

INTERVIEW I

DATE: April 13, 1970
INTERVIEWEE: WALTER HORNADAY
INTERVIEWER: JOE B. FRANTZ
PLACE: Dr. Frantz' office in Garrison Hall, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

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F: First of all, Mr. Hornaday, tell us very briefly about yourself.

Are you a Texan?

H: I was born in San Antonio, and I grew up here in Austin. When my family moved here, I was just a little fellow, about seven or eight years old.

F: When did you join the Dallas News?

H: 1916, on the old Dallas Journal, which was an afternoon publication, and I later transferred over to the Dallas News.

F: Did you ever cover the State Capitol here?

H: Yes. I was on the Austin American staff, on their original staff, and I used to cover the Capitol. And then I covered the Capitol, and the House and the Senate, both. I don't know how I did it, but I worked about fourteen hours a day for twenty dollars a week, as I remember. (Laughter)

F: Yes. And then, later on . . .

H: When I joined the Dallas News, I used to come to . . . Tooty Thornton was a one-man bureau; and he needed help with assessment of the legislature, and I'd come down here and help him. I'd cover

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the House, and he'd cover the Senate. I did that, I guess, all through the twenties.

F: You went to Washington, then, as the head of the Dallas News Bureau there in 1944?

H: Yes.

F: And stayed until 1960.

H: Yes.

F: All right. When did you first meet Lyndon Johnson?

H: Well, as I recall, it was the year he ran for the Senate the first time.

F: Against Pappy [W. Lee] O'Daniel?

H: Yes, and he got beat by 1511 votes, I believe. I was walking down Akard Street, in Dallas, and I run across a couple of my friends, Bill Kittrell and Harold Higgins Young, who later became secretary to Henry Wallace, and Lyndon was with them. They were all going into the B & B Cafe next to his office to have a cup of coffee, and so they invited me to join them. And we all sat at one of those booths there, and I was right across from Lyndon. Lyndon kind of started working on me, I'd say, kind of giving me a mild form of what later became known as "the works"; telling me how he was qualified.

F: Because you were a newspaperman.

H: Oh, yes. I was a political writer then. I was not only a newspaperman, but I was writing politics. One thing that he said: that he could get more for Texas because he was a friend of

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Franklin Roosevelt, and several things along that line. And as I remember it, I made the remark, "Lyndon, I don't exactly agree that one of the important qualifications of a senator is his ability to raid the Treasury and get all he can for his state." I don't remember whether he replied to that, but that was my first encounter with him. It was friendly.

F: Did you see much evidence, in your years of association with him, of his somewhat famed tendency towards secrecy?

H: Yes. I could recite several instances of that, I think. First I'd like to give what you might call my explanation of it, at least parts of my explanation. My experience has been that a man that's raised in the country is secretive about his personal affairs, except to his very close friends. That was true of Sam Rayburn, although Rayburn recognized the differences between personal affairs and public affairs. It seemed to me like Lyndon didn't draw the difference between the public and the personal. I don't blame a man for not wanting anybody to dig into his personal affairs, unless there's some scandal involved or something like that. But he seemed to resent people wanting to know about some public matters. You remember, I suppose people have told you this, that he is supposed to have cancelled appointments after it had leaked out somewhere through the press. Did you ever hear of that? I've heard it. I have no personal knowledge of that. I wasn't there.

F: Yes. Did you ever sort of leak a story on him?

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H: No. He never gave me a story that I could leak.

F: When you went to Washington he was a congressman, and then he came up there as a senator after the 1948 election. Did you cover the campaign at all in 1948, that "Landslide" Lyndon back here in Texas? Or were you in Washington that whole time?

H: No. I was in Washington. And of course, they had their own political staff here in Dallas. No. I didn't come down for that. Was that the year he flew around in a helicopter?

F: Helicopter, that's right.

H: All I know is what I read about that.

F: Did you ever see any instance [of it]? I think you told me about his losing his temper once at a press conference.

H: Yes. He was having a press conference in one of his offices off the gallery floor of the Senate. And I don't know what the subject was, but anyway, some reporter asked him a question, and he didn't know the answer. It was a matter of something involving facts. So he referred to George Reedy, who was his press secretary then, and George hemmed and hawed, and he couldn't give him an answer either. So Lyndon just let him have it, just bawled the hell out of him.

