INTERVIEW I

DATE: December 7, 1984

INTERVIEWEE: O. J. WEBER

INTERVIEWER: Michael L. Gillette

PLACE: La Mansion Hotel, Austin, Texas

Tape 1 of 2

G: Let me ask you to begin by describing the circumstances of your going to work for Lyndon Johnson in February of 1941.

W: Well, the circumstances were largely not of my making at all. I had been in the University of Texas since going to Southwest Texas State [Teachers College] my first year and had gotten very interested in political science, largely through Dr. Emmette Redford. Previously when I came to the University of Texas, I had intended to go right ahead and take a law degree. In those days you could go just two years and then go into the law school, or you could go to school for three years as an undergraduate and take the combination B.A./LL.B. This is really what I had had in mind. Upon transferring here I became engrossed with the government department, particularly [because] Dr. Redford and Dr. O. D. Weeks [?] were there at that time, and a young bright star who later became the chairman of the department, Malcolm McDonald, and a fellow named [Wilfred] Webb, who taught me my first government course. This came to be of greater interest to me than anything else.

I was also interested in economics and fell under the aegis of a fellow who later got, I believe, terminated from the University of Texas; it was Dr. Nelson Peach, who had been a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins and who became a close personal friend and used to go down to Stockdale and visit with me some on weekends.

Accordingly, I graduated, finishing everything but I think a couple of hours, in the spring of 1940. I enrolled to finish up my degree work and also took a number of graduate courses, as many as I was allowed to take. Bill Deason is a Stockdale native. I had known his family a long time, had not known Bill well at all. But when I enrolled at the University of Texas, Bill helped me get an NYA [National Youth Administration] job. I had also a job down at the State Capitol through the patronage of Senator Morris Roberts, and I was a grader in the government department. These jobs sort of intermeshed. I also worked at the Texas League of Municipalities. So with all of those jobs, many of which gave me a lot of free time, particularly down at the Capitol where I was on the information desk after closing hours, I was able to mesh my studies in and do whatever I wanted to do. I was making more money in those days than I did for a long time thereafter.

In any event, Bill one day when we were going back to Stockdale said to me, "O. J., what are your plans? I know you're in graduate school." And I said, "I intend to take a Ph.D. and become a college professor." He said, "You're twenty?" "Yes." His comment was, "You're going to be the youngest unemployed Ph.D. in the state of Texas." Well, jobs were hard to get then, and the prospect of unemployment didn't sit well with me at all. He made the further comment, "You need some practical experience." I agreed but

stated I knew of no way to get it, and then he simply threw in, "Well, how would you like to work for Congressman Lyndon Johnson?" I had heard of Congressman Johnson, had never met him. Of course, he was all over the Austin newspapers in those days; he had excellent contacts with the newspapers here. So I said, "Well, yes, I would like to meet him, but I've never met him." He said, "I'll arrange it, and he's here in December if you're interested."

I got a call one day at my apartment, and Bill said, "The Congressman can see you"--I think in a day or two. I went down to the Brown Building where Jesse Kellam and, I believe, the NYA headquarters were at that time, and probably if so, Bill Deason would have been there, too, although I don't recall seeing Bill that day. I was put in a little room. The Congressman breezed in, always busy as he was. No resume. He simply asked me the usual questions about where I'd grown up, where I went to school, what sort of grades I'd made, what my interests were, et cetera, and said, "Okay, we'll think about it, and you may be hearing from us." I had not forgotten about it but had not put much stock in the interview, which seemed to me to have been perfunctory. Not that I objected to that, but I felt like he's done this a hundred times, maybe a thousand times. In a couple of weeks I received a call saying that "there is a place in the Congressman's office if you can get there in February after the school term is over."

I had never taken that long a train trip before. I'd done a lot of train tripping in various bands that I was in in high school, and, of course, the Longhorn Band in those days traveled by train to most of the football games we attended, but a cross-country trip, spending a couple of nights on the train--that's what it took then--was something new. I

got into Washington on a real cold day, and I see from the records you've presented here it's February 10, so that would have been only about three or four days after school was over. I remember my dad had given me I think a hundred dollars or something like that to make the trip and to take care of myself and get settled.

