

United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D. C.

April 11, 1959

Dear Virginia:

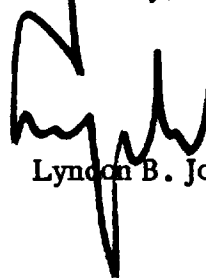
I don't believe that any man is "in the running" unless his feet are moving toward the White House. My feet are not moving in that direction and they are not going to do so.

But I certainly do appreciate your belief that I have the qualities you ascribe to me. I hope that this can be a world in which differences are settled by negotiation and diplomacy rather than bombs and bullets. And I think that our salvation lies in reason rather than in hot tempers.

In this world of bickering and strife it is very pleasant to have good friends like you and Aubrey who understand the things I am trying to do.

Lady Bird joins me in warm regards.

Sincerely,



Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
TEXAS

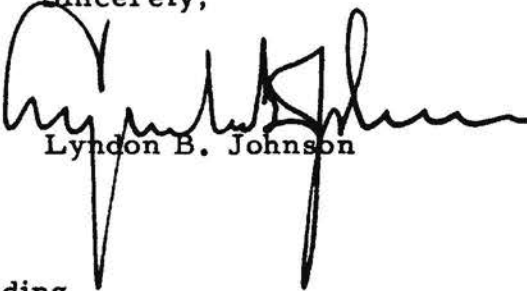
United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D. C.  
February 6, 1960

Dear Virginia:

Thanks ever so much for your letter. I agree with you that people can be appealed to on the basis of positive programs -- overcoming poverty, opening up new opportunity, and making the American system of freedom work.

Lady Bird joins me in very warm regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Lyndon B. Johnson", written in a cursive style.

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Virginia Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D. C.

March 16, 1960

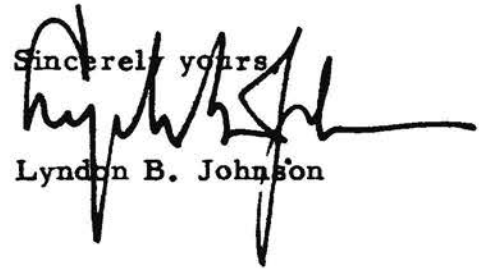
Dear Virginia:

Busy, yes, but never too busy to read a letter from you. Visiting with you and Mrs. White was really my pleasure and I am glad she was able to come up with you.

Thanks for the editorial. I appreciate your thoughtfulness -- and the confidence you have expressed in me. I want to do everything I can to be worthy of your friendship.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

  
Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
TEXAS

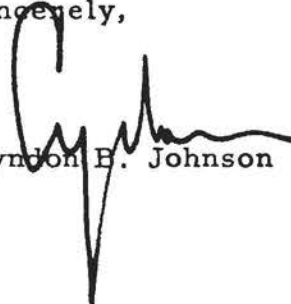
United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D. C.  
June 27, 1960

Dear Virginia:

Thanks for sending me the paper. I'll file and keep it handy in case.

It is certainly good to know how much you understand and sympathize with the things I am trying to do, and Lady Bird joins me in affectionate regards.

Sincerely,



Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molten Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D.C.  
June 29, 1960

Dear Virginia:

Many thanks for your letter. It was good to hear from you.

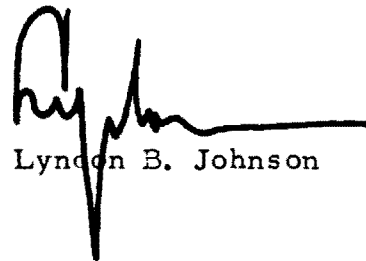
I am sorry you couldn't fight your way through the Texas ladies to say hello, but I realize they were hovering pretty close.

I was very interested in your comments about your trip to New York, I am sure you know I appreciate your continuing support; it really means a lot to me. I am deeply grateful for anything you do on my behalf.

I know you will keep in touch with me.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Lyndon B. Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Virginia Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D. C.  
Free

Mrs. Virginia Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama



Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson  
4921 - 30th Place, N. W.  
Washington 8, D. C.

August 27, 1960

Dear Cliff and Virginia:

How nice to hear from you  
across the span of years! We still keep  
in touch with Aubrey Williams and I hope  
so much I'll get to see you if I ever get  
to Alabama again!

Affectionately *Lyndon*  
*LBJ*

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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September 28, 1960

Dear Virginia:

How I did enjoy hearing from you -- even though what you say about Alabama does sound foreboding. Lyndon and I will be coming through there October 13 on a whistle-stop tour that I hope will include as many places as humanly possible from one end of the state to the other.

