

INTERVIEW I

DATE: August 27, 1979
INTERVIEWEE: EDITH H. PARKER
INTERVIEWER: Michael L. Gillette
PLACE: Dr. Parker's residence, Austin, Texas

Tape 1 of 1

G: Let's start the tape, and I might add that this should be very informal. The idea is simply to get the material in transcript form so that it will be easier for you to read over. Let's start with your background. You're not a native Texan.

P: Right.

G: Do you want to tell where you were born?

P: Shawnee, Oklahoma.

G: I believe you indicated that you lived in Chicago.

P: We moved when I was three months old to Chicago and lived there until I was nine. That was about 1914, when the war came on. We went back to Virginia, which had been the original home of my parents. Virginia, and then their parents moved into North Carolina.

G: And you began working for Senator [Tom] Connally in the campaign. Is that right?

P: In 1934.

G: Were you based in Marlin then?

P: In Washington.

G: In Washington.

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- P: I had worked for the newspaper before I had worked for Senator Connally.
- G: Yes. Then I believe you said after the campaign you went up to Washington, or did you stay in Marlin?
- P: After the campaign we went back to Marlin until about Christmas when Congress would convene again, and then we went back to Washington.
- G: Did you have an opportunity to meet Lyndon Johnson before you went back?
- P: I met Lyndon Johnson in Washington in 1934 before we went to Marlin and Dallas for the campaign.
- G: Can you recall that episode?
- P: No, but I think that Bob Jackson very possibly introduced him.
- G: Yes.
- P: He was working for Congressman--King Ranch, South Texas.
- G: Yes. Richard Kleberg.
- P: Kleberg. That's right.
- G: Well, did you have much contact with Johnson before you worked in that campaign, the 1934 campaign?
- P: Well, I moved to the Dodge Hotel, and Johnson and Arthur Perry and Bob Jackson were all living on the men's floor in the hotel. Now that was for--I think I'm remembering it right--a few months.

The Capitol was so much smaller. There is something I want to show you in the paper this morning. The Capitol was so much smaller, they had so much smaller staffs that [the members of] one delegation knew each other pretty easily.

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G: Yes.

P: Lyndon either called or came over, or we went over to the House side, or we met in the restaurants to eat, so it was very easy to know everyone who was around there. I can't remember any specific thing that happened before I came to Texas, and I don't remember seeing Lyndon Johnson during the campaign period. Now, after we went back to Marlin after the campaign, I think Lyndon did come down to Marlin to see Bob Jackson, and I did see him then.

The following year, I suppose it was, I asked Johnson if he would arrange for me to use the University of Texas library during my vacation period that summer. That was what I told you about last time, that Johnson was magnificent, if you asked him for one favor, for doing three or four for you. I saw Johnson when I got to Austin, the Monday afterwards, and he told me that the office, the NYA--he had meanwhile been appointed to that job. What year did he go with the NYA?

G: 1935.

P: All right. That would make it then, and as I told you, he sent Sherman--

G: Birdwell.

P: --Birdwell to pick me up and drive me to Austin. He also had a man who took me to a fraternity house that the fraternity wasn't going to use during the summer--they turned it over to women--so I'd have a place to stay during that month. He had, I suppose, married meanwhile,

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because he took me out to meet Lady Bird when they were living in a house that was owned by--oh, Lord--

G: Bob Montgomery.

P: No, it wasn't Bob Montgomery. It was the writer, [J. Frank] Dobie. They were living in the Dobie house. The Dobies were away. I don't know how long they lived there.

G: Where was it, do you know?

P: Both of them are dead. Well, I sort of feel that it was maybe out here in Tarrytown on like Exposition Road [Boulevard] or something like that. I think that that probably could be straightened out. Again, it has been so long.

Then Lyndon took me to the bank so I could get checks cashed. Lady Bird took me to lunch so that I could meet some of the women with the NYA. Then they had an evening party for the NYA people, and I believe that that was an outdoor party where the Johnsons were living in Austin at that time. That's what I can remember. I went ahead with my work at the library, and Frank Dobie helped me with some suggestions then about what I was working on. It was only a month, so I went on back.

