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590 ON YOUR DIAL

March 15, 1946

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
504 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

Paul and I left early Wednesday morning for Caldwell. We saw Mayor Rogers standing on the corner at Bastrop and stopped to have a chat with him. He was with Bower Crider, Judge Sapp, Vernon Eskew and Oren Eskew. The mayor had nothing to contribute other than the report which I have already sent you. He is still strong for Dan Smith and said that he thought you were stronger than ever in Bastrop and Bastrop County. We missed Harry Kuhn at Paige, since he is taking his two week's vacation. We went on to Giddings and spent a couple of hours with Jonny Simmang. Johnny is a strong Stevens^{on} man, as you know. Said that Coke would carry that county if he ran for re-election. He was not comparing you and Coke in that particular analysis and at another point in the discussion, said that he was for you 100% for whatever you ran for. He had little help to give us on the Dime Box situation, but suggested that we talk to Albert Hartzke, Noah Albers, Kocurek in the bank and suggested we might leave Julius Polansky out of the discussion since he would probably be an applicant. At Dime Box we found that Mr. Stamps' daughter was and has been running the Post Office for some time. We talked for a couple of hours with Mr. Albers, waiting for Hartzke to get out of school. Albers was extremely friendly. Said that he had talked to the Stamps girl, who wasn't interested in getting the Post Office herself, but that the family was interested in her sweetheart, a young returned service man whom she plans to marry shortly, so you may be playing Cupid soon.

Mr. Albers and Albert Hartzke said they would write you in a day or two about the matter. They had no recommendation to make to me, but promised that they would get together, go over all the candidates and recommend one to you very soon. They are going to keep it quiet and will pick qualified, deserving person, who would be acceptable to the majority of the people there.

After leaving Dime Box, Paul and I stopped in Caldwell. However, it was late and we didn't get to see anyone there except George Fall. We had a very nice visit with him. He said he understood that he could not be editor and postmaster, but that he would get someone else to edit the paper and he would just be the publisher. I am sure you know that he bought the paper from R. S. Bowers last fall. He made it very clear, I thought, that he was definitely interested in the post office and wouldn't think of withdrawing. He said that when he originally got interested in it that he talked to the judge and R. S. Bowers and at the time Richard Bowers was not sure that he would be interested and the

Judge and R. S., both told George that he should take the examination. About the time George decided to take it, Richard also decided that he would be interested and was going to take it. Apparently George and Richard then talked to each other and decided that they would both take it since a number were going to and one of them possibly couldn't qualify. George did say that after Richard got interested that both the Judge and R. S. Bowers then switched their support to Richard. He was inferentially critical about their telling him that he should take the exam, then more or less going back on him after Richard decided to take the exam. I gathered from George that he and Richard are close friends. He said that the appointments should be made right away. That if he didn't get it he ~~supposed~~ ^{hoped} Richard would.

About 6:30 we left Caldwell to go on to Brenham. On the way back the next morning we talked to Clyde Welch in Summerville, who was reluctant to make any recommendations or take sides in the Caldwell matter. However, from the little things he said, I am positive that he is very much in favor of Richard Bowers. He explained that one of the inspectors told him that the office was in excellent shape - the best it had ever been in. He also emphasized the fact that George Fallis a comparative new-comer and that the Bowers have always been your strongest supporters in Caldwell. Mr. Welch said you were in fine shape in Summerville and had made many friends there by your assistance on their pay-raise. He, as you know, will be for you for anything but was very much against your running for governor. When we got back to Caldwell Thursday afternoon we had a long talk with Judge Hays Bowers, who has one, and only one, choice in the matter and that is Richard Bowers. He was unable to understand why you had delayed so long in making the appointment and said that he thought it might be because Chink Smith was meddling in the thing. He doesn't particularly like Chink. Says that the only thing Chink has every said or done and everything that he has is a result of what R. S. Bowers has done for him. The Judge then called Richard Bowers over from the Post Office and we had a long talk with Richard and the Judge. Richard is a bit disturbed because he has been Acting Postmaster since October, 1944 and nothing has been done about it yet. Both he and the Judge said there would be no hard feelings between Richard and George Fall, no matter how the appointment went. From what Richard says R. S. Bowers has written you a number of times in his behalf. Just before we left Judge Hays Bowers, he said, in effect: "If Lyndon wants me to help him, he ought to appoint Richard postmaster. The Judge told Richard that he thought Chink was meddling in the matter and that is the reason the appointment had not been made. I assured both Richard and the Judge that, so far as I knew, no commitment had ever been made to Chink and, so far as I knew, Chink had not contacted you about the matter in several years. Richard said that Chink was in Caldwell two weeks ago today and that he flatly asked Chink if he was interested in the Post Office. Chink said no, that he wasn't trying to get it and that you had written him saying that another examination would not be held. Chink told Richard that he had written you saying that if another exam was held he, Chink, would be interested in it. Richard said that he definitely would not take another examination and he didn't think George Fall would. From what I learned, I have a very strong feeling that you would be making a very serious mistake in trying to make Chink postmaster. If you made Chink postmaster, R. S. Bowers would, no doubt, be satisfied because Chink is his son-in-law. On the other hand, I think you would make enemies of George Fall, Judge Hays Bowers and what friends they could take with them. George Fall has only been in Caldwell about six years, originally coming there as a school teacher. He is active, has a good personality but is a comparative stranger in the town. Clyde Welch also told me that George was a guest speaker at the Summerville Chamber of Commerce two or three years ago and made a

