

NYA INTERVIEW

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INTERVIEWEE: Sam Fore, Dan Quill, Oliver Bruck and William S. White

INTERVIEWER: Douglass Cater

PLACE: The White House

C: All right. Mr. Fore, why don't you begin. When did you first meet President Johnson?

F: Lyndon came by our home on his way down to Corpus Christi to accept his first big assignment job with Congressman Richard M. Kleberg. Congressman Kleberg asked him to stop by and meet us, and he stayed all night in our home.

C: Were you publishing then?

F: Yes sir, fifty-two years of it.

C: Bill, I guess you know he's publisher of the Floresville Journal.

F: And next morning he had breakfast with us.

C: What year was that?

F: I can't give you the exact year of that -- around 1930 somewhere -- 1931. And we had a delightful visit that night. He likes to get on the floor in his sock feet with a pillow and that's where he talked for about four hours -- and a can of cookies. And we had a delightful visit. I had never met him before. And the next morning after breakfast he left, I told Mrs. Fore: "That's one of the most brilliant men I've ever met, I wouldn't be surprised to see him President of the United States some day."

C: You said that?

F: Yes sir. And, of course, from then we met together often.

C: The beginning was in 1931 and it has gone right on up to now. He would have been in his early twenties.

F: I think so, I think that is correct. Of course, we had occasion to be associated with him many times while he was a Congressman's secretary. Along about --when was the Depression days?

C: It started about 1929 and then it got really bad...

F: He made a number of trips back to our county --Wilson County, and he'd have those farmers and ranchers meet him at the Court House and give him their troubles. He'd take them in his car even to Houston to try to save their farms through the Federal Land Bank. Then he'd come back and go to the RFC in San Antonio --the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to finish up the job, and I think he stayed about two or three weeks one time just on jobs like that, doing things for people in distress.

C: Is that, Mr. Fore, while he was Congressman Kleberg's secretary, before he went to the House even?

F: Yes sir, that was while he was secretary.

C: Do you remember what you talked about that first evening? What subject came up?

F: No, I don't. Yes, we talked about Mr. Kleberg, he was on his way to his big job. I happened to know the Congressman. I was his campaign manager in the county. I served on the Board of Regents with him at the Texas College of Arts and Industries. He was the Chairman of the Board at the time -- the Congressman was.

C: Why don't we move on just temporarily to Mr. Quill. When did you first know Mr. Johnson?

Q: I handled the Dick Kleberg campaign for Congress in Bexar County --San Antonio. After the election, I was with the railroad in San Antonio, so when Mr. Dick was elected to

Congress, he called me down to the Ranch because Will Rogers was going to be down and he'd like for me to come down and join up with them. So, I stayed down there about three days, I think. Then, the fourth morning he asked me to go, he lived in Corpus Christi. So we went over to Corpus and had, lunch. Right after lunch, he and his wife and myself, he said to me, "Well, Dan, I want you to be the next Postmaster of San Antonio." And I said, "Well, I don't know anything about a Post Office, and I've got a good job, and I don't know whether I'm interested in a thing like that." He said, "That's the only good job I've got and you're going to have to take it." So, he said it's not going to happen for a year. Perhaps we're going to get in a fight. I asked if I could tell my mother and he said "Yes, will you accept it?" And I said, "Well, I guess so. But if you ever accept it, you can't quit," and I said "Don't you ever worry about me quitting." We shook hands on it and we got in the darndest fight about that Postmastership you ever saw. They offered me all kinds of jobs and I said "No sir, Postmaster or nothing." And old Dick said "Stay with her Dan." Well, anyhow, that's when met Lyndon.

C: This was what year, do you remember?

Q: 1931.

C: He was Congressman Kleberg's secretary?

Q: When Dick Kleberg was elected to Congress, he cast the deciding vote that made John Garner speaker of the House --it was that close in those days. Then, I become --in this fight for the Postmastership I ran into Lyndon. He was trying to make me Postmaster. Dick was a fellow like I am now. I kind of handled the public relations of the Post Office and that is what Lyndon was doing then. He has always done things. He'd call up people and say this is Dick Kleberg talking, and they always thought it was. He was a remarkable man.

C: What was he like physically? What was your first impression of him as a person?

Q: Oh, he was active. He just never stopped, and he didn't want anybody around him who was lazy. He couldn't tolerate that. And In all these years when I've been in his office when he was Congressman, Senator, or whatever, his people were the last ones to leave. He'd always hate them and he'd always work them, and he had no patience for anyone who was lazy. And that is why he got to be President. The only reason he got to be President was for the fact that he never looks when there's something to be done, and he doesn't want people around him to look back either. Well, we got in a fight, and I am sure that it was through his interest that I got to be Postmaster. We had one man in San Antonio who gave the Democrats \$50,000 to help Garner to be President against Roosevelt --we had a lot of complications. And this fellow said, all I wanted to do was to be able to name the Postmaster of San Antonio --I've got a friend who wants to be Postmaster. We overcame a lot of things. I always thought he was running for President from the time he got to be secretary. We always called him "The Man" and he was always wonderful, wasn't he Sam?