When I got there, John Connally was down at the train station, the old train station there in Washington, which is still in use but now for Amtrak, and took me on over to the office. I had no idea what I was going to be doing. Mr. Johnson had asked me if I knew office work, and I told him I had done a little office work at the league. When I got there, I saw not only John Connally, whom I had known previously, but Walter Jenkins, and I am inclined to think that there was a--who was the red-haired lady who worked with Mr. Johnson?

G: Dorothy Nichols.

W: Dorothy. Dorothy was there, just on sort of an ad hoc basis is my best recollection at that time. Mrs. Johnson, of course, was not working in the office at that time. I was introduced around, and then I learned--

Tape 2 of 2

W: I had no idea what work I would be doing but had assumed it would be general office work, really hadn't discussed it in any detail. I was a little surprised to learn that I, along with a lot of the other young guys he took in his office in those days, had to work on patronage as well, and my patronage job was as an elevator operator. It was an obscure elevator hidden over in the Old House Office Building which didn't have very many people who rode it, and you had plenty of time to read or do whatever, and if there was

some kind of job that could be thought of from the office that you could do while you were on the job, you could do that, too. I stayed on that patronage job for some time until we got other people up to put on the patronage. Later Jake Pickle came up. John Singleton came up. A fellow named Ed Dunkleberger [?] with whom I've lost all contact, and a young guy named Gayle Wilhitt came up. It was a promotion day when they had enough people behind you on the patronage that you were taken off patronage and put on the full office payroll.

In any event--and you interrupt me if you want to ask any questions or flesh out anything.

G: Well, let me just ask you if you recall, how many hours a day did you work at the elevator and how many hours--

W: You would work a full eight hours. We didn't have the wage and hour administration looking down anybody's throat in those days. There probably wasn't one. If it was, it didn't apply to Capitol Hill employees and never to employees in LBJ's office. We really knew no hours. But ordinarily I would start on the patronage job at two o'clock in the afternoon and finish up at ten at night, struggle over to the old Dodge Hotel, where most of us stayed in those days, down in a basement room that I shared with Norman P. Heine. I don't know whether you ever interviewed Norman or not. He's now deceased. Then you'd get back to work the next morning at eight o'clock promptly. So there wasn't a lot of time to either get into mischief or spend a lot of money, which was just as well since nobody had any. I think my starting salary was a hundred dollars a month and given

those hours and the low prices of things in those days, I actually didn't have any trouble at all getting by on it.

John had just gotten married, and he and Nellie were living out in Arlington at that time. They had an apartment out there. Occasionally, I would go out and eat with them, because of my long-standing relationship with the Connally family. I think I told you earlier that John's father, John B. Connally--J. B. he was always known as--was a district clerk in our small county, Wilson County, of which Floresville was the county seat. My father was a county commissioner at that time, and my uncle, Gus Hill, was the county tax assessor-collector, and the Hills and the Connallys were related in some way.

G: What was the staff's attitude toward Lyndon Johnson at this time?

W: I would say that the staff's attitude was one of complete devotion and total admiration. I have read the [Robert] Caro book [*The Path to Power*] and a lot of the others, and if you expect to get from me any of these stories about getting browbeaten or kicked around, you're not going to get them. Mr. Johnson was very demanding in terms of hours and work from the people that he had, but he knew just the right amount of praise to give to keep you happy with what you did. He also knew how to correct you when you disappointed him. I'll never forget, I'd been there about four months, and he called me in one day and he said, "O. J., when I hired you I thought you told me that you could type." I said, "Mr. Johnson, what I told you was I had taken typing." He said, "Do you know what an old Oliver typewriter is?" I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "Well, your typing looks like an old man sitting out under an oak tree typing on an Oliver typewriter. You're just going to have to pick it up." (Laughter) That was about the worst thing he ever said to

me, and he didn't say it any differently, in any different tone of voice than I'm telling it. He said, "You're just going to have to pick it up." So that really spurred me on and I began to take typing very, very seriously.

All of us typed most of our own letters and composed them as we went. We hadn't been there very long before we were doing that. The Congressman actually dictated very few letters. John would dictate some letters for the Congressman, and he would call whoever in that took decent shorthand. I didn't take shorthand enough to know that I had it, and so occasionally, the Congressman would call me in and would give me a very brief letter, and I'd get it approximately correct, and he would say, "That's not exactly what I said, but it'll do," and that sort of thing.

