INTERVIEW I

DATE:

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INTERVIEWEE:

MRS. WALTER PRESCOTT WEBB (TERRELL MAVERICK WEBB)

INTERVIEWER:

JOE B. FRANTZ

PLACE:

Austin, Texas

Tape 1 of 1

F: Where did you first get into the Washington scene?

W: Well, the first time I really ever thought anything political about Washington really was about in the late 1920's--whenever it was that Dick Kleberg ran for Congress for the first time. We had found out--

F: San Antonio was in his district at that time, wasn't it?

W: Yes. It was the 20th Congressional District, I think. Of course, maybe it wasn't at that time. It was later made the 20th Congressional District when Bexar County alone was made the whole district. Dick Kleberg was going to run for Congress about that time.

Well, Maury [Maverick] began to have his eye on Congress. So they all got together. Maury Maverick was tax collector at that time—Bexar County and state tax collector. He had signed a two term pledge, because he had gotten in to beat the old political machine that was in Bexar County around that time. He got elected and was well on his way to doing something about it, about the situation that he found. So he supported Dick Kleberg at that time. The Congressional District was going to be redistricted, and then Maury was going to run in four years.

W:

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That way he would have represented the same district that his uncle, James L. Slayden, had represented. He was a little bit emotional about the thing, too, as well as pretty smart.

But going back about Lyndon Johnson, it was then that I met Lyndon for the first time. Lyndon went down to talk to Kleberg, and Kleberg and Maury were friends, and as I said it was then that I remember seeing Lyndon as a young, young person. I thought I was very old in 1930, '31 or '32--say 1930 though. I was 29. (Laughter) I'd been married ten years and had two children. So of course, Lyndon Johnson was just one of those little boys who was just still wet behind the ears. But I remember meeting him, because he came to the courthouse to see Maury. That is the first time that I do remember ever having seen him.

- F: What was your impression on seeing him? Did you see a kid with promise, or did you just see a kid? Did you remember the occasion?
 - I don't remember the occasion, but I never did forget him, because he was a forceful young man, and I was married to sort of the same type of person. You felt him the minute he came into the room. Lyndon was that way; he was a kind of a boy like that—a man like that, and I still think he still is here all these hundreds of years later. You don't pass him by easily, even if you wanted to. Lyndon Johnson can generate some kind of something that you feel. I know that. Yes, I remember him. But I didn't really see him very much more until after we went on and got elected our own self the next two years, and that's when I saw a good deal of him, because my husband's secretary and Lyndon were the closest possible friends.

- F: Who was his secretary?
- W: Malcolm Bardwell. And he has stayed with Maury off and on all the time, and he and Lyndon are still very close friends. I speak of him as Lyndon. I can't say the President. I figure you know who I'm talking about.
- F: You have plenty of company on these tapes. You then saw him some in Washington while he was still doorkeeper and general factotum for Kleberg?
- W: Oh, yes. I saw him more then than I saw him later. He was in our office many, many times.
- F: He was single then.
- W: Oh, yes. Yes. I saw him, because he was just a young fellow feeling his way around, and smart and catching on.
- F: Do you know anything about his appointment to be the state director of the National Youth Administration? Did your husband have any hand in that?
- W: Yes, indeed, he did.
- F: Let's hear about it.
- W: Well, I can't speak with real authority. I think, really, there are other people who could—Bill Sessions, one of Maury's assistants, for instance, but mostly Malcolm Bardwell. But, I do remember, when Lyndon was having a problem with Mr. Kleberg. But I understand that Mr. Kleberg let him out. Lyndon didn't quit, as far as I [know]. That was the impression that I got. And then, one or two of the other boys were also let out.

W:

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F: What was it, kind of a housecleaning by Mr. Kleberg?

W: I don't know, but the word was around, and I think I've seen it published that Mrs. Kleberg was the one who told him, "If you don't fire him, he's going to run against you." There was a bad feeling between Mrs. Kleberg-I am told--and Lyndon. Well, you know, that happens all the time. It wasn't an unusual situation, because Lyndon was going someplace, right then.

F: You think Mrs. Kleberg sensed the ambition?

Oh, yes sirree. But of course, I don't know the situation between the Klebergs, because they were finally divorced. It was another one of those Washington situations that happen; sometimes a terrible life a woman, and for a man, too. It sometimes upsets the whole equilibrium of your home. But yes, I know something about that because Lyndon often came to our office. Maury's office was 101 01d House Office Building. We got that office because it was right close on the street floor entrance--right close to the elevator, underground, where he could walk. Because when he came there, he was a sick man with two canes and had just had a World War I spinal cord tumor operation at Mayo's, and he couldn't [walk far]; he had to have some place close. Well, it's a terribly wonderful office, and it certainly became the rallying place for a lot of interesting people. Well, it was simple enough for Lyndon and Malcolm Bardwell, my husband's secretary, to get together. So, I remember many conversations. And one day I was down there, and I heard--I was in the outside office working on scrapbooks and stuff . . . Maury was inside, talking on the phone, and Malcolm Bardwell, his secretary, had gotten Aubrey Williams on the telephone.

F: Who was Aubrey Williams?

W: Aubrey Williams was head of the NYA, the national head of the National Youth Administration, at that time. And I can remember hearing Maury say through the door, "A living wage! Give the guy a living wage!"

At that time, we had all taken cuts in our salaries, anyway, you know. When we went there it was \$10,000 a year; we took a cut on that, and we could hardly get by on \$8,888 annually before taxes. That was during the Depression.

F: Congress cut itself?

W: Oh, yes. It was \$8,888.88--something like that, lots of eights. But anyway, I can remember hearing Maury: "Well, give the guy a living wage!"

Because he tried to get him to up his salary at the time, because it wasn't enough to get by on. I do know that Maury had many conversations with Aubrey Williams. Maury and Lyndon were interested in the things.

F: The "guy" in this case is LBJ?

W: Of course, yes, sure. Because that was the conversation. So I'm sure.

I don't know whatever happened to all of the correspondence of Maury's; some of it's here at the University of Texas, and some of it's lost; and goodness knows where it is. But if you could ever get Malcolm Bardwell to talk, he would tell you more about it. He's working at Jess McNeel Machinery Company in San Antonio now. But, I know that he had a lot to do with it, and I know later on, when Maury was mayor of San Antonio and he developed the NYA project, Lyndon, being head of the NYA, had a great deal to do with LaVillita at that time. I remember Jesse Kellam and all the people that Lyndon still has around him; they

were working for Lyndon at that time. Because he would come over to San Antonio, and Maury just went crazy on the subject of saving that little historic spot there in San Antonio. And it was a great contribution, and started all the San Antonio River activity.