F: In front of everybody.

H: In front of all of us who knew George Reedy when he was a newspaperman, and most of us were his friends or at least associates. What I was going to say was, of course, it embarrassed George, but I think it embarrassed us as much as it did

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George.

But all of his employees were deeply loyal. He used to work them, I don't know, till all hours of the day and night. I never have talked to one of them [who was disloyal]. I used to go over there sometimes and say, "Hey, how are you slaves getting along?" Of course, they didn't like that, but they were just completely loyal. I don't know, I think it was something that Lyndon had. And, also, some of them may have had the idea that they thought he was going places, maybe even be president, and they wanted to stay with him.

F: Did you get the feeling there in the 1950s that he was presidential material?

H: 1950s?

F: All during the Eisenhower period.

H: Well, I don't know about being presidential material. I guess every member of the Senate . . .

F: Is potentially, huh?

H: . . . is potential material. But I don't think there is any doubt that he had ambitions. Of course, that's kind of calling him a liar, because he said he never did want to be president. Every thing that he ever did indicated that he did. If he didn't want to go up, why did he quit Congress, and why did he run for the Senate? Why did he get himself elected Senate Democratic leader? And I think the reason he hesitated so long to announce it-- Sam Rayburn got awfully irritated with him sometimes, because he wouldn't get out and campaign. He [Rayburn]

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wanted to announce, you know. Lyndon's idea, as I've heard it, was that he could do better by depending on his friends right in the Senate who had influence back home. But, actually, that didn't work out. I remember in the case of--who is he? The oldest man in the Senate from Arizona?

F: Carl Hayden?

H: Carl Hayden. Carl Hayden was up in years even then, and Lyndon thought he had influence back home, which he evidently didn't have. Because Udall, who later became a congressman, he and some of the others were quietly working and organizing at the convention with [John F.] Kennedy. And at that time I thought that was a kind of a turning point, and he was losing the West. I think New Mexico; I think he lost New Mexico. I'm not sure about that.

I can't see why . . . Of course, he opened up headquarters. He claims he didn't do it; his fans did it. Sam Rayburn was the one that announced that Lyndon Johnson Headquarters for President were being opened in Washington. I wrote a story about it, which everybody else did which the Dallas News used on the first page. Either the next day, or right after that, John Connally came up to the Dallas News office. Oh, I think Bob Baskin was there. He was my successor. He had come up there getting ready to take charge. John Connally insisted that Lyndon had serious doubts about whether he wanted to be President; that he was thinking about his children, his daughters growing up in the atmosphere of the White House with all this to-do going on. I don't know

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whether, [but] I suppose Lyndon sent him over, sent him up to our office to tell us that. I don't know. I kind of took it with a grain of salt. I don't think I even wrote anything about it. It sounded so . . .

F: Y'all weren't sold by Connally on that, necessarily?

H: Well, I wasn't. I think maybe Bob Baskin was a little bit, but I never was sold on that idea. I think that Lyndon thought that he could lay low. He didn't seem to realize what an organization Kennedy had built up. That's just pure speculation, because I had no part whatever in the campaign. I left Washington; I retired July 1, 1960, and that was before the convention. One of the reasons I was glad to retire then was because I didn't want to have to cover another convention. Boy, they're man-killers!

F: Did you go to the 1956 convention in which Kennedy and Kefauver ran for Vice President against each other?

H: I think I was out at San Francisco at the Eisenhower convention.

F: I see.

H: You know, they were so close together. We had a staff out there at both places.

F: Now, the Dallas News never did support Johnson during the period that you were in Washington.

H: No.

F: Did that make any particular difficulty for you as head of the Dallas News Bureau in Washington?

H: I don't think so, because Lyndon was always [persistent]. He'd never

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give up on trying to get a man on his side. He may finally have given up on me. I remember one incident. I don't remember how it came up, but he told me, he said, "Hornaday, I want you to be a Lyndon Johnson man." I said, "Lyndon, I am a Dallas News man." Well, he couldn't quite understand why you couldn't be an LBJ man, and when he said that, he meant body and soul, I figured. He couldn't quite understand that. In other words, my loyalty was to the Dallas News, not to Lyndon or anybody else.

F: I think you told me once that you can see certain similarities in outlook between him and Jim Ferguson, insofar as relations with people who were for or against him were concerned.