F: Oh, yes.

Q: And the day, it's a great day for me. He was with the National Youth Administration. We had none of these little drive-in parks. When he was head of, I think he was Director of the Texas National Youth and came to Antonio when a man by the name of Brown, Mr. Brown, I have a picture in my office of them getting out of [an] airplane. And the state had built one of these drive-in park things, and I said, "Now Lyndon, I think you ought to see this -- you and Mr. Brown -- because this is a thing you could do for Texas to connect up our highways." And I drove them out and I don't know how Many he built, he built many-a-one, didn't he Sam?

F: Yes.

- Q: Whatever the man did, he did well, so I became very devoted to him over the years. We became real close, and today is a happy day for me.
- C: We're going in just a minute to Mr. Oliver Bruck. You knew him in the early NYA days, didn't you?
- B: That's right, he was the State Director for the National Youth Administration in the Littlefield Building. He did an outstanding job in that capacity. He was known as the person who could get the job done. And when he decided to run for Congress, when the Congressman Buchanan died, there were five people in the race for the Congressional seat, and one of them was the very prominent man in Austin, another one was a judge in Georgetown. I don't know who the other three were -- one was a man from Brenham, I don't recall his name. But Lyndon just had the reputation there in Austin, and in any connection with the NYA to get the job done, and he won that election hands down over five people. I do know that on occasion in the postal service we had to call on him for help. It was a situation where he would pick up a telephone and call somebody to get it done here in Washington. If they told him it couldn't be done, the next day he got a little membership card in the "I-can't-do Club" signed by Congressman Johnson --he just had that reputation.
- C: What were you doing in this period?
- B: I was Superintendent of Mails in the Austin Post Office. I've been there since 1920, and when Lyndon decided to run for the Senate, he was the first candidate to campaign in the helicopter. He really sold the people, and we all knew that he was a man who could get the job done. All of us made statements when he was a Congressman that someday that man was going to be President, and sure enough he was -- and I am mighty happy for him.

?: Sam, tell him about when he made the decision to run for Congress. We all met old Dan at his home in Austin when he decided to run.

F: There were about 20 of us, weren't there Dan?

Q: Well, there're weren't that many.

F: There were about 15 of us. We didn't have any money. None of us had any because we all put up \$100 a piece for the campaign. I remember very well there was a weekly newspaper editor by the name of Denver Chestnut -- very close friend of Lyndon's and mine. He lived at Kennedy. We just quit our offices and we went up there and spent two weeks campaigning with him. I was with Lyndon two nights before the election when he had this acute attack of appendicitis and fell in the Court House unconscious. We carried him over to the hospital, and there were three doctors there who talked to him about an immediate operation. And you know, he just stood up and he just fought that off and said, "You know, I'm not going to do that Sam. It's a political trick playing for sympathetic votes, and I'm not going to do that." I said, "You mean you want to die?" And we sat there and we talked him into it. He had an operation and he pulled through. That was just two days before the election.

?: He called me that night, and I said "Sure operate on him, the hero fell in the field of battle."

?: That actually happened, and from then on...

C: How did he manage to win that election?

?: Just hard work, dynamic personality. Always told me, never take NO for an answer. I've been riding with him in his old Ford car and he'd stop in the fields there and with his long legs would crawl over that barb-wire fence and he'd stop a farmer --he'd wait until he carne

in out of the plowing, you know, and then he'd stop him and he'd take about two minutes and he'd sold him.

?: One big factor in that election that helped Lyndon to win was the fact that he unequivocally (*sic*) endorsed Roosevelt.

C: He was the only out-and-out Roosevelt candidate.

?: That' s right.

C: Didn't they all attack him?

?: Yes. I think he told me this once. He always had the theory• obviously, that you always had to stand out, you have to do something where you distinguish yourself from other people. And while he was entirely, meant what he said about Roosevelt, including the Court Packing Bill, he also was aware that he would be turned on by all of the others and he didn't mind that because it would put him forward as a distinct person. I think that was part of his plan actually. I think he might have solicited their common hostility so he could stand alone.

?: You know when the President was down fishing at Galveston! James V. Allred was the Governor of Texas and he sent for Lyndon to come down there. He invited him on a special train back to Washington, and that's the closest contact he made with him.

?: This may be interesting ...

C: Mr. Fore, don't you hesitate to speak up there, you were by him all along.