- F: Well now, then, they finally wound up in Congress together, right? Yes. But before that, speaking in a chronological way, I remember W: Lyndon lived--as many of the boys did back in the old days--in the basement of the Dodge Hotel. And then after that he and Lady Bird married. I was in Washington at the time--we were--so we didn't have anything to do with the details of getting the ring with Mr. [Henry] Hirshberg and Dan Quill and the license and all that bit. But they did marry at the same church that Maury and I were married--at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, right there in San Antonio. But I do remember Lyndon bringing Lady Bird around to our Washington office. I sound like I lived there. I was down at the office a lot; I was not on the payroll. But I was there keeping the scrapbooks, because Maury didn't have a staff big enough to keep the scrapbooks, and I did it. I remember Lyndon bringing Bird around, and I met her.
- F: That was the first time.
- W: First time. Well, you know, you must remember that I was the great Congressman's wife at that time, and he was the little secretary bringing his little bride around, you know, and it made me feel very important-really, it did. (Laughter) But she was a darling girl, sweet, shy, smart and just like you would expect a young girl to be. And I liked her. And I do remember. I have a picture that Bird told me not many

years ago that she wished I could find that was in the <u>Washington Star</u>,

I think, in the rotogravure section of a party I gave--a luncheon I gave-for her and a few other secretaries' wives. Our picture is made out on
the grounds of the Capitol.

- F: You had the luncheon there at the Capitol?
- W: Yes. I feel sure that Lady Bird will say that I took her to the Members' Dining Room for the first time. And then, you know, Ruth Montgomery said in her book, even, that the first really house guest--dinner guest--she had and for the first time ever cooked a dinner for anybody was for Maury and me. That is true. They lived on Kalorama Road, not far from where we lived at that time. So I saw her. Really, I was a little bit closer to her at that time, when they first got married, than I was later on. Because Maury was only there four years. He got defeated, you see. Then, when we went back the second time, it was in a completely different capacity.
- F: Yes. Well, the two men both voted for wages-hour bill, minimum wage, here in Texas, which was partially responsible for your husband's defeat. Johnson somehow survived it in his district. I think there were only three Southern congressmen, all from Texas, who voted for it. Do you remember any conversations regarding this bill, either before or after?
- W: Not with Lyndon. No.
- F: I know your husband, at this time, was cutting quite a swath as sort of the unofficial head of the liberal Democrats. Was Lyndon Johnson involved in that at all as a young congressman?

- W: I don't know whether or not, as a congressman, he did. He may have. But Lyndon was already spreading out, because I recall "The Young Turks" used to have meetings over across the street from the Library at a place called the Greasy Spoon or the Ugly Duckling, not the Greasy Spoon down a half a block, the Ugly Duckling. And Lyndon went, because he came down to the office. I think before he was in Congress, he also went down, because Maury used to and Malcolm Bardwell went, as his executive assistant and Lyndon was in on the same thing. Lyndon was interested in that sort of thing.
- F: This was kind of a luncheon debating society, in a sense?
- W: A dinner--I mean a night thing. It was a night thing, and some of the great went. Don't ever think they didn't. He was exploring. Lyndon Johnson was exploring and doing all that kind of stuff at that time. We considered him and felt that he was heading toward being a real, honest-to-God liberal.
- F: Yes. Then you came back to San Antonio?
- W: We came back to San Antonio at the end of the term, which was maybe '38 or '39, or whenever. Then three months later Maury was elected mayor, in May, the following May, because they were still plugging at the machine, and we'd been away. And, as you know, Maury was mayor for the two years.
- F: Did he have any particular relationship with Congressman Johnson then at that time?
- W: Well, I don't know. I'm sure he did, of course.
- F: It wasn't Johnson's district?

- W: No, no it wasn't. That didn't make any difference. No.
- F: When Johnson stuck his neck out for the Senate in '41, against Pappy [W. Lee] O'Daniel, did Maury take any part in that?
- W: Well, yes. I remember something funny. I can't remember who was running. It was Lyndon, but there was someone . . .
- F: Gerald Mann.
- W: Yes. At that time, in '40, was it? We had been in Washington . . .
- F: '41.
- W: Yes. We had been in Washington; so we came back on the train one time. We thought it would be Lyndon or Mann, but by the time we got to St. Louis, Maury came back to me--he says, "You know, it's going to be O'Daniel." In those days you were still talking on trains, you know, in the cars front and back. And Maury says, "O'Daniel's the man that's going to get elected to this thing" by the time we got on the Missouri Pacific out of St. Louis. But, of course, we worked hard for Lyndon.
- F: What'd you do?
- W: Oh, I don't remember. Really, I don't. I really don't. I can't remember, but I know that we all [worked].

When was Lyndon elected to the Senate? Dates get me, Joe.

- F: '48. That was against Coke Stevenson.
- W: Yes.
- F: And he also ran against [George] Peddy in the . . .
- W: Well, we worked for Lyndon. I did. The whole [time], everytime he ever ran, of course, and made speeches, and [so on]. I've sort of forgotten, though, really, to tell you the truth. Because we went back to Wash-

ington right after that election, when Maury went up with the War Production Board and was made chairman of the <u>Smaller War Plants Corporation</u>. That was during the war. The Small Business name came later.

- F: As far as you know, did he have any relationship with Congressman

 Johnson, either in this capacity or with the Small Business Administration later?
- W: Oh, I'm sure he did. I don't know. The war was going on.
- F: But nothing . . . ?
- W: I do know at one time we were a little concerned, because, in that appointment, Maury had to be confirmed by the Sante. Of course, Lyndon, however, was not in the Senate at that time. Maury was a little worried as to whether Senator [Robert A.] Taft or some of the other Republican guys would vote for him. Well, they all did; it was a unanimous confirmation, so it was okay. They, you know, might not have liked him, or thought he had a certain nuisance value, but they never questioned his integrity or his ability, really.
- F: Right. You were, I think, a delegate to the state convention in 1948, when Johnson had defeated [Coke] Stevenson by 87 votes. And there was some contest, as you know, both legal and also political, as to whether the state convention, for instance, would certify him as the Democratic candidate for the Senate. Do you have any recollection of that? Were you involved?
- W: Yes.
- F: In the contest?

