

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Juanita:

As of the moment, I am unable to locate the diary work sheet for July 13th but it ought to turn up some place in a few days when I get caught up and everything cleaned up/~~and~~ /

mm

July 13, 1960

Senator Johnson was very much composed and showed outward clam -- which I think was sincere and genuine -- as he watched the first ballot being taken on television from his hotel suite at the Biltmore. In the living room were gathered a large group of press, photographers and television people. He visited with these people and then went into a bedroom of the suite to watch most of the balloting. He joked with the Press and asked that sandwiches to be sent up and offered everyone a drink.

After the commencement of the nominations, he called John Connally, sitting with the Texas delegation at the convention, to suggest that, if possible, it might be a wise move to get the voting to go over to the next day, to try to get the convention to recess in order to gain some delay. This was not done.

As the balloting began and after a few states had been called, he remarked that Kennedy was picking up a vote or so or perhaps a half-vote as he went along.

When it was certain that Senator Kennedy had won the nomination on the first ballot, Senator Johnson said this was the best thing that could have happened. Someone said to him he hated to see Senator Johnson lose but Senator Johnson said he did not mind. There was no evidence of sorrow, or sadness or dejection on his part. Quite the contrary, he seemed at all times during the evening gay, relaxed and possibly relieved when it was all over with.

Not long after the third session of the convention had concluded for the night, Speaker Rayburn called Senator Johnson from the convention hall and told him he must not, under any circumstances, accept the vice-presidential nomination. ~~The Speaker had~~

Then Senator Johnson talked to John Connally, still at the convention hall, and told John he didn't think it would be offered him. (During the first ballot when Missouri switched its votes to Kennedy, Senator Johnson said a deal had been made. "There's your vice-president," he said.)

John told Senator Johnson there were rumors to the effect out at the convention hall that Johnson would be offered the vice-presidential nomination by Senator Kennedy.

July 14, 1960

Senator Kennedy called Senator Johnson's suite about 8:30 in the morning. Mrs. Johnson answered the phone and Senator Kennedy asked for Senator Johnson. Senator Johnson came to the phone and Senator Kennedy told him he would like to see him. Senator Johnson said he would come to Senator Kennedy's suite but Senator Kennedy said no, he would come to Senator Johnson's suite.

Senator Johnson was not certain what Senator Kennedy wanted by asking to see him. Bobby Baker and Mrs. Johnson made a bet with each other of 50 cents. Mrs. Johnson thought Senator Kennedy was only going to make a courtesy call. Bobby believed he would offer Senator Johnson the vice-presidential nomination.

Before Senator Kennedy arrived, Senator Johnson began to consult with his close advisers. Jim Rowe called and told him to accept, if offered. "I want to see you President one day," Jim Rowe said.

"Mrs. Johnson is slightly against it," the Senator said.

Tom Corcoran thought he ought to take it. Congressman Homer Thornberry at first counseled against it. Later he called back to say that on second thought he believed Senator Johnson should accept.

Senator Johnson also consulted with Congressman Wright Patman, Attorney General Will Wilson, Governor Daniel, Governor Buford Ellington, Senator Kerr, and Senator Clements.

Senator Kennedy arrived at the Johnson suite at 10:58 a. m. He did ask Senator Johnson to be his running-mate. Senator Johnson told him he was not interested. He asked Senator Kennedy what other leaders thought about it. Senator Kennedy said that Governor Lawrence, Disalle, and Brown and Mayor Daley were all for it. He said that Governor Lawrence and Congressman Dawson would both nominate him. Senator Johnson told him he ought to make up his mind who he would be willing to recommend to the convention and that he ought to talk it over with the other potential nominees.

Later in the day, Bob Kennedy came to the suite. He said that certain groups like labor, Michigan and the District of Columbia were objecting to the choice of Senator Johnson. And he asked Senator Johnson not to accept the offer. A call was placed to Senator Kennedy who said he wanted to talk to his brother. Apparently he told his brother he didn't care what others were saying, that he wanted Senator Johnson and the matter was settled.

Later, Bob Kennedy came back and suggested that Senator Johnson might be named chairman of the National Democratic Committee. This angered the Speaker who told Bob Kennedy that their man was not running for anything. John Connally told Bob Kennedy that Senator Johnson was not interested in running for the nomination and that he was only interested in the event that Senator Kennedy came out in whole-hearted support. He also told Bob Kennedy that in the future the only one of the Kennedys the Johnson people wanted to deal with was Senator Kennedy. ~~and not Bob~~ Bob Kennedy said, "Well, it's Jack and Lyndon."

