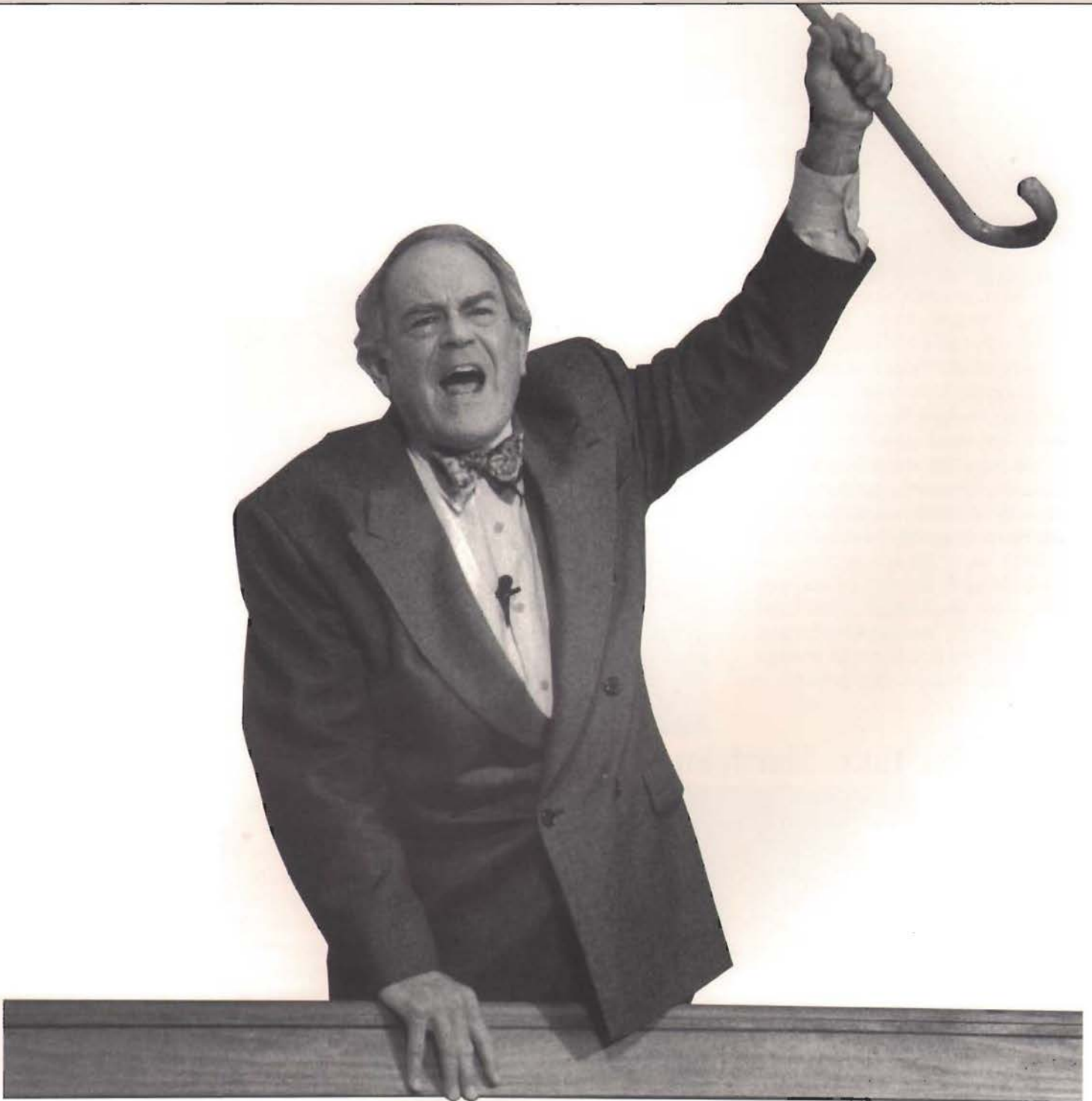


# AMONG FRIENDS *of LBJ*

Issue Number LXIII August 1, 1996



**Clarence Darrow at the Library**  
(see page 2)

# Luckinbill Returns To Library As Darrow

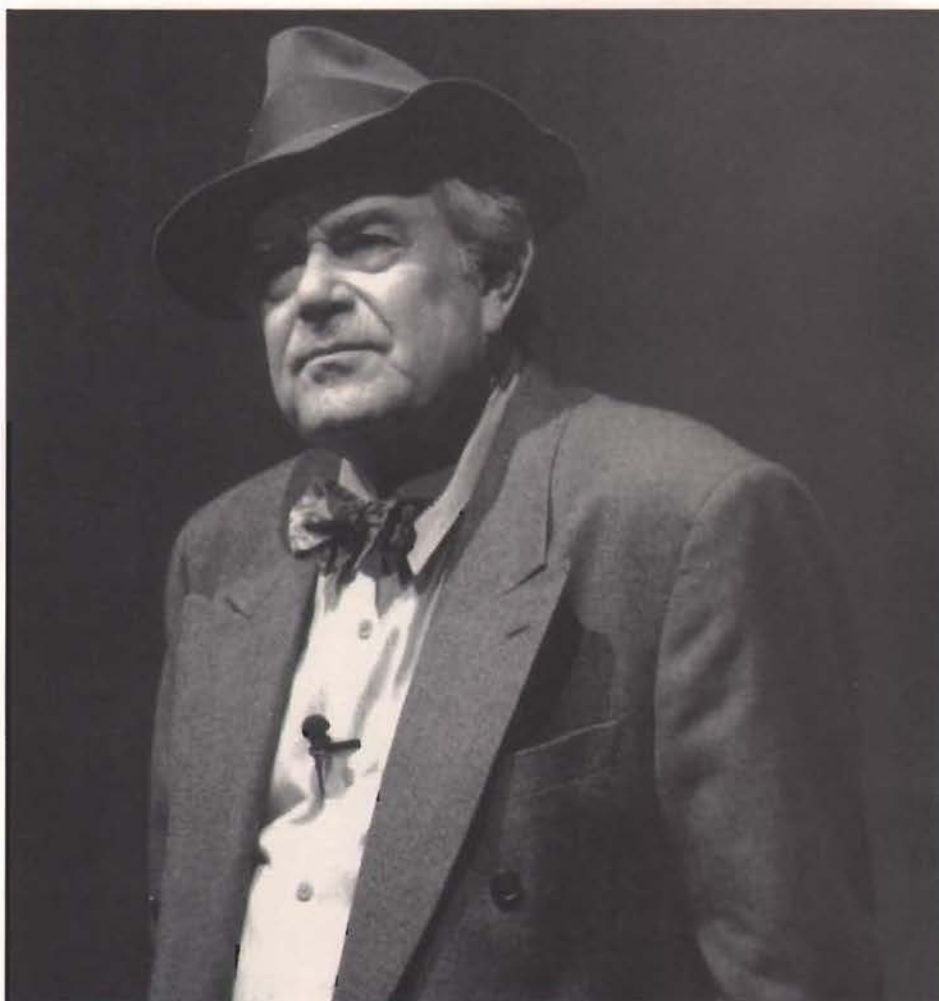
Laurence Luckinbill, who appeared before Friends of the LBJ Library in both Austin and Washington six years ago—and before audiences across the country ever since—with his one-man show on Lyndon Johnson, returned to the stage of the LBJ Auditorium with another one-man presentation, this one on Clarence Darrow.

The production brought to life the fiery lawyer who was at the center of some of the country's most controversial court cases early in the century.

Luckinbill's presentation was the second in the annual lectureship series established and endowed by Lady Bird Johnson and named for Library Director Harry Middleton. Former President Jimmy Carter inaugurated the series last year.

Luckinbill, currently appearing in a play, "A Fair Country," in New York, flew to Austin to make his Darrow presentation on the one night of the week when his play is not given, to honor the commitment he made several months before the play opened.