But in any event, after I had been there a while I started working with Herb Henderson. I don't know, I'm sure you've run into him frequently in these interviews. Henderson was a brilliant man, wrote many of the drafts of Mr. Johnson's speeches. He, like a lot of politicians in those days and now, wanted about three or four drafts from different people and then he would take what he liked and reject what he didn't. Herb and I worked over in what we called the Old House Office Building. When Mr. Johnson ran for that Senate seat that Morris Sheppard vacated by his death, our job was to type the short, punchy political letters to people, and we'd get a list every day by telephone or by mail from the Johnson staff down here that he'd seen them, et cetera. I remember one day I typed a hundred and fourteen of those letters. Of course, the letters weren't more than a paragraph in length, you know, the short, punchy type that is designed to let the person know that the Congressman remembers them, having met them at the barbecue at Hye,

Texas, or wherever. So typing didn't trouble me for long. I really learned to type very well and very accurately and very quickly, which has come in handy, I might say, even now.

We hadn't been there too long until John Connally went back to Austin to open his law practice here in Austin.

G: Why did he leave, do you know?

W: I have thought about that in my mind, and I don't think that we went into it in any great detail, but the best recollection I have of it was that John really wanted to get out on his own and start practicing law. Senator [Alvin] Wirtz was here with that firm. John didn't go with that firm, as I recall it. I could be incorrect, but I think he came here and opened his own office. Now, whether he came here simply as a listening post for the Congressman, whether he ever intended seriously to practice law, I'm not sure. I was not privy to that, and it was never discussed with John and with the Congressman and me. But as he left, responsibility sort of flowed down. Then Walter Jenkins was the Congressman's secretary for a long time. Then, I believe, when Walter left, we had Charlie Henderson who moved in for a time. And then Henderson left. Then Lady Bird had come on board while Charlie was there when the Congressman was in the service, and my status had changed fairly significantly. By that time, I was working full time in the office, as I guess in terms of experience, maybe the second person in the office. Mary Rather was by then on board, who brought a depth of professionalism to the office in terms of her secretarial skills we hadn't had. She had worked for Senator Wirtz when he was down at Interior as the undersecretary of the interior.

Our office staff during the time that Mr. Johnson was in the service consisted primarily of Mrs. Johnson--Charlie had gone by that time. We were so depleted that by this time I was sitting up dictating to some of these younger people or older people who would come in in the evenings and work. It was difficult to obtain people to staff a congressional office in those days. The service, of course, was dragging heavily on them. I was anxious to get into the service, too.

G: This was a time in early 1941 when there were a lot of indications that the war was coming to the United States. The U.S. was getting increasingly involved. How did this affect Lyndon Johnson and the office before Pearl Harbor?

W: I think that everyone was of the view that it was just a matter of time. As a matter of fact, I recall that one of the reasons that I went to Washington, apart from the fact that I wanted the practical experience and intended to stay only for a short period of time, was that I figured I was not going to be able to complete a Ph.D. anyway before the war engulfed the United States. All of us thought it was coming. Mr. Roosevelt was taking so many actions to aid the British in their war effort and was so plainly on their side, that you could read in any newspaper that we were going to get into the war, the President was going to get us into the war some way or another, and this kind of thing.

As far as Mr. Johnson's own activities were concerned, he I think probably stepped up his contacts with the White House. Jim Rowe was over there at that time and Missy LeHand and "Pa" [Edwin] Watson, all of these people he knew. He was a master at not only making contacts, but sizing up a situation, and he could see where the power lay. As a consequence, he was able to play those contacts like a virtuoso musician plays

the piano, and he had access to the people at the White House far and above beyond that which any ordinary congressman had, and that was pretty well known on the Hill.

I think in terms of what it did in his office was that we were besieged by people who had ideas about what could be done to remedy the food shortage and to make synthetic fuel, to make synthetic tires. Of course, that was the big thing that was troubling everybody in those days. The first time I ever heard of hydroponic farming was to be called down to the Willard Hotel by some fellow who had set up a whole bunch of test tubes and water flows and so forth, and he had plants growing down there in his room, and he had a grandiose scheme for feeding millions of people, by water farming, as he called it. So we in the office were besieged by all kinds of different requests. Things were speeding up here in this country. The defense effort was on the move. The draft had been instituted. Plants were being built. Plane production was accelerated. Tank production started up real heavily, and the nation was on sort of a wartime footing, even though nobody really said that it was. As a consequence he was subjected to calls all over the place from people who wanted things or who wanted to put in plants or wished to sell land to the government.

