INTERVIEW III

DATE: March 3, 1987

INTERVIEWEE: MELVIN C. WINTERS

INTERVIEWER: Ted Gittinger

PLACE: Mr. Winter's office, Johnson City, Texas

Tape 1 of 1, Side 1

G: All right sir, I have a note that in 1946 you went to Burnet to straighten out some talk that was going on that you were against LBJ. Do you recall that incident?

W: Talk that I was against him?

G: That's right.

W: I sure as hell don't remember anything about that, don't ever remember that happening.

(Laughter)

G: Well--

W: It might have happened. I won't say it didn't.

G: Right. It was the time that Judge [A. W.] Moursund was running for district attorney.

W: Well, it should have been.

G: And Tom Martin's widow was running.

W: Oh, yes. She was really giving A. W. a fit.

G: Was she?

W: Yes. I remember that now.

G: What was that issue between them?

- W: One of the issues is, you see, her husband had held that post, and then A. W. ran against her. She was in the office at the time.
- G: Yes. How old a woman was she at that time?
- W: I don't remember. Tom Martin's widow.
- G: Yes. There was a third party in that race, too, A. P. C. Petsch.
- W: Oh, now Petsch was the one that A. W. was fighting at then. He was a lawyer from Fredericksburg, and he was against the world.
- G: He was against the world? (Laughter)
- W: He was against everybody. He was against Lyndon and everybody.
- G: He was? Did he have any popularity going for him?
- W: Not too much.
- G: Not to amount to anything. I see.
- W: People up there didn't think much of him.
- G: Okay. I have some notes here from 1947. It says here that Mrs. Johnson's Aunt Effie died on New Year's night of 1947 and she was very depressed about that. Do you recall anything of that?
- W: Well, that aunt raised Lady Bird from the time she was five or six years old. She was a mother to her, the only mother she really ever knew and she was very devoted.
- G: Is that accurate that she was depressed about that?
- W: Oh, you bet. Yes.
- G: How long did it take her to get over that, do you think?
- W: Oh, I don't know. I don't think she ever got over it completely.
- G: Oh, yes.

LBJ's mother had an operation, another operation in March of that year at Scott and White and she was still in a wheelchair in April. Do you remember any of those circumstances?

- W: Well, I remember her having the operation and coming home in a wheelchair, yes.
- G: He was in Texas until April. He spent an unusually long time, I think, in Texas that spring.
- W: He probably did.
- G: Maury Maverick was defeated for mayor in San Antonio that spring. Did LBJ say anything to you about that?
- W: I don't recall anything about that.
- G: Let's see, another notable incident that year--in July, Luci was born. Do you remember that event?
- W: July of--?
- G: July of 1947.
- W: Well, I remember her being born and all that, but that's about all. I don't remember very much.
- G: Okay. Did you go to this conference of LCRA [Lower Colorado River Authority] officials in Washington that year, that you remember? I have a note that a bunch of LCRA officers went up to confer with Secretary [Julius] Krug, who, I suppose, was secretary of interior in the summer of 1947.
- W: I took so many trips up there, but mostly it was over AGC [Associated General Contractors]. I don't remember.

- G: Okay. Let's see, then LBJ, in November, came down and there was a big get-together at Buchanan Dam to launch an LCRA-GBRA [Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority] reclamation project. Were you involved in that?
- W: Well, I went to the meeting, yes.
- G: Yes. Did you have any of that work?
- W: No.
- G: Okay. Let's move on to 1948. Do you know who LBJ backed in the 1948 presidential election? Was he for Truman? I know [Alvin] Wirtz wanted Eisenhower to run for the Democrats.
- W: Lyndon was for Eisenhower.
- G: You think he was?
- W: I know definitely.
- G: Yes. What did he have against Truman?
- W: Nothing that I know of.
- G: Did he ever talk to you about being for Eisenhower in that year?
- W: Well, he just hoped he'd be elected, thought he'd make a good president.
- G: Okay. Do you know when he decided to run for the Senate in 1948? Did he talk to you about that decision? That was when he ran against Coke Stevenson.
- W: He talked to everybody about that.
- G: He did? Did he have trouble making up his mind, do you think?
- W: Well, he knew it was going to be a tough race and it was. He only won that race by about eighty-five votes.
- G: Right.

W: He knew it was going to be tough.

G: Right. You recall any conversations with him in particular?

W: No.

G: Okay.

W: The incident that I remember very distinctively over that thing was he was trying to get

Coke to debate him, and Coke said he didn't have time, he was shearing his sheep. And I

made the offer to Coke to go up and shear his sheep so he could debate Lyndon, and he
rejected it. (Laughter)

G: How did you make that offer? Did you call him?

W: It came out in every damn paper in the country. I don't know. (Laughter) Every paper in the country had hold of it, radio stations and all.

G: Was that your idea to offer to shear his sheep for him?

W: Yes. That was strictly my idea to do that.

G: What did LBJ think of that?

W: Well, he used it to a big advantage all the way through. (Laughter)

G: He had some kidney stone trouble that year and it seems to me that he had recurrent kidney stone troubles.

W: He had so much of it that he probably did. I don't know.

G: Do you know anything about his use of that helicopter during that campaign, the 1948 campaign?

W: What kind of helicopter?

G: Well, he started off with a Bell helicopter, I believe.

LBJ Presidential Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org

M. Winters -- III -- 6

W: Oh, he rented that thing out, paid for it to use in his campaign. Yes, I remember him doing that.

G: Yes. [He] called it the Johnson City Windmill.

W: I think so. I think that's right.

G: Who watched the children during that campaign? Because I believe Mrs. Johnson was doing a lot of campaigning, too.

W: Might have been my wife.

G: Think so?

W: Because they spent a lot of time with her. She kept them, sent them to school and everything; they were just part of our family.

G: I have a note here that in July, in fact, it was the day before the Fourth of July, he made a helicopter stop here in Johnson City. And he circled the town and was saying hello over the loud speaker as he went. Do you recall that?

W: Yes.

G: That's true then?

W: That is true.

G: And [Homer] Thornberry I think had a tough time of it that year. Wasn't there a run-off--

W: Yes.

G: --for Thornberry? Did you work for him in that campaign?

W: Yes, I sure did.

G: I think he was running against W. K. McClain. Do you remember that name?

W: Just remember it.