In his introduction of the program, Larry Temple described Darrow as "a passionate advocate who never got rich from the practice of law but changed our society," a



"maverick defense lawyer" who fought "for a fairer and more decent standard of living for the American

working man, for the right to criticize the government, and for peaceful integration of the races."

## Journalist Takes Hardeman Prize



A journalist from California, John Jacobs, received the Library's 1996 D. B. Hardeman prize for the best book on the U. S. Congress published last year.

Jacobs, a political editor and columnist for McClatchy newspapers in Sacramento, came to the Library to accept his award and discuss his book, *A Rage for Justice: The Passion and Politics of Phillip Burton*.

The \$1,000 award was created from a bequest left to the Library in 1981 by D. B. Hardeman, long-time aide to Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn and, later, House Majority Whip Hale Boggs. Hardeman wanted

his legacy to be used to promote studies of the Congress.

The winner of the award, given annually, is selected by a panel consisting of Richard Baker, historian of the U. S. Senate; Raymond Smock, former historian of the House of Representatives; Don Bacon, co-editor of the recently published *Encyclopedia of the U. S. Congress*; and Melissa Collie and David Prindle, U. T. Government Dept.

Previous award winners have been Richard Fenno, Allen Schick, James Sundquist, David Oshinsky, Paul Light, Christopher Foreman, Jr., Barbara Sinclair, Gilbert Fite, and Carol Swain.

## Evening Programs in the LBJ Auditorium

Speakers who presented recent "Evenings With" programs at the Library included two U. S. ambassadors (and their wives) and a military historian.

Ambassador Robert Krueger served in Burundi during a critical period of civil strife there. Recently confirmed as ambassador to Botswana, he and his wife Kathleen gave a chilling account of the upheavals in the country they had just left.

