

INTERVIEW II

DATE: April 20, 1982
INTERVIEWEE: WILTON WOODS
INTERVIEWER: MICHAEL L. GILLETTE
PLACE: Mr. Woods' residence, Seguin, Texas

Tape 1 of 1

- G: I wanted to start out by asking you today if you've ever heard or received an indication that LBJ went to San Marcos after he graduated from high school and stayed for a while and then dropped out and then went to California. Did you ever [hear that]?
- W: Well, I think he went to California from Johnson City. Bernice Byler Grantham, her daddy was county commissioner, and she was four or five years older than Lyndon but didn't look it then. She knows a lot about him, but like a lot of people, you know, you'd say, "Well, what do you know about him?" and she'd say, "No, nothing." But she knows, I mean, she knew [him]. She gave me those pictures of Lyndon and Welly [Hopkins] in Mexico. You remember?
- G: Yes. We copied those, yes.
- W: Riding a donkey. And she told me something else that made me laugh. In that period, there were two people wanting to be governor constantly, Jimmie Allred and Dan Moody, and both of them finally got to be governor, and both of them were attorney generals first. She said when they visited this brewery--what's the name of the thing? Anyway, it's a tourist [attraction], they have a tour through it, and it's a

Woods -- II -- 2

real large brewery. She said when they signed the register--she doesn't know which is which--one of them signed as Dan Moody and the other one as James V. Allred. (Laughter)

G: That's great.

W: Just kid-like.

G: Wasn't it still during Prohibition?

W: Yes.

G: Do you recall LBJ working for Dr. [C. E.] Evans in the President's office?

W: Yes.

G: Tell me about his job. What did he do?

W: Well, he started out picking up litter off the campus and pulling weeds and was a regular yard man. And that lasted I think quite a while. You know, Lyndon, with a garage apartment here and Dr. Evans living there, well, Lyndon would never pass up a chance to talk to him or anybody that was important. At that age, he was all ears and wanted to learn what they knew. So he of course got well acquainted with Dr. Evans way ahead of the other kids because he courted him, you know. As far as working in his office, that was just a menial job, mailman job and that kind of thing. This book you mentioned here--

G: Tom Nichols' book.

W: Tom Nichols was actually Dr. Evans' secretary and he kind of resented--well, he resented it like everything later on when Lyndon became a

Woods -- II -- 3

congressman and all and always referred to being secretary of the president. Well, old Tom was quick to say, "He wasn't secretary. I was." (Laughter)

G: Did he actually work under Nichols, then, rather than Evans?

W: Yes. Yes.

G: Well, in this job, was it part of his capacity to transmit messages to teachers and students?

W: I think so. Just general errand boy for Dr. [Evans]. Well, for both of them, Dr. Evans and Tom Nichols both.

G: It seems like there was some indication that LBJ in that job even lobbied for the educational appropriation or teachers' salary or something like that in the legislature. Do you know anything about that?

W: No, but he started early in that kind of thing, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised, because his daddy, you know, was up there. I'm sure you've heard that his daddy told other people and said, "A representative would come by and see me about any subject out at Johnson City, here'd come Lyndon as a child and sit on my knees or sit on the ground and listen like an adult." That's how interested he was in politics even at that early age.

G: Now, this was the story that Sam Ealy used to tell?

W: Yes.

G: Is that right? Did he tell it to you or--?

W: No. I made quite a few trips with him but they were mostly [when] we would go from San Marcos to San Antonio or to Austin and Lyndon went

Woods -- II -- 4

to--it would be a speaking at night when the Fergusons were running for governor, that kind of thing. You might have heard this, I was along on a trip and went to San Antonio to hear Jim Ferguson, I think, speak for Ma, or vice versa. Anyway, it was a Ferguson rally. On the way home, Lyndon was driving and Sam was in the back seat and had his bottle and he kept fussing at Lyndon. He said, "Lyndon, I want you to keep your eye on the road and watch where you're going and quit turning your head back here." Finally he said, "Lyndon, I've told you three or four times to quit turning your head back here. Keep your eye on the road, because you're going to cause us to have a wreck." It was good advice for him, but Lyndon didn't heed it. He finally said, "Lyndon, pull over and stop," which he did. And Sam said to Horace Richards, the other one that was with us, the four of us, "Horace, you drive from here to San Marcos." Lyndon accepted it without complaint.

