

4640 NOBLE AVENUE  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA  
91403

February 12, 1970

Mr. Walter Cronkite  
c/o CBS Television News Department  
Columbia Broadcasting System  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Cronkite:

I have enjoyed the first two of your three part interviews with Lyndon Johnson. The final interview, I understand, is scheduled for May 2nd, and will cover the events surrounding President Kennedy's trip to Texas, the assassination, and the aftermath.

I trust that you will cover the events and decisions that led up to this trip, and Lyndon Johnson's part, if any, in these decisions; as there remains, at least in my mind, some serious flaws in the record, that, I feel could be clarified by Mr. Johnson in your next interview.

No doubt your research staff at CBS has studied the historical documents and news accounts relating to these decisions and has prepared background material for you to use in your May 2nd broadcast. However, on the chance that you may not have seen the enclosed material, I am sending them along with the hope that they may prove helpful.

PLANNING THE TRIP TO DALLAS.

1. According to the Warren Commission, the basic decision to make the trip to Texas was made on June 5, 1963 at the El Cortez Hotel in El Paso, Texas. Present at this meeting were JFE; LBJ; Cliff Carter, LBJ aide; Gov. Connally, and Secretary of the Navy, Fred Korth. (1) (2)

(1)

2. When we realize that June 5th is the earliest date for the basic decision, it therefore, came as a somewhat surprise when I came across this story printed in the DALLAS TIMES HERALD on April 24, 1963, or 43 days prior to the June 5th meeting. (3)

As you can see, this is the lead story, on the front page. The article includes photographs of the Vice-President meeting with the editorial staff and assistants, including the publisher himself.

There is no reason to assume, here, that we are dealing with an over zealous cub reporter. I have great difficulty characterizing this as an accidental "leak" that somehow escalated into a major news story.

Furthermore, I find it odd that this story escaped the attention of both the FBI and the Warren Commission; when you consider that the FBI was asked by the Commission to check the Dallas newspaper files for the month of April, 1963, on another matter. (4) They were checking Marina Oswald's allegations that her husband wished to leave their apartment in Oak Cliff, around April 23rd to see "the vice-president," who she thought was in Dallas at the time. An investigation was instituted and the FBI informed the Commission that Vice-President Nixon was not in Dallas at this time.

It seems odd when we read that Vice-President Johnson on April 23rd, correctly names the cities and the approximate times of day that these cities are to be visited. This is before the Texas trip had been planned!

As you can see, the then Vice-President, Lyndon Johnson, announces that JFK will come to Texas "sometime this summer" (5) and will visit San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth and Dallas. He speaks of a one day affair "this summer" - which later becomes a two day trip in November. Otherwise, he is fairly accurate, even to spelling out specific times:

- \*a breakfast in Fort Worth (correct)
- \*a luncheon in Dallas (correct)
- \*an afternoon tea in San Antonio (correct)
- \*a dinner in Houston (correct)

According to Gov. Connally, these times and specific cities were not known at this time, as Connally relates in his LIFE MAGAZINE story of November 24, 1967 "WHY KENNEDY CAME TO TEXAS." Connally states that he met with JFK at the White House October 4, 1963 and "they agreed on five cities." "I'll accept your judgement on that John" JFK replied. (6) Connally had dinner with LBJ that evening at LBJ's Washington home. Connally says LBJ was upset over not being consulted in the planning of this Texas trip.

On October 8, 1963, in the DALLAS TIMES HERALD the following story says:

JFK TEXAS VISIT MAY INCLUDE  
CITY, CONNALLY REPORTS

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S TEXAS VISIT WILL  
BE ONE DAY AFFAIR ON NOVEMBER 22ND.

The Texas trip had been first revealed in the TIMES HERALD last September 13th and was met with official denials for almost two weeks. Gov. John Connally last weekend said the President will be in Texas November 22nd.

After scoring a news first with their April 24th story, the DALLAS TIMES HERALD now says they first announced this in September! Apparently they failed to notice what they themselves had printed on Page One five months earlier.

#### SUMMARY

Did former President Johnson prematurely announce President Kennedy's trip to Texas? Did this have anything to do with the final decision to make this trip?

I feel, that, if a Vice-President announces a proposed trip of his President, it would obligate or commit the President to carry it out. At least, President Kennedy would find it difficult to cancel this trip after this Page One story in a major Dallas paper, without causing acute embarrassment to his Vice-President. Also, at this time, you may recall, rumors were rife that Johnson was due to be replaced on the 1964 ticket. Had the White House denied this DALLAS TIMES HERALD story of April 24th, it would have given credence to the "dump Johnson" gossip, which the administration took pains to deny.