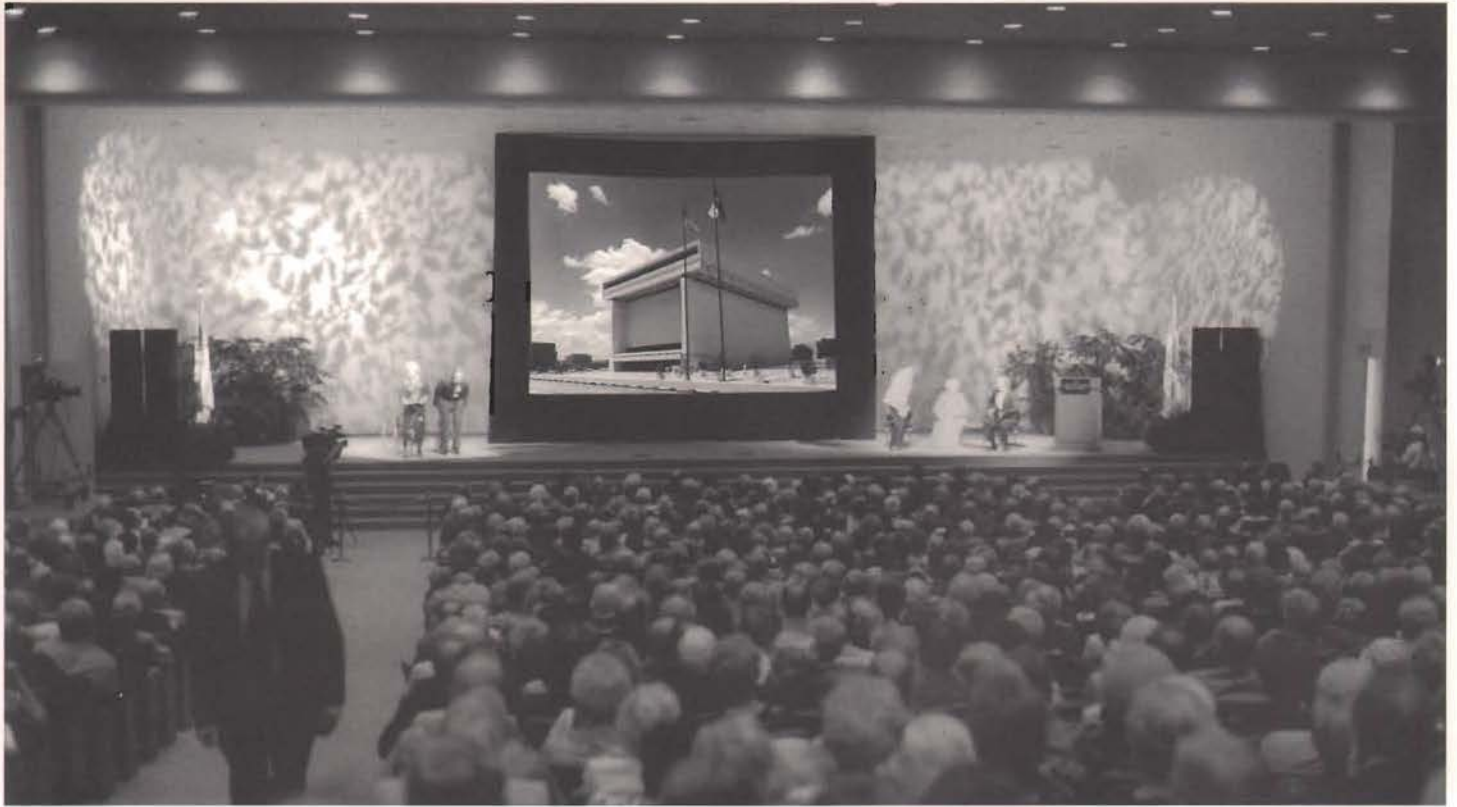


James Jones, who represents the U. S. in Mexico, made his second appearance at the Library, having first been here two years ago. He and Mrs. Jones (Olivia) were optimistic about Mexico's future and its relationship with the U. S. in the years ahead. George Christian and Harry Middleton moderated their discussion.

Another return speaker was World War II historian Martin Blumenson, who described the resistance movement that formed inside France after the German occupation of that country. Ted Gittinger of the Library staff helped him field questions from the audience.



# Library Celebrates Its First



The Library observed its twenty-fifth birthday on May 22. Keystone of this celebration was a video report in the LBJ Auditorium on the highlights of the Library's activities during its first quarter-century, put together by Staffer James Watson. The film was presented in three sections. Neal Spelce, Liz Carpenter and Cactus Pryor introduced each segment in turn.

## NEAL

(Repeating words that President Johnson used at the dedication of the Library): "What man can and cannot do in one life." That's the story which now, 25 years later, is fully told in the papers and exhibits in this Library. It's the story of an eventful life, lived at the center of action...the story of a man from the Hill Country of Texas, touched by destiny, skilled in the arts of statecraft, comfortable with power, sensitive always to the needs of the people he came from...the life of a man who through all his years believed government to be a force that could be harnessed for

## LBJ's Remarks at Library Dedication

We are all partners in this hopeful undertaking. The people of Texas built this Library. The national archives will manage the Library. The documents I have saved since the 1930s are being given, along with the documents of many others who served with me. Those documents contain millions and millions of words. But the two that best express my philosophy are the words, "Man can."

The Library records reflect the nation for 40 years—from the '30s through the '60s. They picture a sweep of history beginning with the depression and ending with the most prosperous era we have ever known. They record a drive for change and social reform unparalleled in its energy and scope—and a World War unmatched in its destruction. They chronicle the end of colonialism—and the beginning of the Cold War and the Atomic Age which still threaten mankind.

They cover the time when liberty was challenged in Europe and Latin America and Asia—and record America's response to those challenges.

It is all here: the story of our time—with the bark off...

There is no record of a mistake, nothing critical, ugly, or unpleasant that is not included in the files here. We have papers from my 40 years of public service in one place, for friend and foe to judge, to approve or to disapprove.

