a year.

C: That's right. They didn't meet twelve months out of the year.

So I went up there to be his secretary and got broken in during that period of time. I recall quite well it was a tough job. I had taken shorthand and typing my last year in high school, and although I wasn't the most proficient secretary in the world I got to where I could do pretty well, particularly on the typing. I lived in the basement of the Dodge Hotel where they had inexpensive rooms over there. They had two floors in the basement of the Dodge, and I walked back and forth from the Dodge over to the House Office Building where he had his offices.

F: This was still a sort of headquarters for administrative assistants, or secretaries as they called them then, I gather.

C: Yes, it was then. Later--well, that year and the following year--it also became the headquarters of all the transients going through FBI training; they really came through there, and a lot of them stayed in the basement of the Dodge Hotel with us.

We stayed up there during the neutrality session, then we came back and opened an office at the Pedernales Electric Co-Op in Johnson City [for] what remained of that fall after that session was over. I stayed up there with a druggist in the druggist's home, a fellow named Truman Fawcett. Then when Congress reconvened in January we all went back to Washington, went back a little before January.

F: How much of a staff did you have then?

C: Let's see. In those days about the time I went up there we hired Dorothy Nichols, who was Dorothy Jackson from Cotulla, Texas, whose brother Don Jackson had been a very dear friend of mine in school. We hired Walter Jenkins. He had already had on his staff a fellow named Herbert Henderson. Charlie Henderson was also on and off the staff in those days, Herbert's younger brother. I've forgotten whether he was with us at that particular moment or not. Then we had a couple of other girls whose names I don't remember, but that was about it. That was about the size of the staff.

I never shall forget the neutrality session. Even though I lived at the Dodge and worked at what was then called the New House Office Building--I believe it's now the Longworth Building--and I walked right by that Capitol twice a day at least, we were working so hard during that session that I was up there for my first time in Washington for approximately a month and never made a tour of the Capitol, never really got inside the Capitol.

F: You were always running late.

C: I was getting to the office around seven to seven-thirty in the morning and leaving anywhere from nine to midnight every night.

F: Comparatively the volume of work was just as great then, considering the size of the staff as--

C: No question about it. During the day we'd answer telephone calls; we'd make our telephone calls, and even in those days we had a great many veterans' cases, I remember. Of course, in the tail end of a depression you had every kind of problem under the sun.

We'd make our calls during the day and receive and talk to visitors and carry on the work. Then we'd have to save all the mail that we got that day to write, both dictate and write, after six or seven o'clock. So we'd generally go up on B Street and get a bite to eat and then come back and either dictate or write the mail. I used to write a great many letters myself. At that time I was typing about eighty words a minute on the typewriter with very great accuracy, and so I was composing all my own letters.

F: He got a secretary in more ways than one.

C: That's right. He got a secretary in more ways than one, more than in the title.

F: Yes.

C: After dictating and working all day, I've written as many as eighty letters a night myself, frequently would write twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, forty, night after night.

F: That doesn't inspire a man to be long-winded.

C: No, it really doesn't.

F: I want to ask you one thing about that and that is, did the young Congressman at that time take any particular personal interest in staff? Did he pretty well lay out duties and let you handle it? Did you sort of stand around till you found out what there was to do? What kind of office routine did you have? Or did you have a routine?

C: Yes, we had a routine. It was the routine of *work*. I would say in one sense we had an organized routine; it another we didn't. He was all over the Capitol. He had boundless energy then, as he does now and as he did later in life. With the time that he had there, he would go through his mail and he'd just throw the letters: "Say this," "Say that," "Do this," "Tell him this," "Tell him that." Just throwing it to you as fast as he could, and you

were grabbing an envelope or a pad or writing down a note on the letter itself, taking shorthand as fast as you could. I couldn't take it fast enough to keep up with him. He would dictate a few letters to Dorothy Nichols, and then he'd just leave with his coattail flying. He'd be going somewhere, to a committee meeting or to meet somebody or something, and we were left pretty much on our own, although he signed the mail.

F: He signed the letters himself?

C: Yes, the vast majority of it. Now as time went on I got to where I could duplicate his signature pretty well, and we started, on the routine stuff, signing what we called buck slips down to the departments. We'd get a long letter about some agricultural problem four or five pages long. We'd send it down to the Department of Agriculture for them to give us the information. We had these little mimeograph sheets just like they do now saying, "This letter has been received. Will you please give me the information and let me know what the facts are?" and so forth. Then, as time went on, as he got more and more confidence in me and other members of the staff, we would actually handle a lot of the mail on our own and sign more and more of it. We got to know who his friends were. We got to know what letters were really important. So even though we might compose the letters ourselves for his signature, he still signed them.

In the initial days it was really tough, because he really wasn't there enough to sit down and dictate these letters. The mail was heavy, every kind of letter in the world. So he'd just give us an idea of what he wanted to say to them and then we'd have to compose them, and if we used bad grammar or if we made a mistake, why, he'd blow his stack or he'd circle it in big, black ink and send it back to us. We went through all these trials and

tribulations, but there is no question but what he was very much on top of things in his office in one sense, and yet in another sense he delegated. He began to delegate more and more authority.

F: Did you have a feeling that early that you had a star on the rise?

C: Yes, I think beyond question.

F: You were working like the devil. (Laughter)

C: Well, we didn't have a whole lot of time to think and philosophize about what the future held.

F: That's right.

C: No, it was obvious the man was highly intelligent, highly gifted, possessed of incredible curiosity and energy, and he obviously just wasn't going to be a run-of-the-mill congressman.

F: Just one of the 435.

C: No, he wasn't going to be one of the 435. He was going to be a whale of a success or a hell of a failure, one of the two, because he just wasn't going to stand still.