F: I was going to say this, when we were deciding whether he would run for the Congress when Mr. Buchanan died, we met all afternoon, and what our great worry was, the Mayor of Austin, that was the biggest city of the District, who had considerable influence, and he had heretofore endorsed a Mr. Avery. He had the endorsement of the Mayor of Austin which was quite a thing which he had to overcome. Then we didn't have any money.

Everybody was broke. We started about 1:00 and didn't get out until 5:00. So I had to get back to San Antonio -- I had a date. I had to make this date. So I said, "I'll tell you something Lyndon, the only way you can win her is to run for her." And he said, "Well, I'll just run." Then, I remember Senator Wirtz -he was a State Senator at the time, and Welly Hopkins, I think Welly was there. They were both real influential State Senators, and Senator Wirtz represented the Magnolia Petroleum Company and I think he phoned and somebody said they'd put \$500 in the pot to start things rolling. Well, think my memory is right about that. But anyhow, that was a real significant part of that program that afternoon -- that we had \$500 donated, because the early part of the cash was our own cash, and we didn't have much cash.

?: Denver Chestnut and I were having coffee there with Mayor Miller there at the Stephen S. Austin, and he said, "Well, Sam you boys are talking about Lyndon Johnson. Nobody knows him. He's just a boy. He's up here running against five veteran politicians. Why he hasn't got a chance on earth. I said, "Now, Mayor, you're a wonderful politician, but I want to tell you, I want you to remember that on election day --you'll find how many know him.

C: And he did find out.

Q: I'll tell you who helped out a great deal in that campaign. It was the Governor, The Governor of Texas --Allred he was the Governor. He was a very liberal Governor, wasn't he? Oh yes, a fine Governor. I was on my way to Washington election day and Sam and a whole group of Lyndon's committeemen, leaders over there carne down to the train to the Governor. Sam doesn't remember this, but I remember it really well. When the train got to Austin, I got off and there was this group waiting, and the Governor was going to Dallas and was going to get on this train. Sam said, "Look a there, Dan, what we've got." He

showed me a Western Union draft for \$1,000. I said, "Well, where does that come from?" I said, "Well I wouldn't be surprised if FDR had something to do with that."

?: Do you remember that, Sam?

F: Well, I had forgotten that, but I remember it now.

Q: We had a few spot announcements with Lyndon planned ahead on the radio. The Governor was listening and we couldn't convince him that that wasn't live news. I said, "No, Governor, that's paid for." He said, "No, I believe that's him." I said to Sam when we left, "This train is going to get to Muskogee, Oklahoma about 10:00 o'clock, and I want a telegram there. How are we going to do it?" Well, when we got to Muskogee, there was my telegram and my man had won.

C: I believe you had something to do with Johnson's romance.

Q: Yeah, I did. That's an often repeated story. You want to hear about it?

C: Sure.

Q: Well, the President was in Texarkana. Lady Bird lived at Karnack --a few miles from Texarkana. He called me one Saturday morning at 8:00 o'clock. In those days we had a deal, if you want to get something done you'd tell the fellow over the phone and hang the phone up and be out of touch until it was done. So, the fellow called me up and said, "Lady Bird and I want to get married tonight at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio."

C: Did you know them both?

Q: Oh yes, I had met Lady Bird on two or three occasions before that, but of course it was a great surprise to me. He said, "Here's the situation, we want you to be left to fix up everything. It will be at St. Mark's Church, and we'll see you at the Plaza Hotel at 6:30," and then he hung the phone up. And you know. I couldn't get him. You don't know how many times that day I wanted to talk to that guy.

C: Where was he calling from?

Q: Texarkana -- 400 miles from where I was. So, that was a real busy day. I went over to St. Mark's Church --I'm a member of that church --St. Mark's Episcopal Church. I went over to the Rector of the Church, and he said, "I wouldn't think of such a thing. Do you think this is a Justice of the Peace Court?" I had previously been up to Washington and our church paper had been paying a third class rate for this weekly letter we get out, and it cost us \$14 or \$15 each week. They had talked to me about getting a permit for this thing, and while I was up here I got a permit --for about \$3 a week. So, I just saved this fellow about \$12 per week, so he was a little under obligation for the \$36 per month he was saving. So, I said. "Well, this has to be because I can't get in touch with Mr. Johnson and he and Lady Bird expect to be married, and you just have to do it." Finally, I just persuaded him to do it. So I looked into getting a marriage certificate and getting some people. It was on a Saturday, and nobody wanted to go to a wedding. They all wanted to go nightclubbing or something else.

C: Did the preacher know either one of them?

Q: No sir, he had never seen them.

C: Did President Johnson tell you why he particularly wanted to be married in San Antonio? Why he picked San Antonio?