H: No, I didn't intend to leave that impression. I remember I've heard Jim Ferguson, say on campaign speeches and personal conversations, "If you're not for me, you must be against me." I think Lyndon had that general idea, but he would not--

F: He didn't come out and say.

H: No, not to the extent that Jim Ferguson did. Because Lyndon wanted everybody to be his friend. And he never, hardly ever, gave up on trying to convert them to be, like I said, an LBJ man, Lyndon Johnson man. No, I don't know.

Somebody told me he was an admirer of Jim Ferguson, but I never did hear him say that. I never did hear him mention Jim Ferguson.

F: Did the press, in general, as you knew them in that period, look on Senator Johnson as having pretty good staff work?

H: Yes. Excellent. He had excellent staff work. They just worked

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their hearts out for him.

F: Were they a pretty good group?

H: You're talking about when he was in the Senate, now.

F: Yes. Were they a pretty group to work with, [for you] as a newspaperman? Could you get the information you wanted out of them? What was Johnson's attitude toward the press in those days?

F: Well, I didn't depend on getting much out of his staff. I don't know whether they were under orders not to talk to newsmen, or just why. I used to get some information from Sam Houston Johnson, his brother, kind of, you know, just little old things that weren't newsworthy, weren't worth printing, but were interesting to see about him. Sam Houston lived with Lyndon when he lived out across the street from Hoover.

F: J. Edgar Hoover. Was that out on Woodway?

H: He used to ride to work with him in that black limousine. And Sam [Houston] I would call every once in a while and go by and see him. He worked in the Democratic Policy Committee Room for a while. I don't know what he did.

I think there was a lot of affection, deep affection, between Lyndon and Sam Houston. I know there was on the part of Sam Houston. Sam Houston was working in Austin. I don't know what he was doing, working for some trucking company, I think. And Lyndon would call him once in a while and say, "Sam, come on up here. I need you." And Sam told me, "I'd tell him"--called him brother and said, "Brother, I've got a job down here. I can't just

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pick up and leave all the time." But he usually would go.

And then after Lyndon had his heart attack, Sam Houston told me that Lyndon called him earlier that week and had told him to come up there, he needed him. And he went up there. Sam's idea was that Lyndon thought there was something wrong with him and wanted his brother to be there, thought he was getting sick. Of course, that was Sam's interpretation. He had his heart attack on a Saturday out at George Brown's country home.

F: Yes. Did the Eastern press appreciate Johnson's virtues during those days, or was there always sort of an arm's length situation?

H: Well, not when he was in the Senate. I don't think there was any particular dislike then about them, any criticism. You see, he was working with the President, and he was getting his job done, and he was a liberal, getting a lot of liberal bills passed--civil rights, which he completely switched his views on, you know, from that.

F: Yes.

H: But, of course, after Lyndon became president, I wasn't there. When he became vice president, I wasn't there. Of course, being vice president, they don't pay much attention to you anyway.

I think the Eastern press had maybe a lot to do with Lyndon's getting a bad name. This is just my own thinking: that they had kept comparing him with Jack Kennedy, who charmed them. They just adored [him]; most of them did. And of course Lyndon had some bad characteristics that would irritate not only the

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press, but other people.

I think Lyndon, later on, will go down in history as not being a bad president. In fact, I remember writing a story when he became president that he had the opportunity to become an outstanding president, and I remember Sam Houston Johnson called me and said, "That was a fine story." I guess Lyndon had told him to do that.

F: Did you get some experience in how closely Johnson watched stories about him? Did he tend to keep up with what you wrote?

H: He either read them, or had somebody call his attention to everything that was written about him. I know he did with the Dallas News, and, probably, other newspapers in Texas. Well, mentioning the Dallas News--as you know the Dallas News never did support him. Well, I don't know whether they ever supported him back in the days when he was running against O'Daniel. I don't believe so.

F: Did he and Ted Dealey have any personal differences, or was it just strictly a matter of politics?

H: I doubt that Ted Dealey ever met Lyndon. I don't know. He might have. Because, Lyndon used to go by the Dallas News, as well as other Texas newspapers, I understand, and have a conference with the executives and the editorial writers; give them the works, I guess. No, Ted Dealey didn't admire him, I know that.