F: Was there any time for socializing?

C: Not really, initially. You mean with him?

F: With him or with Lady Bird or with each other? Or make outside friends? Did he encourage you to spread yourself around so that you would know people?

C: Yes, he encouraged it very much; insisted that we get out. Now again, because of his background, he coached us. He spent a lot of time with us, and frequently late.

F: Tried to make political animals out of you all?

C: Oh, yes. Sure. When he was up there with Kleberg he'd had a *lot* of authority with Congressman Kleberg. The Congressman had delegated a tremendous amount of authority to him and responsibility, so he was in effect grooming me the same way, and all of us in the office. He encouraged us to get out, mix with the other secretaries and other people on the Hill, and said, "Find out what's going on. You've got to know people. You've got to know these people. Go and visit these secretaries. They're the ones that know what's happening. They're the ones that can get you information. They're the ones that can help you. You don't have to know these big shots. They don't ever know what's going on anyway."

This was in the days of the WPA; it was going great guns. We would have lunch or we'd make personal visits down to the WPA and the agencies where we had the most work going on, as determined by the volume of mail in the office. We'd try to establish a personal contact in that office so we'd know what was happening, because he was fiercely competitive even at that point with the senators. This was a continuing battle. For the most part the senators get information first simply because they're senators, but he wanted to get the information first. If he didn't know what was going on before anybody else knew what was going on he blew his stack. And if some other congressmen found out something that affected his district or in which they were jointly involved and he didn't know it before they did, we caught hell.

F: In a sense he very quickly became in my memory a congressman in a way for the whole state. He wasn't bound by his district.

C: Yes, because he had been NYA administrator, you see. He traveled over the state, and he

knew people all over the state and had worked with a good many of the civic leaders in establishing NYA facilities in Houston and Dallas and all over the state. So he knew a lot of these people, and he immediately began to build those contacts.

F: Did that create any problems in his relationships with other congressmen?

C: Yes, sure did. I think he began to generate a certain amount of animosity.

F: At least watchfulness.

C: Oh, yes, at least watchfulness, and some resentfulness, some little resentfulness. I don't think there's any doubt about it. Yet most of them accepted him and recognized him for what he was. But I know this came out very much; he was extremely aggressive, extremely ambitious.

This really came to the fore in 1940. A vacancy occurred on the Appropriations Committee, and he was sick. Well, he wanted that vacancy. Of course, right after he got up there in 1937 he was obviously a man who knew where power rested, so he established contact with Speaker Rayburn--who then was not speaker [but] majority leader-- because Mr. Rayburn had served in the Texas House of Representatives, and I think maybe had served with his daddy. I'm not sure that his daddy was in the legislature at that time, but anyway they'd had some tie or his daddy knew him. Anyway, he established a very early contact with Mr. Rayburn.

When this Appropriations Committee post came up he wanted it and he wanted it badly, because he again recognized the power of being on that Appropriations Committee and handling that money. He knew what it could do in his district, and he knew what it could do among his colleagues. One thing you can say about him, he always had a sixth

sense about where power lay. In 1939-1940 he was still deeply involved and embroiled in continuing to build the Pedernales Electric Co-Op and build the dams on the Colorado River, and still going through the remnants of a fight that they'd had from the time he'd been in Congress, on the development of the Colorado River and the building of the dams. And it established a very close alliance and deep friendship with Senator Wirtz.

But when this place came up on the Appropriations Committee, I know he happened to be sick. I've forgotten what his trouble was, but I was thrown into the situation here. I was twenty-three years old and his secretary, and I was talking to him by phone and visiting with him at night. He was talking on the phone as much as he could, but he was in bed. He made a real run at getting on the Appropriations Committee and even bucked Albert Thomas. Albert Thomas had seniority on him, and Albert wanted it. Notwithstanding that, they locked horns over this appointment, and it got to be quite an issue in the Texas delegation, because the delegation had to recommend one person to the Ways and Means Committee. It was really hot and fast around there. I was going to see various Texas congressmen because he couldn't, he was in bed. Now Mr. Rayburn was doing all that he could to help him, although he was trying, I think, to maintain some objectivity; but there wasn't any question but that Mr. Rayburn was on his side. As it turned out, he lost that post. He lost out in the delegation caucus to Albert Thomas by one vote. So they had a pretty deep division within the delegation, at least on that issue.

F: Did he and Thomas cross swords personally on this? I know later of course they became good friends.

C: Oh, yes, at that time fever was running pretty high and did for some time, there's no

question about it, because for one reason, as you know, seniority is jealously guarded. Albert felt like he was senior, which he was, and that there shouldn't have even been a contest. It put all the members of the delegation on the spot, because they had to choose between colleagues. It got to be quite an issue, and they didn't get over it for a while either. It left some scars for a while.

F: In those days did the Congressman, not having the power, spend more time in a sense being charming than he did in later days? I mean, he has always, I think we'll both accept, to use the *cliché*, "charmed the birds down out of the trees," when he chooses, but sometimes he doesn't choose to.

C: That's right.

F: I wondered whether in those days he was a little more either self-consciously or automatically charming than he tended to be later, when his office would carry him a long way?

C: Yes, he was, because he had to and he knew he had to. So he was certainly more considerate, kinder, and frankly in those days he was using charm instead of power to achieve his objectives. He did it. He perfected the social graces and he paid amenity to all of them, much of which he didn't do in later life. He flattered and courted the women and the wives of everybody, and was operating full steam with charm as his principal arrow in his quiver.

F: Did he ever discourse with the staff, with you in particular, on his feelings on Roosevelt's third term? Because he's one of the few Texans who sticks his neck out.

C: Yes, he did. He was strong for it, just all out for it, had no hesitancy, didn't waiver at all

on it, saw nothing wrong with it.