Now I also told you last time that on a visit to Marlin, my impression is before he married, that he told me that he was going to run for Congress and that he wouldn't have to use Lady Bird's money. Well, the man who was in in his district for Congress was a rather popular man, but he died. Death has played a role in Lyndon's career.

G: Yes.

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P: The Congressman [James Buchanan] died and sent him to Congress. Then he got to the Senate after Senator [Morris] Sheppard died, although it took him two tries before he got there. Then Kennedy was killed, and he went to the White House. It's rather strange to have a combination like that, but he did.

G: Well, let me ask you to elaborate on your discussion with him in which he indicated he planned to run for Congress and wouldn't need Mrs. Johnson's money. Do you know where this was or when he--?

P: Oh, that was in Marlin, and he was up there visiting with Bob Jackson.

G: Yes.

P: And I don't think he had gotten out of the NYA. You asked me last time about a couple named Bob and Katherine Waldrige [?]. Well, at that time they were living in the town with Bob's father who ran the newspaper there, and we got to see each other every once in a while because we weren't very far apart. Katherine never worked in the office, but if she came over that direction or we went over to her house, why, we did see each other during the summer. A sister of Bob Waldrige's, and if she has married since then I don't know her name, told me that when he [LBJ] started to run for office that he was using the [NYA] office as a sort of political committee, that they had already learned the slogan "All the way with LBJ." Now this girl was named Waldrige originally, but as I say, I have not kept in touch with her so I can't even remember her first name now, but that's the first of "All the way with LBJ" that I've heard.

G: But he did indicate that he was thinking about running for Congress?

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P: At that [time].

G: This was before Buchanan's death, of course.

P: It was before Buchanan's death, and that's why I said that death has played such an unusual role for him. I can't remember what killed Buchanan, whether it was a heart attack, you know, illness or accident.

G: Oh, it was an illness.

P: It was?

G: Yes. Well, did he indicate how he was going to get elected if he didn't have Mrs. Johnson's money, where he was going to get his support?

P: No, he did not. I think that he had confidence in himself as a politician. People liked him, and he was willing to work very hard for it, and I don't think that at that time it took as much money as it does now.

G: Did you ever observe his work with Congressman Kleberg when he was the secretary to the Congressman?

P: No, I can't recall. I did meet Congressman Kleberg because he had a sister, or somebody, who married a naval officer whom I knew in Washington, and they came to the King Ranch sometime during that time. Again I am going back so far. She married a man named Colin Campbell [?], which is not hard to remember, and so I did meet him but not with Lyndon.

G: How was Lyndon Johnson regarded by the other staff members that worked on the Hill?

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P: Oh, they thought he was wonderful. He got together a club for the staff of the [Texas] delegation to have luncheon once a month in the House restaurant, I guess; I've forgotten now. We had a Senate restaurant where the senators would come and take their guests, where staff members with permission could come and take their guests, and occasionally if the senator or congressman was busy on something else himself, he would ask a staff member to take somebody else into one of them. It seems to me this was on the House side, but I'm not positive about that, but the once-a-month meeting then led to a sort of club for the Capitol staff. I recall one dance that we had up there, and people came from both the House and Senate. That was on the Senate side where we had that dance.

G: Was this only Texans, or was this all?

P: Well, when we had that dance on the Senate side, it was everybody, but when we had the luncheon that I was talking about, it was all Texans.

G: Yes.

P: We had a Texas club in Washington, too.

G: Was this the Texas State Society?

P: No. This was not the Texas State Society. You see, it was the Capitol workers, but there was a Texas State Society formed later where I remember Mrs. [Oveta Culp] Hobby at one of those Texas State Society meetings. I am quite sure that Lyndon and Mrs. Johnson were always there.

G: Well, he founded the Texas Club. That was the name of it?

P: Well, that's all I remember.

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G: Okay.

P: And whether it's still going or not, I do not know.

G: Yes. Well, now, there was also the Little Congress, I understand.

P: The Little Congress was a more important thing, and he was in that, and I think that we were helped by Sam Rayburn in that. It was to teach staff members as much as they could about Congress, because often a staff member learned as much about being a congressman as you could learn anyplace else, and that was a sort of pre-training for someone whose idea was to get into politics, him or herself--there were not many hers. I never went to a meeting of it.