I do not know how this period will be regarded in years to come. But that is not the point. This Library will show the facts...not just the joy and triumphs, but the sorrow and failures, too.

So, Mr. President, here are 31 million documents, to be preserved for the nation—for all to review and evaluate—which reflect what man can do and cannot do in one life.

# Quarter Century

the betterment of people's lives. It is a story filled with triumph—but laced, too, with tragedy...the story of one of the greatest—and one of the most colorful—leaders of the 20th century.

## LIZ

The Library also tells the story of a woman...a girl who grew up very much alone in the piney woods of East Texas, making friends with nature and its glories...a young woman who then found the other wonders of the world opening to her when she entered the University of Texas...who trained to be a reporter and planned to travel to exotic places, but who gave all that up when she met an intense, ambitious young man destined for public service. She threw in her lot with him and stayed at his side for a whirlwind tour through the history of our time.

## CACTUS

Together they left their mark on this nation as few Presidents and First Ladies have done, and the story of that partnership threads through all the holdings and possessions in this Library. But more than that—the 25-year history of the Library itself is part of their story. Its record of activity reflects the kind of institution they together envisioned: a place where visitors can learn about their country's past, and scholars can probe it, and where issues of concern today and for the future are debated and explored. In its quarter-century pursuit of that vision, the Library has been a chronicler of history and a witness to it—and on occasion the setting for moments of high drama.



Cactus

Liz

Neal



Nineteen years ago, on the stage of the LBJ Auditorium, Helen Hayes and Kirk Douglas read excerpts from some of the letters exchanged between Lyndon Johnson and Lady Bird

Taylor in the three month courtship that led to their marriage. On the 25th anniversary night, Karen Kuykendall and Standish Meachem repeated some of that performance.



Mrs. Johnson gave the celebration an enthusiastic endorsement.

## Avedon Portrait Show at Library



The portraits of Barbara Jordan (above) and Cesar Chavez (above, right) are two of the 69 taken by Richard Avedon now on display in the Library. The portraits, assembled in a show created by and borrowed from the National Portrait Gallery, titled "The Family 1976" were taken for *Rolling Stone* magazine, which commissioned Avedon to photograph the Presidential candidates in the 1976 primaries. Avedon expanded the assignment into a visual statement of power in America that year.



A recent acquisition in the Library's collections is a bronze portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, by Robert Berks. It is a gift from Larry and Louann Temple, Ben and Melanie Barnes, Dee and Janice Kelly, Mike Myers, and Bernard and Audre Rapoport.

# Ben Barnes Assesses Erwin Legacy

The biannual Frank Erwin lecture, co-sponsored by the Library and the LBJ School, was delivered at a dinner in the Library by Ben Barnes, a long-time friend and political associate of Erwin's. He used the occasion to reflect on the contributions made by Erwin, who died in 1981.

"Time," Barnes said, "has helped us see Frank's life with greater balance and perspective." He added, with a touch of realism: "I do not expect that Frank Erwin will ever cease completely to be a figure of controversy."

The dinner was held, appropriately enough, in the atrium that bears Erwin's name. As Chairman of the Board of Directors of the LBJ Foundation, he was instrumental in persuading the U. T. Board of Regents to undertake substantial improvements in the Library 12 years ago, including the covering of an open space on the eighth floor, which created the atrium that was subsequently named for him.

Despite the controversies that swirled around Erwin in his lifetime—and which, Barnes noted, "he relished"—his contributions to the University of Texas system during the years he was chairman of the U. T. Board of Regents are legendary—an increase of 782% in appropriations, Barnes said, and an addition of 16 million square feet of campus facilities, "including the Presidential Library in which we are gathered tonight."



## Foundation Adds New Member

Laura Lee (Mrs. Jack) Blanton, of Houston, was elected a member of the LBJ Foundation Board of Directors when the Board held its annual meeting at the Library in May. Mrs. Blanton is active in civic and philanthropic pursuits.