F: If some political candidate came around in those days and wanted to get together with a newspaper's editorial board, were they

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pretty accessible to him? I mean, they would stop what they were doing, and go listen to him and talk with him, and so forth, about his ideas and his plans?

H: Well, I think the Dallas News did. And I'm sure the other newspapers did. I think they did that too. I think all of the candidates for state office do do that--the governor. I don't know whether they do it or not, but that's what we did. If I was a candidate, I'd go around to these newspapers and try to make friends with the powers that be, wouldn't you?

F: Yes. While you were there, was there any suspicion that Bobby Baker wasn't entirely on the level, or did all this break later?

H: I'd have to think about that. I don't know. I can't remember exactly. When was it?

F: Well, the revelation on Bobby Baker came while Johnson was vice president.

H: Yes.

F: And I don't know how far back this reached. Whether people [knew]?

H: No, I don't think so.

F: Did you have any opportunity to see Baker's effectiveness as sort of an assistant to the Senate?

H: Yes, he was very accessible, although I never did try to see him very much. The Washington papers did.. He would, I'm told, I don't remember talking to Bobby Baker. I don't remember seeking him out for anything. Yes, he was liked, and he was on the inside. He was Lyndon's right-hand man, and I don't remember ever hearing

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any hint that he was getting out of line.

F: Did you ever observe any relationships between Senator Johnson and Senator Kefauver?

H: Well, I wasn't at that 1956 convention in Chicago when Kennedy and Kefauver were candidates for vice president. Yes, I knew Kefauver. I guess he knew me. I don't know. I remember one time I was in [Lyndon's office]. I used to go by Lyndon's office when he was a senator and catch him at one of his offices. I was in the Senate office, and I don't know if he was leader then or not. I guess he was minority or majority leader. And Lyndon wasn't there, but his inside office door was open. And Walter Jenkins, his trusted assistant, was sitting in the chair there, in his chair, so that he had a place to work. And I noticed a mounted deer head on the floor, and I asked Jenkins, I said, "What is that?" He said, "That's a deer that Estes Kefauver killed out on the Ranch." I looked at it, and it had a silver plate on the head. It was a fine, fine head. It had fine--what do you call them?

F: Antlers?

H: Antlers.

F: Points?

H: Points, yes. That's not the word either. But anyway, it was a fine head a fine deer head. And it had a plate on the head, there that said to the effect, "Killed by Senator Estes Kefauver on the LBJ Ranch," on such and such a date. So we were running and still run

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a column, called Weather Vane. I wrote just a very brief paragraph that Kefauver had killed a deer on the LBJ Ranch, and Lyndon had had it mounted and was going to give it to him. Well, Jenkins told me later that Lyndon just jumped all over him for telling me about that. Well, it wasn't a question of him telling me. It was right there in plain sight, and I couldn't help but see it. I don't know why, unless, maybe I shouldn't say this, but I don't think Lyndon had much use for Kefauver. I don't know why. I didn't have any real contact with Kefauver. See, I was interested primarily in Texas news, and, of course, Lyndon was a Texan and he was the leader, and, of course, I'd have to have kept in close contact with him as well as I did Sam Rayburn.

F: Did you get much chance to observe Senator Johnson's and Congressman Rayburn's relationships?

H: Well, yes. I don't know exactly what you mean by that.

F: Did they seem to be as close as they're generally supposed to be?

H: Yes, I think so. I think there was a time there when Lyndon, you know, was just riding high as Senate leader, and the speaker of the House was supposed to be the second in power to the president.

F: Yes.

H: And people started saying it, and it appeared in the press, that Lyndon Johnson was now the second most powerful man in Washington; maybe, was the most powerful. I don't know. I don't remember anybody asking Sam about that. I don't think he felt any resentment about

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that, because he was his protege. The only thing, like I mentioned, I think about him getting disgusted with Lyndon because he wouldn't announce for president. He told me that one time. He said he wished he'd get off his so-and-so and get busy. He's got to get to work, got to get to work!

F: Just a case, in this instance, of Senator Johnson misjudging how to get to work, because there never was any question about his energy in working.

H: No, no, no. I think it was just a difference in what was the best way to go about doing it. I think Rayburn probably thought he ought to get out and make speeches and so forth, and announce. Rayburn, I think, figured that every day he delayed making the announcement, he was losing possible delegates who wanted to support Johnson, but they didn't want to get left in the lurch, you know.