G: Oh, you didn't?

P: No.

G: Well, I wonder who was included in this group? Was it--?

P: I know Lyndon was.

G: But could any staff member of a congressman join, or was it only professional staff?

P: I cannot remember that anybody from our office joined. Now, for instance, Arthur Perry would have been a logical one because he had his training as a lawyer, but I don't remember that he went to that. But I do remember that Lyndon went to that. Then after he got to Congress, I think he helped others along with the same thing. I had forgotten about that, but I do remember that training. Then another group might have been some of the patronage workers, and that goes all the way down to the little boy who ran with papers from desk to desk.

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My nephew was offered a job--what did they call those little boys, the same thing they have down here in the legislature?

G: Pages.

P: Pages. That's right. My nephew was offered a job as page by a South Carolina congressman, and to our complete amazement he said, "No, I have to go home." But the pages, you see, were in a good position. They learned, and they had their own school there. Then, as they got older, they'd have been a natural for going in for some of the congressional training.

G: Yes, I see. Well, Lyndon Johnson had at least two close friends in Senator Connally's office, I guess, Arthur Perry and--

P: Bob Jackson.

G: Bob Jackson.

P: I call myself a friend so far as that was concerned.

G: Yes.

P: But they were much more influential. Bob, on the newspaper, and Arthur because he had been on the job, as I told you, with Sheppard, then with Connally, and finally with Johnson.

G: Can you recall any specifics of their friendship during the days that LBJ worked for Kleberg and they worked on the Hill?

P: Well, Bob Jackson told me that we used to have a twenty-five cent luncheon at the Dodge, and after Lyndon became [vice] president he was in a group that went to Hyannis Port to see Kennedy, and Johnson was on the plane and he said to Bob Jackson as luncheon was served on the

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plane, "This is a long stretch from the days of the twenty-five cent luncheons at the Dodge."

Oh, I spoke to you about another friend of his, Roland Young [?], the government Ph.D. from Harvard. Now, when Lyndon began to run for Congress, we were all tickled to death, so I said to Roland, I guess, "I'll be glad to type letters for him. Where is he going to have his headquarters here?" Roland said, "Edith, you had better not do that. Senator Connally won't like it." And I said, "Why, I was talking about my own time, for goodness sakes, not his." He said, "I think you had better not tell it." So Arthur was in the office with me a few nights when I did write some letters in our office on Johnson's paper, but I never went down to his headquarters so I could be seen. That gave me one of my strong impressions of the sort of jealousy that existed between the two. It was Johnson's youth and energy, I think, that sort of frightened the Senator.

But there was another thing. Mrs. Carr, who got the important papers that I spoke of last time, was not above doing some strange things. When Roland Young was interested in staying for a job with Congress, and the Senator by that time had gotten the chairmanship, over Roosevelt's opposition, of the Foreign Relations Committee, why, Senator Connally called Mrs. Carr in and said, "What do you think, since Perry has gone, of my putting Roland Johnson [Young] in as the first administrative assistant?" And Mrs. Carr said, "Well, Senator, I would think he would be all right if he were not such a close friend of Lyndon Johnson's." So I went in the office next. I didn't hear

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that. I went in the office next, and I said to the Senator, "Senator, a number of people are calling asking who is your administrative assistant, and I haven't got any answer for them," and he said, "My administrative assistant is Mrs. A. S. E. Carr. You may tell anybody who calls." So I came out and said to Adeline, "Congratulations, the Senator just told me that you had been appointed." Roland was in the office, and he came to me and said, "When did this happen?" because he thought the job was going to him. I said, "I went in there and asked him and he just told me."

Now, a few months, or weeks, later, Percy Rice [?], who was a lawyer in Dallas and who was the chairman of the Senator's 1934 campaign, told me that--how did that come in? I said, "Where did he get information about Roland?"--who was a good friend of Lyndon's, that's true. And he said, "He got it all from Mrs. Carr." That's all I know about it. I don't know. I think Percy liked Lyndon all right. At least he never gave any indication to me that he didn't, but they may have not had very much to do with each other as far as that was concerned.