G: Did you ever visit the garage apartment where he lived?

W: Yes.

G: Can you tell me about the place?

W: Well, it was typical garage apartment for that period, a large, double-garage down below and stairways going upstairs to where the sleeping quarters were. I'm sure it had a kitchen, too, but I don't remember it, what it looked like. But it was unusually large for a garage apartment. Usually, you know, they have rooms about the size of this one, but it had larger rooms than [this].

Woods -- II -- 5

I was, and Horace Richards and Jack Lane and on and on were card players, poker players, and we played up there on Sunday afternoons quite frequently. Lyndon never did play. Horace Richards claims he did. He took exception to me for saying he didn't, but I don't remember him playing. As a rule he was not a gambler.

G: Did he live in that garage apartment early in his college career or toward the end of his college career?

W: I think it was early.

G: Really? Who did he room with?

W: I'm not sure. Maybe Boody Johnson or someone else.

(Interruption)

G: Babe Kennedy.

W: I don't actually remember him living in that garage apartment. It was a whole lot like [Raymond] Dwiggins has told me many times. He said, "Well, I can understand Barton Gill claiming that he was LBJ's first college roommate, LBJ moved so often." And he did. I'm not sure why, but he moved quite frequently. Just who the other kids were, I don't remember.

G: Do you recall any of his activities on that Student Welfare Council?

W: Well, I don't think specifically, but the purpose of the council was to control the student body. When we got control, we did a good job. Up till that time, there was the other faction which was--the one you probably know best was Jesse Kellam. They controlled things for many years. Finally, you know, it got to where they just really were snooty and wouldn't invite us to their parties or special dances or

Woods -- II -- 6

they just made out like we weren't there. You know, kids at that age they get pretty sensitive about those things.

G: So you organized a rival group?

W: Yes.

G: We discussed that a little bit the last time. I don't think I asked you where the name came from.

W: From Walter Grady and Tennessee. Walter was the only one that knew anything about organizing a fraternity or how to run them or anything. The rest of us, we just didn't know. It meant nothing to us. But Walter had had an older brother in some college up there that was a fraternity man and Walter came up with a name and a lot of good ideas about how it ought to be run.

G: Was the name the same as the organization that his brother had gone to? Did you use their name?

W: No, I don't think so.

G: Just the Greek letters, though.

W: Yes. Which mean first and last.

G: Alpha and Omega. How often did the group meet?

W: Right at first when there was considerable enthusiasm, I don't think it was once a week, but probably every other week or thereabouts.

G: Can you recall any of the activities of the group?

W: Well, right at first the main activity was to elect the officers that ran the student body and that we did by various means. In fact, I went with a--I might have told you this before--little girl I think from Columbus. She was a little blackheaded youngster, a real pretty

Woods -- II -- 7

girl, and she was president of one of the classes. My job was to see that she voted right, so I courted her. I mean, I had dates with her and took her places and really enjoyed it along with using her vote.

G: So that she would vote right on the student council?

W: Right.

G: Who gave you your instructions, let me ask?

W: Well, I'd say this kind of came late in Lyndon's college career. It had never meant as much to him as it did some of us slow learners who came along behind him. But the ones that were actually running things were Horace Richards and Walter Grady and Bill Deason and Gus Barr, and I believe I told you we had a couple of double agents that belonged to both groups.,

G: Oh, really?

W: We didn't know it until they confessed years later.

G: That they were Black Stars, as well as White Stars? Who were they?

W: Vernon Whiteside and Sub Pyland. Yes, they confessed.

G: There was a story that LBJ was once kidnapped by the Black Stars during the student election. Do you recall that?

W: No, I think that was Henry Moore.

G: I see.

W: Dr. Moore's daddy. He was actually kidnapped by students, taken out on the highway. They took his trousers away from him, and he hitchhiked into Austin in just his shorts. Nowadays, nobody would get excited about it, but in that day and time that was. . . .

Woods -- II -- 8

G: How about passing out political literature the night before an election?
Have you ever heard of that?