We don't have the schedule as yet but I am sure the papers will carry it, and I do yearn to look out and see your face and Cliff's in the crowd at whatever place you can be in, and at least clasp your hands.

Obviously, this isn't the thorough coverage I would like, but with fifty states and few days this is the best we can do.

With love and hope that we can get together at some quieter time,

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

*Lady Bird*



United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D.C.

October 6, 1960

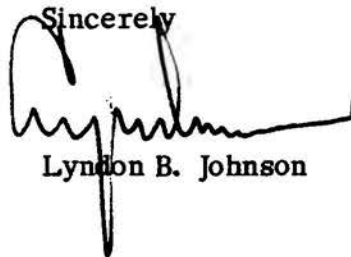
Dear Virginia:

Thanks for writing me and telling me so frankly the "lay of the land" as you see it in Alabama. Your personal appraisal and that Bob Duke piece you sent along are helpful in sizing up our strengths and weaknesses.

I sure hope things work out so we can get together when I am down your way. You know, of course, that as far as scheduling is concerned, I have to leave those arrangements to others. But I will be looking out for you and listening for that "hollering."

I'm so proud of Bird and I know you are.

Sincerely



Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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L.A. Bird

November 2, 1960

Dear Virginia:

Thank you for your letters that come from time to time, and the clippings I see from Alabama that I know you send. Hopping and skipping across the country as we do, I don't have too much chance to write but I do enjoy reading all the correspondence that I find at the ranch or the Washington house when we stop for a weekend.

The turning point in the campaign seemed to me to be first apparent as we started on the whistle-stop and became increasingly more pronounced each day. Ever since, wherever we go around the United States we are sensing a Democratic victory.

Lyndon joins me in sending best wishes to you and Cliff.

Fondly,

*Lady Bird*

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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United States Senate  
Office of the Democratic Leader  
Washington, D. C.  
November 17, 1960

Dear Cliff and Virginia:

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in writing to me. I appreciate your messages and I hope that I can always conduct myself in such a way as to justify your words.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

  
Lyndon B. Johnson

Hon. and Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton St. Bldg.  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson  
4921 - 30th Place, N. W.  
Washington 8, D. C.

April 8, 1961

Dear Virginia:

I was shocked -- and grieved -- to hear about the editorial on Mr. Justice Black in the Advertiser. No matter how thick a skin one in public life grows, things of this kind cut deep.

The Senate Ladies Red Cross group has scheduled the annual luncheon for the President's wife on April 25th. So I am going to be busy here on the day of the Tuskegee Institute dinner for Mrs. Roosevelt. Lyndon and I do hope to be at a dinner in her honor on May 30th, I believe it is in New York.

Love from all of us.

Bird

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MRS. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

May 1, 1961

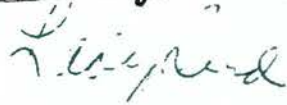
Dear Virginia,

As you probably know by now, Lyndon is unable to be in Birmingham for the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner on the 12th of May. No one seems to know exactly how word got out that he would be there, because his schedule is such that he just could not make the trip. I'm disappointed, because I would so love a nice long, uninterrupted chat with you.

I'm distressed to think Mrs. Roosevelt would not have more of a reception in the state I think of as my second home, and can only hope you were pleasantly surprised.

With fond regards to you and Cliff.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery, Alabama

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MRS. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

June 2, 1961

Dear Virginia,

Thanks for telling me about Aubrey. I have written him a letter. I do hope he is going to be all right -- certainly, his strong spirit will be working in his favor!

It is excruciating to see that the trouble in Alabama has come physically close enough to you to have your car burned.

With fond regards to you and Cliff.

As ever,

Bird

Mrs. Clifford Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery, Alabama

Friday night we  
dropped by a  
testimonial dinner for  
Thurman Arnold --  
saw Mr. Justice Black  
who looked spry and  
young, and lots of  
people you know.

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THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1961

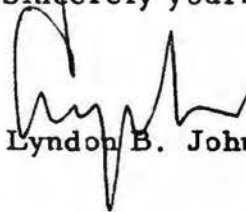
Dear Virginia:

Thanks very much for telling me about Aubrey.  
I am very sorry to hear about the situation and  
I will write to him at once.

Just keep me informed.

Warm regards.