- G: Okay. Do you know who organized the motorcade that went from the Tenth District down through San Antonio that year? There was a big motorcade.
- W: I went in it, but I don't remember who started it off. I don't remember. [Inaudible]
- G: Yes, and they had a rally in San Antonio, I believe?
- W: Right.
- G: That was the day that Mrs. Johnson and Marietta Brooks were in a car accident. Do you recall that?
- W: No, I don't. I heard about it, but I don't know any details.
- G: Okay. Do you have any memories of the Truman campaign coming through Texas that year? You know, he was barnstorming in a train and they were in San Antonio on the twenty-sixth of September. Did you go down for that?
- W: Yes.
- G: Did you go on the train?
- W: No, Lyndon and Lady Bird, my wife and I, went down and got a room at the Plaza Hotel.

 And we were there all during that speech stuff.
- G: Do you remember LBJ going on the train?
- W: Going on the train?
- G: On the train, getting on the train to see Truman?
- W: I believe Truman came to our hotel room before it was over.
- G: Oh, really? I see.
- W: We had a little visit with him there. I know we did.
- G: You met him?
- W: We were staying at the Plaza Hotel.

G: So you met Truman in the hotel?

W: Oh yes, I met Truman, sure did.

G: Yes. What was he like?

W: I don't know, exceptional, I guess. Lyndon was for him all the way through. I know that.

G: Yes. Okay, I have a note that in late November, LBJ was in the Bethesda Naval Hospital and then back to Texas for a rest. Do you remember what was wrong with him?

W: Kidneys.

G: It was kidneys still? And then in December, Mrs. Johnson had surgery at Scott and White. Do you recall that one?

W: I knew she went, but I don't know any details of it. Didn't amount to very much because she wasn't there long. I don't remember what it was.

G: Right. Did you go to Truman's inauguration then, in January?

W: Yes.

G: You did?

W: Sure did.

G: Do you have any special memories of that trip?

W: No.

G: Was it cold?

W: It was pretty cold, as well as I remember.

G: There was a fight that year early in 1949 over who was going to be Texas Democratic national committeeman. And there was a committee of Central Texas Democrats that asked Truman and [Beauford] Jester for help in removing Wright Morrow as the national committeeman. Do you remember anything about that?

- W: I just vaguely remember there was an argument and a fight going on, but I don't remember any details.
- G: Okay. Let's see, in March there was a banquet in Austin for Sam Rayburn. Did you go to that that you recall?
- W: Yes. I went to that.
- G: About sixteen hundred people. Where was that?
- W: I don't even know. Seems to me like it was around the Capitol up there at first.
- G: Yes. One thing, skipping back just for a second, one big issue in 1948 was Taft-Hartley. Stevenson would never take the position on where he stood on Taft-Hartley. LBJ had voted for it. Did you have any advice for him on that? How did you feel about Taft-Hartley?
- W: I felt just like Lyndon did.
- G: You felt just like he did? You thought it was a good law?
- W: Yes.
- G: Did he ever talk to you about that? Did he feel that labor was getting too powerful?
- W: Well, not a whole lot. Lyndon never was whole-heartedly for some of the unions. I've been the same way all my life. They tried to unionize me too many times.
- G: Were they ever successful?
- W: No, never was.
- G: Never were. How did you avoid that?
- W: Well, the worst deal I ever got into I guess over that was in Beaumont, Texas. Pat [H. B.]

 Zachry's outfit had a job down there, and they just flat put them out of business. They

 had to move and forfeit [the] contract. And I ended up going back down there to finish

LBJ Presidential Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org

M. Winters -- III -- 10

his contract. The union, after we just started off there, of course, they came to me wanting [me] to join the union. And I wouldn't do it, refused to do it. So they paged my operators and 85 per cent of them belonged; my operators were carrying a union card, 85 per cent of them. Then they tried to get the operators to vote me in where I had to go in. And the operators took this position: like it is, if we go union 100 per cent, we can't work but thirty, forty hours a week. And this man is letting us work sixty hours a week, and we're getting lots of overtime. We're better off to not do that. And they never could force the operators to vote me in. I fought them all the way through.

G: When was that?

W: I forget what year it was; hell, I don't--

(Interruption)

Do any of those pictures in there reflect anything on that sea wall work?

G: I'll check.

W: See what date it is. Maybe there's a date on them? I don't remember.

G: Okay. 1961.

W: That sounds right?

G: What was it? 1961?

W: 1961. 1961, October 1961?

G: It doesn't have the month.

W: Yes, that was the job, the sea wall, right?

G: The sea wall.

W: That's where I had all that damn trouble with that union.

G: What union would that have been?

LBJ Presidential Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org

M. Winters -- III -- 11

W: I don't know. I just remember the year.

G: Okay. Governor Jester died in July of that year.

W: 1961?

G: No, in 1949.

W: 1949?

G: Yes. Very suddenly, wasn't it?

W: Yes.

G: Just unexpectedly?

W: Yes.

G: And so Governor [Allan] Shivers succeeded him.

W: Right.

G: How did you feel about Governor Shivers at that time?

W: Well, I've had quite a bit of dealings with Governor Shivers. It was the PEC [Pedernales Electric Cooperative] up here and the Lower Colorado River Authority had been fighting each other for years and still are. There's a battle going on all the time. And when Shivers was elected governor, he called me and asked me to get on the Lower Colorado River Authority board. And I said, "No." I said, "There's too much friction there. I don't think I should." He said, "Well, study about it, and call me back in a day or two." I called him back and he said, "You ought to get on this board and try to neutralize that fight with PEC." And I accepted the nomination and served on it for six years.

G: Was this soon after Governor Shivers succeeded Governor Jester?

W: Yes.

G: I see.

W: And since I got off the board--I stayed on it for six years--we have had a representative, and every governor we have had has asked me who to put on that board. Well, we've had a man on that board ever since.

G: You mean this company has or who, when you say we?

W: I mean the county. It's the county or district. The PEC has had somebody on that board ever since that's been friendly to the PEC and still has got them on it. And at first when I went off, Shivers asked me who to put on there and I suggested a man at the Austin National Bank in Austin from Blanco County, Ben Brigham.

Ben Brigham served out a term. He died and they had to appoint another one and I suggested Mr. Charlie Crist [?] and they put him on the board. He served until he died. He was on the board when he died. Then after that, they came up with another appointment and [William] Clements was the last deal I had there when they had wanted to appoint somebody and I gave them the name of a man here, Nathaniel Cord [?]. And then he served through [Mark] White's administration. Clements had already called me wanting to know if I wanted to keep him on the board saying. . . . (Laughter)

G: What did you tell him?

