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Among Friends of LBJ

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LBJ LIBRARY



DEAN RUSK

Rusk Named LBJ School's First Richardson Fellow

Dean Rusk, U. S. Secretary of State from 1961 to 1969, was the first appointee in a new Richardson Fellows Program for Distinguished Public Officials in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Supported by a grant from the Sid Richardson Foundation to the LBJ Foundation, the new program will bring distinguished past or present public officials to the LBJ School for one or more weeks. Each Richardson Fellow will meet informally with students and faculty and participate in seminars primarily in the LBJ School, but the Fellow also will be available to visit in other UT departments.

Mr. Rusk, who served under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and is currently the Sibley Professor of International Law at the University of Georgia, was on the UT Austin campus March 5-11.

The week-long sessions included a day's program in which Rusk participated in a forum entitled, "United States and the Quest for Peace." Other participants in the colloquium were Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, Swedish Nobel Laureate, his wife, Alva, a former Swedish Ambassador and Chief of the Swedish delegation to the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, and Dr. Davidson S. H. W. Nicol from the West African Republic of Sierra Leone, who is Undersecretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the UN's Institute for Training and Research.

During the week, Rusk also made a public address entitled "Getting What We Want in Foreign Policy," met informally with UT Austin students and faculty members, and was honored at a dinner in the LBJ Library Saturday, March 11, hosted by Lady Bird Johnson.



Seated from left: Dr. Davidson S. H. W. Nicol, Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, Dean Rusk, Alva Myrdal, and Dean Elspeth Rostow.

IT'S NOT A BOOKMOBILE

... But LBJ Library

If the people can't get to Lyndon Johnson's library, take the library to the people.

That's the way the former president would have wanted it, and that's what the LBJ Library staff is doing.

Approximately 40 Monte Siesta Retirement Center residents recently toured the LBJ Library exhibits without leaving their nursing home.

Three library tour guides have been presenting a one-hour slide show and narrative about the library to Austin nursing homes since September. They've received rave reviews for their show.

Their field trips to the homes also help the library's oral history department. While in the nursing and retire-

ment homes, the women are always on the lookout for folks who might have met or known Lyndon B. Johnson. One man at Thursday's show was J. B. Cotten who talked to the women after the show.

"He was the finest man," Cotten, 87, said about Johnson. "A great guy."

Cotten, who said he inspected building materials for the Inks and Buchanan dams in the 1920s, fondly recalled the times "Lyndon helped me out. He helped me in just about anything... personal problems... anything. Took care of 'em too."

Cotten said he met LBJ in the first year he ran for Congress.

"I met him that year and he said to... me 'why don't you write to me and tell me what's going on? How do you expect me to know everything that goes on down here?'" Cotton said with a laugh.

The Library Guides promised to send Cotten a photograph of LBJ and offered to give him a personal library tour — something done only for groups of 12 or more.

More than 400 people have seen the slide show, an idea that guide Carol Rhode saw in a New York museum publication.

"We thought this group (those in nursing homes) is overlooked," Joan Sands said. And judging by some reactions, they may be right.



Photos: Library Tour Coordinator Joan Sands meets with residents of Austin nursing homes.



Goes To The People

By Tracy Cortese



Sands said a blind man at one home came to the show to listen, "and he loved it." Another man parked his wheelchair in a spot where he could obviously not see the slides. Sands offered to move him so he could see.

"I didn't come to see the pictures. I came here to see the pretty girls," he said.

Many of the folks remember seeing LBJ in a crowd or shaking his hand. Some recalled seeing him at the LBJ Library. Still others insist on seeing certain slides that a guide may have left out.

"One woman pointed out, 'You forgot the wedding dresses,'" Sands said. And another kept saying, "You forgot the helicopter," referring to LBJ's usual means of visiting the library.

"The first woman had visited the library and remembered the dresses. And she was right, we forgot the slide. The other woman used to live by the library and she could see the helicopter when it landed," Sands explained.

The Monte Siesta was the 13th home to view the "tour" and Peggy Berridge, the third guide, proudly said, "And we're booked up for two more months."

The guides' goal is to "culminate this with a Golden Age Week in late spring," Sands said. "We'll invite nursing homes to the library during that week and set up special facilities for them — like more chairs sitting about and people running the elevators."

Lady Bird Johnson Tribute Committee Establishes New Goal of \$2 Million

The committee which organized last December's National Tribute to Lady Bird Johnson has announced that almost \$1.9 million is now in place to fund a permanent endowment benefiting the Friends of the LBJ Library. The endowment honors the wife of the late President Johnson and will be used to support special activities at the Library, the only Presidential library open free of charge to the public.



Rep. J. J. Pickle

Former U.S. Ambassador Edward A. Clark and Rep. J. J. Pickle said their committee, in response to continuing contributions, has set a final goal of \$2 million for the endowment fund. With contributions already received, little more than \$100,000 remains to be raised.