Sincerely yours,



Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Virginia Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON



*Lyndon B. Johnson*  
VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Virginia Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama



THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

September 1, 1961

Dear Virginia:

If there is any word at all about Aubrey, just write or wire me at my office. It will get to me, as he is very much in my mind.

Miracles are still possible, but whatever happens, I think all of us can look back on his lifetime with the feeling that he was a man of great heart and rare courage.

Sincerely yours,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

TRANSFERRED TO HANDWRITING FILE

THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON



Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama





THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

September 8, 1961

Dear Virginia:

Lady Bird has passed your letter on to me and, as always, I'm very happy to have your thinking. However, I don't believe that any important changes can be made in the Civil Rights Commission legislation this year.

It is difficult to secure Congressional action on any aspect of this problem. We have to do the best that we can with what is available. But I hope that someday we can go forward in a sensible manner.

With warm regards.

Sincerely yours,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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MRS. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

March 14, 1963

Dear Virginia:

Lyndon and I had the delightful pleasure of meeting Peter Taft last night. I had put his name on my list of "attractive young men to have out", but didn't think it would be quite so soon!

We had a birthday party for Lindy Boggs and her very attractive daughter Barbara brought Peter as her escort. He is really a charming young man, and is certainly a great admirer of the Durrs.

There is no need to protect our phone number so carefully -- it is in the phone book as it has been all our years in Washington -- just don't give it to anyone who likes to call at two a.m. //

Fondly,

Bird

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Mrs. Clifford Durr  
Box 2173  
Montgomery, Alabama

I've written Aubrey  
but not knowing how  
desperately ill he might  
be - or how he might  
want it talked about  
in Maudlin fashion - it  
was just a casual "missing  
we're thinking about you" letter



MRS. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

December 2, 1963

Dear Virginia:

I believe very strongly with Lyndon that in the memorial to John Kennedy we should all work to establish -- and it is something each of us can do -- is banishing the venom and hatred that poisons our country. We, too, have been horrified by the reaction of a few; but, Virginia, if you could read the mail which has been pouring into Lyndon and to me it would lift your spirit and make you proud. So many, many people say that they want to rededicate themselves to live each day a little bit better. These sentiments, plus the confidence of friends like you both all around the globe, help give Lyndon courage and strength for the task that lies ahead.

With love to you and Cliff.

TOOK TO HANDWRITING FILE

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Moulton Street  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

Affectionately,  
Lady Bird  
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson  
We had a good  
evening with  
Avis and Jay  
a few nights  
ago!



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 24, 1964

Dear Virginia:

I adored seeing your daughter in Pennsylvania, and am so glad she wrote you about it. Admittedly, I am a bit overwhelmed by her description of me!

I know you and Cliff are going to have a marvelous trip, and I don't know of anyone who would profit by it more. Do write me about your experiences!

With best wishes,

Fondly,

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
17 Molton Street Building  
Montgomery 4, Alabama

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Bird  
Yes, I'd adore  
to see you to  
my dearest  
- only being  
out of town on  
something that  
would prevent or  
let me know  
when



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1964

Dear Virginia,

Your interesting and newsy letter unfortunately did not reach me until I came back from Georgia. It was really a terribly rewarding trip.

What a shame the week of the convention was so crowded for me I couldn't single out any one group to do something particular for -- I shook hands with most of the 3,000 Saturday reception guests and to my delight at least two of them spoke about being your friend.

I have ordered the book you suggest for the girls and myself -- thank you so much for your helpfulness.

Fondly,

Lady Bird

Mrs. Virginia Durr  
Box 2173  
Montgomery, Alabama

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 15, 1964

Dear Virginia:

Thanks so much for your periodic reports. They are fascinating and keep us tied to the grass roots.

Affectionately,

  
Elizabeth Carpenter  
Press Secretary and Staff  
Director to Mrs. Johnson

Mrs. Virginia Durr  
Box 2173  
Montgomery, Alabama

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 3, 1964

Dear Mrs. Durr:

Just a note to tell you that the Southeastern States Workshop for the League of Women Voters will be taking a Special Tour of the White House.

Thanks so much for keeping us posted on things like this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bess".

Bess Abell  
Social Secretary

Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
311 Montgomery Street  
Montgomery 4, Alabama



XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY  
If you like the idea of the Bird and Sister piece let me know  
and I will see if I can get it over as I want to.