rather bitter anti-administration speech, which incensed a lot of the people in Summerville. George also was very friendly toward Richard. R. S. Bowers is definitely committed by letter to you in behalf of Richard and Judge Hays Bowers feels very strongly about the matter. From a standpoint of personality, Richard Bowers is third compared to Chink and George, but my judgment is that Richard should be appointed right away. I think the only serious mistake you could make is to try to get Chink in, because of the result in a very strong family feud and with you as the loser. If you decide to appoint Richard, my thought is that at the time you do it you should write George Fall a personal letter stating that Richard has had 16 years in the Post Office. That he took over under difficult circumstances in 1944. He has cleaned up the office by hard work and that you feel that in all fairness, since he was the number one man on the register, that Richard should be appointed (or words similar to that effect). I have not talked to Chink here in Austin. I am going to try to see him today, although nothing he can say can change the situation in Caldwell and I wanted to report that to you. This much you can be sure of - George and Richard are not going to withdraw in favor of Chink.

To re-trace my steps to Brenham, we arrived about 7:00 o'clock, had a little chat with Mrs. Hacker when we checked in at the hotel. She was very nice and very friendly toward you. Said that in the future she wasn't going to sit back and let everyone else handle the campaign along there. That she was going to get out and beat the bushes for you. I did not see Mrs. Carroll, who was at home. As you probably know, Mrs. Carroll has retired and is in Brenham. Incidentally, I heard quite a bit of criticism of Mrs. Carroll by her renters. They have no rent control in Brenham, it seems that each month she levys a little additional tribute on her tenants. If they don't like it, she tells them right quick to move. Most of the information came from Brother Love, Buddy and Bo Peep Fisher, and Tom Whitehead, who was one of her tenants (he recently had to buy a house to escape her rents and she found out about it. She called him up, cussed him out and told him to get out of her house, whereupon he employed counsel and, I think, will be able to stay until his house is ready). Paul and I went up to the Elks Club after their meeting, about 10 o'clock, and stayed until three in the morning. At the Elks Club we ran into the following people: Mr. Low, Guy Pennington, George Finks, Emmett Vinson, Leon Simmang, Mr. Hohtz (one of the owners of the big department store there), Chip Routt, Travis Phillips, Mr. Eicher (the little Jewish fellow that runs the cleaning and pressing establishment) and many others. It was a typical Elks Club night. The atmosphere was extremely friendly. At one time, Mr. Pennington (retired dairyman) made a little stump speech for you and challenged anybody there to deny that they were for you. He said that if there was anyone there who wasn't for you, they damn sure should be. He is particularly strong, I think, because of the R.E.A. People were as hospitable as ever and as I say, the whole tenor of the group was very friendly. They, of course, knew we were your friends and I think the friendly attitude reflected could not have been quite so whole-hearted if they had not felt kindly toward you. In the shank of the evening, about 2:00 a.m. Buddy started making a few generalized, sniping statements, in which Tom Whitehead did not join him. Buddy also started popping off about Bellville getting a better deal from the L.C.R.A. than did Brenham, when they bought their systems. He also threw out a little private utility propaganda, which Tom, Paul and I immediately snapped up. At the time Buddy was making these remarks ~~were~~, Paul, Tom, Alsabrook, a post office employee, and myself. The

have present.