"The responses of Texans and people throughout the nation have been amazing. Their generosity allowed us to announce at the Tribute that we were already a quarter-million dollars over our minimum objective of raising a million dollars," said Clark and Pickle.

"Now we can announce that additional commitments totaling more than \$130,000 have been received in just the past few weeks. Many contributors have urged us to continue the drive for endowment funds that will serve the Library's needs for the foreseeable future and allow it to continue its policy of free admission.

"These gifts include a generous second contribution by Houston Endowment, Inc., Judge and Mrs. Roy Hofheinz and many others who have already contributed substantially toward the attainment of our goal."

The tribute to Mrs. Johnson at the LBJ Library on December 11 culminated the first phase of efforts to establish the endowment. A program featuring performances by Helen Hayes and Kirk Douglas was attended by more than 1,000 persons.

The tribute was co-chaired nationally by Henry Ford II of Detroit and Mrs. Albert Lasker of New York.



Amb. Ed Clark

LBJ ON THE PRESIDENCY, IMPERIAL

At a time when I was teaching a course on the Presidency, I discussed with President Johnson some of the interpretations to be found in books used for the course. He suggested that it might be interesting to tape an interview in which I could mention a few of the points which appear in this literature and he could respond. The following are taken from that interview which occurred September 28, 1970. — ER

The full interview is included in the papers now open for research in the Library — Ed.

ER: Mr. President, in recent times, two reporters have written books in which they described the President as a monarch. As you look back on the Presidency, does it seem to you that you were a monarch walled off by his courtiers from contact with the real world?

LBJ: No, this comparison of the Presidency with monarchy, I think, is a very wild distortion. A monarch is generally a figurehead, a symbol. In some countries, of course, presidents serve much the same purpose — as heads of state, but not of governments. But in the United States, the role of President is vastly different. A President is a political leader and he can never be above politics as a monarch must be. The political arena is never far away from a President who is trying to get things done for his country. He is ultimately judged by either the success or failure that he had in making the political system work in a positive, constructive way. Hanging over a President always is the knowledge that his time in office is definitely limited. If he seeks a second term, his acts are judged by the people. The larger actions, the programs, the policies of a President are subject to the approval always of the Congress. Thus, the attitudes, the opinions, even the whims of 535 different men and women can determine in a very important way what a President can do or cannot do. There are further checks on the acts of a President — the Constitution itself, which defines broadly those things that he can or cannot do. Then there is the Supreme Court which can and often does undo a President's programs even after they have been overwhelmingly approved by the Congress, if the Court finds them unconstitutional. A President is subject constantly to the comments and very often the criticism of the press and of public opinion. Probably the worst distortion is this picture of the President walled off by his advisers, his courtiers. Well, perhaps this could happen if a President were blind and deaf and lazy and a fool as well. I think it is fair to say that I was getting a wider variety of information, of ideas, of opinions on a broader range of subjects than any man in or out of government during the more than five years I was in the White House. I always insisted on getting not just a single

view of a problem or just one recommendation but all the alternative courses that were possible and the pros and cons of each possible course. I received a huge flow of official information but the flow of unofficial information was greater and, in many cases, more effective with me. I read newspapers and magazines. I watched television for news and comment. I was in touch with many members of Congress every single day. I was receiving letters from friends and enemies, from the informed and the uninformed. I met constantly with leaders and specialists from business, labor, the academic world, religious leaders, civil rights groups, veterans, governors and many others. Now, the idea that my advisers only told me what they thought I wanted to hear is complete, total nonsense. The minutes of the many meetings which are housed in the Library — the Cabinet, the National Security Council, the Tuesday Lunch-eon Group and others — make it abundantly clear how much debate and argument and differences of opinion there were in what is called those inner-councils of government. The President is not a monarch — far from it. There are times, I am sure, when we would all like to be, times when it would be very nice to just order something done and see it done that way and see it done quickly. But the Presidency in American politics just doesn't happen to work that way and I don't think it ever will.

ER: May I underline one thing you said and ask you to comment on it. This is the question of the time horizon of the President who has four, at most eight, years in office. Does this affect the President's attitude towards his work?

LBJ: I'm sure that in the first term the President's advisers constantly have in mind that he is subject to reelection and they take that into account in trying to evaluate the probable success of certain programs that he would suggest to the Congress otherwise. I don't believe any man worthy of being President really ever lets that be the deciding factor in any decision or certainly it wouldn't be the overriding one if he felt that the national interest was otherwise. I do think in a democracy that public servants — and Presidents are no exception — must recognize that the people are the final bosses, and you can't be a statesman unless you get elected. Therefore, in formulating their programs, they're not unconscious of the public reaction or the probability of public acceptance of those programs.

