

Ed - Sen. Johnson wants this
filed where it won't get lost
because he is proud of it.
Don't transfer it to the attic.

mary

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

9:50 AM Feb. 14, 1951

General Marshall called for you, and although I told him I could locate you in a few minutes, he asked me to tell you the following:

"Tell him I just called up to say that I had seen his report and I want him to know that I think he has really done a magnificent job on the manpower bill.

"Are you taking this down? (Answer: Yes, sir, word for word.)

"Tell him I realize all the practical difficulties and admire greatly the way he has handled it, and I said as much to the President on Monday night."

(Thank you very much, General Marshall, I know that Senator Johnson will deeply appreciate this message and I will tell him in just a little while.)

mary

Mr Johnson

This is the
rest of it

7
Where
can be found

February 13, 1951

Telephone call from Donald Dawson to Lyndon Johnson

Dawson - Lyndon, I just wanted to talk to you about this attack that Fullbright is making on me. You always asked me if I ever needed any help to come to you. What this fellow is after I have not the slightest idea. All I have ever done is to try to help you people on the Hill.

Johnson - What do you think ought to be done?

Dawson - Damn if I know. He issued this report. There is nothing in it. He talks about my wife. He implies a lot of things. It strikes me that he ought not to be making any extraneous statements to my detriment.

Johnson - Assuming everything you say is correct, where do you go from there.

Dawson - Lyndon, you folks have the control of the Senate.

Johnson - I wish that was true.

Dawson - I think you do. I have the greatest confidence in you. All I have done all my life is try to help people on the Hill.

Johnson - They have a committee. I think you should either ~~sit~~ fight it out within the committee or pay no attention to the committee and fight it out publicly. All you need is to have a very few Democrats feel the same way most of the Republicans feel it is their duty to feel. We have a policy in our committee (I am trying to get hold of the Air Force now) -- we don't

--- we don't make allegations until we have confronted the individuals involved with their accusers. If we are the accusers we call them in and say this is what the staff recommends. If there is anything you want to say about it, or any questions or facts you want to argue, or any objections you want to raise, then let us know. Most of the committees don't do that.

Dawson - You are fair.

Johnson - I try to be. I think oone of two things: Fullbright is going to do whatever he wants to do that is within reason because I gather from reading the papers (I haven't discussed it with any of them), but it is my guess that if they take the position that this is it, this is what they are going to say -- you have two choices (1)fighting it out in the committee or (2) fighting it out publicly.

Dawson - He said last night he would blast me some more.

Nothing

Johnson - Anybody cando about it. If he has a six year term, he can blast. Morse is blasting me on the draft bill now. Between being blasted by the Department of Defense and a member of my committee is pretty bad. Nobody can control his blast. If the Democrats on his committee agree with him that will be your problem.

Dawson - Lyndon, I am not worried about anything I have done. It is just a smear technique they are using. This is different. They have attacked my wife.

Johnson - I would put my fight before the committee or I would put it before the public in ~~xxx~~ my own press conference or outside the committee. I don;t think the committee will change its position. I don't think anybody can get Douglas or Fullbright to change and they are the only two I know to change anything they have said. As far as they are concerned, you start with an impossible situation in the committee. I think you should have your own press conference. Say here are the facts. Start a fire in your own backyard.

Dawson - Do you think I can get anywhere sighting a Senate Committee?

Johnson - I think that depends. I have seen some of them based on their reports fail to stand up. I have seen some of them change.

Dawson - Fartner, I would sure appreciate some help up there. I think you folks could work it out. You have an organization.

Johnson - I wish I knew what should be done and how it should be done. I know in my committee if any of the members feel they don't agree with this or that, the humblest, newest Republican has a right to call anybody he wants to, and put it in the record, but I don't know what procedure they have. In my committee it has to be in the appendix and confirmed by reputable people. ~~Who~~ Who is ~~helping~~ on the committee?

Dawson - Freer, Capehart, Tobey and Maybank.

Johnson - I will talk to McFarland and see if he doesn't want to talk to Maybank and get his suggestions on it. I think I understand it, but I think when you've got 49-47 majority all you have to do is have two.

Dawson - Well, Lyndon I am being very frank. I need some help.

Johnson - What do you think should be done.

Dawson - I don't know. It is a Senate problem. I can't do anything without people like you, my friends. I would say that you, McFarland, the Vice President sit down with them and discuss it, and ask for ~~Johnston's~~ common descency.

Johnson - That puts us in the position of saying you are not showing fair play when they have sat in committee for a month and know all the answers.

Dawson - ~~No when~~ Not when --

Johnson - I will talk to Mack about it when we meet today at 1 PM

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3:40 PM February 15, 1951

President Truman calling Senator Johnson

The President - Hello.

