

## INTERVIEW VII

DATE: May 9, 1997

INTERVIEWEE: J. J. "JAKE" PICKLE

INTERVIEWERS: Ted Gittinger

Janice Hanks, Congressman Pickle's assistant

Char Diercks, LBJ Museum registrar

PLACE: LBJ Library and Museum

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G: Congressman, do you happen to know who made that organ?

P: No.

G: We've looked for a maker and can't find it.

P: I don't. Let me give you the history of this organ. It was owned by Walter Hornaday, who was the political correspondent for the *Dallas Morning News* during the thirties, forties and fifties, primarily. Crusty, sort of a conservative who well represented the Dallas news during that period. But he also had a lot of friends, many of them Texans. And he bought a place out on the Shenandoah River out of Berryville [Virginia]. And he liked to invite people on weekends out to his place.

I think it was his idea to get an organ so they might play some music out there, a piano. And his wife, Ann, instead bought an old organ; she picked it up somewhere there in the Berryville area, and she brought it. And he said, "Well, let's just paint it

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red." And so they did. And one of the first few friends--I say first friends out there, among the first--must have been, Sam Rayburn.

I visited that Hornaday ranch in the 1960s--1961, 1962. When I was on the Texas Employment Commission, I went to Washington, and I was a good friend of Charles Sparenberg. Sparenberg at that time was vice president of the university comptroller. A square-headed Dutchman if there ever was one. Great beer drinking, tough wonderful fellow. So terrible he was wonderful. But he was married into the Hornaday family in Big Spring. Mrs. Agnell--this is detail, but this is background--was my first school teacher in Big Spring. Her husband died, and she gave me my first spanking the first day I went to school. But she was related to a lot of the Agnells and the Hornadays. All through this organ you'll find the Hornadays and the Agnells on this thing, and the Sparenbergs, too.

Because I was friends with them, they invited me out. So I went out there in 1960 and saw it. Among other things I saw down there, right near the pedals, you see here, was Sam Rayburn. And I signed it then, back in 1962 or 1963, in that period, because I was asked to, and we were having a party, and we got to feeling just right. That's when you sign it, if you could write. (Laughter) So that's what a lot of us did. When I was elected to Congress, I went up there. We were invited out to the Hornadays at different occasions which I attend because I was very good friend of William Amory Underhill who owned the place about two miles past the Hornadays, and we were out there all the time.

And when Walter Hornaday died, and his son, Bill, went to Texas, I bought the

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organ and decided that instead--they were just going to take it and sell it or, you know, dump it. And because of the signatures, I decided that it ought to be saved.

So I not only bought the thing, I had it repaired, had new bellows [put] in. At that point, the fellow who was a professor in music in a community college somewhere around Winchester or in Shepherdstown, in that area of Virginia, West Virginia, repaired it and gave me some information then about how old it was and who manufactured it. I had the feeling they said it is over a hundred years old, and it is manufactured [by] one of the early pump organ people in the New England area. I'm trying to establish that now. But I've contacted William Amory Underhill, who is now eighty-six. But oh, he knows just the fellow, if he's still alive, and if he's still around. We are trying to track him down now. Because he was the one who repaired, was familiar with pump organs and knows something about it. So somewhere in my files I ought to be able to. At this point, I cannot remember who was the company or who built it and when. I just don't know that yet. I'm trying to find out.

It is hard now because I've called some of my other staff members, and they just haven't got any ideas. They remember talking about it. But you know, you don't write those things down. So I'm trying to establish that. But through the history of these was when Hornaday would have people out, he'd get them feeling pretty--they would get feeling pretty good. He might have aided and abetted it, but at the right moment, he would get them to sign it. So it didn't matter who it was. If they were a friend of his and somebody, a part of his staff or somebody he had made acquaintance with, and they were out there, their family, they'd sign it.

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I notice there is a Jim Pipkin has signed. The Pipkin tribe. Well, Jim Pipkin was vice president of Texaco. He was the number one Texaco lobbyist. Graduate of the University of Texas law school, married to Zenda, his wife, because they courted here. She was on campus. Now they ended up with three or four children, but at that time, he was just a well known character in the forties. He was a classmate of Allan Shivers.

But anyway, that's typical. Oh, you've got the Joe Kilgore, the Kilgore tribe that was out there. And Joe would fit in with [the] Hornaday crowd, and he--all of his signed it. [Homer] Thornberry would go out there on different occasions. His family has all signed it.

Then there would be Mabel Smith, or there would be Claire Jones or Coach somebody, and anybody was asked to sign it and get out there and make a big splash. So some of these names are not characters, except in their own mind. And they weren't asked to sign because of any notoriety or achievement; they just they were there drinking, having fun.

When I bought the organ, I just moved it down from the Hornaday place over to Underhill's place only two miles away and just kept it out there. And we would go up there on every weekend I could, and we would work hard in the garden and so forth, and then we would get up on Sunday morning, and I'd hold church service, that old hymn, and belt them out and just shake the mountains. We kept it there maybe for two or three years, just kept it. Didn't know what to do with it. 'Cause it had some names on it, I thought it was interesting.

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Finally, I decided to just take them on in because Bill got where we didn't go up there as often. So I brought it in to the office. And I kept then in my office, the organ, for three or four years. Just kept it there. And I decided, well, you know, why don't I add some names of my friends, my time, I owned the organ. I could be the next Hornaday. I began to gradually just add a few for the heck of it. And then the last year or two, I made a little effort to.

I missed so many golden chances to get names on that I didn't have. Friends of the LBJ signature is not on there. And Walter wouldn't put his name on there. He said, "No, Lyndon, if you want to get that organ, you got to sign it." Because every name on here has been personally signed. Nobody else has just written in their name.

G: When you say Walter you mean who?

P: Hornaday. Hornaday. He'd say to me--Lyndon, LBJ would say to me, "Well, Walt put my name on it. I won't get around to it." "No, no you've got to come out there." And every time Johnson would go to Huntland with George Brown or somebody else's place or had to come to Texas, he never had a time to get out there. And as a consequence, LBJ never did sign that organ because he had to do it in person. I do have Lady Bird's on there. And I have Lynda Bird's and Luci's. But I don't have LBJ's.