ER: In his book *Presidential Greatness*, which came out in 1968, Thomas Bailey discussed the degree to which Presidents have been "teacher-and-preacher—in chief" for their country ... hoping, in the words of President Wilson, "to get things done." Bailey isn't quite sure whether "great times make great Presidents" or whether great Presidents are able to make the times great. What do you think?

LBJ: Perhaps the answer is a little of both. I'm sure that the Presidents who stand out in our history and in our memory are those who led the nation through times of great trial and challenge. Presidents under whom our government suc-

AND OTHERWISE

— an interview with Elspeth Rostow

ceeded in finding answers to major problems or in overcoming great dangers: Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, Wilson, Roosevelt, Truman. These Presidents would not be regarded now as great if their reactions and their responses had been weak or if they had failed to achieve some of their major goals or if they had run away from the challenges. On the other hand, times of crisis do not necessarily in themselves produce greatness in a President. Sometimes a President is prevented from achieving what he wants or what he knows is right by circumstances completely beyond his control. Andrew Johnson was probably a better President than his contemporaries thought, yet the passions of the times and the temper of an antagonistic Congress prevented a sensible period of reconstruction. I thought that Herbert Hoover was a wise and compassionate man, but he was completely unable to cope with the economic disaster that hit us in 1929-31. Greatness is an elusive thing and the judgment of history is sometimes different from that made when a President's in office or just after he leaves office. Wilson died a broken and disappointed man because he failed to win approval of the League. Yet history has judged that he was right in that fight and the willful men of the Senate who opposed him were wrong.

ER: It's interesting you mentioned Andrew Johnson because in Bailey's book he says that Johnson was pretty close to being the worst President we ever had. Whereas, he says that Hoover's problem was that he knew too clearly what he wanted to do ahead of time.

LBJ: I wouldn't share Bailey's evaluation of Johnson. I think that he was the victim of a cruel Congress and of a period where there was a great deal of inflammation abroad in the land, a great deal of revenge, and I think he was a man of many inadequacies, had rather poor training and preparation and equipment for the Presidency. But in its larger aspects I think he was a man of tolerance who tried to unite the nation and tried to save it and was the victim of the times — just as I think that Hoover was the victim of an international economic condition.

ER: Stefan Lorant entitled his book on the Presidency *The Glorious Burden*. What were the real glories ... and what were the worst burdens?

LBJ: Probably the greatest burden for any modern President is the command over power that could easily destroy the world. I lived constantly with the dread that circumstances might make it necessary for me sometime to give the order that could bring on a nuclear response to some action by the Soviet Union or China. The second heavy burden for me was the need to send men off to fight and die. I never shook the hand of a man going off to Vietnam, I never presented a medal to a man's mother or widow without dying a little inside myself. It's always the worst kind of pain to have to do something that you know will cause suffering and sacrifice for many even if you're doing it in the interest of your country.

The glories are associated with getting things done that you know are right and good — it was always a very deep satisfaction to me to be able to sign a bill that I had advocated, to make it a law — a bill that I knew would help people ... help them get more food and clothes ... a better education ... better health ... a chance to improve their living conditions. There is a rich satisfaction in helping to build useful institutions for the less privileged abroad: development programs, regional banks, new strains of rice and wheat, common markets — moving toward a safer world: the nonproliferation treaty, the outer space treaty, the arms limitation talks all gave a President a feeling of achieving something, of accomplishing something — helping prevent war, as we did in Cyprus, the Middle East, Korea, Kashmir, Dominican Republic.

ER: What does a President want most from his Cabinet and his aides?

LBJ: Honesty, frankness, loyalty, dedication, diligence. For my Cabinet I wanted the man (who was) best prepared in his field. I wanted the person who will give the President carefully considered judgments, advice. One that will not withhold from him any important information or any opinion even if it differs from what he thinks the President's opinion will be. One that will give a maximum of cooperation and minimum of rivalry with his colleagues in the Cabinet.

On the staff, I think a President looks for assistants who would give him independent suggestions and advice, a careful check on the recommendations that come over from the various departments, reviewing and evaluating them, to be sure that essential elements have been included and that nothing has been ignored and distorted.

The crucible of the White House brings out the best and often brings out the worst in men. The President must be able to recognize this and try to assign his work in ways that emphasize the former and minimize the latter. I don't think any sweeping reforms are actually needed in the Executive Department. The way departments are organized and used depends most of all on the needs and working style of the President himself. And what works well for one President may not be the best system of the other.

ER: Does a President welcome new policy suggestions from his Cabinet? Or does he simply wish the Cabinet to implement suggestions that emanate from the White House?

LBJ: I believe every President wants innovation, creativity; he looks to people who can have vision, who can see ahead, men whose eyes are in the stars and practical enough to have their feet on the ground. And, usually the most influential Presidential assistant or Cabinet member is the individual with the most and best ideas.

Continued on page 6

LBJ — Rostow Interview

ER: To turn to Congress — the Foreign Relations Committee has frequently urged a greater sharing of powers between the President and Congress in the field of foreign policy. Do you find yourself in agreement?