F: This put him at odds, too, with a good part of the Texas delegation.

C: Yes. I would not say that he was unpopular with the delegation, which I don't think he was, but nevertheless he took a number of positions in those days that I think varied widely from others in the delegation. It's hard to sit here almost thirty years later and to reconstruct everything chronologically. But one of the reasons he was strong for the third term and yet was not so directly involved--well, he was directly involved in it, too--is because he had gotten to know Harry Hopkins; he'd gotten to know Tommy Corcoran and fellows like that who were then very much in positions of power. He'd known them back shortly after he got to Washington, and they got to be quite good friends.

F: I might add I've had some beautifully obscene interviews with Tommy Corcoran.

C: Have you?

F: Oh, yes.

C: He's quite a guy.

F: He doesn't slow down. It makes me wonder what he must have been like when he was thirty-five.

C: Oh, he's fantastic, just fantastic.

Mr. Johnson was extremely kind to me in those days. I must say I think he went way out of his way, both for unselfish, I suppose, as well as--at that time I didn't think they were selfish; I really don't now, but he pushed me, he took me with him nearly everywhere he went. That's an exaggeration.

F: Sort of made an understudy of you?

C: Yes. There's no question but what he was just pushing me. He was always saying, "Come go with me. Come go with me." Many, many times, oh, gosh, in 1940 after we got back up there I'd go with him when he'd go over to meet the Speaker. Of course this one tussle with Albert Thomas over the committee assignment on the Appropriations Committee matured me considerably, because here I was working with people like Congressman Marvin Jones and Fritz Lanham and Milton West.

F: All the old pros.

C: All these old pros. So I grew up in a hell of a hurry.

F: Pretty big burden for a twenty-three year old.

C: That's right. Then we'd go out at night. He'd invite me over to his house any time. He was then just like he is now; he'd always want to come home and bring a bunch of people home for dinner, and I was out there constantly at his house. Occasionally then and a year later Tommy Corcoran would come out, and he'd sit down and play the piano or he'd bring his accordion and play his accordion. I'm getting ahead of my story, but in 1941 Nellie and I had one of these early, early radio recording combination deals, the old Wilcox Gay recording deal, on our radio. So he'd come out and we'd all make speeches into that recording thing, and Tommy would come out and play the accordion and we'd record it. Occasionally the Speaker would come over, or we'd be out at the Johnsons' when Mr. Rayburn came over. I got to know a great many of these people in those days. These were the circles in which Mr. Johnson was running.

F: Did you get the feeling [or] notice--this will be a continuing thing over the years--that as employer and colleague he tends sometimes, to put it in the most favorable terms, to

stretch people; that is, to give them assignments and responsibilities for which they really have no preparation, just in the belief that they can do it and in effect, by God, had better do it?

C: Yes. And to that extent he delegated authority and a great deal of it. I think in later life, particularly I think during the presidency, he tended to withdraw, but for a different reason. He really withdrew out of fear, I think, and a lack of confidence and trust. But his instinct has always been to delegate all the authority the man can take and then some, and just drive and drive and push. I don't know how many times he told all of us on the staff back when we first went to work for him in 1939 and 1940, "What about this case? What about that case?" And we'd say, "We talked to So-and-so in the Veterans Administration, and they can't do anything about it." He'd say, "What do you mean they can't do anything about it? There's no such word as can't do. They can do it if they want to. You just let them run over you. You didn't argue with them." We'd protest that we did and so on and so on, but he just was unwilling to take no for an answer. He just drove us. He'd drive us to drive these agencies and drive the people in the agencies to get the answer that he wanted, whether it was a veteran's case or whether it was a dam project or whatever it was.

F: Were you seeing much of Mr. Ickes in those days with the CRA [Colorado River Authority]?

C: No, I didn't. It was about that time, I guess 1940, that Senator Wirtz came to Washington as under secretary of Interior. We began to see him a great deal, but I personally didn't see Mr. Ickes much. Mr. Johnson saw him occasionally. But in the summer of 1940 and

into the fall we were deeply involved in the congressional campaigns throughout the United States. He had in effect volunteered to take over the Congressional Campaign Committee that year.

F: I've seen a fair amount of correspondence on that. He was not shy about offering himself.

C: That's right. So we went down to the Muncy Building and opened an office.

F: Where's that?

C: It's downtown Washington. It's an old, old building not far from the Raleigh Hotel, between the Raleigh Hotel and the Washington Hotel. I've forgotten what street it's on, but right close to the Willard, right down the street between the Willard Hotel and where the old Raleigh Hotel used to be. We had offices in the Muncy Building.

I'd been going with my wife, Idanell, and Mr. Johnson knew it, so I wasn't anxious to stay up there all year and go through this campaign. I wanted to get back to Texas. We were seriously planning on getting married, so in his typical fashion he obviously wasn't interested in me going home to Texas. He proposed the idea, "Well, we'll just bring her up here and give her a job working in this campaign office." So that's what we did; I proposed that to her and she came to Washington.

F: He kind of put the finishing touches on the affair, didn't he?

C: That's right. She was up there as a receptionist and telephone operator that summer and that fall during this congressional campaign.

Of course at that time he got to know every congressman; they were all up for reelection. Some of them had tough races; others were unopposed, so we didn't have inti-

mate contact with every one of them. But nevertheless, in all of the close contests throughout the country we were raising money all over the country, and raising it particularly from his friends in Texas, and trying to get help everywhere we could, parceling out money to various congressmen, giving them a few hundred or five hundred dollars for their campaigns. We were working fairly closely with the [Democratic] National Committee, and that was the year when all the *fracas* arose over the third term.