And I missed a lot of good chances. Just the organ was up in the mountains, and I just kept it out there. And I could have gotten some earlier people in the Congress. But I didn't really work at it until maybe the last year or two. I just think I'll do a little bit about it. So I've got a pretty good array of signatures on it.

Now, how do you point that out? At first it seemed to me like this organ is

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important in my mind in the sense that I don't know what instrument, we'll say if we call it, in history where you have so many varied type of people, particularly congressional people over a longer period of time, say seventy-five years in the history, where different people have signed it at different ages and different periods and signed it themselves. Sometime if you write the Declaration of Independence, you know these ten people signed it. Or if you have passed a law or if a president, two or three presidents get together, they sign something. But in this particular case, here's an instrument that has flowed over a period of eighty--seventy-five, eighty--years that is signed by people who wrote much of our history and have been active in it. And yet, they have signed it individually over a period of forty, fifty years. What instrument is there in existence that has that kind of continuity of history? So it is a garish looking organ, damn poorly signed (laughs) by semi-sober people. (Laughter) Still, it is their signature, and it is their part of history.

So I think it is important, and I made a little effort to get some people on it. Now, I have to admit that I've taken a few liberties. If I didn't have a place for a man to sign, I'd take that ink, paint and brush it over and put another name on it. Someday, somebody might want to erase two or three layers of paint and find--I think I have erased two or three people. My wife tells me I shouldn't have done [that]. And they all say, you know, "The moving finger writes and having writ moves on, and all your piety and your tears can't call it back or cancel the line"--the heck you can't. (Laughter)

I've erased a lot of those things myself, and--because I was just trying to find room, people I didn't know, but people who were just clerks, or friends, or

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neighbors--naturally who were there. And I don't think they would mind at all having their name written, because I feel they'd give me that permission.

So I have done a little of that, but very little of it. But now the space is gone. So when I had President Gerald Ford here, I had to find a place for him. Jimmy Carter has signed it. And he was so nice. We came in to the book signing at BookPeople, and he came down to sign his book, and came to sign books. He didn't come to pray over at the Baptist church or somebody else. He came down with that pencil, and he's ready to go. And the first one they gave him signed this organ. I couldn't take the organ down there; it's cumbersome, you know, too hard. So I took down the panel.

G: Where is the panel?

P: Well, this panel, wherever it is. I took this thing down that pulls back. And he just--they put that in front of him, and Jimmy said, "Where do you want me to sign?" And I said, "Well, sign right here." And he wrote Jimmy Carter on it. Now that is actually signed by the president. I told him put it right here, and he said, "See, he still tells me what to do." Well, of course, just a joke on it.

But I've got Carter, and I've got Clinton. When he came to speak here a couple of years ago at Ann Richard's request, I sent the organ out to his hotel and told the elevator man not to let him in until he signed that organ. But he did sign it. And I've got Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Gerald Ford. President George Bush has agreed to sign it if he just get it--we get him here. Next time he's in here, he gotta come sign this thing. You got to pick out a good place for him. Mr. LBJ and, of course, I can't get Ronald Reagan. And I think we are through trying to get signatures now because there

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is a cut off, and I think we've reached that point. Not much room there.

Now the question is if it is of interest, what--how do we use it, and what do you do about it? And I don't know. I'm sure you're thinking how do you use it. The Library of Congress though, before I left up there, made an inquiry of me, would I donate it to the Library. And I told them, no, this is my own. I'm going to take it back to Austin. It really belongs in Austin. And I told them no. How interested they might have been I don't know. But they said, "We think it ought to be on display there in the Library of Congress as people walk through it."

Whether that would be of any interest to you, or whether it is important, I don't know, but I think there would [be] interest in it. I've noticed that when people come in they want to see if somebody they know has signed that organ. It is not a matter if you just put names in; these are personally signed by reasonable sober people. (Laughter) You know.

And I kept it--the organ--and one time or the other, I'd get somebody walk through my office, or I'd wheel that thing over to the Speaker's office just--had a meeting, I'd just wheel it over there, and I'd say, "Bob, come over here and sign this." Bob Dole is on there, and the last election, I thought it was interesting. Bob Dole and Jack Kemp, they [are] right there as big as [you] please, have signed it. Clinton and Al Gore, both right there signed it. And I've got Lloyd Bentsen, and Dan Rostenkowski, and Jim Wright, and Price Daniel, and Tom Connally. It goes way back to Marvin Jones is on there. Marvin Jones wrote much of the agricultural bill, AA bill, in 1932 when Roosevelt went in.



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So it covers a period a time from the twenties up to the end of the century. And it seems to me like that here's an organ--people who personally signed this old pump organ. I call it the congressional pump organ. And I'll say that because on the back of it--us politicians always come in the back door of the church a lot of times--we have the congressional prayer, and different people have written their name on it. Most of the people on the back are congressmen who attend weekly prayer sessions in Washington. We have a prayer--the congressional prayer breakfast--every Thursday morning come hell or high water. Well, come high water. But we meet. And on occasions, we have all signed that, like say it's Christmas time, I bring that old organ over. We sing the Christmas carols if we're held in session that long.

So the back of it is primarily congressional prayer. Some people get a little silly [and] write things--[Senator Richard] Dick Durbin wrote on there, "Pickle, the father of the notch." He's talking about the Social Security bill; I wasn't the father of the notch. I fought them. But he liked to brag on the floor that I was the father of the notch, and he put that on the organ. I didn't know he was doing it, but he did it, and it's on there, and it doesn't hurt anything, but most of that is the prayer breakfast.

The people in front are people who have been--I kind of added a lot of current names of our times. You've got them; I got a list. Now the question is how do you display it?

I don't know the name--I've got my friend trying to run down the fellow who repaired it. I want to look at it a minute and see if there is any place on that organ that shows the name of the company. It may be in there somewhere, and I haven't seen it, but

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I haven't looked for it. And I don't know, but I think this fellow who repaired it can tell us, if he is alive. And that hasn't been about fifteen, twenty years ago. And he would know, maybe, who manufactured it, and I'll try to have that for you. I don't have it now.