W: Well, I don't [think so]. I think we relied a hundred per cent on
word of mouth.

G: Do you recall the instance in which Bill Deason was running for student
president or president of the senior class I guess against Dick Spinn?
It's quoted in all the books that LBJ said, "We've got to stay up and
get the extra votes," and proceeded to go out and round up the votes.
Were you privy to that discussion?

W: No. Of course, this book [?] right here has pretty good White Star
history.

G: Do you recall LBJ working through that student council to improve
the track at San Marcos, an athletic stadium's track?

W: No. When the White Stars were at their peak, we were so disgruntled
or almost bitter against the Black Stars, and they were the athletes,
that he wouldn't have meddled in their track or anything.

G: Well, it was in the [paper]. The student paper had articles about
this. It was a general student drive to improve the facility.

W: Oh, well, that's probably true. But I don't remember the details.

G: You know, one thing, looking at his transcript, it seems evident that
he didn't like athletics. He was not physically adept.

W: That's right.

G: Is this right.

W: Yes. And the reason he didn't--now, he never did tell me this, others
did--was that he had tried to get an invitation to join the Black Stars,

Woods -- II -- 9

and they laughed in his face. They said, "You're too scrawny and skinny, and we want real men."

G: I noticed also from going through the newspapers that Miss [Mary] Brogdon was very active in supervising student activities and speaking to groups.

W: Yes, she was.

G: Do you recall anything of his association with her? She was the dean of women, is that right?

W: Yes. No, I don't recall having anything directly connected with him but I'm sure he did because anyone with authority or power on campus, well, he was making friends.

G: He, of course, worked on the student newspaper, the College Star, and you were also on the Star. Tell me a little about the students' role in publishing the newspaper.

W: Well, we prepared the script, the stuff that went in it, and I suppose we had some supervision from the faculty. I'm trying to think who that could have been. I think Dean [H. E.] Speck was one, maybe Miss Brogdon. Mine was strictly by appointment from Lyndon. He'd say, "Now, next week is the paper that comes out the day before Thanksgiving. You write an article about the origin of Thanksgiving and the whole story," and I'd usually say, "Where am I going to get the stuff?" He said, "From an encyclopedia. That's a good source." I wrote a few original ones, like I know I had quite a dispute with the biology department about why continue to use old Greek words. You know, the Greek word for flatworm is about that long, and I said, "Well, why

Woods -- II -- 10

don't we just call them flatworms and get away from all that foolishness of trying to learn another language, too?" That made sense to me then and now.

G: Did he support your--?

W: Oh, yes, anything that made sense, he was for it. He wouldn't go for anything radical because that was his [responsibility as] editor up there, and he had assigned it to somebody.

G: Was there a newspaper office somewhere on campus where the College Star writers would go and compose?

W: Yes, it was in the main building on the first floor, almost directly across from Dr. Evans' office and Tom Nichols. Tom was an enthusiastic supporter of journalistic studies. In fact, that book there says that Lyndon asked Tom about starting a course in journalism so we'd learn how to write, we need to. Of course that was right down Tom's alley. He said, "Well, get some of your old friends that'll take the course to sign a petition or talk to somebody in authority about starting it." It lists who they were. I was one of them. That's the way a journalism course started right there. I apparently had a little talent because Tom Nichols, oh, many times he scolded me for not following that trade.

G: Was there a set time after class that students would go to the journalism office and work on the paper?

W: Yes, I think so. I think we went pretty regularly on certain [days], depending on how pressed we were to get the paper out.

Woods -- II -- 11

G: Were there ever any times when the administration or the faculty did not want something to be published in the paper that you all had--?

W: Not that I know of, no. We were pretty cooperative.

Of course, this Adams Extract--you know where that is--he started that college paper in 1913. Several illustrious people were editors of it. I think Robert Montgomery was and. . . . But Mr. Adams, he not only started it but went downtown and sold ads to the merchants.

G: Was the paper printed by the San Marcos--?

W: Record.

G: Did that give LBJ an opportunity to get to know that newspaper?

W: I'm sure it did.

G: What was it, the Haynes family?

W: Walter Buckner. Of course, Walter was a real good friend of Lyndon's all his life, and he died three or four years ago with some kind of cancer.