F: You were there when he became the Senate majority leader, and that gave him a new office. Did it cause any problems for you in the fact that he had several offices at the same time?

H: No, I wouldn't say that. He was pretty hard to locate. He was a busy man. He'd have every morning [short press conferences]. As I remember, first he was Senate minority leader.

F: Yes, that's right. For two years.

H: Because the Republicans had a very narrow [margin]; it was so narrow in fact, that Johnson was a more forceful man than William Knowland. And Lyndon had more influence, probably, than the

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Republicans. One vote, I think, was the margin there. I think maybe there was a time there when the Democrats could have taken it over. Something happened. Somebody died or something. But they didn't do it. They didn't want to. I guess they wanted to blame the Republicans for everything bad that happened.

F: Right. Well, what happened, really, was that Wayne Morse switched parties, but he let the Republicans go ahead with the organization. If the Democrats had taken advantage of his becoming a Democrat, then they could've taken it over.

H: Yes, I know it.

F: They chose, since Morse was elected as a Republican, to leave him as one from an organization standpoint.

H: The majority leader has the task of assigning independents.

F: Yes.

H: And I don't know exactly what it was. I don't think anybody cared particularly whether Wayne Morse was an independent. He used to make these late speeches, you know, hour after hour, and everybody wanted to go home.

That has nothing to do with what we're talking about. Let's get back on the track here. I've forgotten what we were talking about now.

F: Yes.

H: He would have every morning [short press conferences]. It was supposed to be at eleven according to the House, but the Senate

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would usually meet at noon.

And at 11:45, they would let us on the floor. Of course, when the Senate was in session, everybody had access to the floor. And Lyndon, as the Senate leader, had a desk step right up in front, and the reporters would gather around his desk and ask him questions, and usually, Lyndon wouldn't show up till about five minutes before. We didn't have but a very short time to ask him questions.

As to seeing him personally alone I don't remember having any great difficulty in anything that was really important that I wanted to know. [I could] reach him by phone or some way.

F: You could get through to him if you really had something you needed [to discuss].

H: If it was really important, yes, something I really needed to know about or felt that I needed to know about. No, I don't think he ever held it against me personally because I worked for the Dallas News. At least, he didn't give any indication that he did. I don't know what he thought personally.

F: Yes. Did you get pretty straight answers out of him, or was he fairly close to the vest?

H: It depended on whether it was to his advantage to talk freely or to be evasive. He liked to control his press conferences.

He had another peculiarity that I think he later dropped. He didn't want the photographers taking pictures of one side of his face. I've forgotten which side it was. Somebody must have

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told him that he looked better on the other side or full face. I remember he used to shoo these photographers away when they started shooting at that wrong side of his face.

F: Did you have much opportunity to work with Walter Jenkins?

H: Well, I wouldn't say work with him. I would see him when I couldn't see Lyndon, but he was always very friendly and helpful. He was really helpful. I liked him. I liked old Walter Jenkins. It was the biggest surprise in the world to me when he got in that trouble.

F: Did you get the feeling that he was one of the better administrative assistants then in the Senate?

H: Yes, yes. I think Lyndon is taking care of him now. He set up an office here, you know, as a consultant. I think he must be on to Lyndon's payroll.

F: Was Lady Bird much in evidence in those days, or did she emerge later? Was she pretty much just the wife?

H: You mean when he was--?

F: When he was senator.

H: Well, she was not pushing herself, but she'd show up, like Lyndon, at most of these Texas Society affairs. It was a very active organization, still is, was the very first time I went up there.

F: Was Senator Johnson pretty faithful in coming to those various Texas types of meetings and whatnot?

H: I think so. He was president, at one time, of the Society. I remember writing a little, kind of a silly story for the

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Dallas News, after I retired, that Lyndon actually got training to be President of the United States by being president of the State Society.

F: Well, you had just about the same amount of diversity, didn't you, within the Texas group?

H: Yes. He would really run that thing, in this way: He'd pass on the work to other people. My wife, Ann, was the secretary. And I remember at least one occasion, he had something he wanted to talk to her about, so he sent his limousine with the chauffeur out to our apartment over in Arlington, and picked her up, and took her back to the Capitol so that he could talk to Ann about some project. I don't know what it was. I used to kid Ann about that. Our neighbors gawked at this big limousine that came up there in front of our little apartment.