And I may have it somewhere in my file. But you know when you come home, and you turn over a lot of your files to the incoming congressman, you try to keep out that which was personal because--written to you in confidence and things. In the process, you lose a lot of the history of things I could put my finger on. If I was in office, I could put my finger on it. But I just have to do the best we can now.

Well, that's the background. That's the story of it. The names started as just a memento for Walter Hornaday of his friends who visited his place on the Shenandoah.

G: Who are the Pickle Packers?

P: The Pickle Packers are the people who worked on my staff. And a Pickle Packer are people who are on my staff, and they liked to call themselves the Pickle Packers. I had a softball team one time called the Pickle Packers. And we were fairly good, but that's all. You'll find the Pickle Packers are people.

Now there is one in there called the "group." And the "group" was Bill Underhill, my friend, who had the place on the Shenandoah next to the Hornadays. And there was Bill and Bernice Greeter, who used to be Johnson's AA [administrative assistant], and my wife and I, and Margaret Mayer. Margaret Mayer represented the *Dallas Times Herald* and, later, *The News* for years and years after Hornaday left. And so we appeared on there at different times. And sometimes there is replica of it. But that's just something we'll have to force.

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Now how do you show it? Let me give you some--I was working on it before Janice came and interrupted me this morning. (Laughter)

How do you show it? Well, I think maybe you might show it by years. Say, it's from nineteen and thirties or twenties through the fifties, the early people. And I have to go down and try to help you find some of them, but that would be Senator--Tom Connally and Hatton Sumners and Fritz Lanham. These were congressmen and/or senators in the twenties and the thirties. Hatton Sumners, I guess, either Hatton or Fritz, were president of the student body here, very prominent. But way past our time, you see, beyond our time. And you've got [John] Marvin Jones, Judge Jones, Bob Poage, George Mahon, Jamie Whitten in that period of time of people who served in the Congress. Maybe you could group them by years.

Or maybe you could group the governors who've signed. I've just started on the governors. We had John Connally; and Dolph Briscoe; and Mark White; and Ben Barnes, lieutenant governor; and Ann Richards; and Price Daniel. We've got those signed, and there may be one or two more, I don't know. I just have to pick them up here and there. It doesn't mean anything if you're not on there. It's just wasn't there with a pencil when they were available to me. But there's a list of one, two, three, four, five, six different governors or more that signed it.

Presidents: we know we've got Clinton, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and I think there is one other on there; who [can?] that be? Bush agreed to sign. I can't get Reagan because that is impossible now. And most of the others are gone, so, it's not important really except--because there has come a cut off--I'm trying to get George [Herbert

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Walker] Bush, the President George Bush because he agreed to sign it. His son, Governor [George W.] Bush, here, did sign it and was happy to, and said his daddy would, too.

And I've got a lot of other figures in there. Speaker of the House: we've got Sam Rayburn, and Jim Wright, and Tom Foley, and I've got one other speaker, what other speaker?

D: Tip O'Neill.

G: Tip O'Neill.

P: Tip O'Neill, of course. Tip O'Neill, I was thinking of it this morning trying to write it down. Yes, Tip O'Neill, he was happy to sign it. He came in--he was such a good sport and a great story teller. He'd tell about somebody and something in Boston, and the staff gathered around, and my staff went to hell that day because they just come listen to Tip. We finally got Tip down with a pencil; I've got a picture of it. He signed that thing way back underneath the pedals you know. And he was fine telling stories, and they all laugh about it. We had hell getting him up. (Laughter) He's bigger than you. (Laughter)

G: Well, that's big.

P: And we finally got him up, but he was jovial, great story teller.

G: You say you have a picture of that?

P: Yes.

G: We'd love to see that.

P: I've got that at my office. And we have other pictures of people, Price Daniel, and I don't know who else signed it. I've got a picture of Al Gore on his crutches signing the

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thing, [and] Lady Bird signing it. So we've got some little picture display.

Now how you use it and how you display it, I don't know. It seems to me it that it might be of some interest when people walk in the door, follow that bar, these are the individuals who have signed this organ personally one time or another when they visited Walter Hornaday's or at the United States Capitol office, in my office, or however you want to put it. And I think friends crane to kind of see who did sign it. And I think that you would find an interest in people trying to see it. They can't play it, but it works, too, you know.

G: I heard you playing it the other night.

P: Oh yes. You can play "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," belt it out.

Now, how you can use it in the Library's hold, I don't know. I think Harry [Middleton] has in mind maybe putting it down on the first floor and put a rope around it. But you have got to have a lettering big enough so people can kind of read who signed it. And you can't have a great big sign aside the wall because it would be more garish than this thing, because this is ugly, old instrument, no question about that.

D: We could initially have a list of the names available, and they could go--

P: Yes, they could go back and look at it.

D: --to the front desk and ask to read the names. And then we could, as you begin to organize the names for us, we could put some of those prominent names--

P: And some of these early people--ah, just look here. Walter Woodul is on here. He was lieutenant governor of Texas. And he was prominent when I was a freshman here at the University, 1932 and 1933. And now that goes back in the thirties, and his period was

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even before that.

So we know it goes back to the twenties forward, so it is really seventy-five, eighty years of time where people sign. And I don't know of any other instrument has got that continuity of signatures over a period of time.

G: Tell us, tell us some of the more--some of your favorite memories about occasions involving the organ.

P: Well, when the congressional prayer breakfast would meet, a lot of times during the seasons, such as Thanksgiving or Christmas, we would haul the organ over, and we'd belt out some of the old hymns early in the morning. I've had some of the people come through there, Tip O'Neil or I can't think of some of the others, who would actually want to sit down at the organ, test it, play it a little bit, which I thought was interesting and fun because if you can pick out a few people.

But you've got to learn to pump at the same time as you play. And that's easy to catch on to. And you got to remember a hundred years ago that's all we had. And that is the only way people could get music. A lot of our old evangelists carried their pump organ with them, almost under their arm, and would hold evangelistic service right on the street corner and maybe write a good song at the same process.