G: Were there ever times when LBJ didn't want something published in the Star, and where he actually moved to edit something out or keep it from being published?

W: Not that I know of.

G: What do you remember about the Press Club?

W: I don't remember much about it, if anything. I've forgotten now who belonged to it or anything. I remember there was one, all right.

G: Do you recall LBJ as a member of the debate team? Do you recall his debating activities?

Woods -- II -- 12

W: Well, now, he was a very active debater because he had Professor [H. M.] Greene breathing down his neck, and Professor Greene, like most debating coaches of that period, he wanted to win.

G: Was his style a lot like LBJ's when the latter became debate coach?

W: I imagine.

G: Do you think that's where he learned?

W: I don't [know]. You know, a lot of people used to, and I guess a few of them still do that are living, talk about what a tremendous influence Prof Greene had on Lyndon, but I don't think it was that much. He had nothing like as much as Sam Fore or Welly Hopkins, [Alvin] Wirtz. Those three were. . . .

G: I don't want to ramble too far, but of course we know about Welly Hopkins and Senator Wirtz, but not that much is known about Sam Fore. How was Sam Fore influential in LBJ's life?

W: Well, he ran a newspaper for one thing, and he lived at Floresville, which is between San Antonio and Lyndon's Kleberg lawyer's. Sam just liked him, and Sam told me himself, he said, on their living room floor they had a thick rug. He said, "Many and many a time Lyndon Johnson was coming here and he'd get a pillow out of the chair and lie down on that rug and we would talk far into the night." And Lyndon was real fond of Sam. In fact, Sam was afraid to fly--he didn't want to at all--but he flew to LBJ's inauguration as president because Lyndon sent him a ticket and demanded that they come. Which they did. But Sam, of course, was probably the most tense person in the state of Texas.

Woods -- II -- 13

G: When did LBJ meet him, I wonder? Was it while he was working for Kleberg, or do you think it was before that? That he knew him before he went to work for Kleberg?

W: When he met him, I'm sure it was about the time he went to work for him. I've heard stories to the effect that the two Sams, Lyndon's daddy and Sam Fore, were close friends, and I don't believe it at all, because they were so different. Now Sam Fore of Floresville-- well, there's a Methodist preacher in Austin, I believe, named Sam Fore, his nephew. The Fores were religious people and as far as drinking, that's unthinkable, and of course Sam Johnson was different. In fact, I don't ever remember seeing them talking to each other or. . . .

G: Is there any other way in which Sam Fore influenced LBJ in his early life?

W: Yes. He was always telling LBJ, he said, "Now look, Lyndon, here you are worrying about this. Let's do something about it. Let's make things happen." He preached that to LBJ a lot, and it had its effect. And a good effect, too.

G: Can you recall anything specifically that they worked on?

W: Well, of course, at that time it was Kleberg's [district]. You know, Lyndon was actually pretty well the congressman down there, and he went to Sam Fore for advice. I know the first few days of the first campaign Sam Fore came up there, and he got in the back seat of that Chevrolet, and we'd go down the road and Sam'd see a guy plowing that was going to be close to the fence by the time I got there. He'd say,

Woods -- II -- 14

"Wilton, stop that man when we get there and hurry up so we don't miss him." And he told Lyndon, he said, "Now, Lyndon, you jump that fence, give him a card and tell him that you're for Roosevelt, too, and that you're going to count on him. Now, don't waste a lot of time with one person. We've got too much ground to cover." Now, all that was good advice. Sam always preached to Lyndon, I never will forget it. We'd go into Elgin or Giddings or Brenham and he would say, "Now, Lyndon, we're going to stop on this edge of town and Wilton's going to go to the other edge. He's going to order us some hamburgers, and meanwhile we're going to be walking that-a-way." He said, "Now you go in every place of business between here and there, and you don't stop and shake hands with the guy behind the cash register. Pass him up. Go to the kitchen and talk to the hired help, because there's more of them. They'll listen better and they haven't committed themselves like the guy behind the cash register."

G: This was in the 1937 [campaign]?

