

LBJ's Brother

ACTING THROUGH his sister, former President Johnson tried—unsuccessfully—to eviscerate the heart of the forthcoming book about him written by brother Sam Houston Johnson.

Mr. Johnson has remained stonily silent about "My Brother, Lyndon," which will be published Jan. 12 following current serialization in Look magazine. In fact, ever since Sam Houston signed the contract with Cowles Book Co. last spring, his brother has given him the silent treatment. Sam Houston, who lived quietly at the White House in the later stages of the LBJ presidency, spent much of last summer in hospitals for treatment of a

severely broken leg. He never got a telephone call from his brother.

Although the former President was never enthusiastic about his brother revealing personal secrets, their sister, Rebecca Bobbitt of Austin, at first encouraged Sam on grounds that the book was something he could do on his own.

But her encouragement changed to dismay when she saw the manuscript in early August. She complained that the book was too personal and too profane.

Flying to New York to confer with Cowles executives, Mrs. Bobbitt carried with her a 41-page memorandum that obviously reflected the wishes of LBJ. It demanded the deletion or change of no less than 218 passages in the book—removing almost all personal anecdotes about LBJ and all sharp criticism of the Kennedys. All demands were rejected.

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