Johnson - Yes, Mr. President.

The President - How did you do it?

Johnson - I don't know. I don't know whether I have done it yet. I am just over one hurdle.

The President - The way that came out with a 13 to 0 vote, it ought to sail through. I talked to Dick Russell and he thought you had done a whale of a job, and so do I.

Johnson - and that woman did the greatest job that anybody has ever done in this town. When you can take the competitors like Agriculture, Army, Air, Selective Service, Navy, Labor, all that are fighting for a small part, and they all get together, then anybody who is reasonable ought to accept it. We spent a month and five days, and went up a lot of trails, but we always came back to the same thing.

The President - You did a good job. It will be a continuing one if you can get it through.

Johnson - Every President since George Washington has been trying to do that.

The President - I think you will.

Johnson - I hope Wayne can talk to you. He is a good man. He is against taking 18 year olds and against a term of service longer than 21 months. Maybe you can talk to him.

The President - I will talk to him a little later on.

Johnson - Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate your calling me.

mary

~~Under office~~
Record of Johnson's extra-personal calls

February 15, 1951

Under Secretary John McCone of the Air Force in conversation in Senator Johnson's office.

Johnson - Mr. Secretary, I got a letter here. I am writing you one for the files. I don't know Darneille and Geil of Brown Engineering. Mr. Brown is chairman of the Board of Rice Institute at Houston, Texas, and a respected citizen and a friend of mine. He told me some of his people -- he wanted to know who to talk to here. He suggested he should see Vandenberg and asked my judgment. I told him I did not know who would handle that and give it proper evaluation, but I thought the Under Secretary would head it up and refer him to the right people. I want to make it clear that I only want it considered on its merits. I can't pass on the merits. I can't be picking Stinger airplanes for the Air Force or submarines for the Navy. I just don't want the files to reflect that I am trying to influence the decision. If any of my staff call or write a letter, please don't consider it as anything more than a request for information or for consideration on its merits.

McCone - I know George Brown; at least I knew him slightly. I know who he is. I realized why you sent it over. I was sure that was the way you felt.

Johnson - I put out a mimeographed statement when I came here about what to write in letters. I write the constituents back "I have no authority (quoting from the mimeographed instructions issued to the office personnel for use in answering letters)." I have a form letter that protects me there and generally speaking on a letter or tag slip sent the Department you will see this: "This is solely to secure information."

mary

Under Office Memo.

March 10, 1951 - 12:10 PM

President Truman calling from Key West, Florida.

Truman - Hello

Johnson - Yes, Mr. President.

Truman - Lyndon, you did a whale of a job.

Johnson - You are mighty sweet to say that.

Truman - I have been reading the accounts. That last fight was a hum-dinger. You will have a whale of a fight with the House Committee. Our friend over there will try to do all he can to transfer the credit of a good job from the Senate to the House. You will have to be very careful and diplomatic in handling it. This bill is much better than anything we anticipated.

Johnson - You are mighty nice. Dick Russell and Mrs. Rosenberg deserve more credit than I do.

Truman - No, you held the hearings and you did the work, but I will call Dick and tell him what I think of it too.

Johnson - You would have been amused at Taft yesterday saying he was for UMT.

Truman - Lyndon, the Congress passed a Naval bill the other day completely tying the hands of the President. I may have to send it back; if I do I will tell you about it.

Johnson - All right. McFarland and I talked to McCormack last night. Everytime I got a critical vote set, they would give out an interview over in the House

Truman - I will talk to them about that. I always talk to the Big Four on Monday. I will talk to them at 11 o'clock Monday morning from here. What do you want me to tell them?

Johnson - Tell them it is the first time since George Washington that a President has had a long range draft bill. This Dewey Short is an isolationist.

Truman - Dewey Short is no good. I know him.

Johnson - ?

Truman - That was too bad about Virgil Chapman.

Johnson - It just broke our hearts. We are going to the funeral here this afternoon and then to Kentucky tonight.

Truman - I am glad you are going.

Johnson - I am so glad you made him happy at Sam's the other night. He said afterward that he had now met somebody that new ~~as~~ as much about the Civil War as he did.

Truman - (Laughed). Well, call me down here if you need me.

United States Senate

*File
re response
file*

MEMORANDUM

March 8, 1951

Secy. Lovett called again at 11:30 and I explained that you had no answered his earlier call because you had been at Bethesda Naval Hospital all morning. He said as follows:

"I don't want to bother Senator Johnson. I called merely to tell him what a wonderful job I think he has been doing on this thing and how much we appreciate it. It must be a rough ride. We are very, very pleased and I thought he should know it."

mary

March 30, 1951

Telephone Conversation between Sen. Johnson and Robert S. Allen

Johnson - I just got back to the office and I got a stack of mail here from Amarillo, Texas, quoting a report and a lot of clippings by one friend of mind named Robert S. Allen. I thought it was indicated that I talk to you and give you the facts and answer any questions you want to ask.

