

2136 R Street, N.W.
Washington 8, D.C.
January 11, 1944

Dear Lyndon:

Plans for a "Save Rayburn" campaign in Texas should be made at once, and started actively in Texas soon.

Rayburn is growing as a supreme liberal figure in Texas as certain other political Texas figures become bunched in conservatism and down-right Party rebellion against Roosevelt and Rayburn.

The liberal forces in Texas need a slogan and a man to rally round for the 1944 campaign. It is Rayburn without doubt.

The technic of 1940 in which we raised funds almost entirely in Texas for your work in the Congressional campaign, is the basis for the 1944 effort, but the technic should be broadened and made more personally behind Rayburn. The rough outline is:

Rayburn has fought for his country and his President. As a result, he has many enemies in Texas who normally would be his friends. Many former friends hate Roosevelt first and Hitler second, and are beginning to hate Rayburn third and want him defeated. They would even beat him in his own district if they could. Wall Street Republicans will join with Dallas, and Houston Democrats of the type to put up money to beat Rayburn behind some Roosevelt hater of Greenville, if they see any chance--if Rayburn's friends don't act quickly and organize and finance and scare the hell out of the anti-Roosevelt gang.

And of course, while we shall admit no danger to Rayburn coming back to Washington, we shall use in Texas the fact that the liberal Rayburn is the rallying point for all Texas liberals who are interested in national affairs and expect to attend the Democratic Convention.

The political argument will be that Rayburn will go back to Congress, that Roosevelt is a ten to one bet among Wall Street gamblers now against the Republican field of Dewey, Wilkie and MacArthur, and that if Roosevelt is that strong the boys who expect to see Rayburn in his office 1944-48 had better line up and have their noses counted.

Rayburn, the Congressman, is sure; Rayburn, the minority leader,

is of relatively small value to Texas; Rayburn, the Speaker, is the biggest asset Texas can have in the next four years as the country goes from war to peace conversion. If Texas is to have its war plant used for jobs instead of having the keys turned by sale to northern interests who don't want competing plants in the south, it is time to ring the bell and get the gang going just exactly as in 1940.

The only thing we may expect to have in danger in November is the lower House. If we lose Texas, it is a gone duck and northern Republican leadership will make the tax laws, sell the war plants, and sit on the job when the men who built the war plants come to Washington on the renegotiation and to bid for peace time government jobs.

If I may help, I suggest the guts of this letter be put into news and editorial form. I think the Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, the Hart and the Pentress papers, all be sold by direct contact by you, and that a "Save Rayburn" publicity committee be named from among active Texas resident publishers rather than from those of us who live and work in Washington.

It will be hard to get a finance committee such as we had in 1940 because our old gang is too mad at Roosevelt to carry on. We shall have to broaden the financial field. We shall have to pick up a lot of little money after a big campaign.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Marsh

Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson,
Washington, D.C.

January 11, 1944

Note to LBJ:

I believe Rayburn is now strong enough with the President to have you named Chairman of the National Committee if Walker resigns. If Walker stays you should be named Vice, Chairman and do the work out of New York because someone has to intelligently use the three million dollars which will be raised for the big show, and if we have another Flynn deal, there won't be a dime for the Congressmen. I personally think not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars should be allocated from the general funds, for specific Congressional district battles. After all, this is only one thousand dollars per district, or about two hundred fifty districts where fights are on.

January 11, 1944

Second note to LBJ:

I am ready, at any time, to work with you on an outline of what Rayburn should say at the Washington meeting of the National Democratic Committee. If he rings the bell, he will make the speech which will be the bible for the Democratic campaign. It should have some Roosevelt in it, much of Congress in it, and much plain, strong, statement that if the Republicans have the money and ideas they seem to have, this country may be in for a new brand of Harding to Hoover with its joblessness and do nothing except for the big boys who would take all the food into the lifeboats and leave the Ship of State to drift with all the people aboard--the same gang that always plays from Wall Street both Parties but tries to wreck Democratic harmony and elect Republicans who put dollars before votes and live in a big town and a big house and kick around the little people.

July 12, 1944

Day letter to Congressman Lyndon Johnson, Austin, Texas:

Mayor Tom Miller phoned me yesterday saying he is behind all out Roosevelt, and that he felt Wallace best candidate in spite of fact he had often disagreed with both Roosevelt and Wallace on domestic policies, but that he thought that unfair operations against Constitution to rob one million Tex~~ans~~ of votes for their national candidate, warranted more than a legal pea-shooter or worn-out politicians trading around Munich. The pea-shooter should be enlarged and reorganized to include more modern equipment is the general impression that Tom left. I would like your advice by phone collect tonight. I am sorry that Party partisan plans seem to have you afoot in Texas during Convention week. Believe I would go to Chicago anyway. You have reservations I am sure and there will be no trouble in getting you on floor with a badge without your having to lose your dignity. Present pressures indicate that Barkley is center of anti-Wallace bloc. Watch operations of Texas Power and Light to switch on Vice Presidency Rayburn or Jones as in 1940, to Barkley. Be prepared, if convenient, not only to phone from Chicago, but to come by this way so we may talk over people's revolt from the Precincts and Counties. After the trading and the legals are out, believe third column "Roosevelt ~~Democratic~~" on electoral ballot will carry 60% of total. If third column properly named "Roosevelt Democrats" is blocked, then there is other work to be done around December.