Q: I think that if I had failed to make reservations whether they would ever have been married or not. He just did it. I don't think we had her consent at all.

C: You just think he did it anyhow?

Q: Reverend McKinstry was the Rector of our church. I got the marriage license. I got the room at the hotel, and everything was in pretty good order. I bought him this pair of shoes and had them down at the hotel. We had two connecting rooms, and we met to discuss

touch base on the details. It was about 6:30 I imagine and the wedding was to be at 8:00 or 8:30. All at once, Lady Bird said, "Dan, you got the ring?" You know, I was pretty weary. And somehow or other that just kind of floored me, and I said, "Well, m God, you passed 25 jewelry stores, all day long you've been passing jewelry stores, and you didn't get the ring." All they'd been thinking about all day long was each other I guess.

Fortunately, right across from the hotel was a Sears and Roebuck. I said, I'll run across and see if I could get a ring. So I ran over. Well, I'm a bachelor and I don't know anything about rings. This gal says, "Well, what size?" I said, "oh do they have sizes? Well, I'm on short notice. Give me a dozen of those things and I'll bring back eleven of them." So we finally fitted her with one.

?: Two and a half wasn't it?

?: Is that the one she is still wearing?

Q: Oh no. She told me about 10 years ago that that was one of her prize possessions. She had it in her lock box. I'll tell you another thing about that wedding. About five year s ago, maybe seven, you know the Rotary Club, had never talked before the Rotary Club -- he was too much pro-Roosevelt. I was always working for him, like Sam and Denver was. I always had an ambition to hear him address them? Well, he got to be a Senator, and I guess he was doing favors for some Rotary Club members, and anyhow, we got permission to make Rotary Club of San Antonio to let Senator Johnson to address the Club. The Bishop of the Episcopal Church --Bishop Jones I thought he had married them. I call him up, he was the past president of Rotary. I said when Lyndon comes down here, let's have a little something extra about it. He said, "I didn't marry them." I said, I thought you had. I call over to the County Court office to ask who had married them.

C: I thought you had been there, I thought you were at the wedding?

Q: Yes sir, but I had forgotten -- I had confused Bishop Jones with Bishop McKinstry and Bishop Jones had been past President of the Rotary Club. So I called over to the County Clerk's office and the lady told me what I wanted to know and she said, "Oh, by the way, this original marriage license is still pinned on to this page." It had been there 20-some odd years. I said, well, lend me that thing. I call up Lady Bird and told her. Well, Lyndon is coming down here Friday and you have to come too because I have a great surprise for you. She said "What?" I said, "No, I'm not going to tell you. If you don't come down here you're not going to get it." I want to give you something. After the Senator addressed the Club, they introduced me, and I introduced Lady Bird. And I framed this marriage license, I had it all fixed up real nice. And I said, "Well, Lady Bird I want to give you the marriage license for you and your husband. It's been in the County Clerk's office waiting for you to get it for 20 years." Well, she looked at it, and when she saw her schoolmate who been a witness, her maid of honor, she knew that that was the real McCoy. She said, "Well you know, we used to fuss all the time about who lost that marriage license."

C: Who came to that wedding anyway?

Q: About 12 people, you know I couldn't get anybody to come.

C: And neither of their parents? No, I don't think they had any relatives there at all. No one knew anything about it. They were married about 10 hours or 12 hours after I got the phone call. And I don't think Lady Bird even said yes until after she got to the church.

C: He just overpowered her, didn't he?

Q: Well, I mean, that's just the way he works.

?: He'll do you that way yet today, you know it?

?: You bet. We all do.

?: Oh, my goodness alive. He got after me about coming up here. You know, he called me twice. I said, "Lyndon, I don't feel up to it." "Now, I've offered to send after you twice. I want you to come and go with me." He sent a helicopter down there after us. On Friday evening he told me that and we had to be ready on Sunday afternoon.

C: You told him you were going to think about it?

?: I told him I would think about it and he was going to call me at 8:30. He did --he called me at 8:30.

C: And he didn't ask you whether you were going. He said, "I'm going to send the helicopter down there and you all be ready."

?: Sam and I was invited by the President to listen to the election returns on November 3rd. We had a very nice evening. You know, Goldwater wouldn't concede and it got late and he had to go to the Coliseum some two or three miles from the hotel where we were. He said, well, let's save ourselves and wait. I said, well, I'll tell you one thing, just go over and tell those people to write to the President of the United States, and he said, well in that case, I guess we better go. You didn't go over did you?

F: No, it was raining and we didn't go.

?: Well, I went home after that, but it was a great evening. I'll tell you that.

C: I've often wondered, that here was a man who went out to California and lived on a dollar-a-day, and he didn't seem too ambitious at that point. Did you ever have any clue as to what set the fire going in him?