W: Told him he was doing all right.

G: What's the source of friction there?

W: Well, the source of friction is that the Lower Colorado River Authority wants to control it. Austin has offered us every proposition in the world to move to Austin. Lyndon Johnson put this thing in up here and he told me--I don't know how many years, maybe thirty-five years ago--he told A. W. Moursund, "You've got it, but you're going to have to

fight to keep it. There's going to be a battle." And there damn sure has been a battle all these years to keep it in Johnson City. But we managed to keep it.

G: Did LBJ take a continuing interest in the LCRA over the years?

W: No, he was more interested in the PEC than he was in the LCRA.

G: Did he favor PEC?

W: Well, of course, he favored PEC. That was his baby. He started it off.

G: Okay.

W: Well, it was definitely his baby, PEC, Pedernales Electric.

G: Now later, LBJ got quite a reputation for backing the civil rights legislation. But let me ask if you remember how he stood on civil rights in these earlier years, in the late 1940s when Truman was trying to get some civil rights legislation. I think for one thing, he was trying to get that anti-lynch law through about this time. Did LBJ ever express himself to you about that?

W: Well, I know that he done everything for the colored people while he was in there. He had always done that.

G: Even at this early time, do you think?

W: Yes, way back there, way back there, going way back.

G: Did that make him any enemies?

W: Yes, it made a lot of enemies.

G: Locally?

W: No, not locally. But they all harped on him for it. He was very sympathetic to the colored population, always.

- G: How about the Mexican-Americans? Do you recall him saying anything about his experiences in Cotulla that way, for example?
- W: Well, he was for them, too. He sure was. Both.
- G: Here's something you may recall from 1949 because it had to do with roads. The Senate voted to transfer the Bureau of Public Roads to the Commerce Department. LBJ and Tom Connally voted against that. Do you remember anything of that?
- W: Nothing in particular that I can recall.
- G: Let's see, John Connally left LBJ's staff in September. Do you remember anything of the reasons for that? What was that about?
- W: Oh, Sid Richardson offered John a job that he just financially couldn't turn down. John owned a home in Austin, and I bought his home from him. I bought John's house in Austin to help him so he'd be able to finance himself in Fort Worth. But he didn't have to because Sid bought him a home up there and made it available to him. (Laughter)
- G: How did LBJ feel about John Connally leaving?
- W: He didn't like it. But he said it was such a good deal, he couldn't go against it. Of course he hated to lose John. He really hated to.
- G: Yes. They were pretty close for a long time. Did they ever have significant disagreements that you recall?
- W: Not that I know of.
- G: Some people say that John Connally was not pleased that LBJ accepted that vice presidential nomination.
- W: He wasn't.
- G: He wasn't?

W: No, he wasn't.

G: Did you ever hear him say anything about that?

W: Who, John?

G: Yes.

W: Well, Lyndon Johnson was at our house the night before he went to California. We had a pretty good bunch of people there, representatives from all over Texas were there, guests at that [time]. And they asked Lyndon if he would accept the vice presidency.

G: You mean some of these local folks did?

W: Well, some people, yes, asked him if he would accept it. And he jumped up and hit that table and said, "No, I'll never accept the vice presidency. If I can't be president, I won't accept it." He made that statement to all of them.

But then he went on up there and accepted it like a [inaudible]. (Laughter)

G: Did he ever try to explain why he changed his mind?

W: No, he just tried to live it down. (Laughter)

G: Now in November, Congress was in recess and LBJ came back to Texas and spent a great deal of time back here. They went to Mineral Wells--

W: What year was that?

G: This is 1949. Robert Anderson came down on a visit. Do you remember that?

W: I met Robert Anderson.

G: Where did you meet him?

W: I believe up at the Ranch, I think, as well as I can remember.

G: Well, they didn't have the Ranch, see. This was 1949.

W: No, they didn't have that. Maybe it was in Austin. I don't remember; but I did meet him.

- G: You recall what that trip was about? What they were doing?
- W: No, I don't. I don't remember any details.
- G: LBJ and Homer Thornberry went to the Shamrock in Houston for a dinner honoring [Sam] Rayburn in November that year. Did you go to that?
- W: No, [I] don't think I did.
- G: And in December is the first mention I can find that LBJ was troubled with his hands. He had some dermatologist look at his hands.
- W: Breaking out on them.
- G: Yes.
- W: That's what he had. Some of them itched or something.
- G: Rash, was it?
- W: Rash, yes.
- G: Later he had some skin cancers removed, I think more than once, off his hands. But that's pretty common in this part of the country, isn't it?
- W: I don't know whether it is or not, but he did have trouble with his hands.
- G: He was apparently taking care of a lot of radio business at that time of year. Do you remember?
- W: What year was that?
- G: It's still 1949, in December of 1949. I have the feeling that the South Texas Broadcasting Association was being formed then, but I can't prove that.
- W: Well, all I know about the radio business is that a friend of mine and Lyndon's, [inaudible], friend over the years, Wesley West from Houston, owned a radio station in

LBJ Presidential Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org

M. Winters -- III -- 17

Austin. And Lady Bird took an interest in it, and he sold her that station. I don't remember what year it was now.

G: I think it was about 1942 or so.

W: Way back there. I remember she agreed to give him thirty-five thousand dollars for it.

(Laughter) I remember that. Later on, there was no competition there and they had to form--Lady Bird came to me with the problem, told [me] that there was going to have to be something done on it.

Me, John Connally, Jake Pickle and a boy from Ford formed a partnership and bought KVET, I remember. It wasn't KVET at that time. But we bought that station so she'd have competition, but she wanted friendly competition. (Laughter) I remember all that.

G: Yes. I guess I had forgotten that you were a partner in that KVET deal.

W: We sold it to the Ford Agency [?]. What's his name? Ford Agency from Dallas. He's a very good friend, a very good friend.

G: So you're saying the primary purpose of KVET was to fulfill the competition requirement?

W: For Lady Bird's station.

G: I see. Well, did KVET ever make money?

W: Yes.

G: They did?

W: Made money, sure did.

LBJ Presidential Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org

M. Winters -- III -- 18

G: Do you remember anything of Christmas that year? I know that the Johnsons were in Austin that year for Christmas. Do you recall any visiting going on or anything of that nature?

W: What year again?

G: 1949.

W: No, I sure don't.