CLIFFORD J. DURR  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
311 MONTGOMERY STREET  
MONTGOMERY 4, ALABAMA

Thursday

Dearest Maggie:

I am terribly pleased you liked the piece. I have been trying for so long to say something about "Southern Womanhood" and hope I am finally getting to the point.

The world is so full of "unreason" and it has to be accepted and go on from there, and I think Southern women have grown up with "unreason" and have gone on from there. They have not lived in a rational world and of course some of them have become equally "unreasonable" but for the most part I think they have sighed, accepted it, and gone on to the essentials that have to be done.

Lady Bird typified it by the simple act of coming in from the funeral of President Kennedy (certainly his death was one of the greatest possible acts of "unreason") and as she walked in her house, she began pulling off her hat and gloves to go to the kitchen to see if there was enough fried chicken to go around and how many women have come in from burying their dead and gone to frying chicken so the survivors could be fed. It is the emphasis on the immediate necessity, putting aside their fears and terrors and grief. I think they may have learned this acceptance of necessity from the Negro women who had to accept "unreason" (even to the point of seeing their own children go) and go on living and providing for the living. I don't think they have expected enough, either the white or the colored <sup>women</sup>, but I do think they have learned how to save the world of what will be left of it after the men blow it up. What do you think about a title "They Brought Fire With the Mountain" which goes on in the Bible. (I



of course don't know chapter and verse) which goes as I remember it,  
"How Beautiful Upon the Mountain ~~are~~ the Feet of those who bring  
<sup>glad</sup> good<sup>?</sup> tidings".

Here was my sister married to a man who was a member of the  
KKK and he becomes one of the chief legal bulwarks of integration,  
as a Supreme Court Justice.  
Here was Bird whose husband took part in every filibuster there  
was- went through the same old procedure of orating nonsense every  
time, and he turns out as President of the United States and gets  
the Civil Rights Bill through. I know in my sister's case that she  
was closely bound by love to a number of Negro women, from her very  
earliest babyhood, and as you said in your "PROGRESSIVE" piece, it  
was love, no matter how much the "new Negro" derides it, and she suffered  
~~for~~ <sup>and with</sup> the Negroes, it was not any intellectual exercise on her part of  
reason and right and law and order, it was identification, she suffered  
with them, not for them, because she loved them, and I know the same  
is true in Bird's case, she was raised by a Negro woman after her  
mother died, and she loved her, and she suffered with the Negroes and  
for them too, and in the midst of filibuster, KKK, and all of the  
usual Southern oratory and spouting off about pure, white Southern  
womanhood, they simply went on and did what they had to do and loved  
their husbands and children ~~and~~ <sup>But</sup> never admitted their ~~husbands~~  
husbands were right, accepted it but never gave in. AND THEY CHANGED  
THEM. Of course neither husband will like it, that is a problem, shall  
we consider their feelings? What do you think?

Lots of love, Va.

I ~~am~~ so pleased you liked the piece.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1967

Dear Virginia:

That was an absolutely dear letter! I think a tape recording by you would add warmth and dimension to the story of our lives. I am going to mention it to Dr. Bahmer.

We saw Hugo the other night. He still has the spirit and verve despite the lengthening years. You will be glad to hear that Kittie Mae is still leading a very active and happy life -- playing bridge, taking trips and being with her grandchildren. Though much of the real substance of it must have gone out with Senator Wirtz' death.

I remember meeting Mrs. Livingston when she helped on the exhibit cases at the Boyhood Home in Johnson City. She is a delightful person.

With much love to you and Cliff,

Mrs. Clifford Durr  
2 Felder Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama

P.S. - later

Lady Bird

Tex and Wiskie came  
to dinner for the 1st  
and then we had another  
quiet and very happy visit  
with just Tex a few nights ago





Cliff

*Stonewall, Texas*

April 23, 1973

Dear Virginia:

The mail has been mountainous, it is true, but I have been greatly touched by the many ways in which people express their sympathy. Some of the most wonderful letters are from strangers, recalling an incident, a contact, with Lyndon -- what he said, the impression he left with them, or some action that affected their lives for the better. They will be treasures for Lynda and Luci and a better source than history books for their children to know Lyndon's goodness.

I keep reminding myself that he lived sixty-four years of usefulness. What more could a person ask? And, how grateful I am to have shared thirty-eight of those years with him!

The story in the Washington paper that I would be living in Washington was inaccurate. Lynda and Chuck have bought some property there for a home later on, but the only plans I have for a homeplace are the LBJ Ranch and a little apartment we have had for many, many years in Austin when we wanted to spend the night. After everything levels off and I am able to call some time my own, I hope to travel once or twice a year to places I have never been and to some that call me back.