- W: Well, more or less. Well, the thing of it was that here Harry Truman was President.
- F: Right.
- W: And he had the train.
- F: You also had that problem of the revolt.
- W: Yes, yes, yes. He came down there, Truman came down.
- F: (Chuckle) Which practically describes any Texas election.
- W: (Laughter) A revolt? Which revolt?
- F: Yes. Every two years. As somebody said, our politics are revolving.

 (Laughter)
- W: Yes, they are, really, but I love it. I remember, I was not on that train when I arrived in San Antonio. That was the time I went down to meet the train; Maury and I did. We all went down to meet Mr. Truman, and Lyndon was on board. The State Democratic Executive Committee of which I was a member had had a meeting, and I had signed the minority report. It took five, at that time, to give a little leeway for some negotiations. I forget, right now, all the details.
- F: Some minority report.
- W: Yes, it was just the way it was. It took five. Stuart Long would know a good deal about that. But anyway, there was a question about Lyndon's candidacy and the nomination, or whatever it was it was supposed to be. I remember down at the station in San Antonio, I went up to Lyndon, and I said, "Do you want me to get on that train?" Because we were going up to Bonham where Sam Rayburn lived. And he said, "Hell, yes, I want you to get on that train. Because we may have another meeting up there." And

he knew; he did; he said that emphatically. So it was then that I had to get busy and work to have a place to sleep. And it was at that time that I met India Edwards for the first time, because India Edwards let me sleep in her upper berth, in her compartment. And so I went on up to Bonham.

We had fried chicken and had a wonderful time, and nothing happened; and everything went along all right. They didn't have any confrontations of any special importance up there. So that was the whole thing. Yes, I went, and I was there and ready and willing and anxious to help Lyndon in any way I could.

- F: Did you ever know Mr. Truman?
- W: Oh, yes. Sure.
- F: Did he ever indicate one way or another how he felt about Johnson?
- W: Not to me. No. But I'm sure he was friendly; there wasn't any question about it. Truman and Maury came to Washington at the same time; I forget the Congress that it was, but that's how it was that I got to know them. And I was in Chicago at the time he was nominated for Vice President.
- F: Were you associated with the Johnson campaign in '54 against [Dudley T.]

 Dougherty?
- W: Well, I've always been associated with anything Johnson ever ran for.

 I don't know whether I . . . Right at the moment I can't [remember].

 In '64?
- F: '54.
- W: Oh. Well, that was the year Maury died. Maury died in June '54.

I'm sure I didn't do very much at that time. But that was the time Maury died, and I can't remember much about that time. But I certainly voted for him.

- F: Then later you married Dr. Walter Prescott Webb. By some coincidence, you married two men who knew Lyndon Johnson rather well.
- W: Yes, seven years after Maury's death.
- F: Did Mr. Webb ever tell you much of anything about his association with Senator Johnson when he was sort of a consultant to his staff?
- W: Not too much, except that he was awfully proud of it. He was intrigued.

 Walter Webb--bless his heart, he was a cute man. Walter was crazy

 about politics, although he never wanted it to show, you know how he

 was.
- F: He wouldn't have stuck his own neck out.
- W: (Laughter) I remember, though, that he did tell me--I was not married to him at the time that Lyndon appointed him as his consultant--that he did go to Washington, and he stayed up there for a short while; but Walter had things to do here at the University; and Lyndon, as all people who are active in politics live, did not have his duties laid out for him right off the reel. So he had to sort of sit around and find it himself, you see. He couldn't take it. He had to get back here to the University. He got nervous and restless and came back. But he was very proud. That was one of the things that he liked to braq about.
- F: Yes, I've heard him tell about after working hours. I suppose with Senator Johnson there weren't any after working hours, but at least

when the day's official business was over, the Senator would come-with the staff and with Mr. Webb--and they would sit there and discuss
whatever was discussable politically at that time. Just sit around
and have a drink and visit and so forth, and how much he enjoyed that.
[He'd tell about] when he saw the Senator and sort of let steam out
for the day.

- W: Yes. He loved it. It was a real high thing, in my estimation, in his whole life. I do remember one real cute thing, though, that he told me. This is a little bit later on. Of course, you see, that was sort of before we married, because we didn't marry until just about Christmas of 1961. Later on, I was away somewhere. This happened after I married Walter Webb. He had invited us to come and have dinner.
- F: Who's "he"?
- W: I mean the President and Mrs. Johnson had invited Walter and me, and

 [Arnold] Toynbee and his wife, and maybe six people to go to the Ranch
 to have supper one evening. Were you there, by the way?
- F: No.
- W: Well, before I had married sometime earlier, I had made plans to go to a National Trust meeting in San Francisco, around that time. We hadn't been married a year when this happened. So he went on alone with the Toynbees and whoever else was invited. He said that—this is a kind of a cute thing—Lyndon was taking the Toynbees and the other guests around over the Ranch and showing them everything, you know, in the jeep, and having a great time.

Bird Johnson told me later that she never had known Dr. Webb very well, and she wanted to sort of find out what he was like. So she said, "Dr. Webb, you come and go with me, and we'll follow along behind." And so they got in the cars, and Lyndon in his jeep started going over the hills and showing the guests this pasture, and the north pasture, and what he was doing here, and the grass, and the coastal bermuda, and all this business—making an awful lot of noise and a terrible lot of dust. Texas hadn't had any rain. Lyndon kept telling back with the—must have had a walkie—talkie or something—and they could talk to each other in the different cars.

F: Yes.

W: So finally, Lyndon was telling Dr. Webb something by remote control, and Walter said that Bird said, "Oh, shut up, Lyndon. I live on this Ranch, too. I know as much about it as you do. Go on now. Leave us alone!" (Laughter)

She told me about it, too, later on. She said that she was curious about Dr. Webb, and she wanted to find out about him. She'd never had him as a professor, you see, and really didn't know him too well. He was somebody—like he was to me when I first knew him—somebody great that you just never quite knew, don't you know. But I thought that was a real cute story.

Well now, then, when you two were definitely going together, did the Vice President show any interest in it? He was aware, was he not, that there was something going on?