So this organ has been [a] place where you gather around. And Walter Hornaday--it was kind of a bar room instrument. (Laughter) If you got enough bourbon and branch water off the Shenandoah, you had the spirit. And that's when we would gather around and belt that old organ. I've had friends up at Underhill's place, and we would bring [it] in, and we would have sing songs on it. And it works out good.

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And I will try to recall some other instances where we really had people, not only saw it, but wanted to sit down and pick at it and play with it a little bit. And they were surprised that it would work. Of course, the man put in new bellows. And it may need working now, I don't know. You might find a good pump--I tell you what you might do, if there be someone around here--what's his name, my little campus friend? He is a pump organ man. I'll think--

G: He was a classmate of yours?

P: Yes. Classmate. He is old, of course. His wife was on the city council one term. Otto Hofmann, Otto it is. And he repairs organs. And I'll bet you he'll see this, and he'll, "That's a so and so," and he can maybe tell you exactly who made this thing.

O: We'll get hold of him.

P: Otto might do it. He just didn't have a thing to do--but I just knew Otto from those campus days. I always accuse Otto of getting me thrown out of the dormitory.

O: Why was that?

P: He denied it. He denied it. And I was innocent that time.

G: Tell us about that story.

P: Well we--the manager of the dormitory was R. V. Shirley. And a kid in school always protests the manager of his dormitory. Kind of like in the service, we always fought the captain, the old man, just gave him hell. We had that inalienable right to fuss at him. And we did old Shirley was doing something, but I didn't know who it was. But they hung Shirley one night in effigy from the second floor of the Little Campus dormitory out there. A big dummy--woke up the next morning R. V. Shirley on there. And they knew

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I had a pass key, and they said I did it. And the suspicion--it wasn't me, though. I was innocent that time. It was Dick Waits [?], some boys around here who did it. But I got the blame for it. He kidded with Shirley over the years. He ended up the assistant director of Congressional Library in Washington, and we used to laugh about him being hung in effigy.

And I lost my job as floor manager at Little Campus because of that. But Otto Hofmann lived in a room on the second floor that [you?] had to go through to hang that dummy out in effigy. But Otto--but probably--he might be of help to you.

G: We'll try him.

P: You know of Otto somebody? Do you know who he is?

H: I know who he is, yes. He's in south Austin (inaudible).

P: But anyway, that is a suggestion.

G: You say you were innocent that time; what time weren't you so innocent? (Laughter)

P: Well, you've got to remember that, in those days, in the thirties, [a] poor boy lived over in Little Campus dormitory. He didn't have any money; he couldn't have any dates. And about all he did is live with his fellows over there and played basketball and baseball and studied. We had to walk from Little Campus over to the main campus. And that's why they called it the Little Campus. But we had about 130, 140 men that lived in that old barracks over there. We didn't have much to do except go to class, back and forth, and then pull pranks on people. That was our entertainment. And I wasn't a professional, but I worked at it pretty good. (Laughter) And I got the reputation of doing a lot of things. And some of them I am guilty of, and some I wasn't. But that's kind of what we



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did as a pastime over at Little Campus. But Otto lived in that room [they] had to go through to put that dummy out there. You might get Otto sometime.

Now, I don't know how you are going to display these names. Some of them mean something to me, but not to a lot of people. Maybe the people would come in from Lubbock, and they would see Archie Underwood. Well, in the thirties and the forties, Archie Underwood was the biggest cotton broker in West Texas, one of the biggest in the United States. And he was in big supporter of the Democratic Party. Great friend of Rayburn and some of the rest of them. Archie Underwood's name on there. That wouldn't mean anything to a lot of people now at all.

Over here is Carl Estes, maybe the biggest publisher in East Texas, Kilgore-Longford area, and conservative, *tough* fellow; everybody courted him hard. Carl Estes was a great name in those times.

Here's Harry Crozier down there. Nobody ever heard of Harry Crozier, but the old timers would know Harry Crozier because he was kind of a cigarette-smoking, long kind of like Roosevelt's cigarette, and tell stories. Great whiskey drinker and great story teller. And one time was part on the Texas Employment Commission Board. And he is great philosopher, but he was a character around town. Now, a lot of people [would] pass by and say, "Oh, Harry Crozier,"--now they would have to be up in years, but they would remember Harry Crozier. I think that would prick a lot of people's interest.

Other names in there would be of people I wouldn't know that somebody else [would] walk through [and say], "Oh that was Uncle so-and-so; you remember him." And maybe you could have some signs made up, group them by governors, or--we even

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got Jerry Brown. He came recently, [from] California. He just happened to be in the office trying to sell wine. (Laughter) I got his signature when he came here recently, you know, and he remembered that occasion. But maybe you can list them by--I've got it here, Bob Strauss. He was a character. And I just got people at different times on it. But here is the old timers; here is the presidents. And I think I am going to try to make an effort to try to get Bush up here as soon as I can. And here's Speaker of the House Rayburn, [James] Wright, [Thomas] Foley, Tip O'Neill. I don't have [Newt] Gingrich; I never made an effort to get it. (Laughter)

G: Did you get [John] McCormack?

P: No, I didn't, because it happened to be out on the mountains. I could have gotten it in an instant. I could have gotten Carl Albert. I don't think Carl is on there. He may be; I don't think so. And I'm going up to Oklahoma next week, and I'm going to try to see Carl. And they said no, he's too far gone; he's just laying at death's door and not able to--he'd sign it in a split second, but . . . but I missed a chance to get a lot of people's name. But all together, it is a list of a hundred plus names of prominent Texans or officials, both Hornaday's friends and now my friends in the Congress.

So we got the congressional prayer--you can call it the congressional pump organ. Just say--well it's congressional.

G: Did anybody ever decline to sign it, besides LBJ?

P: No, I don't think so. Nobody [did not] want to. It's just your own personal thing. I don't think so. LBJ didn't decline; he just was never up there to sign it. And Walter Hornaday made a point, you can't get your name on it unless you sign it, that you come

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up here personally. Somehow or another, it just never worked out, so I never got LBJ's name on there and was with him hundreds of times.