So approximately two million Dallas residents saw this story, not to mention radio and television coverage, and the White House apparently made no comment.

I can find no record in the testimony of the various Kennedy aides, who were involved in the trip planning, that makes mention of this April 24th DALLAS TIMES HERALD story.

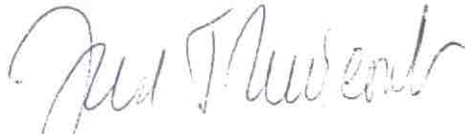
Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's secretary writes that he told her, "I am going to Texas, because I have a commitment. I can't patch up those warring factions. This is for them to do, but I will go because I have told them I would. And it is too early to make an announcement about another running-mate -- that will perhaps wait until the convention." (7) Mrs. Lincoln wrote the conversation verbatim in her diary.

Incidentally, in fairness, I do not feel that the story in the DALLAS TIMES HERALD, quoting Johnson as saying "...at least wait until next November before you shoot him down..." (B) has any sinister implications. It is probably just one of those fantastic, historic, faux'pas that crop up from time to time. He probably meant to say November 1964 and not November 1963, which was not an election year.

I realize that the information included here may possibly affect the final editing of, or the evaluations you place, on the video tape you have already completed with President Johnson. For this reason, I want you to see this as soon as possible, since the questions raised here seem important to the subject to be discussed in your next program.

Enjoy the series very much - keep up the fine work.

Respectfully,



FRED T. NEWCOMB

FTN:mkn  
Enclosures

FOOTNOTES

1. Warren Report, page 48 - New York Times edition.
2. Affidavit of Cliff Carter, dated May 20, 1964, (see attached xerox) - Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits, volume 7, pages 474, 475.
3. Attached xerox of two pages from the DALLAS TIMES HERALD, dated April 24, 1963.
4. Warren Report, "Richard M. Nixon Incident", page 175- New York Times edition.
5. DALLAS TIMES HERALD, page 1 - April 24, 1963 - (see attached xerox).
6. LIFE MAGAZINE, page 100A - November 24, 1967.
7. KENNEDY AND JOHNSON, page 205 - by Evelyn Lincoln.
8. DALLAS TIMES HERALD, page 22 - April 24, 1963 - (see attached xerox.)

freer pushed him into the  
entire time at the hospital.  
he wasn't in the emergency  
room door. I believe Ken  
we arrived at the hospital.  
edy on the trip from the  
on a rear compartment of  
On the trip back to Wash-  
or eat, but did sip some  
Mrs. Kennedy declined to  
instead chose to ride with  
Donnell and I stayed with  
s family at Bethesda until

S) David F. Powers,  
DAVID F. POWERS.

RTER

Carter on May 20, 1964.

AFFIDAVIT

cerning my knowledge of

uring the week preceding  
sident Kennedy in San

it landed at Dallas Love  
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(AF-1). President and  
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right behind the Vice  
rear of the Presidential  
e President's automobile.  
las policeman. I sat in  
ent on my lap. Special  
ent on Lea Johns and some-  
Dallas police car.  
from Love Field to the  
ad very friendly, except  
ments about President  
as big as they were in  
Dallas. The motorcade

a righthand turn onto  
ceeding slowly at about  
r car had just made the  
right along side of the  
a noise which sounded  
seated on the righthand

side of the front seat of Vice President Johnson's car immediately turned and pushed Vice President Johnson down and in the same motion vaulted over the seat and covered the Vice President with his body. At that instant Mrs. Johnson and Senator Yarborough, who were riding in the back seat along with the Vice President, bent forward. Special Agent Youngblood's action came immediately after the first shot and before the succeeding shots.

I distinctly remember three shots. There was an interval of approximately 5 to 6 seconds from the first to the last shot and the three shots were evenly spaced. The motorcade promptly accelerated and traveled at high speeds up to 75 to 80 miles an hour to Parkland Memorial Hospital. The President's automobile, the President's follow-up car, the Vice President's automobile, and the Vice President's follow-up car pulled into the emergency entrance at Parkland. Attendants from the hospital with two stretchers carried President Kennedy and Governor Connally into the hospital. At one point I briefly helped remove Governor Connally from the car onto the stretcher. After President Kennedy and Governor Connally had been taken into the hospital, Vice President Johnson, Mrs. Johnson, Special Agent Youngblood and I entered the emergency area and were taken to a small room where we waited. I went out on a couple of occasions to secure coffee. Congressmen Henry Gonzalez, Jack Brooks, Homer Thornberry and Albert Thomas came into the room where Vice President Johnson waited. About 1 o'clock Mrs. Johnson left the room, stating that she wanted to visit with Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Connally. IC

At 1:12 p.m. Special Agent Emory Roberts brought the news that President Kennedy was dead. At that moment the only people present were Vice President Johnson, Congressman Thornberry, Special Agent Len Johns, and I. Special Agent Roberts advised Vice President Johnson to return to the White House forthwith because of the concern of the Secret Service that there might be a wide-spread plot to assassinate Vice President Johnson as well as President Kennedy.