Allen - Anytime you have anything to tell me I have the time to listen.

Johnson - I was told that Drew Pearson made mention of substantially the same thing last Sunday. The story says (reading Allen's story) Now, Bob, ~~x~~ no such talk ever took place. I never took such a position. I never thought of taking such a position. I have been guided by what ~~Kee~~ Kefauver thought ought to be done. I vote his proxy in my committee. No word was ever mentioned in the Policy Committee. When I saw the clipping I called the Clerk and when I was present or absent no such discussion took place at a Policy Committee meeting.

Allen - Was there ever such a meeting?

Johnson - No. No such meeting. It never took place. It was such a surprise to me. My position is to Hell with the Democratic Party, Kefauver ought to do whatever ought to be done. I have complete confidence in him. Senator Russell, Green, Kefauver, Tobey -- they have never mentioned it to me. (Reading letter received from Amarillo.) After I read this letter this morning I called Marshall McNeil. He said he had heard that story and he called Lister Hill. Hill said he had never heard the story. ~~xxxx~~ My point is this: I don't want any correction, ~~bugx~~ but as I answered a letter a while ago I said I know Bob Allen. Whatever he wrote he thought was right. But I supported Kefauver's committee. I asked for him on my committee. My committee has put out nine reports. He gave me his proxy on all of them.

Supported me on

Allen - Well, Lyndon, I take your word without question. I don't know how to begin to apologize. But I will go into this thing. Anybody who writes you, you can say Robert S. Allen - Bob Allen - not only reaffirmed his complete confidence in Lyndon Johnson, he said he will rectify it. I appreciate it as a personal favor and genuine manifestation of your friendship for me that you called me. If you want me to write to all of those people who wrote you, I will write them. Tell them that I said obviously a greivous error had been made and I was deeply distressed and I would rectify it.

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You would be surprised at the number that will vote Republican this time. People are pretty sick of conditions.

THE WACO TIMES-HERALD

Tuesday, March 27, 1951

Robert S. Allen Reports

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WJ

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WASHINGTON—If a majority of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee have their way, the Kefauver crime probe will be shut down at the end of this week.

Included in this group are Senators Ernest McFarland, Arizona, party floor leader, and Lyndon Johnson, Texas, party whip and chairman of the Mobilization Investigating Subcommittee whose hard-hitting reports have made headline news.

Present line-up in the policy committee on the explosive issue is as follows:

For ending the crime probe—McFarland, Johnson, Richard, Russell, Georgia, leader of the powerful Southern bloc; Robert Kerr, Oklahoma, millionaire oilman.

For continuing — Brien McMahon, Connecticut, head of the Atomic Energy Committee; Theodore Green, Rhode Island; Joe O'Mahoney, Wyoming, head of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report.

Undecided—Lister Hill of Alabama.

◆ ◆ ◆
The Democratic leaders have had one stormy session on the issue.

It was brought up by Senator Johnson. He bluntly declared the investigation should be allowed to expire March 31 "before it wrecks the whole Democratic Party." He argued that regardless of what was uncovered, the party would be blamed for it.

Johnson was strongly backed by Russell and Kerr, who also stressed the damaging effect of the investigation on the Democratic Party. While aligning himself with them, Floor Leader McFarland suggested the matter be discussed with President Truman and Kefauver before taking any action on it.

Last year, McFarland was chairman of an Interstate Commerce subcommittee that held hearings on a bill to curb the transmission of racing reports. Among the witnesses was Frank Costello, who airily denied being the gambling czar the Kefauver committee has since shown him to be. The anti-racing bill got nowhere. It was reported out by the committee, but was never acted on by the senate.

◆ ◆ ◆
Kefauver's investigators have information that attorneys for several big gamblers discussed the legislation with members of McFarland's committee.

Senator McMahon took the lead in countering the policy committee demand to kill the crime probe.

McMahon warned that the Republicans would make heavy political capital out of such a move. He strongly counseled the committee take no stand that was not acceptable to Kefauver. Senator Green echoed this advice.

In the end, no action was taken at this meeting. Also, all references to the discussion were eliminated from the minutes.

Note: Intimates of Kefauver are saying he has changed his mind about winding up the investigation. Instead, he now plans to ask for a new lease of life and additional funds.

~~Needs to be wrecked~~ Kefauver Committee

Unless the Senate takes action, the Kefauver Crime Investigating Committee will be out of business April 1. It deserves to stay alive.