G: Do you ever recall playing it to celebrate something other than what you--I mean some special occasion, passage of a piece of legislation or--

P: No, I cannot, not at this point. I just pick it three or four chords. I can't--I don't play music; I can't read notes. No.

G: What do you play besides the organ and the harmonica, because I know you play the harmonica?

P: I don't play either one of them. I am a ham at it. Jim Wright loves to gather around there gets harmony and singing to the organ. He used to come by every now and then, close the door. And I'd be in there meeting with somebody, and some prominent official [would] be waiting to see me. Next thing, you hear somebody singing "The Old Rugged Cross." (Laughter)

It was an attraction, kind of a novelty. And that's all it is. Nothing historical--I am trying to recall some names of things that happened around the organ. Maybe my wife can help me on that.

Now, all I want to do--I'm thinking about just giving this to the Library. We want a proviso, as long as it is on display, but if it is put down in the basement, like, say, Lady Macbeth--what was her name--sculptor down here, sculpture of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston, Lady Macbeth. What was her name? Well, anyway, we found her down in the basement of the Congressional Library.

G: Elizabeth [Elizabet] Ney?

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P: Elizabeth Ney, yes. And we got her out, dusted her off, brushed her up, and got them on display. We had a big taste of society. And I think she may be put back down toward in the basement now [that] Johnson is gone.

But if this organ got to where you weren't going to use it anymore and gone past its time, I think my family would like to have it back. They don't want me to give [it] to the Library, and I respect that. But I think they will do it as long as they have a right to have it back if it is never on display, you see, if it is set aside.

G: I don't think there's any problem with that.

P: I wouldn't think there'd be a problem on it.

And I brought along the paint here. Now, I would make a suggestion--you know got a white--you can get these pencils, chalky pencils, and that's what old Hornaday [used]--just a chalky pencil. And a lot of these old signatures are old ones, and he used different colored paint. Sam Rayburn and them, those are big print because he was just going to have a few names. He didn't have in mind that I was going to inherit this thing. All the space is gone.

But we got--here's the Hoggs family. That goes back in Texas history a long way. Now, here is a different color, here's Tory [Mary Victoria?] and Frank Wozencraft. They were in the Johnsons' attorney general's office. Here's Jack Brooks. He's got "Jack Brooks, Dean of the Texas Delegation." He put that in.

D: Oh, that's why that is there.

P: Right up and in there. And here's Jim Maddox, former attorney general. Here's Henry Cisneros, HUD [Department of Housing and Urban Development] secretary. Bob

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Graves, a friend of the Hornadays. Here's Jim Wright, Tip O'Neill, Price Daniel, Lucille Connally, that's Mrs. Tom Connally, Harry Crozier. Now here's Charlie Blake who was on Bob Poage's office. Mike Casey and Helen Casey. Bob Casey was a congressman from Houston for twenty-five years up there. And here's Bob Michel; [he] was a Republican leader for twenty years in Washington. Senator David Pryor. Al Gore. John Connally. I don't know. Charlie Rangel, he's going to be the next chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, probably. Charlotte--Barbara Baskin[?]. Molly Thornberry, this is Homer Thornberry's daughter. And here's Homer and Eloise. Now can you take that white pencil and go over it. I've done that in some cases, to kind of bring it out. I don't know whether you want to do that or not, or you just want to leave it like it is.

D: I think it is better to leave it like it is, because it is a historic piece, and it is no longer an original signature when we play with it.

P: Yes, but it's not another signature; all it is just retracing what is already there. So you are not signing somebody's name, or changing anything. You're just really freshening it up. But you may want to leave it exactly. I don't know what is best.

G: You know there are some names on there that we have not been able to make out quite.

P: I know it.

G: I think what Char [Diercks] wants to do is make a list of perhaps--or perhaps just go by one by one and ask you if you could clarify some of them.

D: Some of them I'm sure are--

P: Well you made me a list, and I went down and looked at a lot of these things. (Inaudible)

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And some of them I can identify who they are and would be willing to sit down with you sometime. Now, see that, the last Pickle Packers, they were the people who had one by one everybody left when I was going to retire, and they went home. And they were the last Pickle Packers.

D: So that would be the whole group that signed across there.

P: That's right, all one line there.

D: Why would somebody have put what looks like 6K?

P: BK.

D: That's BK.

P: One of my secretaries--my secretary was BK, Barbara Kennelly; that was her name--BK [was] Barbara Kennedy, not Kennelly. Barbara Kennelly is on here, too. She was a congresswoman from Connecticut and on the Ways and Means now and strong member of the House. But Barbara Kennedy was on my staff. We all referred to her as BK. But I had Barbara Pate, and Barbara Pate and Barbara Kennedy, and you got all mixed up, and I just said, you're BK. (Laughter) So she--for ten years, boy, she became BK and loved it. And she gets to talking about it now, every now and then, [if] she's had a drink, she starts crying. She was a tough old gal.

H: Mr. Pickle, can we just go through about forty names and just we'll read them off and just see if you recognize some of them? Why don't we go ahead and do that.

D: And let's start out with this because this is a puzzle to me. Why does it say--

P: Well, that was when I was up there in 1962. I visited Hornaday's place, and I was on Texas Employment Commission with my wife, Beryl, and I just signed it. I was up to

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the Hornaday's place, so I just signed it in Jarrell Pickle because I'm from Big Spring, and in Big Spring I'm known as Jarrell Pickle.

D: Ah, okay.

P: So I signed it Jarrell Pickle, not Jake Pickle and Beryl, that's my wife.

D: Now, is that in--

P: Howard County.

D: And that's in Howard County, okay.

P: Big Spring is the county seat of Howard County. Now why you did that, because I had two or three bourbons at that time, and I just signed it. (Laughter)

D: That possibility had passed through my mind.

P: Now, that Lloyd and Kathleen Hopwood, I don't know who that is, see. Now, there's Mark White over there. And there's Bob Hardesty right around the corner; he used to be president at the Southwest Texas [State University], you know.

H: Okay, who's George? George who?

D: Now that would have been one of the early ones.

H: George, no last name for that, just George, huh? It's George, okay.

D: That is where he had put that because it was a good place for a signature.