G: Right after Christmas, he went to Round Mountain on a hunting trip. Were you on that one?

W: Probably was. Went to Wesley West's Ranch. [Inaudible]

G: Well, they went to Round Mountain, and then they went to the Chupadero Ranch at Eagle Pass.

W: No, I didn't go down there.

G: Okay.

W: [Inaudible] Round Mountain.

G: That would have been Wesley West's ranch.

W: Wesley West.

G: I have a note that in 1950, in January or February, Herman Brown got a contract for the city power plant in Austin. Did you have any of the subcontracting on that one?

W: No.

G: And at the same time, I have note that A. W. Moursund was intending to succeed Arthur Stehling as counsel for the PEC. Did that go through?

W: Yes, sure did.

G: How long was Judge Moursund councilman for the PEC?

W: That's when he started.

G: That's when he started?

W: Still is.

G: They had a Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in Austin that year, and LBJ was there with Vice President [Alben] Barkley and Homer Thornberry, Rayburn, Shivers, Wright Morrow. Do you remember that dinner?

W: I remember it, but I didn't go down there.

G: You didn't go down there?

W: No.

G: Okay. LBJ's Aunt Lucy died that summer, the summer of 1950. They had the funeral in Blanco. Do you remember that?

W: Yes.

G: In October of 1950, Mrs. [Mabel?] Jester hosted a supper for Governor and Mrs. Shivers, and LBJ and Mrs. Johnson came to that. Do you remember that dinner?

W: No, I don't. I didn't [go]. Most of them I tried to turn down. I turned it down.

G: On what grounds?

W: I just didn't like to wear those tuxedos. (Laughter) When he passed away, I hung mine up and I've never put it on again. (Laughter)

G: There was a meeting of the National Rural Electric Co-op Associations in San Antonio that year, Region 10. Is that a part of that region here?

W: Yes.

G: Did you go to that one?

W: Yes.

G: And LBJ spoke at that meeting?

W: Yes.

LBJ Presidential Library

http://www.lbjlibrary.org

G: You recall anything of that?

W: No, not particular.

G: In October, apparently, LBJ made a big swing through the country west of here. I had him in Brownwood for an LBJ Day ceremony, then to Brady, and then to San Angelo.
And right after that is when Senator Wirtz had his fatal heart attack at a football game in Austin. You recall anything of those days?

W: You just knew about it, so I don't know anything definite.

G: How did LBJ react to Senator Wirtz' death?

W: Well, he had lost one of his best friends. He [inaudible]. They were very close.

G: It was right about this time, I guess, that the Johnsons acquired the Ranch. Now, you had said earlier that you were a figure in their acquiring the Ranch. In what way was that?

W: He had an aunt that owned the Ranch and he told me he would like to have it, somehow, some way; he'd like to own that Ranch, and asked me to try to work out the deal. But he owned the old home place, the place he was raised up in here in Johnson City. He still owned that. His aunt that owned it was very old, and it was run down and she was way up there in years. And I went up and visited with her a while and finally got her to price it. And she said, "I don't know what I'm going to do." I said, "Well, maybe Lyndon would trade you that home in Johnson City in on this deal." And she said, "Well, see if you can work it out." And I did.

So he purchased that place up there and he gave her this home in Johnson City.

She moved in here, and he took possession of the Ranch.

- G: Did he give her the home during her lifetime or did she get title to the place?
- W: No, she had it during her lifetime. She lived in it. She moved down there and stayed for several years until she died.
- G: Well of course, he was getting a ranch for a homestead, didn't he? Did he have to throw in some cash on the deal?
- W: Yes. Yes, he put some cash in it.
- G: Do you recall anything about the amount?
- W: No, I don't remember what the amount was. I don't remember, but he okayed it. I don't remember what it was, but it was on time pay [?], I remember that.
- G: I see.
- W: I remember that.
- G: Okay. Well, did he put a limit on you as to what you could offer her, I mean--
- W: No. No. He just wanted the place, somehow, some way.
- G: Were you authorized to make the best deal you could make then?
- W: I did, and I did that. He had a good deal, and she did, too.
- G: Yes. Well, they came down and started making plans for the Ranch, apparently, about that time. Do you remember that?
- W: To redo it all. Redo everything.
- G: Were you in on that?
- W: I done it all. (Laughter)
- G: You did?
- W: From start to finish.
- G: Tell me about that. What all did they want done?

- W: Well, they wanted the house remodeled, and that was number one. Then he wanted all the fences rebuilt, and he wanted everything fixed up on the whole place. I don't know, I worked on it several years.
- G: Of course, a lot of that was not exactly in your line, was it? I mean the house remodeling?
- W: No, I got other people to do it. Marcus Burg done the house work. I let him do all the work, but kind of supervised him and watched him.
- G: He did the dam, too, I think, didn't he?
- W: He built the dam; Marcus built the dam, sure did.
- G: Did Max Brooks come out?
- W: Max was over there all the way through it, always.
- G: What did your company personally do?
- W: Well, I don't know. We built two runways out there for one thing. Built all the roads, done all the road work. And I hired all the other work done, fence work and everything like that.
- G: Did they keep a pretty close eye on how that went?
- W: The times they could, they did, yes. They stayed in constant contact with me on it.
- G: Were they hard to please?
- W: No, no.
- G: You dug some of those tanks for them, didn't you?
- W: Yes, a bunch of them.
- G: Stocked them with fish?
- W: Yes, he did. I didn't.

- G: He did?
- W: He had that done.
- G: You went to San Angelo in December of that year with LBJ and Wesley West and A. W.Moursund and Max Brooks to look at a low-cost housing project.
- W: Right.
- G: Do you remember that trip? What was that about? What were you trying to do?
- W: I don't remember the details. We went up there in Wesley West's plane. We all went together.
- G: What sort of plane did he have?
- W: He had a DC-3 at the time. It was a pretty reliable plane, really fixed up. The only other plane I ever saw fixed up any better than that one was one that Arthur Godfrey had.

 (Laughter)
- G: How would you compare the two? What kind of facilities were available?
- W: Well, Wesley thought he had his really fixed up until he saw Arthur Godfrey's. (Laughter)
- G: What did Arthur Godfrey have?
- W: Oh, of course, Arthur Godfrey was his own pilot and everything, and he had a pretty elaborate plane.
- G: Was there a table for playing dominoes?
- W: It had everything, [inaudible] bar.
- G: A bar?
- W: Everything. Dominoes were on the table (inaudible).
- G: Did you play any dominoes on that plane?
- W: I don't think we did. We were too busy sight-seeing.