?: I've heard him say that he got tired of just working and decided he needed an education. He decided he'd go to school and he went up to San Marcos and got himself a job and entered college.

?: I think all so that also that his mother got after him a good deal about it. She hadn't had any success with him for a while. He wasn't anxious to go to college because he didn't have any money and he didn't know how to do it. She kept after him about it -- she was always very keen about it --and I think that and what Mrs. Fore said. I think that he just got tired of it, he knew that an uneducated man would never get anywhere, and he got tired of it.

C: That's fine. But not only getting tired of that, but set him on a course that apparently his energies have never fagged --his intellectual drive and ambition.

?: I think at College there was some kind of an organization he couldn't get in so he elected another one --opposition-- and elected all of the officers. He was an anti-fraternity man. He became the top man there (his outside group).

C: Have any of you ever seen him tired?

?: I never have seen him tired.

?: He works like a horse and he expects everyone else to do the same thing.

?: He'd get discouraged with friends who didn't --I tell you just a few of us, and I don't know how many, but I'll tell you about the HH Club. If he ever listens to this recording, he'll know what the HH Club. That was a very exclusive organization, wasn't it Sam?

F: Well, actually, since we're putting this down for history, I've seen him very discouraged, very tired, both --but both-- but not often, and it never lasts. I think these gentlemen will probably agree --I've never known anybody in my life who had one-tenth, literally, one-tenth of the power to snap back that he's got, to come back from a very hard situation.

?: That Senate defeat was hard thing for him.

?: It must have been.

?: He just snapped back out of that, though.

?: I think that probably the answer to your question is: When he went to college there at San Marcos, he fell into his way of living, into his interest. He got right away from campus-type politics. He ate it up. It was his meat, his kind of thing, and from that moment on he has never looked back. It just happened to hit what was his way of doing. He found himself didn't he? And up to that point he had --he had been a big awkward boy-- just fooling around, not doing much of anything.

C: His father was politically inclined, though, wasn't he?

?: Yes, very much so.

?: Of course, he had a wonderful mother.

?: It's a great pity she didn't live to see him be President.

?: Oh, his mother inspired him to get an education.

?: Yes, without a doubt.

?: She was a grand person.

?: Of course" he had always heard political talk all his life in his own life -- his father, his uncle, and almost everybody connected with him.

?: He introduced a bill that saved the Alamo, you know -- that's his father, Sam Johnson. He got very interested and bought the property and left it to the State --the adjoining property to the Alamo park and museum.

?: Well what Mr. Quill says about that marriage is very much like him. Just getting the idea that he is going to be married that day and leaving it to you. Also, arranging where you couldn't get him, couldn't call back and say you couldn't do it.

??Q: He wasn't even a Congressman then.

??Q: He was a secretary then to Dick Kleberg.

?: The thing was, Dan, he had to go back to Washington right away. The reason he was in such a hurry was he had to go to Washington.

Q: When Dick Kleberg made him secretary, actually he was the Congressman. And everything he did --when he talked on the phone it was always Dick Kleberg talking. I remember a time when my term expired as Postmaster and the Congressman who was elected, I was against him and we got beat. Maury Maverick was the Congressman and so I had to be confirmed. Mr. Roosevelt was president. This confirmation wasn't taking place like we wanted it to -- like Lyndon wanted it to. He called over to the White House and he said, "This is Dick Kleberg. I wish you'd call the Postmaster General and tell them that the White House wants that nomination over there on Quill." Of course, when the Postmaster General got that word from the White House --of course, that's the way he operated --of course, when the White House said get that name over here, they got it over there. Then, after they got it over there they got it over to the Senate. He's a genius.

?: Do you remember how long he loafed under, my brother-in-law was a rancher down there, Lee McDaniel, Postmaster of Floreville, our town. It hadn't gone through you know. Lyndon wrote me a stinker of a letter about that time and he said, Sam, you just don't understand the *modus operandi* about this. I wrote back, Gosh Lyndon, I don't give a D. about *modus operandi*, what I want to know is when Dick Kleberg is going to make Lee McDaniel Postmaster.

C: What did he say to that?

?: Well, he wasn't long off.