The most qualified observers, and that includes judges and other legal experts, seem convinced that the committee has conducted a searching, productive and fair-minded inquiry. Considering the automatically sensational nature of much crime information, this investigation has been surprisingly free of that taint.

But the story has taken longer to unfold than any Senator may have guessed when the committee was created last May. The investigators are still striking it rich, as the probe into New York crime amply shows. They need more time to round out the picture.

Frank Costello, New York gambler charged by the committee with heading a national crime syndicate, undoubtedly was hoping for the committee's dissolution March 31 when he stalled off talking before it in his recent appearances. It would be a pity if he were allowed to gain the advantage he sought. He is a key figure and the committee should have his full testimony.

Furthermore, the committee should be kept in existence long enough to permit it to draft careful recommendations for laws aimed at clearing up crime conditions. No one imagines Congress could legislate crime out of the picture, but it might make many criminal practices vastly more difficult than they are today.

Even without any new laws, the Kefauver committee has brought great discomfort to the criminal world. Publicity, especially as defined in the era of television, is poison to underworld characters. They've shown that by shying away from TV cameras whenever they could.

It would be hard to measure the effect this inquiry and its attendant publicity have had on national crime operations. Unquestionably the impact has been substantial, though the evidence of that has not generally been spectacular. Chicago furnished one of the best examples when an aroused citizenry went to the polls last Fall and slapped down candidates believed to have benefitted from a crime-politics alliance.

Certainly the committee has earned the right to continued life. Its extension will be fought, mostly by politicians who fear the committee's earnest determination to expose the crime-politics liaison wherever it is found. But such opposition ought to be brushed aside.

When the committee has done its full job, thought should be given to the idea of a permanent national crime commission to keep the spotlight trained relentlessly on U. S. underworld leaders. On a more limited basis, commissions of

REC'D MAR 30 1951

Handwritten initials

REC'D MAR 30 1951



Senator Lyndon Johnson
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C.

COPY

October 20, 1951
About 12:30 PM

Telephone Conversation between Secretary Whitehair and Sen. Johnson

Johnson - Here is the discussion about it (reading from the report)
Doesn't that in your judgment ...

Whitehair - I think that is magnificent

Johnson - I think too that fairness dictates that. I am not bluffed or
scared. Now, let me get to the golf courses

Whitehair - Incidentally if I can digress a moment, I got my orders to
report for a physical examination.

Johnson - Good God, I guess mine will come tomorrow. Now then (reading
about golf courses)

Whitehair - I fully agree with that. I think they should get rid of the
riding horses.

Johnson - You can take one mink coat and lose sight of a billion dollars
in expenditures.

Whitehair - I will tell you why I think it is right -- it is so big there
you would think you were on the Sahara Desert. How can anyone get
around to riding them? ~~You can't~~ Who would get to ride 40 horses?
They will be out of there. Don't worry.

Johnson - The only other strong statement was the system of grievances
and the stuff they sent us in our judgment ~~was~~ more strongly supported
the stuff than what we had. But, the principle thing, we have just taken
what Cates said yesterday morning. There were others all through the
thing which were pointed out and we moderated -- like adjectives like
bungling. I don't know anything else to do.

Whitehair = That is magnificent. It will be of great service. As a matter
of fact, it gives me some ~~sort~~ support, like Friday, when I showed you
that chart, you said it showed what can be done when you try.

COPY

Johnson - Hoey showed me how many Marines had been killed in cars and wrecks, and we put in some for the railroad.

Whitehair - Cates is worried about it. That is one Hell of a place. Although for 15 years I was general counsel for the Coastline Railway I told them If this thing continues like it is, with the Marines carrying the burden of the fighting in the next 12 months, one out of three of those boys will be killed and by God they have a right to live the last 12 months in a better ~~way~~ kind of way than they are. I told the Coastline they should do something about it, by God.

Johnson - Get the best man attached to you when this report comes out, and instead of writing a long letter saying we have been aware of this for 20 years, you follow Pace's lead or Symington's, and if it is feasible and can be done, you write a letter to the committee and say I have read the report and I have immediately directed No. 1 - dissatisfaction, we are aware of dissatisfaction and have taken steps but we will take more, and No. 2 Then the committee will pass a resolution commending the prompt action. Nobody blames Symington for a bad loan because he steps in and says I have done it and then everybody forgets about it. I think you can too when you get this report -- what can be done, what is feasible to be done, the riding stable -- just bing, bing, bing, and the other services will have to catch up with you.

Whitehair - I will do it.

Johnson - Tell Pollack the boys thought it was a very excellent meeting yesterday and you let him know the approach to it.

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May