One of the things that you knew when you were working for Mr. Johnson was that although he might represent just the Tenth Congressional District, because he had gotten a lot of publicity and because almost from the day he arrived in Washington it was thought--an impression I'm sure he did nothing to dispel--that he was very close to the White House. So he'd get calls, letters, requests, telegrams, from people to help them get in on the defense game some way or another.

G: Evidently from the time of his election to Congress he was involved with issues concerning internationalism or interventionism versus isolation, and I want to ask you to recall a series of these, if you do, or any of these, and I guess the first was the use of PWA [Public Works Administration] funds in the defense industry to, say, rebuild the navy. Of course, he was on the Naval Affairs Committee. Was there anything here in this particular issue that you remember, say his supporting the White House on this matter?

W: Well, you could count on his supporting the White House almost on anything that the White House proposed. I do not have any independent recollection of his supporting the White House on that matter.

G: Okay. How about the issue of fortification of Guam, do you remember that?

W: Honestly, I do not. I think that one of the things that struck me when I worked there was that we actually saw very, very little of the workings of the Congress, and we were so engaged, he having the policy, as I think you know he did, that every letter that we got had to be replied to that day, if all you said was "I've got your letter; I'll get back to you as soon as I can." That the sheer weight of the material that we were handling precluded perhaps our really having a good appreciation of what we were writing about or what we were attempting to do. I remember vividly the big step-up of applications, calls, telegrams--telegrams were used very widely in those days--for his intervening with government agencies to get things for people, everything from a man who had been a barber and who wanted a barbering concession at an air force base, to something really big, wanting to build tanks for the army.

G: How about his defense of Walter Winchell? Do you remember anything about that, when Winchell was called on the carpet for criticizing the isolationists in the Senate?

W: I do not have any recollection of that.

G: Now, John Connally was appointed to the LCRA [Lower Colorado River Authority] board. Apparently, Lyndon Johnson and Senator Wirtz were having some real problems with the board and its orientation at this point. Do you remember that?

W: I recall that. I do not recall the details of it, but now that you've refreshed my memory, that's one of the reasons that Connally came back here was to see if something couldn't be done toward reorientating that board.

G: Okay. Let's talk a little about the 1941 campaign. You were only there a month or so before Senator Morris Sheppard died. And to set the background of this, let me ask you, did you perceive any restlessness on LBJ's part before that seat was vacated? Do you think he was getting tired of being in the House?

W: No, you know, people have addressed that. My gosh, he hadn't been in the House that long. He was elected, when, 1937 I believe, and this was 1941, only four years. There was no question but what he was politically ambitious, but I was never privy to any of this business about he was restless and wanted to do something else. I know that after the war that he was restless, and there had even been some talk of his coming back to Texas and getting into state politics, running for governor, restructuring the state, but not at this time.

That could have been the case, but a typical day with the Congressman was one where you didn't have a lot of personal contact. We were all at the office at eight o'clock.

A lot of us would eat a hearty breakfast of a Coca-Cola and a Hershey bar, which would be brought in. And he would call when he waked up to see that all battle stations were manned, and he wanted a read-out on what the morning mail had brought, and if there was anything that was of importance that would be brought to his attention. Sometimes he'd get in before noon, but frequently the first time we would see him come to the office would be late in the afternoon after he had finished over at the floor or wherever he had been. He was not one of the congressmen that spent a lot of time behind that desk, at least from eight to five. Now, he would work late. The toughest time of the day for us in terms of knowing the tempo was going to pick up was when he would walk in about three-thirty or sometimes about five o'clock, and things would hum until about seven. Then we'd stick around there until about eight or nine to sort of police up the debris, as it were, and we'd go on back to the hotel. We, by this time, Norman Heine and I were living together. And the Congressman would go back home, and then we would expect the eight o'clock call the next morning, which never failed to disappoint us.

G: Well, what did he do in the morning from eight to noon?

W: Occasionally, he was in. Sometimes we had frequent visitors through the office in those days. George Brown was there very often. Ed Clark was there all the time--I say all the time--frequently. Everett Looney was there frequently, Malcolm Bardwell occasionally. These were the people that he principally saw. He did not have, as I recall it, any great stream of visitors through from the district. The office staff took care of the district visitors, and if there were people that he wanted to see, or whether he wanted to see them or not, he was always available to his constituents if they came in, even if he had no time

to do anything other than go by and shake hands with them and go on. But I honestly don't know what he did in the mornings other than I think he was contacting agencies and I think he was contacting other congressmen.