Yes, I do have copies of Lyndon's recent letters to you, and he would show me the letters from you and Cliff as they came in. They, along with all of his other correspondence and papers, are carefully preserved at the Library for all time to come. The professional archivists are

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slowly reviewing everything before it is made public and available to researchers, except Mary Rather and Mildred Stegall will screen all of his personal papers. They are not archivists, but Lyndon thought because of their long association with him, their knowledge of so much of his life and his associations, that they would best understand how to handle those papers. It will take years before all of this is accomplished.

Thank you for your letter of February and all the sweet thoughts about Lyndon and for us. I hope that Cliff has continued to improve and is feeling really, really good now.

With much affection for both of you,

Sincerely, *and always*  
*devotedly*  
*Bia*





LAG Ranch

*Stonewall, Texas*

May 31, 1973

Dear Mrs. Durr:

As Mrs. Johnson was hurriedly leaving the office today to attend the University of Texas Board of Regents meeting in Galveston, she asked me to tell you how much she appreciated your letter of May twenty-third. As always, she enjoyed being brought up to date on all your news.

Mrs. Johnson has taken steps to have Elizabeth Black invited to the commencement exercises at the University of Virginia on Sunday. She thanks you for your thoughtfulness and hopes that Mrs. Black will be able to come.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Carole Bryant  
Secretary to  
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

2313 RED RIVER

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

July 9, 1973

Mrs. Virginia Foster Durr  
Box 300 G, Route 4  
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

Dear Mrs. Durr:

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I want to extend our appreciation to you for becoming a charter sustaining member of the Friends of the LBJ Library.

As our procedures develop, you will be hearing from us about the activities -- which you are helping to make possible -- that will perpetuate the hopes President Johnson had for his Library.

To launch your membership, you will receive a copy of LBJ: Images Of A Vibrant Life, a book about President Johnson which has just been published by the Friends of the LBJ Library.

If at any time you have any questions concerning the organization or the Library itself, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,



Harry J. Middleton  
Executive Director







EAQ:Rush

*Stonewall, Texas*

September 17, 1973

Dear Cliff and Virginia:

What a delightful interlude your sweet and newsy letter brought, telling of your summer plans and trip to England, Scotland and Salzburg.

Although it arrived before I departed for Europe with Lynda and Chuck, I am just now delving into a mountain of mail that has awaited my return. I do hope you will forgive the over long delay in writing you. How I hope your visit in Europe was fun-filled and a happy one.

Thank you for your dear comments about my commencement address at the University of Virginia. I am pleased to send you a copy of that address.

I am also delighted to know you have become members of the Friends of the LBJ Library. Thank you, thank you -- for your heartwarming contribution and membership in our new organization.

With worlds of appreciation and all affectionate regards,

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*Burd*

*Do think you were in London  
when I was there - July 6-15!  
I would so have loved seeing  
you - and I greeted you to Salzburg  
and shared my two days there.*

*Santa Elena  
Gomez*



CAJ 2-10-73

November 12, 1973

*Stonewall, Texas*

Dear Virginia:

Thank you so much, Virginia, for sending the clipping. I do not have a clipping service and I only chance to see them on a hit or miss basis.

I have passed your idea about a Symposium on National Health Insurance on to the University committee which plans and organized the Symposia held at the Library. There will be one Symposium a year, and the subject for the one for 1974 has already been selected. Health was a major interest of Lyndon's and the Library is bursting with papers which hold the story of his efforts in health in those years. I believe that sometime this will be the subject of one of our conclaves, and National Health Insurance will have an important part in it.

I've just returned from a visit to Lynda and Chuck in Richmond, combined with a meeting in Washington, D.C. about the LBJ Memorial Grove, and a trip to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and finally ending with a stop in Houston. There I ran into our mutual friend, Red James, now a Judge. We had a happy talk.

Much love,

*Lady Bird*

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LAJ Rives

November 29, 1973

*Monterey, Texas*

Dear Virginia:

Your letters are always like a breath of Spring. I love reading them and knowing how involved you are with the world. Next week I have plans to meet with a group of students from the LBJ School of Public Affairs -- I hope their interest and commitment to national concerns will be at least half as strong as yours!

Thank you for your thoughts and your kindness. I have written Judge Rives, and send you my love.