G: Do you think that the friction between LBJ and Senator Connally at this point might have been due partially to the fact that LBJ seemed to have a close relationship with President Roosevelt?

P: There's no question about that. That's where it started. I remember during the first hundred days everybody voted for whatever the President wanted, and then the opposition started with the Supreme Court-packing bill. The Senator was one of the senior members on the

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Judiciary Committee, and he decided that he did not want these additional members on the Supreme Court. I remember his decision on that because he called me in and said, "I am going to oppose the President for the first time," or something like that. He said, "I'm going to give you a press release before I can change my mind that says I am going to oppose the Supreme Court-packing bill." He said, "Then I'm going to get out of the office so no newspaperman can talk to me." So he gave me that, and I gave it out. He said to me as he was leaving, "I may lose my job next time."

In the meantime, with Lyndon, the President had been very friendly, because Lyndon had somewhat come in on the coattails of the New Deal, and the President had had their pictures taken with his arm around Lyndon when the next campaign was taken. He had done every sort of thing that he could, and he never forgave Senator Connally for opposing him on that, which is a little peculiar. I don't see why, as time went on [he didn't], but I know that he never forgave him because after I was out of the picture in the office, after I had quit. . . . I went to Denver, Colorado, because the Housing Authority told me it was the best place to get a house in the country at that time. The war was on, and my sister had died and I had my eight-year-old nephew, and my mother and I had a one-bedroom apartment. So part of it was, I suppose, emotional after her death, but part of it was really that I thought it was such a--the kid had had a lovely home in Hartford to live in, and then to come live with us that way, and there wasn't any way you could find a place to live then. So I went to

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Denver. The Senator told me I would never stay, that I would be back in a few months, and that I couldn't leave the Capitol, and I would come back to him.

Well, he was wrong about my coming back to him, but when I came back, a friend of mine told me that one of the men in the Justice Department wanted a secretary--I wish I could remember his name; it might come to me--and she made an appointment for me to see him. Well, to my astonishment, while we were talking--he was very attractive, and he had a wife who was a lawyer, and I wanted to study law at that time, and I told him, and he said, "I can make a marvelous arrangement for us." He said, "I want you for political work." He asked me if I liked Mrs. Roosevelt, and I said, oh, yes, that I admired her a great deal and also liked the President. And he said that he would have me work afternoon and evening hours because there would be more privacy and that I could go to law school in the morning, that his wife had done something of that kind, you know, and made it.

Then he astonished me. He said, "How long did you work for Senator Connally?" I said, "Nine years," and he said, "Could you work against him?" I said, "Well, no, but I don't really get the point about that. We're all Democrats." And he said, "Well, the Senator hasn't totally pleased the President, and the President does not want him in that job as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee." He said, "There hasn't been much to-do about it, but he hasn't supported the President wholeheartedly. He wants Senator [Robert F.] Wagner of

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New York"--who was the next in line in seniority--"in that job." And he said, "It's a little queer for me to ask you if you could be completely loyal to me in what I was doing if I were working against Senator Connally for re-election in Texas," because by that time, you know, he was coming up again, I suppose.

Well, I was shocked beyond words, and I said, "Well, maybe this situation just wouldn't come up." He said, "Well, it might not, but I wanted to see how you felt." So I thought there were two things there. Maybe he was trying me out to see if I could be trusted. I didn't leave Senator Connally mad. I left about finding a house in Denver, which I failed in. I didn't find [one], and I did come back. But I did want to go to school, and that's why I didn't go back to the Senator. I didn't think that I could do the law school work and go back to him, too. So this man completely astonished me, and I think we said we'd take a week to think it over, and in the meantime he would get more money for me, or something like that.

Well, the Lord was looking after Senator Connally because do you know, in the first place, you see, I had this uncertainty about the thing because I wouldn't really know how to have worked against Senator Connally. Yet I couldn't--the man got his job through Mrs. Roosevelt--what the heck was his name?--and within that week there were headlines in the Washington papers. The man had been fired from his job. Therefore the job he was offering me was gone. But I rather felt that the Senator ought to know it, and he had a very good friend on the congressional side named Luther Johnson from Corsicana, and I

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knew him and people in his office, so I made a trip over there and told him that I would appreciate his figuring some tactful way of repeating what the man had told me, the one who had just lost his job, about the President's intentions in the Senator's next election. He was not as surprised as I thought he would be, and he told me that he would tell the Senator as tactfully as he could.