following people made definite friendly statements about you: Mr. Low, Guy Pennington, Chip Routt, Gus Finks. It was their feeling that you had been the victim of Roosevelt hatred in that county and that since Roosevelt was dead they felt you would run much better than ever before. The next morning we saw Brother Lowe, echoed the above sentiments as did Mrs. Ruby Robertson, Editor of the Brenham Banner Press. We also ran into young Jim ~~McKinnon~~ *Burkham* who asked about you and Mrs. Johnson and was very friendly. We saw Reese Thursday morning but we didn't have long to talk with him, since his City Manager and Engineer was quitting there and he was trying to hire some people for his distribution system. The mayor was very cordial but in the course of walking a couple of blocks with him and a few minutes disjointed conversations, he did not mention your name. I went by to see two old school-mates of mine, Odis Tomischafsky and Billy Stuckert. Odis is a lawyer and Billy's father runs the movies there. We also stopped in to see Travis Phillips again, who is strong for you, but I think rather ineffective, as far as you are concerned. Julian Weischler (the County Attorney) came in while we were talking to Travis. No comment from him. Bob Schawe (County Accessor and Collector) asked to be remembered to you. Carl Kingsbury, nephew of E. G., said that you had always been very helpful and friendly to him. He presented us with a couple of his little miniature butcher blocks, which is rapidly growing into a real business. He manufactures them there in Brenham.

Mrs. Shaufler is the laughing stock of Brenham, as an opponent of yours. Also, no less than a half-dozen commented it was the best thing that ever happened as far as you are concerned, since she was a prohibitionist. Tom and Buddy both told us she was crazy. Tom has two boys working for him, who stay at her house. One night late she disappeared from the house. Her husband, a retired railroad lobbyist, is aged - about 72, I believe, got worried. He called these two boys and went in search of her. They found her down in the swamps near Brenham and brought her home. On the way home one of the boys started to smoke a cigarette, made two or three flips of his lighter and she grabbed him by the arm and said "Are you with us or against us?" whereupon he said "I am with you, of course". She then said "Why are you signaling the enemy?" Buddy said that one of her sons was due in from the Army Friday. He had gotten a furlow to come home to determine whether she should be put in a sanitorium. On another instance she dreamed that Texas was going to be attacked, so she got her husband out of bed and made him drive her to Austin, arriving here well after midnight, according to Tom and Buddy's story she tried to see the governor, Tom Miller, and the Chief of Police to warn them of the impending attack. She couldn't talk to anyone, so turned around and went home, getting home about 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning. Tom says he is going to refuse to take anymore of her ads and was going to take her name out of the column showing the political announcements and would have done it already, except that he thought it might precipitate some violent reaction. I haven't had a chance to check the Austin visit with the Mayor as yet. If you could help Brenham get some emergency housing help under the new appropriation, it would help tremendously. Other than that, I know of nothing you can do there.

That is about all I know for now. The two letters I have written you will have to suffice as my sales report for the week. You have the *American Administration* building last week in July and the first of August. ~~Jack~~ has the Insurance policy. Notice has been given to your tenants, and I will write later.

Love,

John B. Connally
John B. Connally

3/12/46

Dear Congressman.

Jerrell Allen tells me that he is a personal friend of Mrs. Schafer, the lady at Brenham who announced against you. He visited with her over the week-end and came back with the report that she is going to withdraw if you announce & want her to do so. He said she was willing to stay in race if it would be of help to you against others who may announce. So far as I know, Jerrell was not asked to discuss this with Mrs. Schafer but did so by his own choosing. Jerrell tells me he is of the opinion the lady is "sorta loco".

I visited with Buck & Raymond Brooks since my return - Buck thinks this is going to be a mean campaign in so far as governor's race is concerned & tells me he is going to take no part. Both he & Raymond seem to want you to stay in Congress - I don't know who Raymond is for but he came up with "quoted" reports from his friends over the state indicating Rainey

were gaining strength everywhere.

Two of Grover Sellen's close friends tell me he had much rather have a seat on the Federal bench than to be governor. You know Judge Randolph Bryant who holds the place in Fort Texas is ailing & will likely have to retire. He went gassy in the trial of a case that long ago & I understand has been confined ever since. The General is very popular over in that area & would make a popular choice. I doubt if the General has mentioned his interest in such a place to you but I think the information I give is reliable.

Best always,

Wack DeSaurin

Don't bother to acknowledge this -
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