W: Yes. Now, all that made sense, too. And he said, "Now, of course, on the way out, you stop and talk to the man behind the cash register, but don't give him preference over half a dozen guys back there that you can get to vote for you. That man behind the cash register, maybe you can get him." That made such an impression on me, I'll never forget it. That one person, one vote business, that lapped over a lot of times in LBJ's life. He was always shaking hands with elevator operators and even camel drivers in Pakistan.

Woods -- II -- 15

G: Let me ask you why LBJ left college at San Marcos to go teach at the Welhausen School in Cotulla.

W: He needed the money.

G: Did he? But he was working for President Evans.

W: Yes, but that was two-bits-an hour stuff.

G: Do you know how he got the job at Cotulla?

W: No, but if he'd heard of an opening and went down there and they hadn't filled it, well, you know him. He went after it.

G: I notice that he came back with a car, bought a car while he was down there. Do you recall any of the [details]?

W: He probably did, but I don't recall.

G: Did you ever go down there and visit him in Cotulla when he was there? Did he come back occasionally on the weekends?

W: Oh, yes. Nearly every weekend, it seemed like. Of course, I don't think it was that often.

G: How did he like teaching there, do you recall? Did he talk about it? Was he interested in it?

W: I think he liked it all right, considering that--well, he liked it because he'd had so few jobs in his life to compare it to. And he had a free hand doing what he wanted to do. That's the kind of people that live down there then and now, whatever the teacher wants to do, well, go ahead if they can raise the money.

G: Reportedly, he spent his first week's salary on athletic equipment, sporting equipment, for the children. Do you recall that?

W: No, I don't recall, but it sounds logical.

Woods -- II -- 16

G: Anything else on Cotulla?

W: No. Are you fixing to move to Houston now?

G: No.

W: Well, I didn't have a big lot to do with the Houston business. I knew George, Lyndon's uncle. They were real fond of each other. George was a bachelor and tall like Lyndon. He was more scholarly. He had gone to school, George had, out at Boulder, Colorado in the summertime, and Slat [Hollis] Frazer and I hitchhiked out there. We went with George out there and we had various soda-jerking jobs.

G: In Colorado?

W: Yes. And we hitchhiked on the way back, and [there are] a few things about that I'll never forget. [We met] a boy about my size and age; he was small, and he was from Tennessee, and his old shoes were wearing out, had a hole in them. Walking along the side of the road, that gravel was making his feet sore and wasn't getting any better. We'd traveled together three or four days. The boy was kind of like-- Walter Grady's daddy was a jeweler in Tennessee, and this kid's daddy was a jeweler, and in those days, it seemed like in the Depression there wasn't as much demand for jewelry as there is now. Anyway, this boy had some real nice rings, one of them a little diamond about half a carat, I think, or maybe a little bit larger, but it did have a tiny chip. You couldn't see it with a normal eye. So I had an extra pair of shoes, and I had two bags and he had one. I kept trying to trade him a pair of shoes for that diamond ring. "No, too much difference in value," he said. And he was right of course.

Woods -- II -- 17

But, anyway, we stayed all night in some little old cheap hotel, and the next morning his feet were sore. He had a hard time getting out of bed, shaving and getting ready to go. He said, "My feet are just killing me." And I said, "Here," and I gave him my shoes. He put them on, and he said, "Man, that feels good." I said, "Give me the ring." He handed it over. I brought it home, and I think my wife sold the ring or traded it for something else. Those were pretty good barter days. Not anybody had much money, but to get something like that, you could trade it for a pair of shoes instead of money.

G: What was Uncle George like?

W: Well, he wasn't like any of the Johnsons. He was tall and slender, and quiet and observing, and didn't talk very much. He was philosophical. When he had something to say, it meant something. He was a bachelor. I don't know why he never married, but he had helped Mrs. Hatcher--is that her name?

G: Yes. Jessie Hatcher.

W: --raise those kids. I went to his funeral. He's buried up there, and I never will forget this either. They opened the casket up Sunday afternoon, and Mrs. Hatcher came up and just talked right down to him like he was living about what a wonderful person he'd been to her and to her family. Real touching. So after that, they proceeded with the regular funeral, but the fact she was compelled to express herself there with those people listening, it was an outpouring of heartfelt feeling.

Woods -- II -- 18

G: He must have been well-liked.