So I left it with him, and I didn't go to the Senator himself with it because the Senator was rather irked with me for not coming back to him, and we were speaking friends, but we were never really good friends after I left. He didn't stay so long, and he had a lot of ill health in between that and, heaven knows, I have lived to understand his trouble. He had shingles across his head, and I have shingles across this way now, and so I know why he was miserable during a great deal of the time.

But in the meantime, I did not know nor hear from anybody that there was ever any time that the President was displeased with Lyndon Johnson.

G: Well, let me ask you about some more episodes in the early years. There's some indication that LBJ helped Arthur Perry secure a job as a lawyer for the FCC. Do you remember that?

P: Yes. Perry had finished his law school work which he did while he was working for Senator Connally, but it was rather stretched over a period of years, and when he got that job, I believe the next one to come in was Bob Jackson. I'm not positive. Then Jackson got the offer from the AP to come back to newspaper work which was his first

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love, and he went back to that. The FCC job I never knew very much about. I do know that he did not stay for a very long time. I don't know why he didn't like it.

G: I've heard that when he was applying for the job initially there was some question on his veteran status and that LBJ got that clarified so that he could take the position. Do you remember anything like that?

P: I don't remember anything. See, Perry was a little older than all of us, so far as that went. He was older than Johnson; he was older than Bob; he was older than me, and he had been around a good, long time. I don't remember anything about Perry and the veterans.

G: Okay. Now there is also an indication that LBJ, when he worked for Kleberg, would compete with Senator Connally's office in issuing press releases.

P: That could easily be. I don't know positively, but I do know that it was something that they tried awfully hard on. If a project during the war was given to, say, one of the airline companies or one of the other kind of companies that furnished something for the government, and it is possible that both the President and Lyndon had tried to get the project for that particular company, they generally had lawyers or lobbyists that they sent to Washington to ask for help. I have been drawn in on calling people about things like this, and they wouldn't stop with one. They'd go to both. Well, it was hoped that each one would be the one who would get the news first when the contract was issued, and it depended on how good the relationship was between the people in the department, the Defense Department, whoever was giving

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out the thing got the news first, so I think that is correct then.

They probably--and I don't even criticize them. I can understand why both of them would have wanted it.

G: I think there was one particular occasion with the CCC camps where Johnson may have gotten the news indirectly.

P: That could have happened, and incidentally, Mrs. Carr, according to a lawyer who told me, would telephone long distance and give the news if she got it in time to do it, and then they would fly on to Washington and they would call the person who was their client and give them the news in advance. Well, now, in a CCC camp I suppose different areas wanted those CCC camps, and yes, I can imagine that there was, and yet I can't tell you whether--I am trying to think of a location of a CCC camp and I can't.

G: Okay. Anything else on living at the Dodge Hotel?

P: No, not so far as Lyndon and Bob and I were concerned. Roland got himself into a scandal by taking a girl to his room, but we did not get ourselves into any scandals. (Laughter)

G: Was it considered a nice hotel then, or was it--?

P: Oh, yes. It was always considered a rather nice hotel. First it was just a woman's hotel, and then they started taking men in, and it had quite a few people from the Capitol because of its easy location to the Capitol. Yes, it was a nice one, and it couldn't have been too expensive because our salaries were very low at that time, and then [they had] the twenty-five cent lunch that I mentioned that Lyndon mentioned to Bob on that trip.

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G: Well, I guess there was a lady who managed it who was very popular, an elderly [lady]?

P: Well, yes, that's right, but I don't know her name.

G: Anything else about the hotel?