H: And who is this over here? Ardis Milcox [?]? Wilcox [?]?

D: Ardis is--

P: I don't know.

D: Okay.

P: Now, Delia Kay Agnell was my first grade school teacher in Big Spring. Big tall gal,

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would spank my hand--first recess.

H: Who do we have here? Charles Venile? V-E-N-I-L-E?

P: I don't know.

H: Okay, do you want me to just leave them here if we don't know? Or just give them to you?

D: Just give them to me if you don't know.

P: We know who Leon Panetta is. He is Clinton's--

H: Okay, what about Jean and Emile Coughlin [?]? That doesn't make any sense.

P: I can't place it right now.

H: What about Chuck Strulbe [?]?

P: Can't place it.

H: What about Claire H.? Who's that?

P: Well, Claire H., that may be Sam Rayburn's secretary for thirty years up there--she is Claire, Miss Clara. I'm not sure.

H: What about Tim Bevill or Tom Bevill?

P: Tom Bevill is a Congressman from Alabama for about twenty-five or thirty years. He is still up there now.

D: Okay is that B-E-V--

P: B-E-V-I-L-L, Tom Bevill. We got Boggy Creek financed by that committee and built, finally. East Austin, Boggy Creek. And Tom Bevill was my good friend.

H: Okay, what about this one, DeVernon Luviere [?]?

P: I don't know.



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H: Delores Veldo [?]?

P: Don't know. Well, Delores, I think, was on Johnson's staff years ago, but I'm not sure.

H: Okay. How about Warren Jernigan?

P: Well, Jernigan was in the House staff some way or another, House of Representatives staff. [Jernigan was the U.S. House doorman.]

H: Vic --

P: Fazio, F-A-Z-I-O, he is the present Minority Leader of the House. Vic Fazio from California.

H: Elizabeth and Hutch

P: Elizabeth Hutchinson. Hutchinson was appointed by Eisenhower to the Interstate Commerce Commission and went to Washington and stayed up there. He [Everett Hutchinson] is dead now, but Elizabeth Hutchinson still comes to a lot of different functions. And they were my classmates, my dear friends.

H: Mary Wardon[?].

P: I don't know.

H: Flint D-U-T-N-E.

P: I do not know. Lady Bird Johnson. I had her sign it. We gave her a hard place to sign.

H: Yes, and we have a picture of her signing as well.

D: Oh, good. Oh, wonderful.

H: Joe T.--

P: Joe T. Banks.

H: Banks, B-A-N-K-S.

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P: We got on somewhere on there is Jimmy Banks, Jimmy and Dot Banks. And I don't know whether that is the Banks. Now, there is George Christian's name.

H: Yes, we've got him. Okay, Selina Lewis Aylor, A-Y-L-O-R.

P: I don't know.

H: Adele Tonew[?].

P: Don't know.

H: Okay we don't know that one. Okay, Helen Orth [?].

P: Helen Orth, it's familiar; I can't place it right now.

H: Janet Whitten Mesda [?].

P: Janet Whitten Mesda--we had--

(Interruption)

This is Jamie Whitten.

H: Oh, Jamie.

P: Jamie, J-A-M-I-E. Jamie Whitten was chairman of the House of Agriculture Committee Appropriations for years and years, from Mississippi.

H: Okay Whitten. W-H-I-T-T-O-N [Whitten is correct].

P: He was in Congress for forty years. Jamie Whitten. Jamie Whitten was one who complained about something in the agricultural bill. And he was talking about Ronald Reagan. Jamie was such an old guy, crusty fellow. He'd said, "I do declare, Mr. Speaker, I believe Ronald Reagan was the worst president we've had, alive--worst president I've served under since Ulysses S. Grant." (Laughter)

H: Is this Bill Sarpalius?

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P: Sarpalius, S-A-R-P-A-L-I-U-S. He was the congressman for Amarillo for about four or five years.

D: Thirteenth District.

P: That's right.

H: Is this Steady?

P: Steny Hoyer. H-O-Y-E-R. Steny Hoyer is now the Minority Leader of the Democrats. He's from Maryland. He's Gephardt and Steny Hoyer and Vic Fazio, and that is the way it is now.

H: Frank Wilson, does that recall?

P: Well, Frank Wilson was a congressman from Dallas. Now, a lot of these people up here--well, go ahead.

H: Jerry Jolash[?].

P: I don't know Jerry Jolash; I don't know.

H: How about Sparenberg.

P: Charlie Sparenberg.

D: I was wondering there was it spelled with an A or an E?

P: S-P-A-R-E-N-B-E-R-G. Charles Sparenberg. His dad [George] was a Republican in West Texas. Can you imagine, Big Spring? (Laughter) And he lost his job as postmaster in Big Spring, so when they ousted him, he just moved out to a little community way out in my county, Davis Howard county, and started another little community called Sparenberg, and he just named it. And later got a post office for it. (Laughter)

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H: Okay, how about Bob Fisher? Does that make sense?

P: Bob Fisher. I don't know about that there.

H: How about Neil Ball[?] and Kim Ball[?]? Kimball? K-I-M-B-A-L-L? Neil Kimball?

P: Neil Kimball. I can't place it. Now, Louise Pickett is the wife of Tom Pickett. Tom Pickett was the congressman from Palestine, Texas, back in the forties and fifties.

H: Okay, here we go. How about Emily Fonsler? Tonsler [?]?

P: Tonsler.

D: Tonsler, okay.

P: See, these are friends of Hornaday's I don't know.

P: Tex Easley was the Associated Press correspondent covering the House of Representatives for years and years. And he later worked for Bob Poage, but Tex Easley was a very prominent associate, AP writer.

H: Okay, Bill and Judy Mickey, M-I-C-K-E-Y. Anything?

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P: Bill, no, I don't believe. Frank Ikard, oh my, and Jean Ikard, they were strong, big people.

H: What is this, Marilla Black?

P: Marilla Black is a local banker. You remember her father was Hulon Black, a big money raiser for the University of Texas and very prominent in the twenties and the thirties. And this is his daughter. And we had this at a party that we were having at the Headliners when Liz Carpenter was performing, and Marilla was up there, and she wanted to sign it. (Laughs) And I said, "Well, sign it." And that's why her name is up

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there.