W: Oh, yes. Never had a cross word for anybody, never. He was kind of a slow-moving fellow. Seems like his hair was kind of sandy red, kind of like Josefa's. She had kind of sandy-reddish hair. But if he had an enemy in the world, nobody ever heard of it.

G: Do you think he may have influenced LBJ to go into teaching?

W: He probably did.

G: Did LBJ ever talk about that?

W: No, but LBJ spent a good deal of time down with Uncle George and it just kind of came natural for him to get interested in what his uncle was doing, and this debating job came open, and I believe that's about all.

G: Did Uncle George ever talk to you about LBJ and their experiences together in Houston when they were both teaching at Sam Houston High?

W: I don't know. I spent quite a few weekends down there, and, of course, I got to know Uncle George as well as I had known Lyndon.

(Interruption)

G: Let me ask you about LBJ on the debate team. Do you recall how he became interested in debate?

W: I keep trying to connect it with this journalism business, but there wasn't necessarily any connection, I don't think. Well, they had that organization, which was debaters.

G: Is this the Harris-Blair [Literary Society].

W: Yes. I think probably that's the way it was.

Woods -- II -- 19

G: Did you ever go to any of the debates that he participated in on the team?

W: I'm not sure, but I don't remember any.

G: While you knew him in school, did he study debate or did he develop his case and work on it a lot? Was he really interested?

W: In college?

G: Yes.

W: I don't think so, but in high school at Houston man, he worked at it day and night down there.

G: What do you remember about that?

W: About the debate?

G: Yes.

W: Mainly him telling about it, who they'd debated and how it came out, and the hours it took in preparation and that kind of thing.

G: Now, his coach, I guess, was Professor Greene. Is that correct? What can you tell me about Professor Greene? Can you describe what he was like?

W: Well, he was homespun. Tobacco-chewing, had a spittoon beside his desk. Very plain-spoken about how the country was being run and what he thought was wrong with it and plain-spoken about everything, but a real likeable old fellow. He scolded my wife for not making me follow in LBJ's footsteps in this literary business like debate. I just wasn't turned that way, or didn't think I was.

G: He taught history, is that right? That was his field.

Woods -- II -- 20

W: Yes.

G: Did he have a specialty or a particular era that he focused on?

W: Well, he was real good on current events. He would come to eight o'clock class in the summertime when the sun was high in the sky at eight o'clock. He thought everybody ought to get up and read the paper before they came to class, and it kind of irritated him when they didn't. Of course, most of them didn't because they were too sleepy.

G: What were his politics?

W: He was real liberal in that--I tell you, my wife could rattle that off real good because she was real fond of Professor Greene and she talked to him a lot after hours. Of course, he became a White Star and was real proud of his membership. He was the first professor to [join], and we would talk at those meetings. I've got a real good picture of a group meeting, damn it, I can't find it. I've looked for it some more before you got here.

G: A picture of what?

W: White Stars.

G: Really?

W: It was taken--it was a meeting that seemed to have started in the afternoon and went on at night. But this picture was made in the afternoon at Hobson's house in San Marcos. But, anyway, Prof Greene then was a White Star here. He was all for it. Now, if it'd been something where he'd tried to join and they turned him down, he'd be all against it. (Laughter)

Woods -- II -- 21

G: Do you think that LBJ got some of his political ideas from Professor Greene?

W: I don't think he did. I think that down-to-earth ideas he got were from, I've mentioned them before, Sam Fore, Welly Hopkins and Wirtz. He got none from Ed Clark. I'm hepped on that right now.

(Laughter)

G: How would you contrast Professor Greene on the one hand and Dr. Robert Montgomery on the other?

W: Well, they were a whole lot alike. Professor Greene was more of the homespun--talked like people talked in the country. Well, of course, Robert Montgomery came from the country, too, but Robert Montgomery was more astute--it's hard to describe this. They had a lot of similarity, but the differences were pretty distinct. Of course, actually I never knew Robert Montgomery very well. His mother and my daddy were brothers and sisters, but he was always teaching at the University [of Texas] and we were in San Marcos and Robert had a bunch of brothers and sisters that were pretty jealous of him because he'd made good and they hadn't.