*Photo by Kaye Marvins Photography*



*Frank Erwin drawing by Phil Vaughn  
Photo by Frank Wolfe*

# Declassification Gets a Lurch Forward

Some 2 million of the 43 million papers in the Library's collections are classified for national security reasons. They can be declassified only by the government agencies having primary interest in them. The process of declassification is long, laborious and exceedingly slow. The Library sends documents to Washington constantly and regularly, but their return takes months, sometimes years.

Since 1976, when the Library first got involved in the declassification program, fewer than 300,000 papers have been cleared for use. To many of the scholars and writers who do their research here, this is the most frustrating and even infuriating aspect of our operation. And the problems experienced here are of course duplicated in the other Presidential libraries.

Now, a recent experiment at the LBJ Library offers the prospect of a promising change in the declassification problem.

Last year, President Clinton issued an executive order to speed the release of classified documents more than 25 years old in all federal depositories. Accordingly, the National



**Declassification in process**

Archives and Records administration set a goal to declassify 250,000 papers in the Presidential libraries during 1996. To meet this goal, the Archives coordinated an electronic project developed and organized by the CIA.

The project began with a six-week pilot program at the Johnson

Library in May. A team composed of representatives from the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, Navy, Air Force and LBJ Library scanned some 92,000 pages from the Vietnam Country File and sent 11 compact discs containing computerized images of those pages to Washington for distribution to reviewing agencies. The initial result was declassification of 6,000 pages of the material. Normally, according to Tina Houston, the Library's Supervisory Archivist, clearance of those 6,000 pages would take "considerably more than a year" at a much higher cost.

The question now is whether the team will continue to work its magic on the documents in the vault of the LBJ Library.



Paul E. Leeman, undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin, became the 7,000th person to sign up for research at the Library. (The figure does not include students who come into the research room on tour or school groups for whom research packets are prepared.) Mr. Leeman's project, for a journalism class, was "LBJ and the Press."

# LBJ and RFK: A Tranquil Moment

An exhibit case in the lobby, titled "Letters From the Archives," displays changing selections from the Library's holdings. Currently, an exchange of letters between President Johnson and Senator Robert F. Kennedy captures a poignant moment in a frequently tense relationship.

## Text of RFK Letter

Dated January 1966, to LBJ  
(Handwritten on Senate stationery)

Dear Mr. President,

Reading the newspapers and their columnists and listening to my colleagues in Congress (including myself) on what to do and what not to do in Viet Nam must become somewhat discouraging at times.

I was thinking of you and your responsibilities while I was reading Bruce Catton's book *Never Call Retreat*. I thought it might give you some comfort to look again at another President, Abraham Lincoln, and some of the identical problems and situations that he faced that you are now meeting. I refer you to pages 56-63 and 371-381 of the Catton book. You see on page 381 that he became so discouraged in the late Spring of 1864 that he wrote a memorandum saying he was expecting to lose the election. Of course the situation improved a few months later, but it does show how terribly distressed even he must have been at times.

Actually, it is clear that the division within the North was much greater during various periods of time in that war though I recognize that there are not exact parallels and you face problems and situations that he did not have to meet.

In closing let me say how impressed I have been with the most recent efforts to find a peaceful solution to Viet Nam. Our position within the United States and round the world has improved immeasurably as we face the difficult decisions of this year.

Respectfully,  
Bob Kennedy



This pessimism briefly infected Mr. Lincoln himself, and on August 23 he wrote a memorandum, folded and sealed it, asked his cabinet members to sign their names on the outside so that it could be identified later, and put it in his desk. Opened after the election, the memorandum read: "This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to so co-operate with the President-elect as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration; as he will have secured his election on such ground that he cannot possibly save it afterward."

From page 381,  
*Never Call Retreat*



## Text of LBJ Letter

January 27, 1966

Dear Bob:

Your warm letter arrived at an appropriate time. It was one of those hours when I felt alone, prayerfully alone.