About that time Tommy Corcoran, I think, kind of got out of favor at the White House, and this involved not only his relationship with Harry Hopkins but also Tom's relation[s] with Felix Frankfurter. A young fellow came in who was a *protégé*, really, of Fred Vinson's. Fred Vinson was a great friend of Mr. Rayburn's from Kentucky, and he brought a young fellow to Washington named Paul Porter. Paul Porter wound up in 1940 basically, I think, running the third-term campaigning for President Roosevelt.

We were working with the national committee as well as doing our own work, and then that year we had the national convention in Chicago. I was not a delegate to the convention, but I went. He took me, and this was my first national convention. In those days it was much, much easier to get credentials. I had some kind of assistant secretary's badge or something and got on the floor and met all the people in the Texas delegation. There was a huge fight going on that year within the delegation.

F: The old Texas Regulars.

C: Yes.

F: I suppose that was really the first year of what is--

C: This was the forerunner. This was really the genesis of the old Texas Regulars that really

broke out, I guess, in 1944. Garner had gone home and refused to take a part in this third-term movement. You had some strong individuals involved in those days: Senator [Tom] Connally was there; Morris Sheppard was there.

F: Hatton Sumners probably.

C: Oh, yes, most of the congressmen. Pappy O'Daniel took no part in it particularly. Senator Wirtz was very much a part of this whole operation in the Texas delegation at the national convention in 1940. Miss Clara Driscoll was there and playing a very prominent part. Senator Joe Hill from East Texas was there. Bascom Timmons was there.

The feeling within the delegation got extremely bitter, tremendous differences of opinion. There were violent disagreements, I think to the point where there were some fist fights in the delegation, cussing each other out. I never shall forget we were on the floor one day and Bascom Timmons, who was a writer, was there, and he and Mr. Johnson got in a big argument on the floor. I was standing on a row of seats behind them about three or four feet away from them, but I was listening to it. I thought they were coming to blows; I really thought they were going to have a fist fight right there on the floor, and I figured that was the worst thing that could happen. It got to the point where I just jumped a row of chairs and landed right in the middle of Bascom Timmons to separate them before they actually came to blows. But feeling was really, really strong. The divisions I think in the party that year led to much of the division of the Democratic Party in Texas that existed for, gosh, I guess a generation almost.

F: Yes, I think if they had had the background, the experience--you know, now to go Republican is no longer considered a renunciation of the past--they very easily could

have lost Texas in those years.

C: Oh, I don't think there's any question about it, no question about it.

F: They just had too much of a habit going for them at the time and hadn't come around to the idea they could break it.

C: That's right. But I believe it was on this trip that during the convention that Speaker Robinson died, and we all assumed that it was a virtual certainty that Mr. Rayburn would become speaker. And he *was* [elected] shortly after the convention. As I recall the timing, we had just gotten back from the convention when they elected Speaker Rayburn as speaker in 1940.

F: Did you get married in Washington, or did you come home and get married?

C: No, we came home. We came home, and typically we planned this wedding. Of course, Nellie came home much earlier in the year 1940.

F: She was essentially through after the first of November.

C: Yes, to make all the plans. I hoped to follow her immediately, but we stayed there and we stayed there and we stayed there and we stayed there. I finally got home the day before the wedding. And then there was a mad scramble to try to get all my affairs in shape to have this wedding.

F: Probably right after the ceremony you felt like you had to go right back to work, didn't you?

C: I felt like just collapsing. But we stayed until the last minute and worked our heads off until the last minute before we came home.

F: Did the Congressman come?

C: Yes.

F: Then when did you go back to Washington?

C: We left and went to Mexico City for our honeymoon. We were married in the latter part of December, December 21, and then we went back in January of 1941. I stayed up there a couple of months then in January and February and came home, the precise date I don't recall.

F: Did the Congressman agonize over running against Pappy in that special election, or was it pretty clear-cut he wanted to from the beginning?

C: Oh, I think it was fairly clear that he wanted to from the outset. I'd come home in February to open a law office and did open one in the Brown Building in Austin, by myself. I was going to continue to do some work for him. I had no more than gotten back and got my name on the door--

F: Taken a lease.

C: That's all really, and had gotten a chair and a desk, then Senator Sheppard died. Mr. Johnson came home immediately and started talking to people. He talked to people in Washington and went to see President Roosevelt, talked to him about it, and obviously got some encouragement from him. If I remember correctly he announced really on the White House steps, when he came out from seeing President Roosevelt, that he was going to run for the Senate. So we immediately plunged into a Senate campaign.

F: Goodbye, law office. Goodbye, law practice.

C: Goodbye, law practice; goodbye, everything. From that point on my fortunes and his changed, as did everybody else's.

F: You were very active in that campaign of 1941.

C: Oh, yes. As I recall, Senator Sheppard died in April of 1941, and Mr. Johnson jumped into the thing immediately. Even before he got home he'd called me and we were setting up an office and headquarters, installing phones, and getting about running a campaign.

F: You've got the problem of a candidate who essentially is still a district candidate. He has got some professional contacts out over the place, but unlike the Governor who is known to the corners of the state, and the Attorney General who is also known, you've got a man that [isn't well known]. You've got to enlist the average voter. How do you go about getting him up there as a front runner?

C: We drew on every friend he had; we drew on every friend I had, and on every friend that everybody had, trying to enlist them in this campaign. In those days he ran really as an all-out supporter of President Roosevelt's.

F: By that time you had Pearl Harbor behind you.

C: No, it hadn't yet happened.

F: That's right. No, this is the spring of 1941. I'm sorry.

C: This is 1941 before Pearl Harbor. So in 1940 he was on the old Naval Affairs Committee, to digress a minute. Carl Vinson was chairman of that committee.