*Bud*

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LA 42 Ranch

January 29, 1974

*Stonewall, Texas*

Dear Virginia:

A letter from you, so full of life and interests and activities, is always welcome, and never more so than during last week when so many memories were stirring.

I was interested to hear about your projects and sorry I can't be encouraging about that invitation. My Washington trips are so hurried and brimming over before and after. So please understand and know how nice it is anytime to hear from you... and especially now.

Sincerely,

*Devotedly*  
*Bina*

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*Between the Board of Regents,  
my amazing amount of mail  
and my proliferating Committee  
projects I am heartlessly busy!*

# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

2313 RED RIVER AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

Dear Friend of the LBJ Library:

As we commemorate the first anniversary of the Friends of the LBJ Library, we can look back with satisfaction on a very successful beginning year. The organization has grown to include 1,000 members who are contributing to important Library projects.

Through your membership in the "Friends," you have in this past year helped to bring distinguished speakers to the Library, provided tour guides, and given research grants to scholars for study in the Library. Your participation has enabled the Library to become more than a depository for presidential papers -- it has furthered President Johnson's goal of making this institution a national center for discussion and understanding of critical issues facing the country.

It is now time to renew your Charter Membership in the "Friends." Enclosed is your Membership Card for the coming year. We hope you will return your annual donation in the enclosed envelope.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, your continuing contribution is warmly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mike Naeve  
Associate Director

Enclosures



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NO. 3141  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

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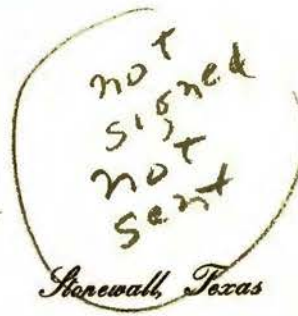
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford J. Durr  
Box 300G, Route 4  
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092





LBJ Ranch

July 16, 1974



Dear Virginia:

I enjoyed your newsy letter, as I always do, and see that your life stays as busy and full as mine does. Among our common interests are our daughters and grandchildren. Luci has just had another little girl who has been named Rebecca.

About those letter copies, we will be more than pleased to have any and every item you would like to send for the LBJ Library collection. That is one of my concentrations this year, helping to build up the holdings here for historians, and you will help us in that direction with any contributions you can make.

Kitty Mae now lives in Rochester, Minnesota, near her daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. James Cain. It is always a pleasure to have word from her and the memory-stirrings that come with them.

The same goes for you, so thanks again for writing and for that generous invitation. One day, perhaps, I'll be able to take you up on a nice offer like that.

Fondly,

Clifford J. Durr  
Box 300G Route Four  
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

July 8th, 1974

Dearest Bird:

Thank you for the pictures and books which I prize very much indeed. I am collecting all of yours and Lyndon's letters and wonder if you want copies? I am turning over everything of public interest to the Alabama Archives, who are now very much interested in all the historical material they can get on the Civil Rights struggle, the Johnson and Black achievements and yet while it was taking place, they did not show any interest at all!

I was so disappointed I did not get to Washington for the Movie but with four daughters and nine grandchildren, my time is often not my own, but I love having them. Lulah and her husband were here all the month of June, he is an interne at the Birmingham Medical Center and they are just settled in an apartment in Birmngham. It is wonderful having them so close.

I know you refuse to comment or take action on political matters but I am enclosing this account of George Wallace's political plans to show you how dangerous his plans are for any kind of come back for the Democratic Party. George is NOT A DEMOCRAT, never has been really except at the beginning, he is a rule or ruin person, if he is not the head and center, he will spoil it, and that is what he did in 1972, he came into the Democratic Party as a spoiler and succeeded in doing a great deal of damage and I think he is planning the same thing in 1976, if he lives. Cornelia is a Folsom and I think a Democrat, but the crowd around him are simply leeches and want him to do whatever brings in the most money.

What makes me so mad is that at times he claims the mantle of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Hugo Black AND LYNDON B. JOHNSON, just a good ole country boy like Hugo and Lyndon who is touched with genius! or a cripple like FDR, who was also touched with genius. If I thought he had anything of any of them in him, I would not be so frightened of his influence, but I think he is for one thing alone which is power for George Wallace, which means the leeches around him run the State and steal the money, while he is the front man and "FRIEND OF THE LITTLE MAN" but getting his money mostly from the Big Rich in Texas, who are not and never were Democrats, as you very well know. I will never forget Kitty Mae's friends! in Austin. Where and how is Kitty Mae? Is she still living? She was such a sweet woman and Alvin too, I think he thought Lyndon was his son the only son he ever had.