P: Those are about the only things I can remember about it now. I do remember a girl surprising me one time. They were a little bit strict. They kind of had dormitory rules, and there was a girl working for a senator from Illinois. I ran into her in the lobby as I was coming in--or out--in, I guess, and she was crying. I said, "What is the matter with you?" and she grabbed my arm and she said, "That is my senator who just came in the door." I said, "Well, don't you want to see him?" She said, "No." And I said, "Well, come on, let's get down here in"--someplace where we could walk to the elevator or something like that. Well, that case has nothing to do with Texas, but I have wondered ever since what was the trouble between the girl and her senator that she did not want him to find her. She lived there all the time and I didn't know a darn thing about the senator.

G: Do you remember a Childs' Cafeteria?

P: Oh, yes.

G: Can you describe that?

P: Well, the one I remember was close to the newspaper office. I don't remember a Childs' Cafeteria between that and the Capitol. Do you think--?

G: I thought there was one near the Capitol and the Dodge.

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P: Well, that must have come later because I can't remember--wait a minute. I take it back. You're right. I remember Roland and I eating over there. I don't remember eating with Lyndon over there. I could have, you know, and have forgotten. It was a very plain, immaculate sort of place, those Child places were, and their food was quite reasonable. It was a little far to walk for lunch because we had restaurants in the buildings, you know, but so often we had to work late at night, that's when I usually ate over there.

The Senator finally made a special arrangement for me. I didn't have to come in until ten o'clock, but I was to stay as late as he wanted me, and if he had a date--he was a widower from 1935 to 1942 or something like that, so he was having dates. If he didn't have a date or if he didn't have a dinner that he had been invited to, he would sit there and dictate and catch up on his work, you know, for a week. So that meant I never knew when I was going to have dinner, and we never went to dinner together. He said to me one Sunday when we had worked, "I'll take you to dinner." He came back to me and said, "I will not. I'm not going to have every reporter in town saying in a column that Senator Connally was seen with one of his secretaries at dinner." And he was right. I was startled when he had said it.

G: Do you recall the circumstances of LBJ's NYA appointment? I know we talked about it.

P: I know we talked about it, and I do not know--I asked one of the girls that I mentioned to you last time and she could remember nothing. I believe she said that she wasn't there. You know I spoke of only

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having eight on the staff, but remember, we shifted around some. Sometimes one person was there and another one wasn't, and sometimes somebody else came in, and so it did hit about that at the time, but we were not all there with each other all the time, and I still have the feeling that Sam Rayburn would have been strong in that. But I do not know--for instance, I might remember if you brought up a name or something, writing or calling or putting in a call for the Senator some strong recommendation for somebody, but I remember nothing about Senator Connally doing that.

G: Or having a role in Lyndon Johnson's--?

P: Success?

G: Yes.

P: The only thing would be when he told or sent the message to the President that he would help. What he did there was to call on his political friends in Texas and ask them to vote for Lyndon at that time. Now, see this was the second--

G: 1937. No?

P: No.

G: 1948, I guess you're talking about.

P: 1948.

G: Well, let's go through the elections. In 1941--

P: That would have been when he told me he was going to vote for Martin Dies.

G: Yes. Do you want to explain, though, your conversation with him?

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P: Well, only that I had asked him, but I was a little puzzled since Lyndon was in it why I asked him who I should vote for that time. And he said, "I'm going to vote for Martin Dies because he is the most capable man of the three." That's what I can remember about it at all, because as I told you when I was talking to you earlier, I didn't even remember which year it was, nor was I sure who the people were. But you see he didn't vote for him that time, and that was the next time that the President told Lyndon that he would have to have Senator Connally's support.

G: This would have been in 1942 when Lyndon Johnson was thinking about running again, and he--

P: That's right. And that was when he was in the navy.

G: He went to President Roosevelt.

P: He went to President Roosevelt and said, "Could you make a statement that you needed me in the Senate?" And the President said, "Well, this time I could if you will get Senator Connally's support in the state. But you couldn't make it before without it, so I want to know that that's the case first." However, Lyndon didn't run that time.

G: Well, now, how did he get word to Senator Connally? Didn't he have an intermediary?