F: Had he been on there previous to trying to get on Appropriations, or was this kind of a sop?

C: No, he had gotten on Naval Affairs when he first went up there, and largely as a result of his being on the Naval Affairs Committee he was responsible really for building the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, which as I recall was built in 1940.

F: So he could already point to that.

C: Yes. He had a number of things, you know, with the Colorado River development and the electric co-ops and various projects over the state on which we'd been working. Of course, as you say, from the time he was National Youth [Administration] administrator right on through he had widened his contacts. He knew the newspaper people quite well. And gosh, in those days Mr. Jesse Jones was still extremely active, and he'd known him. Mr. Jones had been up there as head--

F: He was on reasonably close terms with Mr. Jones?

C: Fairly so, although never intimate. Never intimate, because Mr. Jones was a different type of person, at least my impression of him was he was very much of a businessman, rather aloof. He and Speaker Rayburn, as I recall, never really were warm or had a close relationship. I don't mean they were at daggers' points or anything of that kind, but I think probably because of that as much as anything else Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jones never became really intimate friends. But he had formed a close relationship with Amon Carter, with Sid Richardson, back in 1940 and even before, and with Tom Gooch of the ***Dallas Times Herald***. We knew the Hearst people quite well, Dick Berlin who was then a relatively young man but high up in the councils of the Hearst corporation.

Then, as a result of the 1940 campaign in this congressional campaign, we both had gotten indoctrinated--I more than he, of course, because I had much more to learn--in how you run a campaign; how you raise the money, how you write the speeches, how you put out the publicity. We had a team of writers that we consulted with, and tried to get speeches written, and prepared the campaign material in the 1940 congressional

campaigns. This was the first time that I met people like Drew Pearson and Bob Allen. At that time they were writing what they called "The Washington Merry-Go-Round."

F: Incidentally, I did have a good session with Pearson before he died.

C: Did you?

F: Yes, and we've also seen Allen.

C: He had more than I, obviously, but I'd had some experience both in the Thompson campaign in 1938 and the Gerald Mann campaign in the run-off, then the congressional campaigns of 1940.

We immediately started to work, started getting the material, started getting brochures. Charlie Marsh was operating high, wide and handsome in those days, and Charlie Marsh was as near a genius, I guess, as any man I've ever known. I guess most people would describe him as half genius and half crazy. But at that time he was a very powerful figure not only in Texas but over the [nation]. He took a liking to Mr. Johnson, and he always had a king-maker complex, so he was very much a part of this campaign in 1941. In the first place he and Mr. E. S. Fentress owned the Austin paper, the Waco paper, the radio station, and at that time I think Mr. Marsh still owned the Capital Transit Company, the Capital National Bank, and I don't know what else.

F: Pappy had inspired the ***Austin Tribune*** in competition about that time.

C: Yes. So we began to set up a campaign. It was a relatively short-lived campaign, but we were able to enlist a number of people from over the state, some of whom by this time were completely disenchanted with O'Daniel and many of whom had never supported him in the first place. When you go back to 1938, and for lack of a better term--[the] old

pros, so to speak, in the political game had never been for him. They were either for Bill McGraw or Ernest Thompson, one of the two.

F: The only guessing at all was which one it would be. We knew that one would make it.

C: That's right, in the spring of 1938.

F: They just really got slipped up on.

C: These people had never formed any rapport with O'Daniel as governor. So we inherited a great deal of support really from these people, and we began to try to weld them into an organization. I really think that my *naiveté* is responsible for him losing that election in 1941.

F: How so?

C: We had enlisted everybody that we could to get out and work and speak. Mr. Johnson was particularly strong in South Texas, and in those days South Texas was fairly well organized and had been for many, many years. You didn't have to see too many people, really, to be assured of support in many of those counties. I never shall forget Mr. Johnson had most of them, most of them were strongly supporting him. Well, on Saturday night of the election the election returns came in, and we were way ahead. About midnight I started getting calls from many of these South Texas counties. If I had a title--none of us had any titles, but I was fund raiser, director of organization, everything else.

F: Head *factotum*.

C: Head *factotum*, whatever that meant. So they started talking to me, and they said, "We have our returns. Shall we bring them in? Shall we report them?" Hell, it didn't dawn on

me that any hanky-panky might be played. It looked like from the returns we were getting--from the reports we were getting from the Election Bureau and elsewhere--that he had won it. So I said, "Yes, go ahead and report them. Bring them in." Well, they were under no compulsion to do it, as you know; the law doesn't require them to report anything to the Texas Election Bureau or anybody else. So we in effect rounded up and got in all the returns, got every county to report. Sunday morning the Texas Election Bureau conceded the election to Mr. Johnson. As I recall, the ***Dallas News*** and other principal papers throughout the state ran big double trucks of him and his life and his family and so forth.

Then we began to hear uneasy reports about a meeting that was held in the Driskill Hotel between Jim Ferguson, Coke Stevenson, Pappy O'Daniel and one or two other people. Then more and more counties started coming in. The Texas Election Bureau at one point, when Mr. Johnson had a 15,000-vote lead, estimated there were no more than 16,000 votes out. So, as I recall the story, which I haven't reread in many, many years, they said that only a miracle could change the results. Well, this miracle began to happen. The area that Martin Dies had carried, with as much as 80 per cent of the total vote, against everybody in East Texas--he was running away with it over there in his home country--began to reverse its trend in many of those counties and O'Daniel started getting substantially all the votes. The reports just kept coming in, kept coming in, kept coming in. Wednesday afternoon the final returns came in to the Election Bureau showing that O'Daniel had won by about 1,311 votes, as I remember, out of as I recall about 600,000. Significantly, and again I stand to be corrected on these figures, but I

think there was a very, very light vote; something like 30 per cent of the potential voters had gone to the polls. And yet in some of the counties in East Texas that were reporting as late as Tuesday and Wednesday they were voting 90 per cent, 95 per cent, and I think in one case over 100 per cent of their potential strength.