LBJ: Well, the Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, separated the Executive and Legislative branches of government and it is hard to see how you can get more sharing of power between the President and one or another committee without coming in conflict with that doctrine. The Foreign Relations Committee, like every other major committee in the Congress, has a great deal of power now, if it chooses to use it. But a President has powers and he has responsibilities that he cannot in good conscience share with others, if he is to be true to his oath of office. Some Senators have tried to leave the impression that they were not consulted on major matters until it was much too late. I think that during the five years I was in the Presidency, for someone to indicate that he wasn't consulted, if he had a right to be consulted, was just plain wrong. I was on the phone with individual Senators way into the night. I was in the Cabinet room meeting with the leadership, meeting with the chairmen of the committees, meeting with individual Senators. I had the leaders in for regular meetings, at regular times. I provided special briefings for all the key members of appropriate committees, sometimes for the entire Congress. We ran regular briefings for all the members of the House and Senate in the area of foreign affairs. I provided special meetings and briefings for the Foreign Relations Committee by the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and the President as well on every major policy. And I got their consent before taking action on most of those policies. (But) no President worthy of the name is going to abdicate his responsibility as Chief Executive officer and Commander-in-Chief to any Senate committee.

ER: As you look back on the decisions you had to make, do they form any pattern? Is there any methodology to decision making, or does each crisis impose its unique rules?

LBJ: On the question of foreign affairs, our Tuesday luncheon meeting had a regular agenda that was thought out in advance and well prepared, and the pros and cons of every item on that agenda were given, and the facts were elicited, the conclusions were drawn, and the recommendations made, and the President then considered them and disposed of them.

I don't think there's really any pattern of decision making in other areas. Each decision, each crisis has its own pattern, its own imperatives. Sometimes a decision is a matter of minutes and on the basis of one piece of paper; sometimes the most critical decision must be made in a matter of hours or even minutes. The Tuesday meeting was patterned after meetings that President Eisenhower had told me he had with Prime Minister Churchill during the war, that he would have a luncheon meeting and an evening meeting,

and they were regular, free from publicity, and they brought out the maximum contributions that each could make towards winning the war. That's what I tried to do in the Tuesday meetings. I had the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, head of the CIA, the President's foreign relations adviser, the press secretary. They made their individual contributions, their recommendations, they presented their facts to me as their experts had gathered them. They drew certain conclusions, some different, and they made certain recommendations, and the President was in a position to decide on those recommendations. In general, I liked to use all the possible time that I could in reaching decisions. I constantly searched for varied opinions, I wanted to hear all the arguments pro and con, I wanted the best possible estimate of what would happen if we took another course as opposed to the one being suggested. And I never thought that a decision really had finally been made until it was announced and acted upon.

ER: How does the President master the vast detail that goes into most crises? I know that he consults with his assistants, but there must be an immense amount of reading involved.

LBJ: I don't know that the President ever masters any particular subject. The President's judgment is no better than his information and I believe that most Presidents have the best information available through intelligence sources, through competent foreign service personnel, and Defense people. And the President has his own staff. Then the President reads. I doubt that there was a single day of the Presidency, Sundays included, that I didn't give two or three hours to just solitary reading. There was hardly a night that I was President that I didn't read two or three hours. Even if there was a State dinner, when I retired for the evening I would have two hours of night reading ahead of me. Sometimes there were nights when I read three or four hours. I don't think the President ever really knows all there is to know about every question. But I think that he comes as near knowing as any person in the country.

ER: All Presidents are criticized for the time they spend away from the White House. Is it important to get away from the White House?

LBJ: Yes, I think so. Some Presidents like to get away by going to the golf course, or going sailing, or going to Camp David, or going to a ranch. Wherever they go the office goes with them. I have never known a President — the five or six that I have known and worked with — that I didn't think did the very best that he knew how to do. A President's job is — he's not elected to do what's wrong. His biggest problem is trying to find out what is right and doing it. All of them want to do the right thing, if they just know what the right thing is. And that's a very big question mark in this very complicated world.

ER: One student of the Presidency has said: "The office of the President is all irony: we lift one citizen among us so high and then put him in a position where it is almost impossible for him to get done what the people hoped for in his election." This reflects a general pessimism about the office: is the job do-able?

