

2136 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
May 20, 1942

Dear Lyndon:

I had a very pleasant talk with John.

Essentially this is still a one-man rebellion, with many persons who are not interested in you agreeing with a few persons who are that you are a good Congressman. In wood chopping the wood cutters cut their own woods first. Everybody is pretty busy. A statement that you are more than a Congressman means that the fellow who says so might have to work a hell of a lot to prove his point. Time is precious, and money is very scarce.

I have only the first returns from Texas on a check up taken by auto and telephoned in last night. It showed 175 Johnson (50 per cent) with most of the rest undecided and Moody, O'Daniel, and Allred having less than 100 between them. Moody is temporarily more active and colorful than Allred. O'Daniel is weaker than we thought. Oveta Culp Hobby believes Moody will come out the strongest with O'Daniel second and Allred third. There is a long shot possibility that O'Daniel will be third.

My own belief is that three ex-governors are merely three has beens since Pearl Harbor, and that the average American wishes to register a positive and official vote as soon as possible that he wants to lick Hitler. This means that he wants to vote for a uniform fighting for him. The above figures so indicate, but in much greater degree than I had expected. I had only expected 40 per cent, not 50 per cent.

One swallow does not make a summer. These first returns which came in last night by telephone from Texas should not be carried around too seriously in your mind. We are checking two or three different ways--not even using the normal newspaper reporter who has a tendency to lead the witness. We are using very dull people who are not partisan politically. They are asking the simple question: "Would you vote for Lyndon Johnson, if his name were on a ticket with O'Daniel, Allred, and Moody?" That accounts for a good many of the undecided, because they answer positively "Johnson", or "No Johnson." They aren't given a chance to be undecided. So it looks as if on the first returns that you are another O'Daniel accident, and that the campaign is merely a man in active service against three ex-governors who have not contributed toward the war effort ever, but have been attempting to serve the public in peacetime paying jobs without smelling powder. It seems now inconceivable that there shall be a change. These three men have been honored by the highest gift of these particular voters. They want a new face, a new issue, and a new uniform, and there is no greater issue showing up that I can see except "Draft Johnson, the fighter who whipped O'Daniel last year and had the election stolen from him." When three ex-governors jump that hurdle, let me know. They can't fight it, so they have got to quarrel among themselves, and if there is any money spent on this campaign, it will be in your behalf only by a multitude of truth-seekers and truth-believers which in the aggregate are the people at the polls.

Organization has a way of taking care of itself when these unusual conditions arise. Go get your Bible and read the Gospel According to Saint Mark.

Don't heed any advice from any clever man at all ever--none of the two and two equal four people--none of those who add minorities to make a majority--none of those logical people who substitute a lot of words and phrases for their stupidity. I am giving this letter to Connally as a result of our first meeting.

Keep your powder dry. Serve your country, and always keep the line of communication with Connally open. This last is absolutely important because Connally is undecided. Your wife has a romanticist's viewpoint, probably based on caution, and Wirtz believes a live Congressman is better than a dead Senator, and you certainly can't prove Wirtz wrong if you don't run.

Talking over the telephone this morning to a man about another subject, it was necessary for me to discuss the Georgia election and the Texas situation. The man said, "In connection with Johnson, it might be interesting to remember that Jack Garner ran for Congress and the vice presidency on the same ballot in Texas, and played the cinch perfectly. There seems to be no law in Texas against betting on two horses at once." So I see no harm in having your very dear friend, John Connally, bet on the Kentucky Derby on two horses. In fact, if he doesn't, he must be terrifically sure of himself.

Of course, it is obvious to you that if by betting on two horses there is a possibility of the two horses bumping into each other and killing their riders, then you will bet on only one horse by withdrawing the jockey before the ballots are printed.

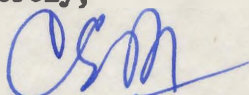
I will write you a general letter on what is going on in Washington as soon as possible, but I thought this bit of information from Texas might give you a little kick, wherever you are.

The situation in Georgia indicates why O'Daniel is so weak in Texas. Gene Talmadge is refusing to run against Russell because of Russell's war record and Talmadge's lack of a war record. Instead, Talmadge is going to run for Governor again, and may not make it against a very weak opponent.

Diana had a nice birthday. Everyone sends his love, including about ten who enjoyed the sunshine on the porch Sunday. Wolff and Young did not solve the labor question, but almost broke up the dishes trying to at dinner.