G: Let me ask you about some of LBJ's other teachers there at San Marcos. Do you recall Deacon Wright?

W: Oh, yes, real well.

G: How did he get along with Deacon Wright? Do you know?

W: Real fine.

G: Did he?

Woods -- II -- 22

W: One of the last unhurried visits I had with LBJ was on the banks of his swimming pool at the LBJ Ranch. It was after he'd had his heart attack when he was trying to decide whether to slow down or whether to go back to work and try to forget about his heart attack, which finally that's the course he took. But for a while, it seemed to bug him quite a bit, whether he ought to do that or [not]. I was up there, Mary Rather was secretary, and the majority leader of the Senate--it was Eisenhower, wasn't it, that had his heart attack when LBJ had his heart attack? Anyway, this majority leader--I'll think of his name as soon as you leave here--he wanted to move Fort Hood from Texas to Louisiana because those farmers--well, whoever was in charge of the department wanted to move it, because those farmers or ranchers up there were fussing about them tearing down their fences, disturbing their cattle and all that. Seems like Bruck was his name.

G: What?

W: Bruck, B-R-U-C-K, was secretary of defense. [Wilber Brucker was secretary of the army; Charles Wilson was secretary of defense.] Okay. Anyway, this man that was majority leader of the Senate, a Republican, had stayed all night there. I was up there, went through a handshaking line at San Marcos and Lyndon said, "I want to see you." And I said, "Anytime." He said, "Well, get with Mary and arrange a time," which I did. And I went up there and this Republican was just--they were just getting in the car, or fixing to get in the car and putting the suitcase in, and neither of them were actually in the car, to go to the airport at Fredericksburg. And Lyndon said, "Do you want to

Woods -- II -- 23

ride with us?" And I said, "No, I haven't visited with Mary in a long time. I'll stay here and keep her company." Mary Rather. Which I did. And it wasn't long till Lyndon came back. We had a some kind of real light lunch, and dietary--

G: For his [heart], yes. Protein, high protein.

W: And after lunch, we went out to the swimming pool, and he put a long reclining chair that he reclined in and he was telling me about this problem he had. Eisenhower'd already been through it. I said, "Well, Eisenhower stood it, and I'm a believer in staying busy. I think you'd be better off if you could let up on worrying about it and go on back to work in the Senate." Well, of course, I'm sure hundreds of other people told him the same thing. Anyway, he did.

But one of the things he asked about was Deacon Wright. He said, "What happened to old Deacon?" I said, "He offended Allan Shivers." I don't know whether Shivers was governor at the time or had just been governor.

G: He still was governor.

W: Oh, he was? Okay. Then I told him what Shivers had done. And I said, "In my opinion, the penalty of firing old Duke for that is too severe a penalty." And he said, "Yes, that sure is the truth." Anyway, Professor Wright got fired for stepping on Allan Shivers' toes. So he went on back to Arkansas or wherever he came from up there.

About that time it was getting along three o'clock in the afternoon, and I just knew he wanted me to come up there to get some

Woods -- II -- 24

special assignment. I said, "Well, Lyndon, give me that assignment, what you want me to do, and I'll get out of the way and go on back to Seguin." And he said, "This is one time I don't have any special assignment. I just wanted to visit." And so I wasn't in too big of a hurry to leave then.

He talked some more about his efforts to save Fort Hood, which he did, of course.

G: How did he do it? Do you recall?

W: Through this majority leader, because I think they'd already had everything set in Washington to move.

[End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview II]

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

Legal Agreement Pertaining to the Oral History Interviews of Wilton and Virginia Woods

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 44, United States Code and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, We, Wilton and Virginia Woods of Seguin, Texas do hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America all our rights, title and interest in the tape recordings and transcripts of the personal interviews conducted on December 6, 1979 and April 20, May 4, and June 10, 1982 in Seguin, 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 the tape recordings may be deposited in or loaned to institutions other than the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.



Donor

April 18, 1983

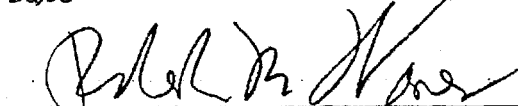
Date



Donor

April 18, 1983

Date



Archivist of the United States

May 9, 1983

Date