F: They closed the polls a little late over there.

C: That's right. The explanation was that these were the over-age people who didn't have to register and therefore weren't reflected in the voting strength of the counties. We all frankly thought that the election had been stolen. I still think so.

F: I think so, too.

C: I don't think there's any question about it. When I say I'm to blame, [I mean] we could have kept--oh, I don't know how many counties, twenty, thirty, forty--all those counties from reporting at all. They didn't have to report. They don't ever have to report to the Texas Election Bureau. It's a courtesy thing. It's a private organization that performs a service, but no one's under any compulsion to tell them anything. And if they tell them something it doesn't have to be the correct thing. You can tell them anything. But if I had not told a lot of these counties to go on and report their votes and waited [when] until under the law they had to submit them to the secretary of state, waited for the official canvass, then this crowd would never have known how many votes they had to have and I think the election would have changed.

F: I agree with you on that. Now then, ninety candidates out of a hundred --probably with no success, because contests seldom are successful--would have contested this election. One surprise to me was that Congressman Johnson did not. Did he consider it?

C: Yes, we thought about it at great length.

F: I mean, if ever anyone ever had a contest, he did.

C: That's right. Mr. Marsh in the newspapers, as I recall, ran some stories, and I wish I had had time to go back and review those files.

F: We can dig those out.

C: But as I recall there were accusations in the newspapers in effect just saying the election was stolen. If ever there was a time when you had a contest with validity to it, I think he had it then. We talked about it. He talked to all his advisers, gosh, Senator Wirtz, Claude Wild, Sr., and many, many others. We talked about it at great length. This was, I guess, May of 1941 when this election was over, or thereabouts, and we said, "Well, this is for an interim term." The basic decision was finally made on this basis, if I remember; that this was for the remainder of the term, that they had to file again and run again in 1942, that in order to conduct a successful contest it would take both time and money and energy, probably at least six months' time to go through the courts and perhaps even longer. Viewing it from the standpoint of the timetable involved, it was decided that the smart thing to do was not act like you're a crybaby or that you'd been cheated, even though everybody thought, in our camp at least, that we had been. We thought the election had been stolen, but there was another day coming.

We were only at that point about seven or eight months away from filing again for the same office in 1942. So we thought that if we contested the thing we'd be embroiled in a bitter contest all summer and all fall [with] charges back and forth and allegations back and forth, and that the people might well get tired of both of them, that it might or

might not be resolved by the time the filing date at least came around, and that even if you were successful you'd have to await the outcome of the contest, which might even be as late as the spring of 1942.

F: And, of course, a certain sympathy would have accrued to O'Daniel. After having ostensibly won he now was having the office taken away from him.

C: That's right. So you have all of the problems of mass psychology that you're dealing with. We thought that there was enough talk already about the election being stolen and Mr. Johnson being beat out of it, where all of the sympathy was on his side, and that the thing for him to do was just go on, accept it, make a statement that he was in effect disappointed, that he accepted the verdict, but that there'd be another ball game another day. That's about the expression I think he used as he left to go back to Washington.

F: Where were you, between that Sunday after the election and Wednesday, when it was all final? Were you in Austin?

C: Yes, we were in Austin. We were watching this thing.

F: It must have been a restless crew.

C: Oh, just basically helpless, really knowing what was happening and yet really not being in a position to do anything about it, because we didn't have any great strength in that East Texas area where we thought most of this [was taking place].

F: Did you have some kind of line to the Texas Election Bureau as things changed, or did you just have somebody up there who'd call you?

C: No, we were getting reports constantly, and we were all rather incredulous.

F: You didn't believe it.

C: And stunned.

F: I remember Pappy's immortal words when they asked him to concede, when he had to take virtually every vote to win. Did he concede? He said, "No, Mrs. O'Daniel is over in the Governor's Mansion praying." This is one time prayer was answered.

C: Prayer was answered. But no, we were there and we were watching day by day, and there was never a more stunned, dejected, unbelieving crowd in the world, I guess, than we were and yet, as I say, virtually helpless to do anything about it. So anyway he made the decision, after talking to everybody, to accept it, to go on and take it with as good a grace as he could, fully intending to come back in 1942 and take O'Daniel on again.

I spent, I guess, a couple of months after that trying to get everything cleaned up, trying to raise enough money to pay the bills and shut off the phones and pay the secretaries, return the typewriters. In those days it was the very devil to come by things. You borrowed everything, you borrowed a desk and a chair. Everything you could possibly borrow, we borrowed, and as every campaign is, we were short of money.

I never shall forget Gordon Fulcher was on the paper, the ***Austin American***, and we had him on leave. Mr. Marsh had given him leave to work full time in the campaign. Mr. Marsh blew into town one day, and he had some idea. He dictated a telegram that he wanted to send to an enormous number of people, so he gave it to Gordon. He said, "Get that out immediately." I think Gordon said, "Mr. Marsh, this is a long telegram, and with all these people this telegram will cost a thousand dollars." Mr. Marsh in his typical fashion said, "Don't bother me about those details; don't bother me about those details. Let Western Union worry about that. They're a big outfit." But this was a wild and

woolly year.

I stayed down anyway to get the office closed, telephones disconnected, furniture returned and as many of the bills paid as I could. Then shortly after that, I guess it was September, I had just about gotten the campaign stowed away, and I got orders from the navy to report to duty at a naval intelligence school in New York.