I remembered so well how President Kennedy had to face, by himself, the agony of the Cuba missile crisis. I read the paragraph in Catton's book that you had marked, and then I went to a meeting in the Cabinet Room with the Congressional leaders of both parties. I read them that passage where Lincoln told a friend that all of the responsibilities of the administration "belong to that unhappy wretch called Abraham Lincoln." I knew exactly how Lincoln felt.

You know better than most the gloom that crowds in on a President, for you lived close to your brother. Thus, your letter meant a great deal to me and I tell you how grateful I am for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
lbj

President Johnson and Senator Kennedy walking together on the White House grounds. (Photo: Yoichi Okamoto)



George Christian and Dave McNeely, columnist for the Austin American-Statesman, discuss White House press relations with an Elderhostel group meeting at the LBJ Library for a week-long session on President Johnson. Other speakers included Larry Temple, Harry Middleton, Frank Wolfe, Mrs. Eleanor Butt Crook, wife of the former U. S. Ambassador to Australia, Walt Rostow, Liz Carpenter and Ted Gittinger.

Approximately 900 Boys State delegates, staff, and sponsors were among the Library's visitors this spring.



# LBJ Visitors Center Opens Exhibit

A new exhibit gallery at the National Park Service's Visitor Center in Johnson City, boyhood home town of President Johnson, relates the story of the 36th President's Administration to the area of his birth and development. "We are trying to tell the story of the president in the context of the town he grew up in," Park Superintendent Leslie Starr Hart told the Austin American-Statesman, "which is different from the LBJ Library, which tells his whole political story."

The exhibit was dedicated in July. The Visitors Center is housed in what was once a hospital, now thoroughly refurbished.



Ribbon to the exhibit area is cut by Former Congressman Jake Pickle, National Park Service Executive John E. Cook, and Mrs. Johnson.



The Space display shows Vice-President Johnson supervising American astronauts as they sign their names in concrete blocks at the LBJ Ranch.



A desk (partly visible in case), rocking chair and other memorabilia were lent to the Center by the Library.

## Hillary on Lady Bird

Cab drivers, tourists and reporters are among those who, like old LBJ hands, always associate Washington-in-bloom-in-the-spring with Lady Bird Johnson. Now Hillary Rodham Clinton has joined that throng. In a column published in a number of newspapers, she wrote: "It is impossible to be in Washington in the spring without thinking of Lady Bird Johnson. Everytime I see daffodils on the parkways, I think of Mrs. Johnson. Whenever I see cherry trees blossoming along the Potomac River or tulips dotting the monument grounds, I think of Mrs. Johnson, too."

According to the First Lady, her predecessor of three decades ago told her she still misses Washington in the spring time. "It is just a great long symphony," she quoted Mrs. Johnson as telling her. "The progress of spring always lifted me a good bit. At the first faint green of the willows along the Potomac, you knew it would not fail. Then pretty soon, there'd be that graceful yellow forsythia in people's yards. I miss it. It was a sort of signature of Washington. It was a story that never grew old, and I loved every chapter."



*AMONG FRIENDS OF LBJ* is a publication of the Friends of the LBJ Library

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The LBJ Library is one of nine presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

## Coming Events

The Library's program for the year ahead (September through May) is taking shape. As of now, it looks like this:

**Sept. 25:** "Reminiscences by First Daughters"

**Oct. 1:** Opening of new gallery for gifts from Heads of State

**Oct. 10:** David Maraniss, author

**Nov. 15:** John Dancy, retiring Moscow correspondent for NBC

**Dec. 4:** Literary Portrait of 20th Century America

**Jan. 9:** Films of Charles Guggenheim

**Feb. (no date yet)** Exhibit: "Art and the Camera"

**Feb. 7:** Symposium—The Future of American Political Parties

**Feb. 7:** Former President Gerald Ford

**March:** No Program Yet

**Apr. 1:** "An Evening with Eleanor Roosevelt"

Tatum Rebekah Nugent, daughter of Lyndon and Nicole Nugent, was baptized at the LBJ Ranch by the Most Reverend John McCarthy, Bishop of Austin. Godparents were Lara Witt and John Barr.