H: How about L. E. McCorkindale [?]?

P: Well, McCorkindale was from Houston. I don't remember the family more than that.  
McCorkindale. And he had his wife--

D: So that would be a "K" probably in that name?

P: I think so, M-C-C-R--

H: Okay, Lansing Brisbin [?] who is down here.

P: Brisbin, B-R-I-S-B-I-N. Yes, I don't know.

H: Yes that's correct spelling.

P: Now, there's Jack Hightower. And there's my brother-in-law, Bunny and Ray Bell from Jacksonville. We just all kinds of people's names stuck in there.

H: Who is J and B, or JSB?

P: I don't know. I think that may be John S. Bender who was on my staff.

H: Okay, so let's move over here. We've got Walter Hornaday; you've got that one now.

P: Looked here on this paint--well, I'm sorry. Here is the--where is Gerald Ford? He was going to sign it the other night and that ink--that damn fountain pen wasn't working good, so I said start over again; so he came over here and signed it.

And here you've got Walter Cronkite, George Bush, and Gerald Ford. What instrument is going to have something like that? Well, that ought to take that ink--that paint and somebody could very carefully work that in--that ought to be erased, but it is a part of history; it happened, so you may want to leave it like that, I don't know.

H: Okay, sir, can we do Dorothy Starner [?]?

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- P: I can't move anymore.
- G: Well, they are going to have to bring them to you.
- H: Okay, Jean McGerck [?].
- P: McGerck, I don't know.
- H: How about Nan G-U-L-A-H-R?
- P: Gulahr. No.
- H: How about Matton Sumners?
- P: Hatton Sumners. Yes, Hatton Sumners was a congressman for a long good years.
- D: And that is H-A-T-T-O-N.
- P: Yes. Hatton. Hatton Sumners. Hey, you are dating yourself now if you don't know who Hatton Sumners and Fritz Lanham were.
- H: Richard Start [?].
- P: I don't know.
- H: George and Helen Mahon.
- P: Mahon, M-A-H-O-N. George Mahon was chairman of the Appropriations Committee and was in Congress for forty-four years. George Mahon.
- H: Fred somebody, but nobody can read this. This is impossible.
- P: I can't see. Wheel the organ around. Lera Thomas--Albert Thomas was--
- H: What about this guy, Fred?
- P: No.
- H: How about Millie somebody--
- P: See a lot of these people just come up and sign--

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H: B-R-O-N-D-A-T-A-T Yarn [?]?

P: No.

D: The main thing is we want to catch the important names on here.

H: Sparenberg. Corey Johnson?

P: No.

Now, Abbie Thomason was the wife of Ewing Thomason from El Paso. He was in Congress during all the thirties. He was a strong man, later appointed to a federal judgeship. So Abbie Thomason was the wife of Ewing Thomason, and now you got Tom Connally's name over here. And of course, you got Liz and Les Carpenter, Scott and Christy's [Carpenter] name right there--

H: I've got a spelling of him, but I don't know where I took it off of. Sorry about that.

Okay, then we've got the John Meshels--M-E-S-H-E-L-S.

P: I don't know.

H: How about Charlie Clark[?]?

P: Now, these are--I'll have to kind of study a lot of these. Lot of these are the congressional names--

H: Like Pat Strong[?]. Is that--

P: No, it's Bob.

H: Bob?

P: I can't tell. Somebody signed their name like a--

H: And Larry Craig.

P: Yes, Larry Craig is a senator now. He was a member from Utah [Idaho]. Jack Colter

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[?]

H: Bill Good--

P: Goodwin--Goodling, G-O-O-D--Goodling; he's from Pennsylvania. Jim Barlow. Tom Barlow.

H: Bob somebody. Bob question. We can't read that one. And see this is like Fred or Frank, something. It is hard to read. I don't think we will ever get it. And Gary something, that's hard. Okay, Dan Davidson?

P: Yes. Well, Dan Davidson is in Austin, but I don't know why his name would be back there.

H: Who is this that did--

P: Z for Buzz.

G: Is that Horace Busby?

P: It could be, I don't know. Buzz, I don't think so.

H: Okay, what about Mark Flanders?

P: Bob Garcia was a member of the Congress. He later served a little short prison term and was released.

H: Mark somebody.

P: Mark Siljander. He was a member of Congress, and Vernon Ehlers was a scientist, but he was elected to Congress. And Richard Ray right there.

H: How about Doug Barnard?

P: Barnard. Yes. Georgia. Doug Barnard of Georgia.

H: Okay, and we can't do anything around here. This is unreadable. Bill Hefner. Is that



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Hefner?

P: Bill H-E-F-N-E-R. Bill Hefner of North Carolina.

H: Oliver Pickett.

P: Owen Pickett. Not Oliver. It is Owen Pickett, Virginia.

H: Okay, Jim S-A-H --

P: Scheuer, he's from New York. S-E-U-R-E-R [Scheuer is correct]. Seuren, but it is pronounced Sawyer, from New York. Jim Scheuer. He can play the harmonica beautiful. He played a chromatic scale. He could play "Stars and Stripes;" he couldn't quit. He used to perform on New York's radio.

H: Jim Imhofe.

P: Imhofe, he's now senator from Oklahoma. I-M-H-O-F-E, I guess. Jim Imhofe. We will have to get you an old Congressional Blue Book, you know.

D: Oh, good. That would help a lot if we could borrow that.

H: Jim Barceo, or Barcus? Familiar?

P: Yes. He is from Maine. I have forgotten it [James Barcia of Michigan?].

H: Okay, Charlie Stenholm.

P: S-T-E-N-H-O-L-M. He is very much in the Congress now. One of the strongest men of the Texas delegation. Howard Coble--

H: C-O-B-L-E.

P: --is from one of the Carolina's, I think [North Carolina].

H: Bob Walker.

P: Loved to see him. Bob Walker, he is a Republican from Pennsylvania.

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H: Steve Gunderson.

P: Steve Gunderson, yes.