B: You're speaking about confirmation of Postmasters. Well, Lyndon is a man who doesn't forget his friends. He will do anything in the world for them. I recall when I was Superintendent of the Mails. He told me, "Oliver, I would like for you to study finance." I

was going to the university, working my way through school. He said, "I want you in the driver's seat when the time comes." Well, the assistant postmaster had charge of all the financial matters at that time, so when the time came, I was made Assistant Postmaster. When in March, 1952, just a few weeks before I was appointed acting Postmaster, he and Congressman Thornberry, had a meeting at the Driskill Hotel, and I told Lyndon that I was concerned about being acting postmaster for too long. I was afraid that the administration might change and I didn't want to be a sitting duck as acting postmaster when the administration changed. He said I ought not to worry about that and that he would take care of it --and he did. He set the record. I don't know of any postmaster that was confirmed in less than two months. But I was appointed acting postmaster on April 21, 1952 and I was confirmed on June 19. I've never found a postmaster that was confirmed that quickly. That again shows how he gets the job done --how he operates.

C: Tell me about your memory of Mrs. Johnson. How would you compare her then as to now? Was she as a philosophical woman then?

?: Oh no. She was rather shy. She was not at all outgoing. She had always been protected and of course she had been raised as the only girl in the family and she had never had to do anything for herself. She has developed all of this since she became Mrs. Johnson.

?: I don't believe she liked politics at all. I don't believe she liked politics at all at first, but she did it for him. And she's developed...

C: What attracted him to her? He had been in Washington and he had probably met a lot of women more politically attuned.

?: He fell for her when he first met her somehow. He met her through some friends when she was in the university. I can't remember their names now.

?: She was a senior at the University of Texas when they met.

?: She has two degrees from the University --in journalism and English.

C: You two gentlemen say that you knew from the start that he was going to be President.

When do you think he first thought of it?

?: I don't know. I can't answer that.

?: We just recognized him as a genius. He was a political genius.

?: He was thinking about it way back when. He fell right in as Kleberg's secretary" and he was president of the Texas Society. He always got to be head of whatever he was around. Oh, he was terrific.

?: I think we I've had a good discussion. Bill, are there any questions which occur to you?

W: Well, I think it has been very good, and I think it has a good flavor to it. Personally, I think the President, I think it will be useful for history. I don't think of anything else.

C: Are there any other concrete episodes -- that's what really the historian will be looking mostly for. Incidents along the way that stand out to you.

W: When I was in Europe in 1961, I was in Paris when that Berlin Wall was put up. Lyndon went over there to pour oil on the troubled waters, and the people in Paris were all talking about what a magnificent job he did, and he really did. They have faith in him. The people of the world have faith in him.

?: I recall one time when he was just a youngster starting out with Mr. Kleberg during the Depression times. He sent him down to Robstown. There was a bank about to do se up down there. I carried him down on a Sunday and he met with about 150 of the leading farmer sand landowners there -- very young men. And they came out of that meeting and those men down there said, "That's the smartest young man who has ever talked to us. How does he grasp the situation of our tradition down here and know all about it just like he lives among u?" He stayed down there four or five days. We organized that bank and

went to San Antonio, and now they've got a marvelous bank down there and they've never forgotten him for it. I've owned the paper down there since 1926 in Robstown. My son-in-law now, he worked with Lyndon for five years in Washington -- Carroll K each. He was just that way about everything he took a hold of.

C: Do you remember any political mistakes he made? Ones that maybe he recognizes were mistakes?

?: His political mistakes are few and far between, I'll tell you that. I'll tell you a thought I had today. I was sitting there in the stand in front of the Capitol. I looked back over my shoulder to the new House Office Building where Dick Kleberg officed. The President and I came out of the building one evening just about dusk. It was snowing. He was then secretary to the Congressman. He witnessed inside his coat pockets and he said, "Look Dan, what I've got." He had two \$25 savings bonds, and he said, "I'm going to save one of those every payday." And I just thought today that here he was up there taking the oath of the United States where he once showed me those two bonds.

?: These things come to my mind. I can remember when Mr. Kleberg would come to Floreville campaigning and start down the street. Lyndon would say, "Now Mr. Dick, don't make any mistakes, on the left is Mr. so-and-so and on the right is Mr. so-and-so" -- he'd know them all, he'd been there ahead of them you know. That's just how close and observant he was.

?: He's an operator.

?: Mr. Dick depended on him wholly you know.

?: He did. Dick Kleberg was a fine man but he had practically no political touch. He just didn't understand it, and I don't think he liked it too much. Lyndon Johnson really was the Congressman there in everything except voting on the floor --and he almost did that. He

certainly had a great influence on the way Mr. Kleberg voted. Kleberg was a very rich man who wasn't deeply concerned with politics. He was a society type. Lyndon Johnson was a great many of the things -- most of the things that came out of Kleberg's office Kleberg didn't know anything about. Lyndon Johnson initiated them and carried them through and as Mr. Quill said, he would often say this is Kleberg. He'd get on the phone to the government departments when he wanted something for that district. And he got it. He really got a fantastic series of things for that district during the early New Deal days around here. By just insisting and almost overpowering and persuading people.

C: What year did you meet him, Bill?