G: Do you recall what they were trying to determine, looking at that housing project, what the purpose of the trip was?

W: Something about low-housing deal. That's all I remember about it.

G: Who was Julius Matus?

W: Julius Matus was a Bohemian boy, he and his wife. I brought them to this country years ago. They worked on the Ranch for me, both of them did. And Lyndon wanted him all the time and finally I turned him over to them, he and his wife.

G: Was he the foreman then?

W: Yes, he was foreman then.

G: At the Ranch. How long did he stay, do you know?

W: No, I don't know. I don't remember how long.

G: Did he work out all right?

W: Oh, yes, he worked out here.

G: I see. Is this his son Charlie, that has the Charlie's place up the road?

W: That's the cafe up there. He was raised up--I think his sister was born when they were working for me. Charlie was probably a little bitty fellow when they first came.

G: I have a note here in January of 1952, LBJ starts buying cattle for the Ranch, buying heifers. Were you in on that?

W: Yes.

G: Where did he go to buy cattle?

W: San Angelo.

G: San Angelo?

W: Wanted all Herefords.

G: All Herefords?

W: All Herefords, but most of them were all registered.

G: Why did he have such a preference for Herefords?

W: I don't know.

G: Would you have recommended Herefords?

W: No, I didn't. (Laughter) I always favored Brahman cattle or Beefmasters or something like that.

G: I have a note here that LBJ was being treated for bronchitis at the Mayo Clinic about this time, and that brings up the question of smoking. Was LBJ a heavy smoker?

W: Oh, goddamn, yes.

G: What did he smoke?

W: Camels, as well as I remember.

G: Camels?

W: I believe it was Camels.

G: How many packs, do you think?

W: Oh, two or three a day.

G: Two or three a day? Chain smoker?

W: Chain smoker, almost.

G: Let's see, also in January that year Price Daniel announced against Tom Connally for the Senate. Do you have any insight as to how LBJ felt about Price Daniel, how they got along?

W: No, I don't really know. I know he was always for John [Tom?] Connally, I know that.

G: You mean if it came down to a choice?

- W: Yes, it would definitely be John [Tom?].
- G: Here's a note that Sugar Pickle died. Is that Jake Pickle's mother?
- W: Yes. [Jake Pickle's first wife]
- G: Did LBJ come down for that?
- W: Yes, I'm sure he did. She was living out at Cypress Mill at the time she died, as well as I remember.
- G: One of the big public issues about this time was the tidelands issue, the big fight over whether Texas owned the tidelands or the federal government owned the tidelands. Did LBJ ever talk to you about that?
- W: No, no. Don't know any of the details on it at all.
- G: And another public figure about that time was the rise of Estes Kefauver. Did LBJ ever talk to you about Kefauver?
- W: No.
- G: But I guess the big fight that year was when Governor Shivers began to campaign to send an uninstructed delegation to the national convention in 1952. You're smiling. You remember that fight?
- W: Oh, I remember the battle, but I don't know any details.
- G: Okay. Of course, that precipitated a fight between the Shivercrats, I guess they were called, and the Loyalist Democrats. Where did LBJ fit into that fight? Did he try to stay out of it?
- W: He tried to stay neutral, as I remember. He did stay neutral, didn't he? I think.
- G: Yes. There were a lot of people who said that Shivers had promised people that he wasn't going to bolt the party in 1952. Do you remember anything of that?

W: No.

G: And they accused of him of a double-cross.

W: I remember them accusing him of being a double-crosser, yes.

G: You don't know whether he had made those promises or not?

W: No, I sure don't.

G: There was a minor LBJ for president movement, too, that first appeared in 1952. Do you remember anything of that? A few Texans were bringing his name up as a sort of a favorite son candidate.

W: No, I don't remember. I may have known it, but I don't remember any details.

G: Fine. Ralph Yarborough announced against Shivers about this time. How did LBJ and Yarborough get along?

W: They got along like cats and dogs. (Laughter) He and Yarborough just never did [inaudible] on anything.

G: What was wrong there, do you think?

W: I don't know. I don't have any idea, but he sure didn't like Yarborough. No way.

Tape 1 of 1, Side 2

G: Did LBJ ever talk to you about Yarborough?

W: No, [he] just didn't like him. That's all I ever knew. I don't know what the particulars were or any of it. But he hated him; he didn't like him. He'd bristle up every time his name was--Ralph Yarborough was a thorn in his side. (Laughter)

G: But he never characterized him?

W: No.

G: In May of 1952, Mrs. Johnson was in Texas, was here, in fact, making decisions about the house in Stonewall. That's when I have a note that you and Max Brooks and Marcus Burg were all with her making renovations and repairing the roof. But I have a note that there were a lot of changes of plans and a lot of material shortages that kept causing problems. Do you remember anything about that?

W: Yes, it was hard to get materials at that time. Awfully hard.

G: Why was that?

W: Well, I don't know. I owned several--let's see, I owned a lumber yard in Blanco at that time and owned one at [inaudible] and one in Burnet.

(Interruption)

G: Okay, sir, did you know Fagan Dickson?

W: Knew of him, I didn't know him. Just knew the name, that's about it.

G: Yes. The Congress passed the tidelands bill that spring to give the states title and Truman vetoed it. Did LBJ say anything to you about that?

W: No, I don't recall it.

G: And then in June, they dedicated the Alvin Wirtz Dam at Marble Falls. Did you go to that dedication? LBJ was there, I think, and Tom Miller and Thornberry, Allan Shivers.

W: Everybody.

G: Everybody was there. Was that a big deal?

W: It sure was.

G: Did they have a barbecue or anything?

W: I think the women from Marble Falls and that vicinity would serve [inaudible].

G: I see. Do you recall anything else about that? Just another occasion?

- W: Big deal. That's all I remember.
- G: Okay. Were you a delegate that year, either to the state or the national convention? The 1952? That was the year that Shivers' delegation was seated after a fight, but he had to make the statement that he would support the Democratic nominee.
- W: I'm trying to figure--that damn picture up there reminds me of something. See what that [inaudible] up there says.
- G: All right, we'll just pause for a second.

 (Interruption)

Let's see, during the convention LBJ was here in Stonewall, and John Connally was in Chicago working for Dick Russell, is the note that I have. Do you remember anything of that?

