

ARTICLE PICTURES JOHNSON AS GOAT IN KENNEDY DEAL

BY WARREN ROGERS

Texas Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—When Lyndon B. Johnson was Vice President, he often grumbled about being bypassed, ignored, sidetracked, double-crossed and otherwise pushed around by the Kennedys.

Well, he was sometimes right—at least, so says no less an authority than Kenneth P. O'Donnell, confidant and intimate of both the late John F. and Robert F. Kennedy.

O'Donnell recalls one occasion when Mr. Johnson, the vaunted wheeler-dealer, was made the goat in a political wheeling deal.

The incident involved Sarah Hughes, the woman judge who later swore in Mr. Johnson as President at Dallas, and the late House Speaker Sam Rayburn, Mr. Johnson's idol and mentor, as well as Bob Kennedy, blamed by Mr. Johnson for most of his troubles in the Kennedy Administration.

O'Donnell said Mr. Johnson asked

Please Turn to Page 7, Col. 4

Continued from First Page

Bob Kennedy, then attorney general, to arrange the appointment of Mrs. Hughes to a federal judgeship in Texas. The response was that Mrs. Hughes, at 65, was too old. According to O'Donnell, Mr. Johnson then "sorrowfully" broke the news to Mrs. Hughes and told her another Texas lawyer had been offered the post.

Mr. Johnson then took off on a trip abroad. Upon his return, he learned to his deep embarrassment that Mrs. Hughes had been given the judgeship after all. O'Donnell reported in excerpts from a partial book manuscript, published today in Life magazine. O'Donnell added that Mr. Johnson thereupon sped to the White House to complain to the President about "that kid brother of yours" and about how "Ole Lyndon had been done in behind his back as usual."

Rayburn's Role

What had happened, O'Donnell said, was that Bob Kennedy had run up against doughty old Sam Rayburn. As attorney general, Kennedy had appealed to Rayburn for help in getting two key Justice Department bills approved by the House Judiciary Committee. O'Donnell recalled, continuing:

"Rayburn ventured the opinion that the bills might never get out (of the committee) if his friend Sarah Hughes did not get a judgeship in Texas. Bobby explained that she had been suggested by Johnson but she was too old for the appointment.

"Rayburn, who was almost 80, glared at the 35-year-old Kennedy. 'Son, everybody looks old to you. Do you want those bills passed, or don't you?' The next day Sarah Hughes was nominated for the federal bench."

O'Donnell quoted Mr.

Johnson as complaining:

"Mr. President, do you realize where this leaves me? Sarah Hughes now thinks I'm nothing. The lawyer I offered the job to after your brother turned Sarah down, he thinks I'm the biggest liar and fool in

the history of the state of Texas. All on account of that brother of yours!"

At this, O'Donnell said, the President burst out laughing "and the Vice President, seeing the humor of the situation, laughed, too."

485