W: I met him in 1933 when I was with the Associated Press. He was Kleberg's secretary then.

By that time he had become very well known. He was the only employee in Congress I ever knew who was widely known. I mean beyond the employees, because the other members saw him and they knew he had something.

C: Was that the year he married, in 1933, when he tells that story...?

W: Dick Kleberg was elected to the Congress in a special election in November of 1931 and then soon thereafter Lyndon went to work for him.

?: He had told about his coaching Dick Kleberg campaigning about who to speak to *et cetera*. He himself, Lyndon Johnson, told me a wonderful amusing story once about Senator Connally. Senator Connally was running for the free election and he had Lyndon driving him because Lyndon knew a lot of people and he wanted his help. And the plan was that they would drive up to a filling station somewhere in West Texas and Lyndon would get out of the car -- Connally setting in the back seat looking at himself in the driver's seat --and his ideas were that he would get out of the car and say in a loud voice "I am Lyndon Johnson" and the man would say of course "I am Jack Jones." And Connally would hear

this. So he would get out ... "Why Jack!" (Laughter) So the President got a little tired of this after a while. He thought Connally was taking it a little too easy back there and he was doing all the work. So they pulled up to another filling station in Avery or somewhere in West Texas and Lyndon went over to this little ol' man and said in a low voice, "I am Lyndon Johnson." The man took his cue from him and spoke to him and Connally was sitting craning his neck trying to hear what they were saying when Johnson had done this deliberately to him to craze him a little bit, you see, and Connally was just furious with him because --he didn't mean anything by it but he'd just check.....when Connally did get out of the car he couldn't hear the man's name. The fellow said, "Why Senator, you don't know my name, and I have been voting for you for years." And old Connally was exasperated -- this man had a bottle of beer in his hand and he said to him, "My God, are you so drunk at 10:00 in the morning that you don't know your own name!" (Laughter)

Mr. Johnson told that story one night and he really had everybody in stitches because he can do it in this dead pan way you know and I had... I'll tell you one other anecdote about his sense of humor which is a very guy --he was In our house for dinner one night when he was Majority Leader and Mrs. Daisey Harriman here, a big Democrat lady here, had a pet bill dealing with "home rule" and she kept asking him as a leader and finally he put everything aside one day up there and passed this bill for her. Well, in the course of it he had to make a few concessions with the opposition in order to get it though. Well, she was out at our house that night for dinner too -- instead of really thanking him for this she's a little resk with him about why he didn't do so and so. You know he didn't care too much for this and he didn't say anything but I knew he didn't like it. And I didn't blame him because he had worked very hard to get this through. He didn't indicate any displeasure but we were later out on the patio after dinner -- sitting out there having coffee

and she leans over -- Mrs. Harriman leans over the table and says to him, "Senator, who do you think is the man in the Senate who is the most helpful to you?" And he looked at her for a minute and said, "Why Mrs. Harriman I would say Senator Malone of Nevada."

Well. Malone was a violent Republican who opposed everything that Johnson wanted to do about anything. This was his method of paying her back for that remark his point was "I do things *for* people -- they don't do others..." (Laughter)

?: Senator Connally used to get very put out because he would have something gotten for his district ... (Laughter and interruption) ... newspapers first and he went storming in there one day and said, "Dick, I want to know how in the hell it is that this gets back to the 14th Congressional District before my message did." And I was sitting there and I didn't say a word and I asked him, I said "Lyndon." He said, "Well." I said, "Now tell me how that happened." He said that "The first ones I got well acquainted with were the messenger boys, Western Union boys, and I found out a lot of things first." (Laughter)

C: Just a final question, did you talk to him about his decision to run for Vice President, did any of you... no, I didn't, no, I think he made that decision in California... Yes ... Well, he told me and I heard him tell an audience in Johnson City that a lot of them got pretty much provoked about it and he said that Mr. Kennedy came down to his room in the wee hours of the morning and he said, "Now Lyndon, I want us to agree that I can't win the race without you." He said, "We have got any binities between us anyway but I hope you will reconsider that. I mean that sincerely. I believe I am going to have to have you and I want you to accept that on this basis. I think the party and your country needs you if we want to win this race. I don't believe I can win it without you." And I believe that is just about what he said to me.

?: That's about what he told me -- that he had I think, Kennedy, got the feeling over night after he got the nomination... I certainly had it for myself for one as an observer... that there had been too much of an impression of big city bosses, big city bosses, and of course pretty more and I think he got afraid of the, I think of the impact, of this on the country and he just said that in effect if you don't go on the ticket, we will lose and you will be the blame.

C: Kennedy made that decision didn't he?

?: I don't know, I heard it said that the Senior Kennedy always wanted Lyndon Johnson on that ticket. .. always way back.