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Juanita:

As of the moment, I am unable to locate the diary work sheet for July 13th but it ought to turn up some place in a few days when I get caught up and everything cleaned up/~~and~~ /

mm

July 13, 1960

Senator Johnson was very much composed and showed outward clam -- which I think was sincere and genuine -- as he watched the first ballot being taken on television from his hotel suite at the Biltmore. In the living room were gathered a large group of press, photographers and television people. He visited with these people and then went into a bedroom of the suite to watch most of the balloting. He joked with the Press and asked that sandwiches to be sent up and offered everyone a drink.

After the commencement of the nominations, he called John Connally, sitting with the Texas delegation at the convention, to suggest that, if possible, it might be a wise move to get the voting to go over to the next day, to try to get the convention to recess in order to gain some delay. This was not done.

As the balloting began and after a few states had been called, he remarked that Kennedy was picking up a vote or so or perhaps a half-vote as he went along.

When it was certain that Senator Kennedy had won the nomination on the first ballot, Senator Johnson said this was the best thing that could have happened. Someone said to him he hated to see Senator Johnson lose but Senator Johnson said he did not mind. There was no evidence of sorrow, or sadness or dejection on his part. Quite the contrary, he seemed at all times during the evening gay, relaxed and possibly relieved when it was all over with.

Not long after the third session of the convention had concluded for the night, Speaker Rayburn called Senator Johnson from the convention hall and told him he must not, under any circumstances, accept the vice-presidential nomination. ~~The Speaker had~~

Then Senator Johnson talked to John Connally, still at the convention hall, and told John he didn't think it would be offered him. (During the first ballot when Missouri switched its votes to Kennedy, Senator Johnson said a deal had been made. "There's your vice-president," he said.)

John told Senator Johnson there were rumors to the effect out at the convention hall that Johnson would be offered the vice-presidential nomination by Senator Kennedy.

July 14, 1960

Senator Kennedy called Senator Johnson's suite about 8:30 in the morning. Mrs. Johnson answered the phone and Senator Kennedy asked for Senator Johnson. Senator Johnson came to the phone and Senator Kennedy told him he would like to see him. Senator Johnson said he would come to Senator Kennedy's suite but Senator Kennedy said no, he would come to Senator Johnson's suite.

Senator Johnson was not certain what Senator Kennedy wanted by asking to see him. Bobby Baker and Mrs. Johnson made a bet with each other of 50 cents. Mrs. Johnson thought Senator Kennedy was only going to make a courtesy call. Bobby believed he would offer Senator Johnson the vice-presidential nomination.

Before Senator Kennedy arrived, Senator Johnson began to consult with his close advisers. Jim Rowe called and told him to accept, if offered. "I want to see you President one day," Jim Rowe said.

"Mrs. Johnson is slightly against it," the Senator said.

Tom Corcoran thought he ought to take it. Congressman Homer Thornberry at first counseled against it. Later he called back to say that on second thought he believed Senator Johnson should accept.

Senator Johnson also consulted with Congressman Wright Patman, Attorney General Will Wilson, Governor Daniel, Governor Buford Ellington, Senator Kerr, and Senator Clements.

Senator Kennedy arrived at the Johnson suite at 10:58 a. m. He did ask Senator Johnson to be his running-mate. Senator Johnson told him he was not interested. He asked Senator Kennedy what other leaders thought about it. Senator Kennedy said that Governor Lawrence, Disalle, and Brown and Mayor Daley were all for it. He said that Governor Lawrence and Congressman Dawson would both nominate him. Senator Johnson told him he ought to make up his mind who he would be willing to recommend to the convention and that he ought to talk it over with the other potential nominees.

Later in the day, Bob Kennedy came to the suite. He said that certain groups like labor, Michigan and the District of Columbia were objecting to the choice of Senator Johnson. And he asked Senator Johnson not to accept the offer. A call was placed to Senator Kennedy who said he wanted to talk to his brother. Apparently he told his brother he didn't care what others were saying, that he wanted Senator Johnson and the matter was settled.

Later, Bob Kennedy came back and suggested that Senator Johnson might be named chairman of the National Democratic Committee. This angered the Speaker who told Bob Kennedy that their man was not running for anything. John Connally told Bob Kennedy that Senator Johnson was not interested in running for the nomination and that he was only interested in the event that Senator Kennedy came out in whole-hearted support. He also told Bob Kennedy that in the future the only one of the Kennedys the Johnson people wanted to deal with was Senator Kennedy. ~~and not Bob~~ Bob Kennedy said, "Well, it's Jack and Lyndon."