- W: No. He was for Dick Russell, John Connally was. I remember that.
- G: Connally was. Where did LBJ stand? Was he a Russell man, do you think?
- W: I don't know. I surely don't know.
- G: Of course [Adlai] Stevenson was nominated. How did LBJ feel about Stevenson?
- W: Never did like him.
- G: Didn't like him?
- W: No.
- G: What didn't he like about him?
- W: I don't know. They had differences always. Wait a minute now. Are we talking about--
- G: 1952.
- W: Well, that's presidential.
- G: That's right.

W: No, he didn't have anything against--I never heard him say anything.

G: Yes, I meant Adlai Stevenson in this case.

W: Yes, no. I don't know anything about that.

G: Okay. I have a note that Clint Murchison advised LBJ to get behind Eisenhower in 1952.

W: Probably did.

G: Why do you say that?

W: Well, Lyndon was for Eisenhower, I know that. Always, he sure was for him.

G: You mean he favored Eisenhower over Adlai Stevenson?

W: I think so. No questions about that.

G: So he apparently really didn't have a very high opinion of Adlai Stevenson.

W: I guess not.

G: It was about this time that the Johnsons acquired the TV permit to start operating a TV station in Austin.

W: What year was that?

G: 1952.

W: Sounds about right.

G: Did you have any part of that at all?

W: The TV station?

G: Yes.

W: No. I was at a football game down there when it was announced. I know Jesse Kellam was there at that football game and televised that football game. I remember all that. I was there at the ball game with Lyndon and Lady Bird and my wife.

G: And you say that it was announced over the public address system?

- W: Oh, yes. Jesse Kellam was shaking hands with everybody congratulating him for getting it done and all that stuff.
- G: Jesse Kellam was the chief negotiator there, was he?
- W: Well, he was head of the television and radio stations in Austin.
- G: The Johnsons were pretty pleased with that?
- W: Oh, you bet. They sure were.
- G: Were there any particular problems that you recall that they mentioned about getting the permit?
- W: No.
- G: The state Democratic convention was in Amarillo that year. Did you go to that?
- W: No.
- G: A big thing that September was a big flood here, had twenty-six inches of rain in about a twenty-four hour period, something on that order? What was the damage done by that?
- W: The bridge down there was washed out for one thing. We built that bridge in 1927 or 1928, and it washed out and put it out of service.
- G: How about the Ranch? Was the Ranch damaged?
- W: Well, not anything other than a lot of flooding.
- G: Did the dam wash out?
- W: I don't remember. No, it didn't wash that dam out. The dam, once I built it, never did wash out.
- G: LBJ was out of town. He was in McAllen when that rain occurred, and he and Lloyd Bentsen flew back because they were worried about Mrs. Johnson. She was at the Ranch that time, I think.

W: I got her out of there.

G: You got her out of there?

W: Yes.

G: How did you do that?

W: Got her out on horseback.

G: Horseback? Wow, how high was the water?

W: It was awful high. I was afraid it was going to get up in the house.

G: Did it get pretty close to the house?

W: Yes, pretty close to the house. I don't know how many of us went up there and got her out by horseback. It was a long way to get [inaudible].

G: Were any of the children with her?

W: I don't remember Luci and Lynda being there at all. I don't think they were.

G: Was she by herself, or do you recall?

W: She was by herself, I remember that. They were away. I remember that.

G: The note says that when LBJ and Bentsen were satisfied that Mrs. Johnson was safe, they tried to go back and they crashed when they took off. Do you remember that?

W: No, I don't remember any of that.

G: Said that they hit a tree and that nobody was hurt. They got out and got in another plane and took off on that one. You don't recall that incident?

W: No, I don't. I knew about it probably, but I don't know any details.

G: LBJ opened the State Fair in Dallas that October and then came back to town for the Notre Dame game. Did you go to that?

W: No.

G: Price Daniel won the election as state senator that year. Was LBJ pleased or displeased over that, do you think?

W: I don't remember any particulars about him one way or the other.

G: Dick Russell came to town or to Texas that November. Did you meet him at that time?

W: Yes.

G: Did he have him out to the Ranch?

W: Yes, he had him in town and out at the Ranch.

G: How did LBJ and Senator Russell get along? They had a special relationship, didn't they?

W: They got along, I remember that. They were very good friends.

G: Okay. He went hunting in South Texas that December. Did you go hunting with him on that occasion?

W: No, that was Wesley West's ranch. That was where they went.

G: He was trying to decide on whether he was going to take the minority leadership at this time; you know the Democrats were in the minority in the Congress then. Did he talk to you about that?

W: Yes.

G: What did he say?

W: He was on the fence.

G: Why is that?

W: I don't know. I don't know why, but he did take it.

G: Yes, he did. Well, of course, it wasn't as highly regarded a position then as it later became, I think.

W: Probably [inaudible]. I don't know.

- G: Yes. They were here in Stonewall for Christmas. Was that the first Christmas at the Ranch? I guess it would be then, wouldn't it?
- W: I think so.
- G: Did you go to the Ranch for Christmas at all?
- W: I don't know.

(Interruption)

- G: Let's see, in 1953, Arthur Perry joined the LBJ staff. Did you know Arthur Perry?
- W: Never did know him.
- G: Didn't know him? Okay. And I have a note that Warren Woodward resigned to open a public relations firm in Dallas.
- W: Right.
- G: How did he feel about Warren Woodward leaving?
- W: He didn't like it.
- G: He didn't like that either?
- W: No, no. He thought a whole lot of Warren. You bet. He had abilities and capabilities and everything else.
- G: Did he? LBJ didn't like people to leave him, did he?
- W: No. No, he didn't like any of them to leave him.
- G: Did he ever show hard feelings when someone did?
- W: No, I don't think so. No, not at all. I don't think he ever showed any hard feelings. He just hated to lose. I think that's the thing with him.
- G: Did you go to that inauguration in January of 1953? Eisenhower's inauguration?
- W: No.

G: Uncle Tom Johnson died that January here in Johnson City, and LBJ came back for the funeral. Do you remember that?

W: Yes.

G: Was he close to his Uncle Tom?

W: Very close. His Uncle Tom worked for me for many years.

G: Oh, he did?

W: Yes. He was a lot of help to me over the years.

G: During World War II?

W: Yes. When Tom Johnson worked for me, and we had to have our own protection of these camps, various places where we were working, Mineral Wells and let's see, we built runways at Waco, [inaudible]. I did all that work.