?: It seems that Kennedy himself said before that the most qualified man for the job was for the presidency was Johnson. He told me that -- Kennedy told me that.

?: He also told me that when President Kennedy, before he was inaugurated, when he was living here on M Street, that anybody who thinks they will card a favor with me by biting at Lyndon Johnson has got a hole in his head. "I need him," and I am sure that Kennedy always wanted to maintain a good relationship with Johnson and vice versa.

?: I think they were devoted to each other -- I think that they understood that they needed each other.

C: Do you think that there was any time during the campaign when he wishes...when friends in Texas would criticize him that he thought he had made a mistake...

?: No I don't think so -- because every time he got up to make a talk he would tell them just exactly how it happened. And he said that "[this] is the way I work for my party and for my country and that is just how I felt about it. If I could help him, then I should do it. He did.

C: But he must have hated to give up the job he gave up didn't he?

?: Oh yeah.

?: I think he did very much -- as a matter of fact I think that was really a ... decision on his part because ... Oh, another thing he said and I imagine you have heard him say this before -- he said. it can also be pointed to him now, "Lyndon you have been talking 15 years now about your finest party and your necessity for people to give some ground to go on so they could keep the thing going"-- now they sort of nailed him with it. Now, this you have been saying, this is your chance to deliver on this.

C: Well, thank you very much gentlemen.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Gift of Personal Statement

By OLIVER N. BRUCK

to the

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library

In accordance with Section 507 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (44 U.S.C. 397) and regulations issued thereunder (41 CFR 101-10), I, Oliver N. Bruck, hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate, and convey to the United States of America for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, a tape and a transcript of a personal statement approved by me and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. The gift of this material is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Title to the material transferred hereunder, and all literary property rights, will pass to the United States as of the date of the delivery of this material into the physical custody of the Archivist of the United States.
2. It is the donor's wish to make the material donated to the United States of America by terms of this instrument available for research as soon as it has been deposited in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.
3. A revision of this stipulation governing access to the material for research may be entered into between the donor and the Archivist of the United States, or his designee, if it appears desirable.
4. The material donated to the United States pursuant to the foregoing shall be kept intact permanently in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Signed

Oliver N. Bruck

Date

July 21, 1975

Accepted

Sam J. Hirschen

Director, Lyndon Baines Johnson
Library for Archivist of the United
States

Date

July 28, 1975

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Gift of Personal Statement

By DANIEL QUILL

to the

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library

In accordance with Sec. 507 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (44 U.S.C. 397) and regulations issued thereunder (41 CFR 101-10), I, Daniel Quill, hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate, and convey to the United States of America for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, a tape and a transcript of a personal statement approved by me and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. The gift of this material is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

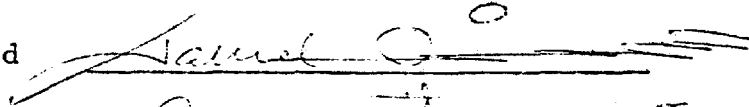

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Signed

Date

Accepted

Date



Director, Lyndon Baines Johnson
Library for Archivist of the
United States

April 16, 1975

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Gift of Personal Statement
of Sam Fore, Jr.

By Mrs. Sam Fore, Jr.

to the

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library

In accordance with Section 507 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (44 U.S.C. 397) and regulations issued thereunder (41 CFR 101-10), I, Mrs. Sam Fore, Jr., hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate, and convey to the United States of America for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, a tape and a transcript of a personal statement approved by me and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. The gift of this material is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

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4. The material donated to the United States pursuant to the foregoing shall be kept intact permanently in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Signed Mrs. Sam Fore Jr.

Date August 9 - 1976

Accepted Harry A. Hadden
Director, Lyndon Baines Johnson
Library for Archivist of the
United States

Date August 19, 1976

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Gift of Personal Statement

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

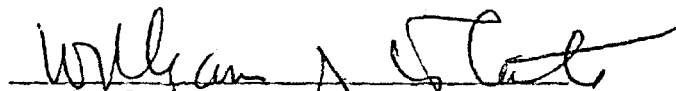
to the

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library

In accordance with Section 507 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (44 U.S.C. 397) and regulations issued thereunder (41 CFR 101-10), I, William S. White, hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate, and convey to the United States of America for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, a tape and a transcript of a personal statement approved by me and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. The gift of this material is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

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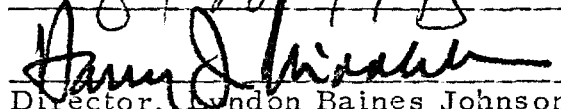
Signed



Date

8/28/1975

Accepted



Director, Lyndon Baines Johnson
Library for Archivist of the United States

Date

August 28, 1975