To digress a little bit, back in the early part of 1940 Mr. Johnson had gotten a commission in the navy. I never shall forget, there was a Lieutenant Commander Quigley who used to come up there. They were recruiting in those days, and he came up and talked to me time and time again about getting in the navy. I finally made application and got a commission as an ensign in the navy in the reserves about February, as I recall, of 1940. Sure enough, I think it was September, I got these orders from the navy to go to this naval intelligence school in New York. So I head off to New York to the naval intelligence school, where I stayed about six weeks. It was a censorship school, and they were training us how to act as censors in wartime. I finished that school, came back to Texas to try to get settled down and established once again, and got home about the middle of October.

We were at Buchanan Dam. I had been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Lower Colorado River Authority in February of 1941. I had taken a group of young people up to that lodge at Buchanan Dam on that weekend of December 7. We had gotten up there I guess on Saturday, the sixth of December. We'd played cards and messed around. Jake Pickle was up there with us; I think Harold and Don Woodward were there, Nellie and I were there, a girl named Marjorie Ransom who was Marjorie

Cormier [?] was there. We'd just gotten up and were stirring around Sunday morning, and my first consciousness of somebody turning the radio on--I wasn't paying any attention to it, but I became conscious of Marjorie Ransom, Marjorie Cormier; [she] just screamed and started crying. I couldn't imagine what had happened. Everybody got excited and wondered what had happened, and she said, "The radio, the radio! The Japs have just bombed Pearl Harbor!" or something like that. I don't even remember the words she used. We all listened, and that's when we heard that. She had screamed and started crying because her husband, who was a classmate of ours in school, Colonel Cormier, later colonel, had left about a month before to go to the Philippines and was about in Hawaii at the time.

We then literally stayed glued to the radio the rest of the day, and then we broke up and all went home. I immediately sent a wire to the Navy Department requesting immediate active duty, and without even getting a reply Nellie and I took off and headed for Washington, driving, because my mobilization assignment was in Washington as a censor. Anyway, when I got there I immediately went on active duty. The Congressman himself had gone on active duty the next day [after Pearl Harbor].

This begins a whole new career in the navy. We got established and I went into this job of being a censor, and it really didn't appear to be very challenging, appeared to be a fairly routine sort of job. Mr. Johnson had gotten assigned to the Secretary's office--Secretary Knox was then secretary of the navy. Mr. Forrestal was under secretary. Dr. Barker, I never shall forget--I believe he was from Columbia--was down heading up manpower training in the office of the Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Johnson was stationed

in the Secretary's office in this manpower training division. So I asked for a transfer over to that office and got it, and he and I started working out of the same office. He was a lieutenant commander and I was an ensign. Then Lady Bird and Nellie started running his congressional office. Actually, they just went up there and took over the congressional office.

Then Mr. Johnson and I started traveling a lot. We were traveling on the West Coast because--the whole world was in pandemonium; you can imagine. We were doing most of our work trying to establish manpower training programs on the West Coast from San Diego to Seattle; we were just up and down that coast--San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, just up and down--meeting with not only navy people but with industrialists, people like [Henry] Kaiser and others who were then getting into the building of ships and the training of people. So for the most part of the next six months, the first part of 1942, we were on the West Coast, just occasionally coming back into Washington. Nellie and Lady Bird had moved in with each other and were actually living together, keeping an apartment, keeping house while we were gone.

Then about that time, as I recall it was June--wait a minute. Pearl Harbor was December of 1941.

F: December 7, 1941. It's going to come on Sunday again this year.

C: I've forgotten when the filing date was. Of course, we had the late primaries in July.

F: Your filing date would probably be May 1.

C: It was late in May. It was late in the year then.

F: It was well down into the spring.

C: Yes, it was late in the spring, just before June, because the President [LBJ] left the country and went to the South Pacific, attached to General MacArthur's headquarters. Admiral Ghormley had gone down just a few months before.

F: Did the Congressman have much initiative in his assignments, or was he pretty well treated like any other lieutenant commander?

C: He was treated like any other lieutenant commander, except he displayed the same. . . .

F: He wasn't any ordinary lieutenant commander, I'll agree.

C: That's right. He displayed the same aggressiveness, the same sense of urgency in everything that he did. As I recall, he was the first congressman to go on active duty in the navy.

F: Yes, he was.

C: So he was in a sense a novelty, and to say that he was treated like anyone else, I don't guess he was.

F: What I was wondering [is], for instance when you all were moving up and down the West Coast, was it his initiative where you'd go next, or was the Washington office telling him?

C: No, to some extent we had some latitude on where we went, but we also got some broad directives from the Washington office about where they needed jobs done in terms of setting up training programs. He was particularly fitted for it because of his, again, National Youth Administration days where he'd organized these work camps and job corps programs in effect and that sort of thing. He'd lived through the old CCC days that were going on contemporaneously with the NYA, and he knew something about training.

Dr. Barker, who was a civilian, was really giving us the broad guidelines of the type of training programs that we should be working on and with the type of people. So we were getting some direction, although in terms of specific days and so forth we had some latitude as to whether or not we ought to be in Los Angeles or San Francisco, depending on who we could get appointments with.

But anyway, he got these orders to go to the South Pacific, and really I think it was on a reporting mission and a fact-finding mission. The early days of the war had been almost tragic for us. Admiral Robert L. Ghormley, as I recall, had gone down in the early part of January or thereabouts, January or February, to take command of the naval forces in the South Pacific. We'd had some disastrous losses of naval forces. There was really some question, I think, in the minds of both the civilian as well as the naval heads about whether or not Admiral Ghormley was really capable of fighting the kind of war that he had to fight.

Anyway, Mr. Johnson went down there. Then I came back into Washington in the Under Secretary's office, still assigned to the training division. And before he left he had not filed nor had he decided which office to run for, whether to run for reelection or whether to run for the Senate against O'Daniel. The situation had obviously changed.