F: But he took his office as the president of the Texas Society just as serious as he did everything else.

H: Yes, yes. He delegated it, but he was usually right on top of everything.

That reminds me, talking about parties. Oh, I don't remember, he must have been either majority, I don't know, he may have just been a plain senator at this time. But anyway, Lyndon was always sending out news releases. He had a weekly radio program, you know, and we'd get copies of it. And I noticed they'd mark the releases for release on a certain date in the morning or afternoon paper. It seemed to me like

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most of, at least the majority of, the releases they were sending in to the Dallas News Bureau were afternoon releases. I was on the morning paper and I didn't like that. So I wrote him a letter objecting to it. I said I wish you'd give us morning papers a better break. It seems like you're favoring the afternoon papers. Well, he wrote me what I would call a very un-senatorial letter.
(Laughter)

F: How's that?

H: First, in writing to him I made this trite remark that I was sick and tired of that kind of business. And he wrote me back, and I think part of it was defending his action, actually, defending his staff that was doing that, and he made this comment. He said, "If you're sick, go to a doctor. If you're tired, take a vacation."

F: (Laughter)

H: That letter is somewhere in the Dallas News files in the Washington Bureau, unless it's been thrown away in the meantime. Well, to follow up on that, Paul Kilday, congressman from San Antonio, now dead, later became one of the judges on the Military Court of Appeals, had a party out at his house, at his home, for the Texas congressmen and some of his friends and the Texas reporters. That was right after I got this what I call a not exactly nasty but kind of undignified letter from Lyndon. And I was still mad about it and I guess Lyndon was, too. Anyway, I saw him come in. I got there before he did, and so

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I made a point to avoid him. I didn't even want to talk about it again. Anyway, we were all outside. It was a nice day, and most of the people were outside on the lawn, and I was standing there talking to some friends. And either Lyndon came up, or I don't know how it happened. But anyway, he joined the group and started talking to me, repeating what he told me. You know, "If you're sick, go to a doctor. And if you're tired, well, take a vacation." Well, I didn't say anything. I thought it was out of taste for me to engage in an argument with a senator in a host's home. And he kept on talking, and Lady Bird was behind him tugging at his coattail saying, "Lyndon, we've got to go." They had another place to go. And he just shook his behind. She finally pulled him away. I don't know why he wanted to keep on bringing that up, because I was ready to forget about it.

F: Did he get along pretty well with the Texas delegation in the Congress and the Senate?

H: Yes.

F: In those days.

H: Yes, yes. Actually, as a congressman, he wasn't particularly active, prominent. His office was in the Old Office Building. You're familiar with Washington?

F: Yes.

H: The old building, I think they called it the Cannon Office Building. And he was up on the top floor. I guess it was the

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most remote office in the building, it seemed to me. You had to change elevators. The elevator only went to, whatever it was, the fourth floor, and then you had to change elevators to get to the other floors, except some elevators. I don't know why he wanted such a remote office. Because later his seniority was such that he could have gotten an office better, an office closer.

F: Could you get more space up there?

H: No, I don't think so. The only thing I could figure out is that it was right close to the radio room, where congressmen had access to making their radio broadcasts, you know. He was just a door or two from there, as I remember it. Homer Thornberry took over the same office.

F: As far as you could tell, did he get along pretty well with both Price Daniel and Ralph Yarborough when they became junior senators to him?

H: Let's see. When did Yarborough go up there?

F: Yarborough went up in 1957 or 1958.

H: Yes, so far as I know, he got along with everybody, tried to. I don't know of anybody that--let's see, when Lyndon was running for the presidency, that is, when Rayburn was running him before he announced, Rayburn either started it, or had some of the other Congressmen all sign in support of Lyndon. And as I remember it, all signed it except Ralph Yarborough.

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Why, I don't know. And Rayburn very much disliked Yarborough ever since that. He called him a name that I wouldn't repeat. I'll tell you privately sometime. But I don't think, like I say, Lyndon had any dislike. He may have had, but he didn't, as I recall, display any particular. Rayburn made no bones about his disgust, dislike with Yarborough after he refused to sign it. Particularly because Rayburn had sent a telegram to Yarborough when he was running for the Senate when he won supporting him. And he thought that was a kind of a dirty thing to do, you know, refuse to sign a petition for Lyndon. I hope I'm right about that. I hope I'm right that it was Yarborough who refused to sign, because I'm sure all the Texas congressmen did. I don't want to be slandering anybody.