Lots of love and come to Alabama when you can. We would love to have you. We will be home most of the Summer but I hope to get to Martha's Vineyard in August but Cliff won't go. I love it, but he does not like it at all, even 'though two of our daughters and most of the grandchildren will be there. Love again. Va

V A.



LAG Ranch

January 9, 1975

Stonewall, Texas

Dear Virginia:

What a marvelous way to begin the New Year!  
I would simply adore to see you, and I am so happy to  
know you're coming to Austin.

You must save at least two days for a stay at  
the Ranch with me, and I would love to be your guide  
through the Library while you're here. Since I must  
make an important trip early in February, and I may  
go to Mexico for a couple of weeks immediately there-  
after, anytime between January 25th and January 28th  
would be best for me. Hopefully, this will fit into  
your schedule.

Do let me know your plans. I am so looking  
forward to seeing you!

Sincerely, ~~and~~  
 Lovingly  
 Lady Bird

TRANSFERRED TO HANDWRITING FILE





January 22, 1975

Stonewall, Texas

Dear Virginia:

As always, I enjoyed your letter -- but I'm sorry you can't be here the weekend of January 25th because I had ~~planned some fun things~~ carved out some time to spend with you. But, I want so much to see you when you come, and I am going to hold February 25th and 26th for a visit with you and Cliff. Is that all right? Do let me know so I won't let anything get in our way.

You are a dear to offer copies of your correspondence with Hugo and Lyndon to the LBJ Library, and we would just adore to have them! They would be a most welcome addition, and I would be so grateful to you.

Virginia, as you know, my first allegiance is to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and all of my original correspondence is in its custody. At this point, I have not officially turned over my papers to the Library, but this will be done in the future and I simply couldn't part with any of my originals. Since you said that copies would not do for the Schlesinger

January 22, 1975

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Library at Radcliffe, I regret that we can't be of help to you.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely, Lou

Lady Bird

I hope you'll do an oral  
taper on those early days  
we know each other while  
you're here. Also I course I'd  
love to get the Berwick  
and the St. John Harwood  
for dinner with us one  
night.

Clifford J. Durr  
Box 300G Route Four  
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

March 17th, 1975

Dear Dr. Middleton:

Thank you for your letter. Yes indeed, I would love to have the originals of the Johnson letters, but Bird said she did not want them to be deposited anywhere except in the Johnson Library, and we had planned to give them to the Alabama Archives along with all of the rest of our papers, or send them to the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, where there is a collection in my name, the Virginia Foster Durr Collection.

This is due to my word for the franchise, against the Poll Tax and against segregation, which Lyndon brought finally to a successful and triumphant conclusion. After years and years!

Therefore I want to be sure that Bird agrees that they could go either to the Alabama Archives or to the Radcliffe Library eventually?

We did enjoy our visit to Texas, especially Austin and the Ranch, but Dallas left a bad taste which I still feel. Cliff was on three radio call-in programs, and I never heard such a collection of kooks, anti semites, nazis, racists, and just plain crazy people in my life. I really was shocked beyond words. We have some of them here but not so many and I am very much afraid these people are going to elect Wallace, they are all his followers, in spite of his professions of change, which I do not believe. The contrast between Dallas and Austin is startling.

I was very much interested in talking to Lucy and to Mary Rather on the evening of the dinner party, when they both told me the same thing, of Lyndon's anguish during the last years of his Presidency. I wonder if either or both of them have been taped, or is this too private? It corresponds with my idea of Lyndon, whom I always thought was a man of deep feeling, which he often tried to cover over but did not always succeed. His life long devotion and dependence and admiration for Bird was one of the most devoted love affairs I have ever witnessed and the picture of him as a ruthless, autocratic dictator is entirely opposite from my memories of him. I wonder if we made that plain on the tape and on the radio interview with the LBJ radio station? Did you hear it? I think our fondness for Lyndon, our admiration for his great qualities and our appreciation for what he did for the South is made more believable because we disagreed with him on the War, very much so.

Mr. Gillette said we were the first "Southern Liberals" who had made a tape about him with so much admiration and affection, and I think this is sad as I think Lyndon freed the South, as Lincoln freed the slaves, completed the job.

