

November 12, 1945.

Honorable Ross Bohannon,  
Republic Bank Building,  
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Ross:

I have been in Texas for about three weeks and just about the time I was ready to leave down there I contracted the flu and have been indisposed for several days since returning to Washington. Your letter of October 11th which was written the day I left for Texas is a corker. I meant much to me and I certainly am further in your debt for the time you took out to inquire what the folks were thinking. You could render me a great service if occasionally you would make some other checks and give me suggestions as you did the other day.

John Connally is back at Austin now and will be in the thick of things. I should like for you to get in touch with him the first time you are down that way. He can be reached at Radio Station KTEC. Before he left Washington he told me how anxious he was to see you and Ed again.

Keep me up to date on developments and know that I appreciate your loyalty and friendship more than I can tell you in a letter.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson.

lbj m  
corr - bohannon, ross

T. C. WILKINSON, JR.  
J. EDWARD JOHNSON  
GORDON GRIFFIN  
ROSS BOHANNON  
JEROME T. RAGSDALE  
  
SAM CONNALLY  
ROSS K. PRESCOTT

WILKINSON, JOHNSON, GRIFFIN, BOHANNON & RAGSDALE  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW  
REPUBLIC BANK BUILDING  
DALLAS, TEXAS

DALLAS, TEXAS  
BROWNWOOD, TEXAS

October 11, 1945

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson,  
Member of Congress,  
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL

Dear Lyndon:

You will recall that you requested me to make a small survey for you here in Dallas relative to what the people here thought about the Governor's race. I contacted one hundred and ten people, and gave them the names of yourself, Beauford Jester, John Lee Smith and Homer Rainey. Fifty-two people expressed their willingness to vote for you, twenty-eight for Beauford Jester, eighteen for John Lee Smith, and none for Homer Rainey. As you will note, there is a slight discrepancy here, but a number of those contacted would not express any preference.

Then, while in Brownwood last week, I contacted thirty people there and twenty-two of these expressed a willingness to vote for you, with three or four for Beauford Jester and three or four for John Lee Smith, and, again, Homer Rainey drew a blank.

In talking with these people I ran into several trends, however, which I think you should be advised about. One of them is that your best friends--the ones who are the most generous in their praises of you--appear to be of the opinion that you could very easily be elected Governor, but they prefer that you wait two years and run against O'Daniel. In other words, they felt that your forte was in Washington, rather than in Austin. Some of them would make a statement similar to this: "I would be for Lyndon and he could be elected, but I do not believe that he could serve as Governor for just one term and then step down to run for Senator." Without pressing the matter further, you could readily see that it was their preference that you be United States Senator, rather than Governor. However, almost all of them would go further and make a statement similar to this: "If he had rather be Governor for a couple of terms, then I feel sure he could be elected."

From talking to the people, it is my firm conviction that you would run better in West Texas than in Dallas. There appears to be quite a bit of sentiment here in Dallas in favor of Beauford Jester, which is, no doubt, occasioned by his residence in Corsicana. However, there was a strong factor which I probed somewhat and found very encouraging in any race which you might make--either for Governor, or for Senator--and that was, in talking to a few of the more substantial people here in Dallas whom I know and those who appeared to be for you, most of them stated that they would be willing not only to help in the race, but would also contribute financial support. For instance, I

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson - page 2.

talked to an automobile dealer here in Dallas, considered by me to be the strongest man politically in Dallas County, that is a potential possibility since he has never been interested in Texas politics. He is a young man, thirty-two years of age, formerly a resident of Brownwood, has one of the largest Ford Agencies in Dallas, and his name is W. O. Bankston. When I mentioned to him the possibility of your running for Governor, he immediately became quite interested and said, "I'll not only help by getting out and doing some work, but I'll contribute substantially to the campaign."

There was another trend which surprised me, and that was that several of the people who were violently anti-Roosevelt, such as Bankston, expressed their willingness to go along with us wholeheartedly. I rather expected serious opposition from those people who were anti-Roosevelt.

Frankly, I think it is a weak field as it presently stacks up, and that you could easily be elected if you desire to be Governor of Texas.

There also appeared one other possibility which I think should be called to your attention: Several of the people who appeared to be against you gave as their reason that they were afraid you were very much pro-Rainey. I do not know where they got this idea, but, if I were you, I would absolutely stay clear of any of the "Rainey difficulties" because, frankly, I do not think that Rainey will be a strong factor in the Governor's race, and I further believe that he is losing ground fast in Texas.

Please excuse this rambling letter, but I was sort of thinking out loud. Please call on me if you need anything out this way.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross Bohannon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Ross Bohannon

rb:cp

September 29, 1945

Dear Ross:

Thanks very much for your most generous letter of the 28th.

It was a real pleasure to see you while you were here and do hope the occasion will arise that you may return soon.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Hon. Ross Bohannon  
Wilkinson, Johnson, Griffin, Bohannon &  
Ragsdale  
Brownwood, Texas

dp  
corr  
bohannon, ross

T. C. WILKINSON, JR.  
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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW  
REPUBLIC BANK BUILDING  
DALLAS, TEXAS

DALLAS, TEXAS  
BROWNWOOD, TEXAS

September 28, 1945

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson,  
Member of Congress,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lyndon:

I want you to know that I genuinely appreciated your and your wife's being so nice to me and my clients as to invite us into your home. Mr. Hunsaker and Miss Kendall thoroughly enjoyed the visit there, as I did.

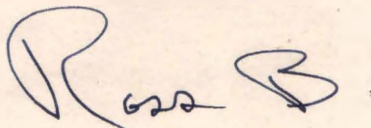
Mr. Hunsaker is a very substantial client and, inasmuch as this was my first opportunity to represent him, your inviting us out that Sunday impressed him very much and is going to be of material assistance to me in landing his account.

I am going to do some exploring here in Dallas in the next few days relative to the matter we talked about, and I will let you know the results of same immediately.

It is my honest opinion that if you want to run for Governor, it will be a shoo-in.

If there is anything we can ever do for you here, or in West Texas, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Your friend,



Ross Bohannon

rb:cp

Austin, Texas  
August 20, 1945

Mr. Ross Bohannon  
Attorney-at-law  
Republic Bank Building  
Dallas, Texas

My dear Ross:

It was good of you to write me as you did in  
your letter of August 17th, which I have just received.

Thank you very much for your kind expressions,  
and I want you to know that I am always glad to see you.

With every good wish, I am,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

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Carr.  
Bohannon, Ross

T. C. WILKINSON, JR  
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REPUBLIC BANK BUILDING  
DALLAS, TEXAS

DALLAS, TEXAS  
BROWNWOOD, TEXAS

August 17, 1945

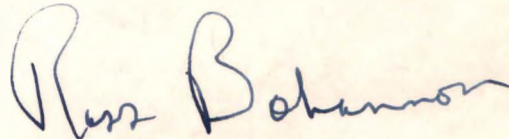
Honorable Lyndon Johnson,  
Member of Congress,  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Lyndon:

I enjoyed seeing you in Austin and appreciated very much your giving my friends and myself as much time as you did.

If there is ever anything that we can do for you here, or at Brownwood, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Yours very truly,



Ross Bohannon

rb:cp

1-7-20