- W: Now, Joe, you know he was. Because that was one of the cutest things that ever happened.
- F: I want to get it down.
- W: All right. Just before we were married, in December of 1961, I was in New York, about in November--October or November--at the same time Lyndon Johnson and many of his staff. Something important was going on there. So they were staying, and I was staying at the Waldorf Astoria. So one day we came out the side door, and I ran into Liz Sutherland--Carpenter.
- F: Carpenter, yes.
- W: Carpenter. Well, I still call her Sutherland, because she was Sutherland when she and Maury, Jr., were going together at the University.
 Well, anyway, I saw Liz. So Liz said to me, "Oh, stop! Stop right here! I've got something real funny to tell you. The Vice President"
 --I believe he was Vice President at that time--
- F: Yes.
- W: Yes. "The Vice President says he has found a way to help the coffers of the Democratic Party. He said that he hears you and Dr. Webb are going to get married. And [he says] if you will agree to let him give you away, that we would hire the auditorium, rent the auditorium at Austin, have the wedding, sell tickets for \$10 apiece, and that we could replenish the coffers of the Democratic Party if you'd do that:"

 Well, of course, that was tempting, sort of fun, you know, at that stage of the game. When a woman gets married again like that when she's sixty years old, you'd do most anything sort of silly and wonderful

and fun like that. It amused me very much, and I was tempted, but I'm afraid I didn't accept.

- F: Yes. Mr. Webb wrote in the official inaugural program in '61 the historical piece, and I never talked to him about it. But I always suspected it was Vice President Johnson's influence that put him in the program, since he wasn't particularly known to the Kennedys. Do you know anything at all about that?
- W: Well, I'm sure it was. I do know that a man by the name of Mr. Arch Mercey of the Merkle Press told me that he had been in communication with the powers that be and they wanted regional men.
- F: Was he the one that published the [inaugural program]?
- W: Yes. And Mr. Mercey's in Washington still. And I'm sure Lyndon

 Johnson had something to do with it. I'm sure he did, because he

 was . . . John Frost . . .
- F: Robert Frost.
- W: I mean Robert Frost. I'm thinking of the Frost National Bank. Robert Frost and Walter Prescott Webb and oh, the man who just died, who played the guitar for hours at a time. I've heard him do it.
- F: I don't know him.
- W: Sandburg, Carl Sandburg.
- F: Oh, Carl Sandburg.
- W: Yes. The three. That was a wonderful piece of writing Walter did.
- F: Yes, I think so.
- W: Very touching. Wonderful, really it is.
- F: And not too widely known. It probably ought to be recaptured.

- W: It's great. The University of Texas has that original program.
- F: Then when you did get married, did Vice President Johnson show some interest at the time?
- W: Oh, yes. Yes, he did. Not only that, but Walter had negotiated with . Vice President Johnson to rent his mother's house. It was to his mother's house that we went as bride and groom.
- F: You did go there.
- W: Yes. Well, we rented it. We lived in it.
- F: Oh, you mean here in Austin.
- W: Yes. Oh, yes you remember that his mother died beforehand. I went to her funeral.
- F: Well, I was thinking that the Vice President also gave you some honeymoon offer.
- W: Oh, yes, that's right. Of course, you would remember. I don't know why I didn't. Yes. He said that if we would go to his place on the lake--it was well stocked, it had an ice box full of plenty of food and drink and a boat at our disposal. Yes, of course. Oh, it would have been fun, but you know what we did.
- F: Yes, you wanted to make the border.
- W: Yes, we made the border trip. (Laughter) Delightful! You know,
 Walter thought I wanted to take some fancy trip. (Laughter) That was
 the most wonderful . . . I can't forget the expression on his face,
 because he was so relieved that I didn't want to go to New York, or
 San Francisco, or someplace like that. And I said without being
 prompted, because I had no idea it would please him so--that I was-I had just . . .

- F: What did you say?
- W: I don't remember now. (Laughter) I've kind of got to pick it up.
- F: Something about where you wanted to go on the honeymoon.
- W: Well, the only thing of it was that I said I wanted to do the Rio Grande River; I wanted to start right from the very mouth and go right on out to the [Big] National Park and beyond, out that way. If I had given him a million dollars, it wouldn't have made him any happier, because that's exactly what we did. We went to Corpus Christi, and then went right on down to Brownsville, and drove on out. He could take me to, for instance, to the little town Terlingua where he bought crackers and cheese, which we ate; we relived all that experience; and he said those same goats on the hill over there, and whatever the canyon was—I can't even remember the name of the canyon.
- F: Diablo, probably.
- W: Yes. They were still climbing around over the mountaintops. But we had a fine time. And then we went across a new road he wanted to explore. It was a wonderful trip. We had a great time.
- F: Then after you came home from your honeymoon, you stayed, then, in the house that had been Mrs. Johnson's--that is, Vice President Johnson's mother's.
- ₩: Yes.
- F: This was a duplex?
- W: Yes, on Harris Boulevard, here in Austin. We lived there. 2519.
- F: 2519.
- W: 2519 Harris Boulevard. I don't know when I've ever been in a more

comfortable house. I never could quite figure it out; it wasn't one of those elegant places; it was, well, elegantly shabby or shabbily elegant, one of those two. But I could see Lyndon Johnson's special touch. There was a telephone jack in every room. (Laughter) And every once in a while, Walter and I would say—he would make the remark—"There are lots of little things about this house that you don't see in the ordinary rented place." And there were. There were many things—little, comfortable pleasantries around the place. I liked it very much, and I lived there until after he died, and I moved out.

- F: How'd you find out about it?
- W: Well, now, that I don't know. But I think Walter might have called

 J. C. Kellam or somebody who was handling the Johnson affairs here.

 They had another apartment; Walter rented the Harris Boulevard place
 before we married. I came over and looked at it, of course, beforehand.

 Because Johnson had [two apartments]. I think he sold some others,
 but I knew that he had two apartments—one apartment further on out—
 because I'd been there that night he won by 80 or 90 votes. Maury and
 I had been there.
- F: We'll go back to that in a minute.
- W: I'd forgotten about that. I forget the name of that. We drove over to be with him at that time. We were very concerned.
- F: Was that when he was over on Dillman? 1901 Dillman?
- W: Dillman, yes. Maury and I drove over on election night, and we stayed there until about three o'clock in the morning. Nobody but Maury and I were there.
- F: Well, let's describe that evening. What time did you get there?

- W: Oh, well, we had come through Fredericksburg, and we probably got here about sun-down. We got a room at the Driskill--no, Stephen F. Austin.
- F: Did you come because you . . . ?
- W: Oh, we were interested in the campaign, of course.
- F: Did you know it was going to be a close election, or did you just come?
- W: Oh, we came because we wanted him to get elected and we were afraid he wasn't going to make it. So Maury Maverick and I drove over here.