LBJ: Well, no President in history has been able to do all the things that he or the people hoped he could accomplish at the time of election. But that doesn't mean that the job is impossible and that doesn't mean it's doomed. It is do-able, but it takes a tremendous amount of energy, time, dedication, concentration, and the dedicated work of hundreds of thousands of people. I don't know how long that's going to be true. The world gets more complicated and more difficult all the time. Demands on the Presidency grow each year and so do the dangers. Everyone knows that one major miscalculation in the balance of forces could bring disaster to all of humanity, or at least to most of humanity. The shrinking of the world only expands the worries and the burdens and the problems of a President. We have moved to a point where a whole new range of problems faces the President, problems that we hardly thought of a decade ago. Today we must cope with things like air pollution, disintegration of our waters, and contamination of the ocean, and the whole balance of nature, that may determine whether we survive or whether we die on this planet. And all these problems will weigh increasingly on the man in the White House. Urban blight, inadequate transportation, garbage collection, trash disposal — all these are burdens too heavy for individual cities to deal with any more. There is an increasing federal responsibility that comes to the Presidency every day. So still another set of problems the President must face awaits him at the breakfast table the next morning. And the day still has only twenty-four hours and one man has only so much energy and capacity. So it may be that the organization of the government and the assignment of responsibilities of the President will have to change considerably as time goes on. Greater responsibility for Cabinet officers. Greater sharing of the job between state and federal government. Perhaps some system of regional treatment of certain problems. All these may evolve. But I don't see the day when the basic responsibility for the nation's welfare and the nation's safety could ever fall upon anyone except the American President.

ER: What about the suggestion that the Constitution be amended to provide the President not with one but with several Vice Presidents? One with a special responsibility in foreign relations, another, domestic affairs, and still another, liaison with the states, etc.

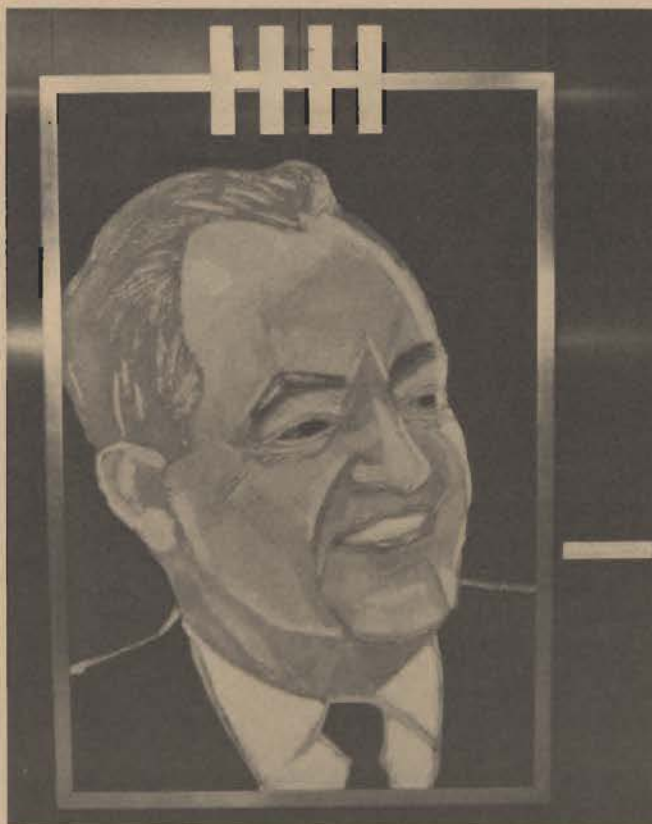
LBJ: I don't think much of that.

ER: How best can a President use his Vice President? Is it possible for the Vice President really to be kept informed about the full range of the President's concerns? If so, how can it be done? If not, why not?

LBJ: Well, I don't think there is any pat answer to the question how a President can use his Vice President. It depends a great deal on the personalities and capacities of the two men involved, the President and the Vice President, what their backgrounds are, their special interest, their experiences. I do believe that a Vice President should be kept well informed on all major business that faces the President. He must be ready to step in and take over if something should happen to the President. At the same time, I wouldn't contend that any Vice President is ever fully informed of everything that the President is doing and thinking. That would require his being at the President's right hand day and night. Something between that and keeping him out in left field I think is the logical answer. The Vice President is a statutory member of the National Security Council now and he is able to take part in the group's serious meetings and discussions. I tried to make sure that the Vice President received daily intelligence briefings on all developments around the world. I tried to see that he received special briefings from the Secretaries of State and Defense and CIA and those dealing with our relations with other nations, as well as all the special briefings from Cabinet officers on all domestic questions. The Vice President took part in all major policy discussions, including some of the discussions on bombing and troops in Vietnam, on peace moves, everything from NATO to Indonesia. Sending the Vice President abroad helped some, and I think served a constructive purpose. It gave him a first-hand view of the problems of various countries and regions that he visited. He can get as little or as much as he wants to make out of these travels. And I think my Vice President greatly benefited from them and he gave me the benefit of what he gained. As President of the Senate, the Vice President has a chance to keep in close touch with legislative developments and the changing mood of Congress. And I think if the President's wise, he gives the Vice President special responsibilities for leading and winning support for certain legislation, that may be important to the administration. The Vice President now is Chairman of the President's Space Council, as a result of the recommendation of President Kennedy. If anything had happened to me, I do not believe that Vice President Humphrey would have been caught by surprise by any major problems that he would have had to face. I had him chair the interdepartmental Cabinet committee that dealt with our urban problem, he dealt with our space problem, he dealt with our national security problems, he dealt with our political problems, frequently visiting all areas of the country. That is the way I wanted it and that is the way it was, and I think that no one could have had a better Vice-President than I had during my four years in the White House.