He had already handled, by the time I got there, the [1940] congressional campaign, and so he had a real core of support from people that he had aided before.

G: Did they feel a certain indebtedness to him, do you think?

W: I would certainly say they felt gratitude to him, whether they felt indebtedness or not. They all knew that here was a guy who had taken over a faltering campaign effort and raised a bunch of money and sent them money when they never thought they were going to get any. At that time, too--of course a lot of the acrimony associated with his displacing Albert Thomas had dissipated itself by that time, but the relations between the two offices were not particularly cordial.

G: Is that right?

W: They were with all the other congressional offices in Texas.

G: Well now, this was vying for that seat on the Appropriations Committee?

W: No, I think, and my memory may be wrong, but I had been of the impression that Thomas wanted to get on the Naval Affairs Committee. If I'm wrong, it was some committee that they each wanted on and Mr. Johnson got on the committee. Of course, the Naval Affairs Committee was then chaired by Carl Vinson. Vinson was a very powerful figure around the Hill, continued so for many years thereafter, too, and that was a choice committee assignment. They had a lot of money to dispense and many favors to give out, and it was one of the most important committees on the Hill, continued that way.

G: Did you have an opportunity to observe Carl Vinson, and did you have any feel for his relationship with Lyndon Johnson?

W: It was close. I would often take calls from Chairman Vinson when he would call there. He liked Mr. Johnson. That was not only the perception, it was apparent that he did. And Mr. Johnson's interest in naval affairs continued. I guess the most vivid impression I have of that, and I'll skip ahead, if you'll pardon this little anecdote, to the time that I was in the service. The war was, by this time, over, and I was still on active duty as a captain, came back up and dropped in to see Mr. Johnson. Or we were right on the verge of winding down the war. No, it was over. Mr. Truman was then president. I walked in, and he was very cordial and said sit down, and we visited for a few minutes. He was talking about the radio station deal he was going to put together and indicated that there might be a place in that for me if I wanted to get into it. And the phone rang. He, I believe by this time, was chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee. This is his end of the conversation: "Admiral, have you ever had somebody stick a knife between your third and fourth ribs and then just walk all the way around you? No, I don't suppose you have. Well, that's what's going to happen to you if you don't change your mind about that Veterans Administration hospital down in"--I believe it was Marlin or Mineral Wells. He said, "Now, I don't have the same amount of influence I suppose with the new President as I did with Mr. Roosevelt, but the old man promised me that hospital was going to remain open. And what I'd like to see you do is to change your recommendation about the closing. Do you think that could be arranged? I thought it could. Thank you very much." (Laughter)

Pardon that digression.

G: That's a great [story].

Well, let's talk about his running for the Senate [in 1941].

W: Okay, on the Senate campaign, I never left Washington, much to my dismay, because I wanted to, of course, and come down and see what was going on. We all did. We got reports every day. I remember I went over to see Speaker [John] McCormack to obtain an endorsement from him. He was very strong with all of the postal employees throughout the United States. He wrote a ringing endorsement of Mr. Johnson. I went over one time to pick up a satchel of money, I don't recall how much, did not ever inquire. Aubrey Williams would make trips to Texas, supposedly with money that we were collecting generally in that area.

The campaign was of course something that consumed us there at the office. As I say, we set up what we call the political office over in the Old House Office Building. Herb Henderson and I were over there by ourselves. We never got any phone calls; we didn't want any phone calls. We just went in that room, and we typed and typed and typed, and Herb sometimes wrote speeches. That was our assignment, my assignment during the campaign. Henderson was down here in Texas operating out of, I think, the Driskill Hotel where the headquarters were. Lady Bird was here much of the time, so the operations of the staff were greatly depleted by the ongoing campaign.

I suppose my most vivid memories of it were when the returns started coming in, and I remember on a Sunday morning after the election on Saturday I was at the office early and got a call from Mr. Johnson. As best I recall it, I said, "How is it going?" He

said, "You can call the White House and tell them that I'm elected, because they're only"--I think he said--"about twelve thousand votes out, and I'm four thousand votes ahead." I may have the numbers slightly skewed but that was about it. The general theory was that Governor [W. Lee] O'Daniel couldn't possibly make up the difference with the votes that reportedly were out. Well, we all know the story, apocryphal though it may be, of what happened in that campaign, and I will always believe that he simply got counted out.