 What year was that, Joe?
- F: '48.
- W: '48. Maury and I drove over. We went to Dillman. I'll never forget: it had grey carpet all over the place; it was upstairs; the apartment sort of had two levels.
- F: It was a duplex also?
- W: Yes. It had dishes stacked in the kitchen area, and it looked as if people had been there all day long. This actually was the first time that I'd ever seen Lyndon in operation in his own home and under such great stresses. He didn't have two televisions, but he had a couple of telephones at least going, at least two. Because he would go from one to the other.
- F: He was getting his own reports?
- W: Oh yes. Of course. We stayed there and went around and picked up some little leavings and things to eat; and they, he and Bird, were very tense and we were extremely tense. There was nobody there for the rest of the evening, except Maury and me. We left after midnight, and I am

sure he was in communication—yes—he was in communication with [George] Parr and several leaders down there. Why not? That's how you get elected; you find out what's going on; certainly he was—certainly. He wasn't the only person, because people—Lyndon Johnson's followers at that time were extremely anxious to get him elected, and we all watched very carefully every single, solitary vote that was cast and counted. Believe me. I know my sister was working inside the polls in Fort Worth on that election, and she felt personally responsible for his election.

- F: That's the nice thing about that close an election. Every box that went by 87 votes can claim to have put him in.
- W: Don't tell me. You'll find that, I'm sure. But my sister told me definitely that she knew that she had helped elect him. But Maury and I left the Johnsons' home. They were terribly tense. We did not know when we left there whether he was elected or not--that night. We came back to the Austin Hotel. And that was the Saturday night . . . Incidentally, what year was that, '48?
- F: '48.
- W: Yes. I think I had some sort of a vertigo spell or some sort of a puny spell. In '49 I had a heart spell. That night I was terribly exercised about this thing, and I woke up toward morning and I told Maury, "You know, I think I'm going to die." I've never told this to anybody before. Everything was going around, and I couldn't breathe, and he said, "Do you think I'd better call a doctor?" And I said, "No." And I calmed down. It was the next year that I was in the

hospital for three months with the heart thing. But that was terrible. We were deeply involved with this election. My business later proved to be some sort of heart failure, not a thrombosis. But that was the first night that I can remember ever having a spell like that. I woke up the next morning and forgot all about it. You do, you know.

- F: Sheer tension, huh?
- W: Yes. I was terribly involved with the election.
- F: How did the tension show out at the house?
- W: Oh, I don't know. But I remember that I took my beads off, my pearls off.
- F: At the house?
- W: Yes. I remember that. It was a pearl choker. I do remember that.
- F: You begin to choke.
- W: First time I've ever thought about this. That's true.
- F: In what way did the Johnsons show tension?
- W: They didn't . . . Oh, nothing. They were very controlled. Walking back and forth. Of course, Lyndon paced back and forth, you know, all the time. He moved around. Bird, as usual, God love her, was very quiet and took a secondary role, as she always appears to; whether she does or not is another thing, because she's a real woman, and a smart one, too.
- F: Does she tend to act as the optimistic member of the family--that things will work out?
- W: Yes, I think so. But she's a realistic person. She is a real realistic person. I have a wonderful letter from her some place. I

wrote her later on after Lyndon had his heart attack up in Washington out at George Brown's House. My Maury had had a heart attack and died in '54. I knew how hard it was, because they were both the kind of same driving sort of persons, don't you see. And it was a very touching letter. She was doing everything she possibly could, but she found she couldn't do very much with him because he was the type of person that he was. You know, he was a driver. She just hoped that she could cope with it. She thanked me particularly. It's somewhere along . . . If it's not here in Maury's papers at the University, I still have it, but it may be down there in the U.T. Archives. I think it's a very, very fine letter, and I really think that if I don't have it, which I'll try to find, I think it ought to be looked up in the Maury Maverick papers.

- F: Getting back to your days with Mr. Webb, did you have any further relationships with the Johnsons after you moved in to their house?

 Now he was not a direct landlord.
- W: No, no. I paid the rent to somebody else.
- F: Who represented them?
- W: Yes--whoever handled it. And then it finally ended up with the 6th or 7th Street Company or whatever it is now. I forget. It was sort of fun. You know, Joe, it was sort of fun. Whenever I needed any plumbing improvements, I just phoned the Vice President. (Laughter)
- F: I see.
- W: I just didn't have to take care of it. They did. Bird came around

two or three times. Mrs. Kellam, when I first came there, Louise Kellam handled their rental--little things like that--renting their property. She always has to have somebody like that. Lyndon didn't want to be bothered with this sort of thing. Bird was very good about wallpapering and doing all that. She came several times to the . . .

F: She has taken, really, a lot of the business load off Lyndon.

W: Oh, yes. Of course. She is a capable woman. I know, I still have the little car key ring that she gave me and said, "Take this. Lyndon would like for you to have this." It has Vice President—you know the little seal of the Vice President in silver on it that she gave me. But she was real cute. She said, "Now, Terrell. I'm just not going to buy any new carpet. You're just going to have to move those furnishings, these things, over in the corner. Because we've spent so much money on this apartment. I'm just not going to buy any carpet." I'm told since that she has purchased the carpet. (Laughter) I thought she'd have to.

F: Did you and Mr. Webb ever go out to the Ranch after you married?

I went once myself with a friend when Khan or somebody who wore the cap. One time . . .

F: Ali Khan.

W:

W: Ali Khan. Yes. That one.

F: Not Ali Khan.

W: No, not Ali Khan. We're off. (Laughs)

No, I never went there with Walter.

F: I'll get there in a minute.

W: Well, you know who I'm talking about.

F: Ayub Khan.

W: Yes, Ayub Khan. I went one time to that barbecue down there, and I have been to another one.

I must tell you one thing, though. Bird Johnson and Lyndon-it was Bird who did most of the talking--called me twice in the hospital here at Brackenridge Hospital after Walter and I had our wreck in '63. She phoned me twice and was most wonderful about offering me the same place again, if I would take nurses and go out there and convalesce at their lake place--that it was at my disposal. And I remember the second time that she called I was in a body cast. I was broken all to pieces. That was the time that Walter was killed, you know. And I became emotionally involved, so emotionally involved that I had to tell her I couldn't talk anymore. Because, you see, I could hardly move, and both the wrists were in casts. I had to hold the telephone with But I had a little sort of a fast-breathing spell. It was a wonderful and touching experience. People were great to me at that time. And I told her, "I just have to stop talking." But I know them awfully well. They know that I'm their friend. They know me well enough not to have to go across the room and shake hands with me every time they see me.

F: Yes.

W: I don't know of anything else. Let's see, there are other things

that I could think of.

F: Yes.