P: Oh, he came in and talked to Senator Connally. You see, I asked Senator Connally if he would support Lyndon that time, and at first he was irritated about the President asking him, but then he said, "Well, all right, I will. You may tell them, but Lyndon has got to come to me himself and ask for it. Pass that along." So I called Roland and

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told him that, and Lyndon came in the next morning. The next morning he and the Senator had a private conversation in the office, and as I say, it was not a matter of coming out with headlines that the Senator supported Lyndon Johnson, but it was a matter of getting in touch with all the friends who helped him for Lyndon. So there's no question that he did at that time.

But now when is the next time that an election comes up and Lyndon gets in? Because remember the President had him pull out that time even though he had gotten the Senator's support, and I assume that when he did come in that he had the Senator's support. You know, that they got along in that business at that time.

(Interruption)

G: I was going to ask you to talk about the appointment of Jimmie Allred to that federal judgeship.

P: That we talked about last time? That again was an indication of the disapproval of Senator Connally by President Roosevelt after the opposition on the Supreme Court case. I don't know through whom Jimmie Allred--that could have been Lyndon--got the appointment through Roosevelt. I do know that it was customary always to contact the senators from the states that the judges came from to find out if they were going to approve and that generally they were approved. It was pretty set. Well, Senator Connally was going to come up for re-election, say in 1940 I suppose was the year, because it wasn't that first election, of course, and we were invited to come to Fort Worth--no. We got the news of that sometime in the morning in Marlin, and

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we also got the news that Jimmie Allred was coming to Marlin to talk to the Senator about it, and the Senator received a number of telephone calls. One I remember was from Carter Glass of Virginia, and the senators had heard about it and knew that the Senator, for whatever reason, had not been consulted and said that they would stick with him whatever he wanted to do about it. His brother-in-law, Dr. Bowie [?], from Marlin argued that the Senator ought to approve of Allred for the job because Allred was popular enough he might run against the Senator for senator next time if the Senator knocked out his appointment as federal judge.

So Allred came about noon and the Senator had disappeared. He had had me call Ben [Connally] in the morning and ask Ben to arrange to go hunting with him, and I said, "Senator, you can't leave because Governor Allred will be here tonight." And he said, "I can leave." I said, "Well, Dr. Bowie won't like it." And he said, "Well, Dr. Bowie hasn't got any right to object." So the call was made to Ben, but I don't know what they said to each other. At any rate, there was a disappearance of the Senator. So when Governor Allred arrived he had lunch with Raymond Barnett, Dr. Bowie, and me. Then I don't know, I think he went over with Dr. Bowie after lunch, and dinner had been arranged at the Falls Hotel for him that night.

So that night when I dressed and came down for dinner, in the lobby, Jimmie Allred was there but the Senator was not. Neither was Dr. Bowie, so I felt a bit uncomfortable. The dinner wasn't going to start until he got there, and dinner was getting ever later during

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that period. I talked and introduced some of the local people to their Governor where I knew them or something of that kind, and the Governor and I talked a little, but it was getting a little bit harder to find anything to say as time went on. Eventually, however, in came Dr. Bowie with Senator Connally, and they went in with the Governor, and there were very polite speeches made. They were very nice to each other, and the Senator apparently had come to the conclusion that the sensible thing was to ask the Senate to go ahead and approve Allred.

Now, I went into a little more detail last time about the Senator's bad mood while we were going over there, when we were going over to Fort Worth to see Allred with the President on the train. But in public, when we got to the hotel in Fort Worth, the Senator's mood picked up. He was an excellent actor; he was an Irishman and an actor.

G: Anything else on the relationship between Lyndon Johnson and Senator Connally? I'm thinking, say, of things like the 1940 convention and the third term issue and the Texas delegation.

P: Well, in 1940--it was in Chicago, wasn't it?--I went to that, and I learned that the President had picked, was it Henry Wallace for the vice presidency, from Lyndon Johnson. We were in the hall, and Lyndon Johnson had just been talking with someone. Sam Rayburn thought that he was going to be selected. There were about a half-dozen people around there that the President had talked to who thought they were going to be selected. Lyndon came out and said, "I know it is unbelievable, but I have it straight. The President is picking, or has picked, Henry Wallace for the vice presidency." And everybody looked

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astonished. The Senator was not in on this meeting. I was with somebody else. But in any case, we got the word that it was going to be Henry Wallace, and the Senator had advised me not to go to the convention because he said the whole durn thing was cut and dried, that Roosevelt would get it for the third term, and that the only question was the vice presidency. I don't recall his having any theory about who the vice president would be, but I do know that there were several there who thought they might be picked, and they were not thinking in terms of Henry Wallace. I got the news from Lyndon Johnson. I remember that part vividly. We were in the Blackstone Hotel.