"You Will Be On the Scene As a National Leader Long After the Others Are Forgotten."

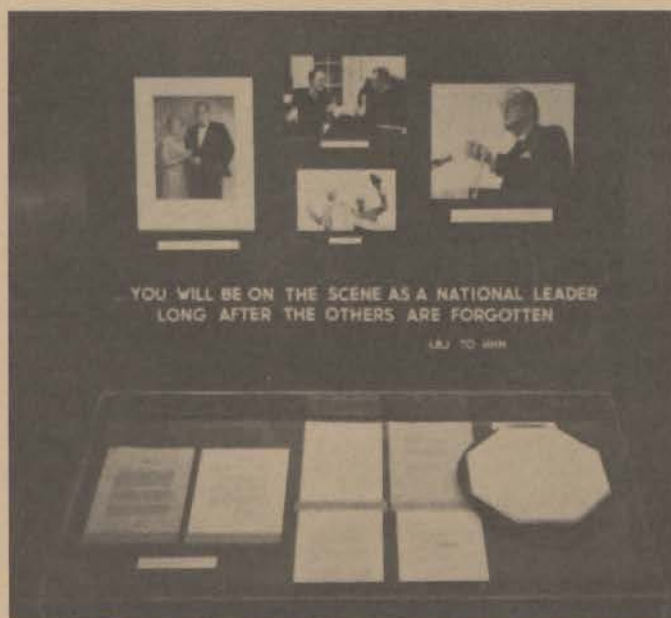
LBJ to HHH



The long expected word of Hubert Humphrey's death came late Friday night, January 13, 1978. Early the next morning, Library staff members assembled to erect a memorial tribute to the man who had served as Vice President in the years of the Great Society.

Included in the exhibit were a bold acrylic painting (left), in the pop art style of the 1960's, which the artist, Edward Weiss, gave the Library; photographs and other mementos of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration; reminders of Humphrey's visits to the Library — notably for conferences on Civil Rights, Government and the Arts; and some remarkable items of correspondence documenting the long friendship between the two political associates.

(See next page)



These are excerpts from the letters in the Humphrey display, reflecting the mutual respect and friendship which grew over the years between Hubert Humphrey and Lyndon Johnson.

Sept. 10, 1956, Sen. Humphrey to Sen. Johnson (following the Democratic National Convention):

... This has been a rough year politically for me — first, the Minnesota primary; then second, I had hoped that I might get that keynote job; and finally, the V. P. fiasco. I hope that I have received all of my lickings for the next few years in this year 1956. If it takes a few defeats to make a fellow appreciate victory, then, believe me, I am going to be the most appreciative man you ever knew whenever victory crowns my efforts.

I do want you to know, Lyndon, that I am fully aware of your efforts to be of help to me at that Convention. I know that you did everything you could. I knew that you would do just that, because you said so, and you are a man of your word ...

I am looking forward to January, 1957. It will be good to be back in the Senate working with you. And be assured, Lyndon, that I will be working *with* you. You have been a wonderful friend, and you have helped me so much. There will be those who will try to divide us, but they shall not succeed. In the future, as in the past, we will have some difference of opinion but thank God, we can disagree without being disagreeable. In fact, I hope to work much more closely with you in the years to come. There are many things that I want to see done for our great country, and I know you feel the same way.

September 18, 1956, from Sen. Johnson to Sen. Humphrey:

I long ago realized that you were one of those bold spirits that is tempered rather than weakened by adversity and I know that you have the energy and the ability and the initiative that will be required to rise through the years. During the past few years, we have had the rise of a school of liberal philosophy in this Country which holds that words are more important than deeds. As a liberal, you have breasted this current and clung fast to the position that there is nothing incompatible with liberalism and achievement.

I know what this has cost you in terms of some of your personal relationships with others. But it has also given you a unique status in the life of our Country — a status which means that you will be on the scene as a national leader long after the others are forgotten. It has also put you in my book on the special page that I reserve for men of integrity, and men whom I am proud to call "friend" and nothing will ever affect your standing in my eyes.

August 21, 1958, from Sen. Humphrey to Sen. Johnson after a particularly impressive handling of an important vote:

I once said to you, Lyndon, that you have long been a great Texan. That within itself is a fine achievement, but what you really are is a great American. FDR would have been proud of you. You have his touch and his political genius.

And Johnson's reply:

I do not know whether the word "greatness" applies. I think the whole answer is that I have good and understanding friends like Hubert Humphrey who manage to make me look like a far better man than I really am.