John says that he had no message from you to me, and that he had no message from you except that you, being in the Navy, must leave your political position in the hands of your friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CSM' with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles E. Marsh

2136 - R - Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.
May 21, 1942

Dear Lyndon:

You are far away. If you get a cable from me to instruct Connally to drop your consent in the senatorial box, you will know that I mean it. This may come through myself or Mary Louise. Then if it isn't done, I shall be satisfied that you have had my final judgement. You will get no such cable if it is not necessary.

Present facts appear to be that John stopped in Texas and received Wirtz's judgement that you should not have your name in any way identified with the senatorial race. He left with Wirtz a copy of whatever you left with John. My presumption is that the two of them made a deal that Wirtz and Connally would function on the matter in agreement. Since Wirtz is much the stronger, I simply consider that Wirtz is not on your horse.

John within the last two days has told a number of people in Washington that he does not believe you can win. Lady Bird has told quite a number of people that she does not think you should run. John says the reason is that you agreed to support Allred. Sid Richardson, who spent yesterday afternoon with her and has a dinner date with her and some other lady tonight says, that Lady Bird doesn't want you to run because she doesn't think you can win. All this spells Wirtz to me.

About a month ago Lady was engaged in obtaining a detailed record of O'Daniel's votes in the Senate. Probably this was a routine coming as a request from you. But unless the request did come from you, and if it were on her own initiative, it indicates that she has had a change of opinion not based upon the Allred incident at Houston.

I have suggested to her that she not discuss the senatorial race with anyone. John tells me he has done the same, but Sid comes in with his information this morning that she is discussing the matter.

All this detail sounds like tittle-tattle, and I don't like it.

I think you had better sit down with yourself and clarify my mind. Either tell me to quit or go ahead. Either give me an unqualified judicial position, or give it to Wirtz, because the two of us will not agree. You definitely know now that you have one considered vote--that of Wirtz--affecting John and Lady against any program that I might carry out. I have told you all I know at this date about the Texas voters except the statement brought in by Sid this morning to the effect that he had talked to the Texas checkers last night (after I had written the other letter enclosed herein), and that the statement over the telephone to him was that of the persons interviewed he believed that 90 per cent were favorable to you. I do not believe this 90 per cent statement. I am merely passing it on as Richardson's statement to me of his conversation last night.

But I certainly believe, unless I have reason to change, that your position is so excellent that your name on the senatorial nomination list, even before the ballots are printed, or before you will have to function through John or Wirtz, will show your leadership whether your name is left on the congressional ballot or not.

You are merely in the position of having definitely to make up your own mind far away on the question of how is right. I think my information and my judgement are both superior to those who say no. Otherwise, I would be joining in the "no". I have told you above that I shall inform you by cable if there is any change. You now have time to inform me. You will not have time much longer to give me a directive.

There is a feud between Moody and Amon Carter which I do not believe has been cleared up. Moody is at the moment formidable; his connection with Standard Oil of New Jersey through Humble, and the rather loose association of all attorneys representing Houston's major oil companies, is quite well known to you. Politically, from a major oil company standpoint, everything is rosy. They have three candidates--all ex-governors--and don't have to give a damn now. But since Standard Oil of New Jersey is the big boy, and some of us do not believe that Standard Oil of New Jersey should own any more senators, I am much more concerned than I would otherwise be.

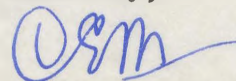
I feel that Tommy Corcoran has been only temporarily affected, as has Rayburn, by the rather accurate and intensive campaign here in Washington telling them that you can't win, and that they might as well join in to a bandwagon behind Allred. But it is my opinion that Allred is the third choice of the Houston oil interests, and that Moody is the first choice, with O'Daniel the safety choice, should Moody fizzle. I believe that Parton and company will be dealt out.

As I write I have just received and opened another telegram on you. It reads: "FT.WORTH--VALLEY MILLS CLIFTON MERIDIAN HICO HAMILTON GOLDTHWAITE ONE HUNDRED FORTY ONE MEN CONTACTED NINETY PERCENT VOTED JOHNSON BEFORE WOULD DO SO AGAIN BALANCE EVENLY DIVIDED ALLRED ODANIEL." We will keep getting this sort of dope--some of it conflicting, but all in the same tenor.

Of course, the value of this particular telegram is in the statement that Allred isn't getting your stuff, and that your former vote would be split three ways, or at least two ways. And remember that Allred Mann had a feud which has been well publicized, and that those who voted for Mann did not vote for O'Daniel. This looks like a split of the Mann vote between O'Daniel and Moody, if your name is absent.

Please send me a cable that you have received this letter. Send it to this address--2136 - R - Street, N.W.--collect.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Marsh