You had to police your own organization. We built a fence around the thing first, and then everybody that had a right to go in there would show their picture as they were going in or out. When Tom Johnson was head of that outfit [?] during World War II, he had a whole bunch of people working under him.

G: I didn't know he was in security work of that sort.

W: Well, he was in security work for me.

G: Was that the only job he did for you?

W: No, he was on several different jobs.

G: What sort of other work did he do?

W: Well, we had him down there on that sea wall, I remember, during all that labor problem and trouble.

G: Now, that was Cousin Margaret's father. Was that right?

W: Right. That was her father.

G: Is it true that Cousin Margaret was one of LBJ's favorite relatives?

W: Sure was.

G: They were pretty close?

W: Yes, they were. He and Margaret were awful close.

G: She had a hard life later on I think.

W: Right. Lost her home [?].

G: I have a note here in February that Sam Houston [Johnson] was in the hospital. Do you remember what that was about?

W: What year was that?

G: Now, this is 1953, February of 1953.

W: In Austin or in--

G: Doesn't say; just says that he was in the hospital.

W: Now he was in the hospital in Austin a pretty good while, I remember that.

G: What was that for? Was that his legs or something else?

W: Alcohol.

G: Alcohol.

W: Big problem.

G: There's a letter from LBJ's mother to him saying that she was glad Sam Houston was under hospital care and that Mrs. Johnson was helping Josefa. Do you know what Mrs. Johnson was helping Josefa with? Or what--

W: She had the same problem as Sam Houston did.

G: I see.

LBJ Presidential Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org

M. Winters -- III -- 37

W: Alcohol. (Laughter) That's the only two problems they ever had. (Laughter) As far as I knew.

G: Here's a note that LBJ went to a luncheon for Gene Autry. Their relationship goes back into the forties, doesn't it? Didn't Gene Autry campaign for LBJ?

W: I don't know. I think maybe he did, but I don't know any details.

G: Okay, let's see here. Now, the first note I have on this subject is in April of 1953. There's some stories beginning to circulate that Governor Shivers may be a competitor of LBJ's, that he might be a rival; he might run for LBJ's seat in the Senate. Do you recall that possibility being discussed?

W: Yes.

G: Was LBJ worried about that?

W: No.

G: You don't think so?

W: No.

G: Do you think Governor Shivers was considering that?

W: I don't know whether he was or whether he wasn't. It never did materialize. There were just rumors going around. I don't know, I doubt if he ever thought very seriously at all.

G: Why don't you think he wouldn't have been serious about it?

W: Well, if he had, he'd have done it. But he didn't do it. (Laughter) I don't know. Maybe I'm wrong.

G: There was a meeting in May of 1953, at Lake Buchanan, where Byron Skelton and about three hundred other Texas Democrats tried to decide what they were going to do to reunite and reorganize the Democratic Party. Did you go to that meeting?

LBJ Presidential Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org

M. Winters -- III -- 38

W: No. Sure didn't.

G: You have no memories of that one?

W: No. I knew it was going on, but that's about all.

G: That was part of the fight, I think, the continuing fight between the Shivercrats and the Loyalist Democrats.

In June, there was a big meeting in Washington where Gene Autry entertained again and boosted LBJ as the presidential candidate. That's the first time I think I've seen that arise. Do you recall when you first heard LBJ mentioned or considering it?

W: Well, I knew that he and Gene Autry were friends, I knew that. Gene visited down here once or twice.

G: The big drought in Texas was beginning about that time, too.

W: What year again?

G: 1953.

W: Yes.

G: Were you ranching at that time? How were you affected by that drought?

W: Well, I moved all of my cattle out to Colorado and put some in New Mexico. Pastured them out up there.

G: What did LBJ do with his?

W: He didn't have nothing but a small herd up there. He just kept feeding them. (Laughter)

G: He just kept feeding them?

W: That's right.

G: Did the Pedernales ever go dry during that time?

W: No, got awful low.

G: Yes.

W: Stopped running down here.

G: Right, just standing in pools, was it?

W: I don't know.

G: Did LBJ pump water? Did you pump water?

W: No, we had that dam up there and it sustained them all the way through.

G: You mentioned that you were in the Masonic Lodge. Were you a Shriner?

W: Yes, and I went all the way.

G: I have a note here then in July that five hundred Shriners went to Washington, and LBJ and Congressman Wingate Lucas met the train. Were you on that?

W: No. I didn't go.

G: You weren't on that trip?

W: No.

G: In August of that year, LBJ was vacationing at the Ranch in 1953 and was on an extensive speaking tour. He went to Elgin to speak and Temple, Houston, and a lot of places. Do you remember anything about that?

W: I went with him to Waxahachie, Texas.

G: You went with him to Waxahachie? Was that when you had business in Waxahachie or--

W: No.

G: What did he do with Waxahachie? Just make a talk?

W: He gave a speech up there. I went up, and I knew lots of people up there.

G: Yes. There was a meeting of his district men in Stonewall that September. Were you involved in that?

- W: No.
- G: Okay. Then, on twenty-first of September, I have the first mention of LBJ going to a meeting of the bank directors of the Citizens State Bank. Was that the first time he'd gone to a meeting or just our first record of it?
- W: Probably your first record of it. No, he used to make meetings when he was available, when he was around.
- G: Do you recall the year that he became a director?
- W: I don't know. I organized that bank. Seems to me it was back about 1944.
- G: Yes. During the war?
- W: No, it was during the war or right after the war. I don't remember.
- G: Okay. Well, the war ended in 1945 so--
- W: I guess it was before the war or right during the war.
- G: Yes.
- W: Johnson City was without a bank for seven years. And I went to the Austin Banking Department for a permit. They finally gave me one and told me if we could get three hundred thousand dollars in the bank the first day, we would make it. Otherwise, we would never do it. We opened up the first day with more than that.
- G: Well, you said that you'd been without a bank for seven years. Did the local bank fail during the Depression?
- W: It failed. Yes, it failed. [Inaudible] Blanco.
- G: But you don't remember what year LBJ came aboard as the director?
- W: No. I guess the bank down there could find that, you know, they have all the records.
- G: Was he pretty active on that board of directors?

W: He done us lots of good, making suggestions. He was helpful.

G: He was helpful?

W: Sure was.

G: Did you have to be a stockholder to be a director?

W: Yes.

G: Was there a minimum percentage or amount of stock?

W: No.