August 26, 1971, from the former Vice President on the former President's birthday:

I have given you some difficult moments. These have not been easy times for either of us, but, Mr. President, I was very proud to serve with you — to be your Vice President. I tried to fulfill with honor the responsibilities that you gave to me. I tried to be a helpful and loyal partner. Like most human beings, I made my share of mistakes and was unable to live up to all of the expectations that you and others might have had.

I predict that the Johnson years in the Presidency will command admiration and respect. When I look back over what was achieved in those years of your Presidency from November, 1963 to January, 1969 I am eternally grateful for the opportunity that was mine to share even ever so little in what was planned and accomplished.

And Johnson's reply:

You were very generous in your evaluation of the Johnson years, Hubert, and I would add this: If historians do note that we made life better for the American people, they will also give credit to a Vice President — and before that a Senator — who was a compassionate man of the people.

ACQUISITIONS TO THE LBJ LIBRARY

New Library acquisitions come in all shapes and sizes. The recently donated items are divided into three main areas: personal papers, museum pieces, and photographs.

Anyone involved with Johnson's personal or political life is a candidate for donating personal papers. Recently acquired files of government are those of Wilbur Cohen (poverty program), Robert Allnutt (NASA), and Gerold Baumann (Peace Corps). Other papers concerning the Johnson years are as diverse as Washington Post owner Katherine Graham's notes taken when visiting the Johnson Ranch and the transcripts of a taped diary Ambassador-at-Large U. Alexis Johnson kept from 1965 until 1977. The diary covered his career with the State Department, including his work in Vietnam and with the SALT talks.

While donations of personal papers are usually requested by the archives staff, gifts of museum pieces are more often

unsolicited. Museum Curator Gary Yarrington investigates each offer of a historical object and determines whether it should be part of the Library's collection. Presently the Museum is particularly interested in obtaining memorabilia from presidential campaigns, especially the early campaigns from Washington through John Quincy Adams. Also wanted are objects relating to American History from the 1930's through the early 70's -- the span of Lyndon Johnson's political career.

Old friends and neighbors of the Johnsons often donate family photographs to the Library. One recent acquisition is a 1903 photograph of Sam Rayburn's graduating class from East Texas Normal College in Commerce, Texas. These photographs are placed in the photo archives and are used by researchers and as display material.



A recent acquisition of the LBJ Library is a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Wesley West of Houston, Texas, (above).

The gift, displayed on the first floor of the Library, consists of (1) three solid sterling commemorative plates inlaid with gold as part of the gift of 38 presidential plates; (2) a Bicentennial bowl, numbered 66 of a limited edition of 750, crafted of solid sterling silver and lined with 24 karat gold; (3) a complete set of 42 solid sterling silver medals commemorating first ladies; and (4) a complete set of 50 solid sterling silver Bicentennial medals.

It is through significant gifts of this nature that the library is able to expand and diversify its museum collection.

The Speech That Stunned The Nation

With America's sons in the fields far away, with America's future under challenge right here at home, with our hopes and the world's hopes for peace in the balance every day, I do not believe that I should devote an hour or a day of my time to any personal partisan causes or to any duties other than the awesome duties of this office -- the Presidency of your country.

Accordingly, I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President.



With these words, President Johnson 10 years ago — on March 31, 1968, — stunned the nation and the world.

His historic address, and the turbulent content of its times, are evoked in a special display in the lobby of the library.

As LBJ later revealed in his memoirs, *The Vantage Point*, he had largely decided in 1964 not to run in 1968 for a second term. By late 1966 that decision was jelling into a determination which, throughout 1967, he confided to several friends and associates. He considered announcing his decision on several occasions, including the State of the Union address to the Congress in January 1968.



"... March 1968 proved to be exactly the right month ...", he wrote. "It coincided with the new effort I planned to seek the way to peace in Vietnam. I had found the right forum."

The appropriateness of the timing was dictated by the course of the war in Vietnam. On January 30-31, the anniversary of the Lunar New Year (Tet) in Vietnam, the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong had launched an offensive against virtually every city and military installation in South Vietnam.

Although the assault was not a military success — it had failed in its stated purpose to destroy the South Vietnamese Army and rally the cities to the invader's cause — its effect was devastating in the United States. It harshly illuminated the frustrations and divisions which the long war had created.

President Johnson's March 31 speech was intended basically to set out his "new effort ... to seek the way to peace." It did that: it announced a halt to U. S. bombing of most of North Vietnam. The closely-guarded wind-up of the speech, taking the President out of the political race that year, had a two-fold purpose: to take the war out of national politics, and, domestically, to try to bridge the great divisions.