F: No. Was there a feeling among the southern senators, after the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1957 that perhaps Johnson had deserted the South, turned his back on it?

H: I think there was on the part of some. I would have thought that Senator Dick Russell would have resented it very much, because Lyndon was Russell's protege when he got up here, you know, taking him under his wing. And if it hadn't been for Russell, I don't think he'd ever been elected Senate Democratic leader. He had his support.

Lyndon, though, never did join what they call the southern bloc. The southern senators would have occasional meetings. Now,

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that's another indication to me that Lyndon was looking ahead to being a national figure. He didn't want to be branded as [a southerner].

G: Get identified with one group.

H: Yes, with the South, as strictly a southerner.

F: Did Senator Johnson ever participate in these national radio or TV programs like "Meet the Press" and so on?

H: I'm sure he never did. I don't recall him ever doing [that]. He didn't want to be in that kind of position, you know, where three or four men can pepper questions at you and keep on working at you.

F: Kind of pin you down.

H: Trying to pin you down. He wanted to control his press conferences.

F: So he'd forego the exposure in order to be in charge.

H: I think he did. I don't remember. Do you ever remember him appearing on any of those like "Face the Nation" or "Meet the Press?" I never did.

F: Did you get the feeling that, to a certain extent, he avoided taking a firm stand on issues of the moment in order to get something worked out?

H: You mean as the leader?

F: Yes.

H: [As] a reason for not going on the programs like that?

F: Well, in general, that he failed to take definite stands.

H: No, I think he took pretty definite stands. He would compromise.

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You know his favorite saying: Let us reason together.

F: Right.

H: Maybe I shouldn't say this, but I think what he meant was: Let us reason together so my reasoning will prevail.

F: Yes. (Laughter) Right.

When he established the Space Committee, was there a feeling that this was a significant committee, or was this just looked upon as something for publicity?

H: Well, I really don't know about that, because it did develop as an important committee.

F: Yes.

H: But I don't remember. Of course, that was later. When was that? When was Sputnik?

F: Sputnik was, I think, in 1958.

H: Well, it was just a couple years later that I left there. I don't remember it being particularly active. I don't know. I didn't pay much [attention], I didn't try to cover that. I had enough to do with other matters.

F: Did newsmen in general think that he ran a fair leadership as Senate majority leader?

H: I think so. I think so. I think they admired him for his ability along that line, and, of course, they called him a wheeler-dealer.

F: Yes. Do you think he deserved it?

H: Well, if you want to put in a bad sense, I wouldn't say so. I think he was, well, a wheeler-dealer in trying to get things done. He respected a man's views, but he

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tried to show him where he was wrong. But [he], as far as I could tell, never was real mean about it. He wouldn't, for instance, try to punish a man. He had a lot to do about committee assignments in the Senate Policy Committee and as leader. I don't know of him ever punishing anybody, even Yarborough. I don't know. That's something that I [never saw].

F: Did you get any opportunity to observe his relationship with Joe McCarthy?

H: No, no, I don't know anything about his relationship with Joe McCarthy.

F: Getting back to the period there in his Senate majority leadership when he had a number of offices, as I recall the Senate majority leader's office was redecorated into something rather splendid.

H: Well, he took over the District of Columbia Committee which was joined on the same floor as the Senate, Senate floor. And it was already a pretty ornate office. Had these pictures overhead, what do you call--not panels?

F: Murals?

H: Murals? Yeah. And it had kind of been neglected. He took it over, and he redecorated it and made it a very ornate office. It seemed to me like, when he had press conferences, he had a little platform mounted, about that high, where he stood.

F: About eighteen inches or so, a foot?