G: Let me ask you about his decision to run to begin with. Do you recall how he learned of Sheppard's death and how he decided to make the race?

W: I remember we learned of it one morning when--I think it came by radio. My memory is a little fuzzy on this as to whether he was at the office when he learned or whether we learned about it and then called him at home. But it came about one of those two ways, and I recall it was in the morning that he learned. The speculation immediately began, well, will he run or won't he run? As I recall it, he didn't wait very long before he made up his mind to run.

G: I would assume that he talked to Senator Wirtz about that decision. Wirtz was then undersecretary of the interior.

W: Yes, I think that's a fair assumption, and also to Abe Fortas, with whom he was very close.

G: Can you recall the advice of either of these men?

W: Actually, I was not privy to any of this. At that time I was still probably third or fourth down on the pecking order in the office and was not privy to it. And I am of the--well, I

know, Walter Jenkins was then his secretary. Walter and I roomed together. We'd talk about these things. We knew that he was talking to various people. We knew that he wanted to run. And there was a lot of speculation as to who else might run. Of course, one of the big speculations was that Pappy O'Daniel would run. Now I see in some of the notes you've sent me that he apparently had a conference with Governor O'Daniel in which O'Daniel reportedly told him he was not going to run.

G: Do you have any recollection--

W: I do not have any recollection of that.

G: Well, Senator Wirtz resigned to go work in the campaign, go back to Austin and help him. Do you think his resignation was based largely on LBJ's political decision to run?

W: I believe it was. Again, Senator Wirtz was sort of a mystical figure in our office in the sense that although they talked often and calls were placed down there every day, the Senator did not come into the office a whole lot. You know, you'd meet him at the Texas State Society dinners, that kind of thing, but he was not there--their meetings were held elsewhere, and much of their contact was by telephone. Mary Rather having been the Senator's secretary at Interior, I remember Mr. Johnson would use--and Mary was the one who placed most of the calls for the Congressman. He'd say, "Get Senator Wirtz for me," and you could hear him, sometimes he'd holler it out the door or he'd say it as he went by. You know how those congressional offices were in those days. He was in the inner office. They had the escape hatch that they could get in and out without coming through the outer office. Then the outer office had the clerical employees. There would usually be four or five desks in those outer offices. I don't know how often he talked to the

Senator except I would predict every day at least. When the Senator got back to Texas, telephone calls, of course long distance calls, were very, very common, but they would telegraph each other as to when they were going to call so that they would be available. And those calls would be lengthy. "Call you ten o'clock your time."

G: Did you regard Wirtz as a mentor to Johnson at this point?

W: I think I regarded that relationship as being the one you've alluded to more later than I did at that time. If you will bear in mind that most of us were young--I was twenty or twenty-one--I didn't think Mr. Johnson needed any mentors at that time. I felt that he was very much his own man. I knew that he talked to the Senator often, and I knew that they were close, but I did not put it in that relationship. I put them more on the status of being political equals and confidants rather than a mentor-apprentice relationship.

G: What was his relationship with Sam Rayburn during this interval?

W: Well, it was excellent, close and frequent. Ray Roberts was, by this time, in Washington, Ray and Juanita, and I saw a good bit of Ray and of Juanita, and we saw a lot of Mr. Rayburn. I have read Caro's book about the estrangement that he writes about between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Rayburn, but I do not believe that there was anything except the closest of relationships in 1941 and 1942 particularly. Mr. Rayburn would call over there from time to time, and of course, Mr. Johnson would call him. I remember one day--this was in 1942--I picked up the phone, "Congressman Johnson's office." He said, "Let me speak to Lyndon, please." He didn't say please, "Let me speak to Lyndon." I said, "May I tell him who's calling?" He said, "My God, man, this is Sam Rayburn. Put him on." (Laughter) "Yes, sir." Their relationship was close. I remember when, I believe, Mr.

Johnson was going somewhere on the train, I know it was, and I went over there with Lady Bird and Mr. Rayburn, and we saw him off. I don't recall what it was. It wasn't his going into the navy. But that's how close they were.

G: Did you ever hear that there had been a rift earlier?

W: Honestly, I never did hear that. I may have been, and probably was, politically naive but, no, I did not know that.

End of Tape 2 of 2 and Interview I

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