Let me know what Bird says about the letters and we would be delighted to have the originals. Sincerely, Virginia Durr

*Virginia Durr*



Mrs  
Clifford J. Durr  
Box 300G Route Four  
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

March 31, 1975

Dear Mr. Middleton:

Thank you for sending us the article by Mr. Williams. We had read most of it in "Southern Voices" and we do not agree with it. We knew both men and think there was very little connection between Lyndon and Huey Long, although both of them tried to help the poor people of the South and did.

But the big difference was that Huey had no respect for the political process and Lyndon loved it. Huey ruled by fear and terror and was a dictator and Lyndon had the highest respect for the political process and used it to the fullest and I certainly do not think he was in any way a Dictator.


I think Lyndon made errors of judgment and we never agreed with him on the War, as my letters will tell if you have them, but while we thought he was wrong about the War and still do, we think he was lied to and misled by the Kennedy people he inherited, and what is coming out about the CIA, certainly shows he based his judgments on wrong information furnished him. But Lyndon was never a dictator in any way that I know of, he was a politician to his finger tips and was simply passionate about the whole political process. I am enclosing a clipping which shows so clearly what I believe I said both in the broadcast and in the interview, that whatever Lyndon's mistakes may have been, he will be remembered because he freed the South a second time and certainly the Negroes feel it as this will show, and I think more and more white people are beginning to realize what he did for them.

I think he and my brother in law, Hugo Black, were responsible for taking the awful burdens of segregation and disenfranchisement off of the South and it is for this they will be remembered and for the fight for free speech as well.

We still have a long way to go to get a just society in this country, but while the South was a rotten borough and could distort and nullify the political process, there was not much hope, but now that the South is free I hope there is hope, although when I see Wallace leading the polls, I get discouraged as I think he is a very dangerous man, like Huey Long he has no respect for people or for the political process.

We appreciate what you send us and are very much interested in it. We enjoyed meeting you and hope to see you and Mrs. Middleton again. Give our regards to Mike Gillette as well. Also Mary Rather if she is still there. Please send me the name of Mrs. Johnson's Secretary? I cannot find it and want to send her a request which I do not want to bother Bird about.

Sincerely yours,

  
Virginia Durr

Clifford J. Durr  
Box 300G Route Four  
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

*Dorothy  
Smith*

April 30th, 1975

Dear Mr. Middleton:

Thank you for your very nice letter. I do indeed disagree that Lyndon and Huey were alike. In the first place I always thought Lyndon was a gentleman, he acted like one when I saw him and I know his Mother was a lady. Huey was decidedly not a gentleman in any sense of the word - in fact I think he was a would be dictator. He was also extremely vulgar in his language, his habits (scratching and picking and rubbing himself all the time) his clothes, which were as loud as could be and his private life was not one to be admired to put it mildly. The only thing in which I think they ~~were~~ alike is that they tried to help the poor folks.

The Black caucus of the Alabama Democratic Party had a big meeting and Dinner on Saturday night where the Lyndon Baines Johnson Freedom Award was given to Dr. C. G. Gomillion of Tuskegee Institute, who was a pioneer in the right to vote struggle. I sent the clippings to Bird and I hope you write and get the full program and speech as I think they would be an addition to the collection. What I believe about Lyndon is that he is going down in History as the man who finally did free the South from its terrible historical burden of guilt and shame and segregation and disenfranchisement, and he was a Southern man himself which made it so much better. Also he did it by political means, and even if he is accused of "arm twisting" it seems a small charge compared to the horrors of the Civil War and the devastation and ruin that resulted from it. I do prefer politics to War!

As for the letters! Naturally the Alabama Archives wants them badly, and I have turned over to them the copies and a lot of correspondence with a five year proviso before it is opened. I think Hugo Black and Lyndon shared in the fight to free the South and the Alabama Archives are trying to build up a Hugo Black collection, and naturally they want everything of his they can get, but he left his papers to the Library of Congress and Lyndon left his to the Library there at the University of Austin and so perhaps they had better rest there. The main thing is I want to do what Bird wants, as I feel she is the one who has been the heir to Lyndon's life and accomplishments, and whether they are there or in the Archives of Alabama makes no great difference to me. I am pleased and proud that Lyndon wrote me before he died, (and I am sure you have a copy of that letter) that I had been of some influence on his thinking, that is enough for me! Personally I have left my personal letters or most of them to the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe as my first revolt came against the myth of "Southern Womanhood" and this is a Library that contains the records of women and we are still struggling! Still have a long way to go to be equal or free.

Sincerely yours,

*Virginia Durr*  
Virginia Durr