W:

- W: I don't know of anything else. Let's see, there are other things thatI could think of.
- F: Have you noticed any particular change in the President over the years from what he was when you first knew him in those fairly frequent early Washington days?
 - Well, he's had the normal maturity, I think, of a man. Yes. Of course, with the responsibility and prestige and all of that-that God knows he's had it, you know. Whatever there is, he's had it. Certainly he has changed and gotten older, and anybody who's lived as fully as he has . . . Yes. And I haven't seen him Because you don't ever get to see the greats. You have to see their intermediaries, or somebody else--their others. Yes, he has. I felt sorry for him, too, because, you know, Lyndon Johnson went in as a liberal. He got much of the little money he got from the liberals, and, Lord knows, the liberals didn't have any money at the first time. I know something about that. At least there's nothing much that I know except that Maury was in communication with him constantly before he announced. You know, Congressman Buchanan--I believe they call him Buchanan now, but then everybody called him Buck--had died when Lyndon finally wanted to announce. But Lyndon didn't have any money. I know that this Robert Montgomery who used to teach at the University is true. of Texas, Dr. Montgomery, was very eager to run. But he, like

many wise or prudent--maybe I don't know whether that's the word or not . . .

- F: Timid.
- W: Timid, yes, people did not want to run, did not want to announce unless he was sure he'd get enough money to make the race. It costs a lot, you know. A man can't afford to do that sort of thing. But Lyndon deferred his announcement to see whether Bob Montgomery was going to run. I know that to be true, because he told Maury that.
- F: He wouldn't have taken on Bob Montgomery.
- W: Well, he didn't want to announce if Bob Montgomery was going to.

 No.. In the first place, they were close friends, and Bob Montgomery had been a supporter of Lyndon Johnson all . . .
- F: They each had the same appeal.
- W: Oh, yes. Sure. Then finally, they kept waiting and waiting, and Dr. Montgomery took so long to make up his mind. I recall we were living in Washington at 2220 20th St., at the Mendota Apartments at that time. And Maury said over the long distance phone, "All right,"--he may have said, "God damn it"--"Run. Go on and announce, then. If Bob isn't going to announce, this is the time to do it."

 I'm sure that I heard some conversations that Maury was trying to get some money to help him, and which he did. I don't know too much about that, because I couldn't eavesdrop completely. (Laughs)

 You know how women are. But I do know, at that time, Lyndon telephoned Maury several times, and many times it would be in the

middle of the night--In a question of twenty-four, even, hours-forty-eight hours--because that was the crucial moment. He finally
announced that time after he was head of the NYA. Yes.

- F: And Maury urged him to run.
- W: Oh, yes. "Make up your mind. Don't wait any longer. But go on and do it." Oh, yes, he did. Yes, sure.
- F: What is Harold Young's relationship with the President?
- W: Well, I don't know really. But I do know . . .
- F: Was Young in Washington, or is he just a Texas man?
- W: Yes, but I don't know in what capacity. I don't know very much.

 I remember . . .
- F: I'm looking ahead to just place him. He's been around . .
- W: Well, that's just it.
- F: ... for years, but I don't know.
- W: I don't know either. You'd have to find out from Lyndon. But I do know he was a good friend. He was a good friend of Maury's. He used to come to our house on Sunday afternoons. We always had a lot of people on Sundays.
- F: In Washington?
- W: In Washington. We lived on Jefferson Place, and he would come around.

 Yes, Harold Young was a good friend, and he's always supported

 him, I think, as far as I know. He lives out in Odessa and is a
 lawyer.
- F: But he was some kind of Washington bureaucrat or something?
- W: Yes. I don't know what he was doing. No, that was during the

war times when everybody else was up there, don't you know.

Maury was with the War Production Board at that time. I'm sure

Harold Young could tell you an awful lot of pertinent things

about Lyndon Johnson, and they were good friends.

- F: When you knew Lyndon Johnson in those early days in Washington when he was secretary and so on, now he was a young man on the move.

 Did he have any time for girls or was he working all the time?
- W: Well, I think he, like every young man--
- F: Not every young man.
- W: Well, most every young man ran around a little bit with the young girls. I think maybe he did. But, frankly, I never did see it much. I never did see it very much, because . . .
- F: Lady Bird was the first one he really got serious about, as far as you know?
- W: Yes, yes, yes. You know, one of the things—and I think everybody knew it. I remember the society columns used to talk about Lyndon's presents after he married Bird and after they came back. You know he didn't like black, and he liked certain colors. He always went to New York and brought her home the most fabulous hats of any man. I don't know how in the world he ever got them, ever picked them with such good taste. Maybe he had somebody to help him pick them.
- F: And Bird would wear them?
- W: Oh, yes. I'll never forget, one time Maury and I came over here to
 Austin when Senator Barkley was making a speech. Over here,

he was running at that time, I guess he was.

F: Barkley?

W: Barkley.

F: He ran for Vice President in '48. [Alben Barkley].

W: Yes.

F: With Truman.

W: Yes. Maury and I came over to the meeting. The new auditorium hadn't been built, but the other old place had--Disch Coliseum or whatever it was--and that's where it was. Bird Johnson had on a white, feathered, wonderful thing. Nobody could pay any attention to anybody else, but look at that hat. It was the most gorgeous thing, and she just looked terrific. It was that night, incidentally, that Luci, the youngest one, who was quite young, had on her first black dress. She said to my daughter--we had known them, you know, so well--and she said to my daughter, "How do you like my dress?"

She turned around and showed her that it had kind of a deepish dip in the back--the first time she had ever worn a, really, lady dress.

F: A grown-up dress.

W: Yes. That was the most important thing to that little girl that night.

Naturally, that was normal. I do remember that. Lyndon always

liked--

F: Did he show an interest in all of Lady Bird's clothes or just in hats?

W: Clothes, too, I understand. I don't know for sure. But I have read,

or have been told, that he has certain likes and dislikes as to color. I'm not sure. I haven't kept up with that detail.

(Laughter) I've written to him.

Now one time, going back to show you how Bird Johnson and Lyndon worked together. On two occasions, I have been to Washington. Once, before I married Walter while I was still Maverick, I flew to Washington in Margaret Tobin's, Mrs. Edgar Tobin's, plane-private plane. And I took with me a friend of mine, Mrs. Richard French Spencer, who was a rich woman as well as Mrs. Tobin was a rich woman, and lived in Olmos Park, and had been a life-long Democrat, and was one still.

- F: You mean there were a lot of people in Olmos Park who were not Democrats?
- W: (Laughter) These people were conspicuous by their presence. But anyway, Mrs. Tobin was a Democrat. She had voted for Lyndon and was supporting [him]. He was Vice President at that time. And so did Elma Dill Spencer. All right. And we took some other people. I can't even remember right now who they were. Well, we flew up in their plane, and I got in touch with Bird Johnson.