H: Buddy Darden.

P: Yes, Buddy Darden from Georgia. David Price from North Carolina. Who's the one is that?

H: Let's see we've got G-O-L-E-N-Z-U--unsold--I can't--

D: It looks like a European--

H: How about Glenn--

P: John Unsold [?]-

H: Okay, how about Ralph Harding?

P: Yes, Ralph Harding. He is from Utah [Idaho].

H: Mick--

P: And that's Bob Garcia; he signed a second time. Jim Baylor [?], yes, California.

H: How about Nick Status, Mick Status?

P: Yes, Mick Status from West Virginia, I think. Staton or Status. S-T-A-T-O-N.

H: [David Michael] S-T-A-T-O-N, you are right. Jim Valenti. Is it Jim Valenti or Jack Valenti?

P: No, not Jack Valenti. I think it is Jim Valenti.

H: Peter S-E-U-R [?]?

P: I can't place Peter Seur quickly.

H: Jim Bonning [James Bunning?]?

P: Here is Amo [Amory] Houghton right here. He was my ranking Republican on my

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committee, New York--former president of Corning Glass. Probably the richest man in Congress. Great person, individual, fine individual.

H: How about Jim Bunning?

P: Yes, B-U-N-N-I-N-G. He is now chairman of the Social Security subcommittee.

H: Okay, let me get one more back here. We've got--

P: Charlie Whitley from North Carolina. All those--

H: Wayne Jebhurst[?], what is that?

P: I don't know. Well, Ned Pastor [?]. And I would be willing to set down with you sometime and go over these names more in detail.

H: We've just got a few more just to--Okay, Sam Gidenson?

P: No, Sam Gibbons, G-I-B-B-E-N-S. He served as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee temporarily when Rostenkowski had to step down. Sam Gibbons.

H: E-N-S or O-N-S?

P: G-I-B-B-E-N-S. Gibbons [Gibbons is correct].

H: Okay. What about Bridge--

P: I don't know.

H: Bonnie Cory [?]?

P: No.

H: How about Cass--this is all--

P: Cass Ballenger, B-A-L-L-I-N-G-E-R [Ballenger is correct]. He is a Republican from one of the Carolinas [North Carolina]. Cass Ballenger.

H: What does this 9 mean? 9+?

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P: Junior, I guess Junior Bill Reed [?]. I don't know.

G: Junior Bill Reed. Yes.

H: How about this one, Frank Waterson [?]?

P: Yes, I forget.

H: or Patterson or BJ or--you don't know that one either. Emory Petchel, P-E-T-C-H-E-L [?].

P: Don't know.

H: Benita Easley[?]?

P: Don't know. Benita Easley, I think, was Tex Easley's wife.

D: Yes.

H: Mary and Jeff and Skeet.

P: Who?

H: Mary and Jeff and Skeet.

P: Mary, Jeff and Skeet. Do not know.

H: How about the Normans? No, you don't know that one either. Okay that's it. We did it.

D: That's terrific.

P: Now here's Walter and Ethel Woodul; he was the vice president [lieutenant governor] of Texas for years and years. Fritz and Hazel Lanham. There are the Hornadays. Marvin Jones, great person from--he's written a book, very interesting. Henry and Ivy Ransom [?]. Can you imagine our president, Harry Ransom? Bob and Helen Sikes. Bob Sikes was from Florida, congressman from down there. And Jack Brooks, he signed it here,

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and when he was drinking and over here when he was praying. (Laughter)

Well, anyway, those are names. It seems to me like, though, as we said to begin with, you've got some great names on here in the sense that it is people who personally signed these things, and you all want to make--now here is Russell Sparenberg. He is one of the Sparenbergs. He is now a doctor, a very prominent doctor in Dallas [Plano]. Frank Royal [?]. I thought I had Darrell Royal on here somewhere. Bob Casey, Jr.. George Christian. Well, those are--here's Alger Brit[?] who is Homer Thornberry's top man. Clark Fisher [Ovie Clark Fisher?], he is dead, but he was during LBJ's time. But I think you could make--well, we are rambling now. That's what little I know. Now, I'll go over any of the other names with you--

(Interruption)

Jamie Whitten it is. Mesta, I don't know who Mesta is, could be Perly.

G: I was going to ask if it could be Perle Mesta?

P: I don't think Perly would ever been up there. She would have been too big for--Peter Agnell, Colonel Agnell, died about a year or two ago. Peggy Richardson is with Internal Revenue Service. I could go down a lot of these names with you. Here's Luci Bird, Lyndon, Bob Dole, Christian, Rostenkowski, Ann Patricia, Lady Bird--well, Dick Gephardt. I think that is about all I can tell you about it.

Now how do you propose--

End of Tape I and Interview VII

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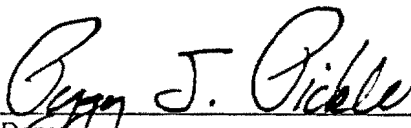
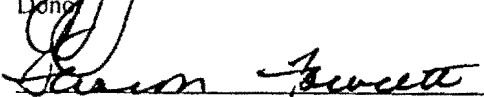
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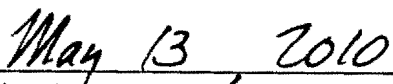
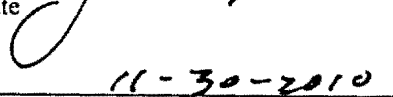
J. J. "JAKE" PICKLE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 44, United States Code, and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, I, Peggy Pickle, of Austin, Texas, do hereby give, donate, and convey to the United States of America all my rights, title, and interest in the tape recording and transcript of the personal interview conducted with my father, J. J. "Jake" Pickle, on May 9, 1997, in Austin, Texas, and prepared for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

This assignment is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The transcript shall be available for use by researchers as soon as it has been deposited in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.
- (2) The tape recording may be made available to those researchers who have access to the transcript.
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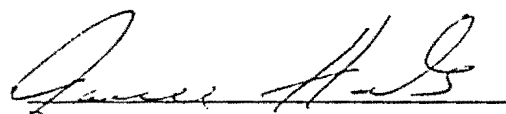
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