I don't remember the Senator's reaction. Oh, later the Senator's reaction to Henry Wallace was distinctly unfavorable. He did not care for Henry Wallace at all, and there is something more there. You'll have to wait for my memory to come back.

(Interruption)

G: Was it, the ultimate appointment, a question of LBJ's supporting, and others supporting, the appointment of Ben Connally if Senator Connally would support Jimmie Allred?

P: Well, now, I cannot answer that question positively, the Allred appointment coming first. The only thing that I can think there is when I said to the Senator--he said, "They have put me in a spot," and I said, "They're putting themselves in the spot. They're asking for the favor, and they will have to do something for you." So he cooled down after a while. He didn't tell me what he was thinking about but said, "I guess you're right." And then I didn't find out until a

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little bit later when he asked me to make a private file on his son Ben, and that was in connection with a judgeship. I didn't know where it was going to be then. I didn't know anything was coming up about that, but I really don't think Ben practiced very long even if he had a good record while he was. I've lost track of the years in here, you know, when things took place, and you ought to have somebody younger who can remember all the years or had them written down.

G: Is there anything else on the relationship between Senator Connally and Lyndon Johnson?

P: I do not know of anything from that time. It wasn't unpleasant at any time, but he also had me make a file on Lyndon, all the clippings and letters and everything else that we got, because he said you could never tell about these ambitious young men. It was my opinion Lyndon would never run against Senator Connally. He'd said he wouldn't after he went to the House.

G: Oh, really?

P: Yes.

G:: When did he say that?

P: Well, I think he thought that it would be just too dog-goned much trouble to defeat him.

G: But do you remember the context? Did he say it in private conversation with you?

P: It's bound to have been in private conversation with me, and I don't remember very long conversations. The longest one I remember was when he told me he was going to run for Congress. That was in Marlin, and

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that was very early, you see, while he was working for the NYA. I did talk to him briefly after he was vice president. I did not talk to him except that "how do you do" when the Secret Service man wanted me to rush through the line here in Austin, and again I am trying to remember.

Joe [?] knows, because he was at the White House when I wrote a letter, the only thing I ever asked Lyndon to do for me while he was in the White House. My father was in the Spanish-American War. He was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor which I remember as a kid. After I was grown, my mother and father were not living together, and my father had the medal. My father died when I first came here in 1946, and I wrote my uncle and said, "Could I please have the medal for his grandson and great-grandson?" And they said they searched everything and they could not find it. I had seen it so I knew it existed. And then I read that you could get a replica, another copy, of the medal if a president were willing to go to the navy records and find it. My father was in the Marine Corps. And I had asked Lou Nora Spiller when she was in Senator [Ralph] Yarborough's office whether she would ask the Navy Department--you know, they issue some kind of statement about what you get those things for--if she could get it for me because I didn't think then of asking for a copy of the medal, and she did. Well, that made it pretty easy. I sent that to Johnson, and I don't know that he was so pleased with my having asked Yarborough instead of him, but in any case, it made it easier for him to get it. And bless his heart, he had a copy made, and I have got a picture in

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there. His great-grandson already has the medal in California, but I thought that was an awfully sweet thing for him to do also.

Then he wrote that letter I picked up the other day, which was another one of the nice ones, which just says, "You don't need to thank me. Rather our country needs to thank people like your father for defending it when it was needed," or something like that, but it was very gracious. Joe was in the office at that time, and so Lyndon showed Joe my letter, and Joe afterwards said, "He still remembers you, Edith." (Laughter) I said, "Well, I still remember him."

G: Well, I certainly do thank you for your time today.

P: Well, you are just as welcome. As I say, I wouldn't hesitate and if--

End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I

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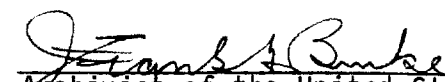
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