F: O'Daniel had voted against the extension of the draft.

C: He voted against the extension of the draft, and the extension of the draft in the fall of 1941, as I recall, had passed the House by one vote.

F: Right.

C: So he filled out the proper papers to run for Congress and for the Senate and left them

with me, and he said, "You talk to Lady Bird and you all decide. I will be gone and you can't communicate with me. You file me for whatever office you think I ought to run for."

F: That's a lot of decision for him to leave to somebody else.

C: Yes, it sure was. It sure was. So then started the big struggle. Jimmy Allred in the spring had been talking about the possibility of running. He'd been appointed federal judge, and there was talk about him resigning. I was worried then about Mr. Johnson, who was in uniform. War was on, and the whole world was at a fevered pitch. A spirit of patriotism was running extremely high, and I was extremely worried about the impression it might leave in people's minds if he ran for the Senate and what effect it might have. The advantage we had had in the fall before, of feeling that an election had been stolen from him, was all gone. We were in a completely different world, and I didn't know when he'd get back or under what circumstances he'd come back, whether or not he could ever make a campaign or anything else. Everybody was moving. Nobody was interested in politics. Everybody was enlisting and joining up, going overseas and in boot camp, one thing and another.

So I worried and worried and worried and talked to Mrs. Johnson. She and Nellie were still running the office, and I talked to a number of people as I could. There I was, an ensign deep in the bowels of that Navy Department down there, so I didn't have too much access to people, nor they with me. This is an interesting sidelight. Mr. Marsh was very much alert to what was happening, and he found out that I had the document which could either file Mr. Johnson for the Congress or for the Senate. In the first place, this

kind of outraged him, that he'd leave this kind of authority in [my] hands--by then I was twenty-five I guess; this was in 1942; yes, I was twenty-five years old, just had been twenty-five--and in the hands of his wife. But I physically had those papers in my desk at the Navy Department. Mr. Marsh, in the meantime, had taken a house out on Massachusetts Avenue. He was a man of considerable means, and so he started inviting me out there for lunch. Well, I wasn't very smart, but I knew something was cooking. This happened a time or two, and we talked about everything in the world. Then he started to propagandize me about filing Johnson for the Senate. I was talking to Senator Wirtz, and I was talking to everybody else that I could talk to that I had any confidence in. I talked to Speaker Rayburn, and I went through, obviously, the tortures of the damned about this thing.

To make a long story short, except for one incident that I want to dwell on, while this was very much up in the air I was arguing with Mr. Marsh about the pros and cons of running for the Congress and running for the Senate. I said, "He can be reelected to Congress without opposition," and so forth and so on. And Mr. Marsh said, "You're a child, and you've got no business making this kind of a decision. I've written the President saying so." I didn't believe it. But he said, "I've written the President a three-page letter. I'll show you a copy." So he showed me a copy of this letter he'd written, and it was the damndest letter that you ever read in your life, in which he just castigated me *and* Mrs. Johnson.

F: I see.

C: And he was making all of the arguments of why Johnson ought to run for the Senate. He

said, "The only reason I question the advisability of it is that I question his judgment. Any man that would leave his affairs in the hands of a woman and a child has got to be an idiot." But he said, "Nevertheless that is what he has done." I just couldn't believe that he would send the President a letter like that.

I just decided I would try to check up, so I called over there and talked to Miss LeHand, who was President Roosevelt's personal secretary, and I said, "Miss LeHand, have you already given the President Mr. Marsh's letter?" She laughed and she said, "No, I haven't, but I plan to do so this afternoon." Well, I had the information I wanted. I knew he really had sent it. He sent it to her, which he had told me he had done. She laughed and said, "I gather that you all have a disagreement about what ought to be done." I said, "Yes, ma'am, we do," and I said, "If you don't mind, after the President has a chance to see it I would be very interested in his reaction to it, if he has any advice in connection with it." She said, "If he has any, I'll certainly let you know."

So she obviously showed it to him, and I talked to her the next day. She said, "Well, the President was very amused by Mr. Marsh's letter, but he said he obviously doesn't want to make the decision. [I'm] not trying to persuade you one way or the other, but his reaction was that Mr. Johnson didn't leave his"--let's see, what was the expression she used?--she said, "that the Congressman had not left his affairs in the hands of such a child after all." I said, "Well, that doesn't tell me much." (Laughter) And she said, "He has no advice on the matter, but he certainly did not disagree with the position that you've taken." I said, "Thank you very much."

So I was talking to different people and Senator Wirtz was and Mrs. Johnson was,

and we were getting a feedback from many different sources. I was talking to people like Tommy Corcoran and various people in Texas and, to make a long story short, we filed him for reelection. Then subsequently, as you know, I believe Dan Moody ran, Jimmy Allred resigned from the bench and ran, and it was a very close election again with Jimmy Allred in the run-off. But he was defeated by a fairly close vote, as I recall, twenty-five or twenty-six thousand votes in 1942.

F: Then the Congressman was called home.

C: Then he was called home, that's right. By that time a great number of congressmen were getting into the service, and about that time, I think it was June maybe, he hadn't been in the South Pacific too long and President Roosevelt issued an order ordering all congressmen out of military service.

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 Interview of

JOHN CONNALLY

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, Idanell Connally of Houston, Texas, do hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America all my rights, title, and interest in the tape recording and transcript of the personal interviews conducted with my late husband, John Connally, in Houston, Texas on October 1 and November 28, 1969, and June 30, 1988 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 those researchers who have access to the transcripts.

(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 tape recordings may be deposited in or loaned to institutions other than the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Mrs. John B Connally 7/28/03
Executor Date

John W. Carlin 9-2003
Archivist of the United States Date