Just to show you how the wheels can be greased and meshed, I said, "Bird, I'm bringing two important millionaire Democrats, and one lives in Terrell Hills, and one lives in Olmos Park." Lyndon has never carried it, never carried that section of town. "And I want them to see the Capitol"—there were some young people on the plane, too, about two or three, and they never had—"and come and

call on you all." So Bird got busy. She started the wheels rolling. And she rigged up--rigged up is not really the word--well, she did! She rigged up a wonderful luncheon in the very spacious quarters of the Vice President, in his offices there at--I don't know if it was in the Capitol there, or I don't know, across in the new building or not. I forget now just at the moment. But it was at that great lunch that they brought out the Texas shaped steaks with the LBJ brand on the steaks.

- F: Oh, really?
- W: And we ate right in his own office. He had a great little dining room. Well, we ate there. Then Bird called Lynda Bird, got her down either after school, or I forget when it was now. I can't remember the times. This is the first time I've thought of it in a long time. And [she] got her to take the young people through the Capitol. We did the older bit. And that is the first time that I ever saw the President really great. I mean he was almost a little too great for me, having known him since he was a boy. (Laughter)
- F: It would have been better if you'd been a stranger, too.
- W: Well, yes. He came in looking beautiful and well turned out, and spoke to the important people, spoke to us in his dining room, and shook hands. I've never seen such formality and elegance in Lyndon. But I can't forget it to save my life, because, you know, he didn't kiss anybody, and he didn't slap anybody, and he didn't feel any palms or press any flesh. He was just the great man. And that

was a little strong for me. But he was most impressive and restrained and looked very handsome. And then they put us in the charge of somebody in his office. I think it was one of Jimmy Allred's sons. And he took us through--Mrs. Tobin didn't go but Elma Dill Spencer and some of the others did go through the Capitol, and young Allred told us all about the building and the Senate. It really was great.

There was one other time, and I've sort of forgotten the details and I may not have it all exactly right, but let me tell you one more thing about Bird Johnson, too. I was in charge, co-chairman, of the women's party of the Kennedy-Johnson campaign when they would hit San Antonio. So I was the co-chairman with Mrs. Adrian Spears. But when they came down on that tour, they brought a lot of their own props with them--goodness, their own song, their own songwriter, their own piano player, and their whole bit. Well, we didn't know--too sure--though that they had had made all the advance plans. This was at the old Plaza Hotel, (Coronado) Hotel, in their ballroom. It was a big place--a wonderful party. The professionals brought down all these entertainers. Well, we had put the piano in a strategic place, so that we could handle the crowd properly, so they would have to go a certain way.

F: Use it as a divider.

Yes. Well, they just subdivided everything. They came down and W: brought their own singer, and their own music and their own everything. Well, it made an awful lot of confusion, because we couldn't

direct the crowd to shake hands with the woman comfortably--the Kennedy ladies and Mrs. Johnson. It seemed to me a little too professional.

F: Yes.

W: But I remember I was standing in the line, and Bird saw and she realized what was going on; that they really had undone all of our fine plans. But she said to me, "Terrell, get something done!

Do something quick!" And it was just awful there for a few moments. It was real bedlam. But then everybody eventually came over and the thing finally got started.

After that, we went from the hotel back to the airport to see them off. I have a great picture of myself pinning a flower, an orchid on one of the Kennedy ladies. I forget which one it is now.

But anyway, I sat with Bird on the bus. She was very concerned because—speaking of Olmos Park, this is what made me think about that—those women living out there were not down there. "Why aren't these people here?" And I said to her, "Bird, they're not for you." And she wouldn't believe it. She couldn't believe it. They weren't! And they lost those silk-stocking districts at that time. And she was very concerned because she saw that they were not there. Well, it was at that time Mrs. Zachry—Mrs. Pat Zachry however was at the airport to meet them. And I greeted her . . . Well, she said, "I just wanted to see them arrive." At that time they were using a Zachry airplane, but I understand that it was rented. But that was

the big local story. But that was the gossip around. And I love Pat Zachry; he's one of my dear friends, and I really do, and they're fine, fine people. But that's the way people are. You can't change your politics. But many of the people were <u>not</u> there as greeters of these people. They stood on the other side of the fence out of curiosity not being able to resist the occasion.

And Bird had a hard time taking that. Not only Zachry, there were other people.

And there was one other time that I took Bird, during one of those early races, to a little garden party that we had gotten together because we had to have a women's party for Mrs. Johnson. He was not elected at that time by the north side of San Antonio. I took her. I knew the people who were there. They were all Johnson people. Very few people came to that party who weren't out working maybe at the headquarters or in their own precinct. Because I knew exactly what was going on. And it was a very pathetic meeting. Bird was shy and timid in those early days, because she was feeling her ground. It's a far cry from what she is now. She's always a lady. But she was not enthusiastic about the meeting, and neither was I. It was whipped up within twenty-four hours, and it was a nice pretty party, but it was pretty pathetic as far as political parties are concerned. They came a long way.

We got off the track. I know what I was trying to say. Another time, Lyndon . . . The liberals didn't have any money, and that's the trouble with liberals. They elect a man, and then many of them

don't stay with him. Lyndon needed money, and Herman Brown and George Brown, and all these people, were old, old friends. Like Margaret Brown, Herman's wife told me, she said, "I remember when I wasn't rich." Well, Lyndon had known them when they weren't rich, and when he wasn't rich. He did have to have money to run for re-election, and I remember Maury and I came over here to--not Pease Park, but the park by the library.

- F: Wooldridge?
- W: Wooldridge. And that was the night that Lyndon came out and said that he was going to support the Taft-Hartley bill. Which later on, labor has used and done very well with. But at that time, there was a great silence at that stand when he made that statement. We drove home to San Antonio and didn't mention it until we got about to New Braunfels; and it worried me, and it worred Maury. But I forget, now, whatever came of it. But I remember that was a quiet night. Everybody was sort of stunned at his [stand]. And maybe he was right. Maybe he was right at that time, and maybe he was wrong. I'm not sure.
- F: Of course, that's what led to that almost unthinkable situation of labor supporting Coke Stevenson.
- W: Yes.
- F: In '48.
- W: Yes. Well, that's it. Now you're bringing me in. Yes. That was it. Oh, that was a terrible campaign. That Stevenson.
- F: Coke Stevenson.