G: Was LBJ in a majority position? As far as stock was concerned?

W: No. No, he wasn't.

G: Nor in a controlling position?

W: No. I was only in that position.

G: You were in that position?

W: Yes.

G: So when he wanted to sell, you were the one he had to convince.

W: Yes, I had to be convinced.

G: Did you have a lot of trouble convincing the other people, the other stockholders on that

one? To sell the bank?

W: No. I didn't want to sell it.

G: Yes, you said that there was a lot of reluctance.

W: I didn't want to sell it at all.

G: Right.

W: But when he asked me to give him a million dollars for his stock, that's when I said,

"Hell, no. Sell it."

G; That's what he could get for it otherwise?

W: Yes.

G: I see. Well, how would that compare with what the market price would have brought?

W: Well, as I remember, about three and a quarter times book. [Inaudible].

G: Wow! (Laughter)

W: That's where he and A. W. kind of fell out. The Cages owned that bank in Llano. AndMr. Frank Cage told his family, said, "If anything ever happens, you sell this bank.Melvin Winters, I want him to have preference on it."

So the girl, that was Jo Cage, she was the one that was handling it. She came to me and said, "Melvin, I want to sell that bank." And I said, "Well, I don't know, Jo. I'm pretty tight on money at this time." Well, I finally went and talked to Lyndon and A. W., and they said, "Hell, let's buy it." So I went back to Jo then and told her that I had two friends that would take the bank, and I advised her to go ahead and sell it to them. And she did. Lyndon and A. W. took it. I didn't get in on that; stayed out of it.

G: Were they the sole partners then?

W: Biggest partners, yes, with a few stockholders in there besides them.

G: Yes.

W: But when he got ready to sell this bank, he went to A. W. Done him the same way and A.W. paid the damn million dollar premium to keep the bank.

G: Does he still have that bank?

W: He's still got it, you bet. First Llano Bank.

- G: Here's another note in October--this is still in 1953 now--that he was at a meeting of the stockholders, made his weekly radio broadcast and then flew to El Paso, all in the same day. Do you remember that particular trip?
- W: No.
- G: Now, this is a hunting trip on the third of December, quail hunting at Jay Taylor's ranch in Amarillo. Did you go on that one?
- W: No, didn't go.
- G: Another hunting trip right before Christmas of 1953, and the only note I have is that he was on a hunting trip. You don't recall that one, do you?
- W: No. Probably down to Wesley's place.
- G: Wesley's place?
- W: Either there or up here. I went with him lots of times hunting there.
- G: Did you ever go with him down to--you said you did go to Wesley West's place.
- W: Oh, I've been down there, but I've never been down there with Lyndon.
- G: What kind of a setup did he have down there?
- W: Well, he just had a big old ranch and all kinds of game on it, everything he wanted: deer, javelina, quail, birds, everything. And [he] had a nice lodge and everything, real nice. I used to go down there and stay several days at a time.
- G: What would a typical trip be? Two or three days?
- W: Something like that. Sometimes longer.
- G: What kind of hunting did you do for deer? Did you hunt from a blind?
- W: No, drive around in the car.

- G: Drive around in the car. (Laughter) Would you shoot them out of the car or would you get out?
- W: Well, most of the time you'd get out. Sometimes you didn't. (Laughter)
- G: How many deer would you kill on a typical trip?
- W: Oh, we never abused it. We never got over one or two, something like that.
- G: [Did they] have big deer down there?
- W: Oh, those little South Texas deer are a lot larger than these deer.
- G: Right. What would you do with the venison?
- W: Give it away.
- G: Ever make sausage?
- W: Yes. Made sausage out of it and gave it away and everything.
- G: They say LBJ liked his sausage hot.
- W: He was hell for making all of it into sausage and taking it back to Washington with him.

 (Laughter)
- G: What would he do with it, would he give it away up there?
- W: Yes. Yes.
- G: Well, how did those eastern people like that hot sausage?
- W: I guess all right. I never heard any complaints on it. I think at one time over here at that locker plant over here, I think he put about four or five hundred pounds on one plane going to Washington. I remember that.
- G: Was that during the presidency?
- W: That was during his presidency.
- G: Who made that sausage for him?

- W: The place down here at the locker plant.
- G: What's the name of it?
- W: D. J. Whittington.
- G: Oh, yes. Okay. They're still in business, aren't they?
- W: Still in business.
- G: They've got a big sign out that they sell jerky, I think.

Well, what would you do at Wesley West's place when you weren't hunting? I mean, you can't hunt all the time.

- W: Played cards, dominoes, or something.
- G: Played poker or what?
- W: Poker, yes, anything.
- G: What kind of stakes would you play for?
- W: Oh, not too big. Never got too big.
- G: Yes. Was LBJ a good poker player?
- W: Damn good one! A real good one. A good cheater, too.
- G: A cheater? (Laughter) What would he do?
- W: Well, we never did play for--I don't think we ever played for over a hundred dollars a game. Mostly about twenty-five [dollars].
- G: That was the domino game? How about in poker? What kind of stakes did you play for?
- W: We never got big; we never did play real big poker. A hundred dollar limit on it.
- G: Yes. Well, outside of LBJ, who would be the big winners on something like that, usually?
- W: Me.

G: You?

W: Tried to be. (Laughter)

W: Didn't always would work out that way.

G: Yes. Would you usually be LBJ's partner in a domino game?

W: In domino games, always.

G: Of course poker, it's every man for himself.

W: Every man for himself, yes.

G: Was Wesley West a good domino player?

W: Pretty good. Yes, he was pretty good.

End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview III

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

Legal Agreement Pertaining to the Oral History Interviews of

MELVIN C. WINTERS

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, Anita Winters of Johnson City, Texas, do hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America all my rights, title, and interest in the tape recordings and transcripts of the personal interviews conducted with my late husband, Melvin C. Winters, on February 18, February 25, March 3, March 12, and March 18, 1987 in Johnson City, Texas and prepared for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

This assignment is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The transcripts shall be available for use by researchers as soon as they have been deposited in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.
- (2) The tape recordings shall be available to those researchers who have access to the transcripts.
- (3) I hereby assign to the United States Government all copyright I may have in the interview transcripts and tapes.
- (4) Copies of the transcripts and the tape recordings may be provided by the Library to researchers upon request.
- (5) Copies of the transcripts and tape recordings may be deposited in or loaned to institutions other than the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Donor Date

Date

Archivist of the United States

Date