H: Yes, a little. Not too high, but it wasn't two feet above the ground. He'd stand on that. And this room was so fancy that

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some of us reporters got to calling it the Emperor's Room. Of course, he had other offices on the Senate floor. He had an office for I guess you'd call it his business office in one corner, and then in another corner--this was on the Gallery floor. I'm talking about the Gallery floor now. It was on the Gallery floor. He had those two offices there, where he'd frequently give luncheons for visitors and also for other senators, maybe he wanted to talk about. Then he took over part of another committee room. I think it was the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee room, which he used as a working room for some of his staff. Then he had, in the Senate Office Building itself, his own Senate office, and he had an office as the chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee. And somewhere, I don't remember now, he had an office for the Preparedness Committee. Seems to me like that was down in the basement. He may have had other offices [inaudible]. I don't know anything about that. I don't recall now.

F: You founded what threatened to become a Washington institution for a while in the New Year's Day Black-Eyed-Peas Get-Together. Did he ever come to those?

H: Oh, always. Always. Stayed late, and we used to get in big arguments. So I remember, my brother-in-law was a colonel in the Air Force.

F: What was his name?

H: Peter Agnell. Buddy. Everybody called him Buddy. The whole

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family did.

F: What's that A-G-N-E-L-L?

H: A-G-N-E-L-L. Of course, he was in Washington then. He was in the Air Transport Command. He moved all over the country, but he was in Washington frequently, and we'd always ask him to these parties. I remember one time, everybody had gone, it seemed to me like, except Lyndon, and Colonel Agnell, Buddy, and maybe Tex Easley, the AP correspondent. And Buddy--I thought it was out of line--commented that, to Lyndon, said, "Did you know, Senator, the French Air Force has finer officers clubs than the American Air Force does?" And Lyndon bawled him out about that. He said, "The Air Force is the most extravagant branch of the service." And you know, that was kind of a silly thing to say. What the hell, who cares who is the [inaudible] Air Force. He loved to argue among his friends. Yes, he'd always come to these parties. Lady Bird and [Lyndon].

F: Did you get the feeling that sometimes he'd sort of act like a devil's advocate and take the opposite side just to get arguments going?

H: No, no. I would say that's more my [role]. My wife's telling me that that's what I do to people, just to be arguing. No, I didn't, I never got that impression that he did it just for the fun of arguing. He might have that time, I don't know.

F: But he did like to get discussions going?

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H: Yes, this was just purely a social gathering. It wasn't any
(thing) else.

F: Thank you, Mr. Hornaday.

[End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I]

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Mrs. Mildred T. Taylor
Donor

Aug. 7, 1978
Date

James B. Choad
Archivist of the United States

September 14, 1978
Date

April 28, 1970

Mr. Walter C. Hornaday
404 Perry Brooks Bldg.
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Hornaday:

I do indeed appreciate the additional recollections which you sent in.

Also, I know Dick Morehead and Jimmy Banks quite well and will be getting around to seeing them.

Have fun in Virginia. I envy you.

Sincerely,

Joe B. Frantz

5-21

Dear Dr. Prantz:

Your secretary ^{told} me you would like any further ~~ALBT~~ recollections I might think of. So here is one to add to the tape recording if you wish:

55 After Lyndon went home to recuperate following his heart attack in 1945, he invited all the Texas newspaper ^{Washington} correspondents to his home for a visit. We had previously seen him in hospital room briefly.

At this home visit, he told us he had been doing a lot of reading, particularly Texas. I got the impression he had never been much of a book reader. During our conversations, he stressed how humble he had become after his close escape from death and indicated he would be a man of humility the rest of his life. You can judge for yourself whether he showed overwhelming humbleness later.

As a gesture of friendship, he gave each of us reporters transistor radio, which were just coming on the market and I was told were very expensive then. Most of us didn't want to take them, but it would have been embarrassing to have rejected them.

Of course you know how he handed out ball point pens by the bushel.

This is not much of an addition, but so throw it away if you find it adds nothing to your collection.

Yours sincerely

Walter C. Hornaday
Walter C. Hornaday
404 Perry Brooks Bldg
Austin, Texas 78701

P. S. I told your secretary we are leaving very shortly for Virginia to stay until possible as late as October, but to send the transcript of my recording to the address above, which is my brother Joe's office. I use it while in Austin.

Wonder if you have interviewed any of the Capitol correspondents who had to cover ⁵¹³ when he visited here. I believe most of them were relieved when he moved press offices to San Antonio - ^{over}

Rick Morehead and Jimmy Banks handled LBJ when he was in Texas, mostly
Banks. They can give you names of other reporters in the Capitol ~~area~~ *area*.
~~names~~ *names*. -wch