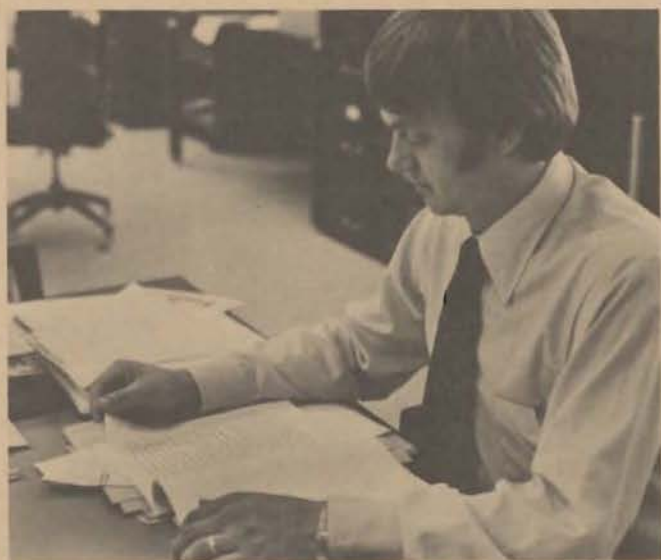
Included in the Library's display are newspaper stories about the Tet offensive, a scale model of one of the battle areas which was in the Situation Room, various drafts of the President's March 31 speech, a number of photographs from the occasion, and a sampling of letters which deluged the White House afterward, from New York's Senator Robert Kennedy to a housewife in Utah.

Austin's Loss Is Washington's Gain

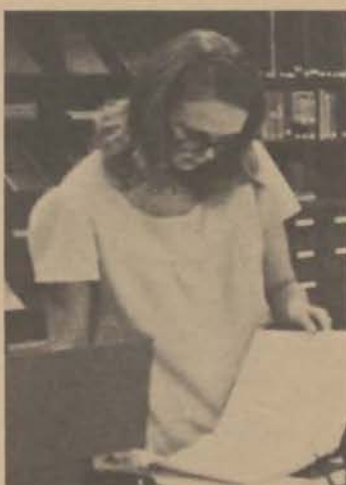
John Fawcett, former Chief Archivist of the LBJ Library, and his wife Sharon have accepted positions with the National Archives in Washington, D. C., where John joins the Office of Presidential Libraries and Sharon, also an archivist, is assigned to the Industrial Social Branch.

John began his career as a museum assistant with the Hoover Library, majoring in history at the University of Iowa and became an archivist upon graduation. Following a term in the National Archives Training Program, he was assigned to the White House in 1968 to assist in preparing materials for the LBJ Library. At the end of the Johnson Administration he moved to Austin to work for the Library, where he served as Chief of the Audio-Visual Section from 1973-1976, and then as Chief Archivist.

Sharon received her M. A. in 1969 from the University of Texas and joined the Library staff soon after as an archivist. She and John were married in 1970.



The Fawcetts:
John (above)
and Sharon
(right).



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COMING EVENTS

Visitors to the LBJ Library this year will have a chance to see several touring exhibits in addition to the regular exhibits and films at the library museum.

A display of White House News Photographers Best News Pictures of 1968 — President Johnson's last year in office — will be on exhibit from April to June, 1978. There will be a panel show from the Smithsonian on "America's First Ladies" from May 27 to June 25. In September, the National Archives' remarkable exhibit of great historical maps, entitled "Taking the Measure of the Land," will open.

Also on the planning board of Curator Gary Yarrington is an Armistice Day exhibit on World War I, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the conclusion of the war. In November, military personnel throughout Texas, as well as veteran groups, are especially invited to attend the exhibit of memorabilia and photographs of World War I.

LBJ Award To Go For Education

This year the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation Award will recognize outstanding contributions in the area of education.

The recipient of the 5th annual \$25,000 award will be named this summer.

Each year the award is presented to a living American who has made significant contribution to the national well-being in a specific field of endeavor. The field changes from year to year.

Previously, the award has gone to Roy Wilkins, Executive Director of the NAACP, in the field of Civil Rights; Ivan Allen, former Atlanta Mayor, and Franklin Thomas, former President of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., in Urban Affairs; Dr. George Löf, Director of the Solar Energy Applications Laboratory at Colorado State University, for his work in the field of Solar Energy; and Dr. Sidney Garfield, pioneer in the field of prepaid health insurance and founder of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program.

Co-chairing the Awards Committee are Mrs. Johnson, and William J. McGill, President of Columbia University. Other members are Mr. George R. Brown, former Chairman of the Board, Brown and Root, Inc.; Dr. Robert A. Good, President, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research; Miss Linda G. Howard, Professor, Ohio State University; Mr. Arthur B. Krim, Chairman of the Board, Orion Pictures Corporation; Mrs. Albert Lasker, President, Albert & Mary Lasker Foundation, Inc.; Honorable Thurgood Marshall, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the U. S.; Mr. Harry McPherson of the law offices of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard and McPherson; and Mr. Mark Ward, graduate student at the University of Minnesota.