- W: Oh, yes, That was an awful....
- F: And labor had just been at each other's throats, but they just couldn't give it to Johnson for
- W: It was a terrible blow because I remember . . .
- F: for the Taft-Hartley vote.
- Yes, you're right. Now I'm glad you brought me up on them. W: I remember seeing Hank Brown at that time. He was here. He lives in San Antonio and Austin, too, you know. But his home is really in San Antonio. Everybody was stunned, absolutely stunned. But you know, I felt sorry for Lyndon. I don't think anybody really made him do that. Labor hadn't given him much money if any. Nobody had given him much money, don't you know. You've got to . . . a poor politician gets in a bind like that. I had a great sympathy for him. But I had practically no time to talk to him, really. I had some letters here. There's a postscript on one that he wrote me. I had written to him not too long ago. There was a question of Maury, Jr., being appointed--my child--being appointed to a vacancy of a federal judgeship. But, you know, you say, "Mr. President," and this, and that, and the other thing. But ther's a postscript [which] was very, very . . . It was pretty private between Lyndon Johnson and me on the letter. Signed it "L", you know, and all that. Because I'm . . . I thought I was a great deal older than Lyndon. How old is he? Is he sixty?
- F: He's sixty. Y'all have gotten closer together as the years have gone by.
- W: Yes, but I'm sixty-seven.

F: I know it.

Is he sixty? Well, I would have thought surely I was twenty years W: (Laughter) He won't fall on his face, but I'm real concerned. I'd love, when all the smoke kind of levels out a little bit, to go out and have a little talk with him. Of course, Lyndon may bring up a lot of things that may have happened many, many years back, that I've sort of forgotten. He never forgets anything.

F: No.

W: He's a man who remembers. I can't think of anything else that I can add to it, except that they've been great; they have done fine.

Oh, and one other time. I told you about Bird Johnson. About three, four years ago, I phoned up and said I was coming to Washington for a wedding of one of our mutual friends. The Johnsons were invited. I don't think they came to the reception.

A mutual friend had married for a second time. And so I phoned down, and I said, "Now, I'm bringing another Olmos Park person to the White House, and I sure want her to have the red-carpet treatment." Well, they did! And she said, "Well, come to the White House at two, because we are going to have a garden party." We went up to the [Lincoln Room], had sherry in the Lincoln Room and did the whole thing. And Bird got the man who took us through. What was his name? Califano?

F: Yes.

Well, anyway, Califano took us through, gave us the whole business. W: So you see, we were in the first echelon. Then we went to the party in the afternoon, and I saw the President, and he came out and said hello. But he was busy, of course.

- F: Yes.
- W: And everybody was there.
- F: Califano developed into the number one man.
- W: Yes. Well, he was doing right well, then.
- F: Were you involved in this bringing of Cantinflas to San Antonio?
- W: I wasn't especially involved in it.
- F: Do you want to say something about it?
- W: Well, I do remember that he was down there. Well, I think it really was during the campaign, but it was mostly . . . I can't remember why.
- F: It must have been Connally's campaign.
- W: Yes, but it was mostly on account of Henry Gonzalez who was running for Congress.
- F: Yes, that's right.
- W: Yes. That's the reason I can remember the facial expressions of Lyndon Johnson, because when he's got blood in his eye his nose seems a little closer to his chin.
- F: Henry, as you know, was the first Mexican-American to make it that far.
- W: Yes.
- F: He had a strong Republican opponent at that time. There was a real question but what the Republicans might pull San Antonio into their camp.
- W: Well, that was really a campaign. I'll never forget, I went to this north place.
- F: So Lyndon got involved?

W: Yes. Oh, yes. But it was wonderful to see him! Because he was back in his old role and loving it, and working hard, and he knew just exactly what to do. But I'll never forget, he was off the Fredericksburg Road at this very elegant northside shopping center. And I don't think over 250-300 people were there. I was there. It was terribly hot, and Cantinflas came with him, and talked, and did his bit. That was the time they were on a truck, and they got up on this truck. But he spoke for Henry and for the Democratic Party. I was able to get over there. Oh, Lyndon looked really worried. I know Lyndon Johnson's expressions. I've thought about him a great deal. And he was worried. He was not pleased with what he found. Neither was I. But I remember getting over there close enough to him and saying, "Don't worry. I hear there's a great big crowd at Las Palmas" -- and that's on the west side -- "and get over there quick." And, you know, in politics, if you find you can't get in the other man's group, if you can't win those, go and strengthen your own group, go back to them and get them and get them out. I didn't go over there, because it was a terribly hot day. He had me anyway, and I had done my business. Becasue I wanted to be seen there, and I wanted to swell the crowd, and I was interested in following him, of course. But he did. I saw that look on his face, where his lips kind of purse and his chin come up to sort of meet that nose a little bit. That was real determination, and a little worry, too. But they went on over, and I understand there were a couple of thousand people at that place, and it was a good rally. It was just one of those quick, supposedly jumped-up affairs.

F: How did Cantinflas get involved in Texas Democratic politics?

W: Well, don't you think it was because there was a Latin-American on the Texas ticket? I can't [say for sure]. He had a great following there in San Antonio. I don't know. But he has since been back in San Antonio in a subsequent campaign of Gonzalez's, I think. Well, he's somebody everybody knows, you know. He's very popular there, my goodness.

But I do remember that, and that goes back. I think Lyndon Johnson, though he gets hurt, and he doesn't forget things, is a superb manipulator; well, the word—I don't use manipulator in a bad sense, Joe. I use it . . . You've got to do that to win. You can't sit back.

F: Amazing resilience, really.

W: Yes, yes, that's the word. That's a good word. Yes. You've got to play it like it is.

And so I think he was simply great. And I think anybody interested in politics would profit by listening to what Mr. Lyndon Johnson has to say [about] how to get elected. He's been defeated; he knows how to take it; he also knows how to get elected, but he's back where he had to work too hard to get elected some of those times. He is a very valuable man, and I think it will be simply marvelous to have him come home.

F: I think it's natural, too.

W: Oh, my word. Of course. I think it will be great!

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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, Mrs. Walter Prescott Webb 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 on January 25, 1969 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 shall be available to those researchers who have access to the transcript.
- (3) I hereby assign to the United States Government all copyright I may have in the interview transcript and tape.
- (4) Copies of the transcript and the tape recording may be provided by the Library to researchers upon request.
- (5) Copies of the transcript and tape recording may be deposited in or loaned to institutions other than the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Mrs. Walter Treseast Chepk

Archivist of the United States

September 3, 1477