Vice President Johnson then asked that Kenny (O'Donnell) and Larry (O'Brien) be consulted to determine what their views were on returning promptly to Washington. Kenny and Larry came down and told Vice President Johnson that they agreed he should return to Washington immediately. Vice President Johnson then asked me to try to alert some of the members of his staff to go to the airport for the return trip to Washington. I then proceeded to look for those members of the staff, and I was later driven to Love Field by a young Dallas policeman. By the time I returned to the Presidential plane (AF-1), Vice President and Mrs. Johnson had already boarded the plane and arrangements had already been made to have Vice President Johnson sworn-in as the President. I do not have any personal knowledge of Vice President Johnson's conversation with Attorney General Kennedy concerning the advisability of a prompt swearing-in or of the arrangements to have Judge Sara Hughes participate in that ceremony. I was present at the swearing-in and shortly thereafter the President's plane took off for the Washington area.

The original conversations concerning President Kennedy's trip to Texas occurred on June 5, 1963 at the Cortez Hotel in El Paso, Texas. President Kennedy had spoken earlier that day at the Air Force Academy and Vice President Johnson had spoken at Annapolis. The President and Vice President met with Governor Connally at the Cortez Hotel to discuss a number of matters, including a trip by the President to Texas. Fred Korth and I were present when the three men assembled, but Fred Korth and I left during their discussion of the President's proposed trip. The first tentative date was to have the trip coincide with Vice-President Johnson's birthday on August 27th, but that was rejected because it was too close to Labor Day. President Kennedy's other commitments prevented him from coming to Texas any sooner than November 21st, which was the date finally set.

Signed this 20th day of May 1964.

(S) Clifton C. Carter,  
CLIFTON C. CARTER.

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Thom's  
Volume 7)

# THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

FINA  
EDITIC

Today's Markets  
Latest Available Quotations  
on New York Stock Exchange  
See Pages 58 and 59-A

CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED FOR 87 YEARS THE TIMES 1876 THE HERALD 1806 CONSOLIDATED 1933

87th Year—No. 79 ... \* \* \* DALLAS, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 24, 1963 Telephone—Over Doherty 41-4144 3 Parts Price 75c

## ONE-DAY TEXAS TOUR EYED

# BJ Sees Kennedy Dallas Visi

### Continued Cub Watch Reveals By Vice Preside

... reception, a crowd of nearly 2,000 jammed the Crystal Ballroom of the Baker Hotel to hear Vice President Johnson lash out at vociferous critics of the government.

Before shaking hands for nearly an hour, the vice president said he had not come to "say anything ugly" about anyone. "My heart is not filled with fear or hate or hypocrisy," he said.

**SCORES DETRACTORS**

"I see some people who are filled with hate and fear and hypocrisy and I say 'God forgive them'" he said to cheers from the Democrats assembled.

"I sympathize with these few who are in the minority. If they think this country is in as bad shape as they say it is, if they think our government is stupid and disloyal, well, I wonder why they agree to stay here anyway?" he said.

He said the President of the United States is like a pilot and picks an airplane and a pilot for the next four years.

**COMMON DANGER**

"Once you pick him, and you're flying across the water in bad weather, don't go up and open the door and try to knock him in the head. He's the only pilot you have and if the plane goes down, you go with it."

"At least wait until next November before you shoot him down."

The vice president said he had supported President Eisenhower

By KEITH SHELTON, Staff Writer

President Kennedy may visit Dallas and major Texas cities this summer, Vice President Johnson said during his whirlwind visit here.

The vice president said he hopes President Johnson's schedule will permit him to attend a breakfast in Fort Worth, a luncheon in Dallas, an afternoon in San Antonio and a dinner in Houston on a day visit to Texas in the near future.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the possibility of the presidential visit during a hour-long session with executives of The Times Herald and KRLD-TV FM and TV Tuesday afternoon.

**CEBA SURVEILLANCE**

He also discussed Laos, Cuba, defense and Latin America. On various topics, he said.

U.S. planes are maintaining photos on Page 37-A.

### Integration Shot, Kill In Alabama

ATTALLA, Ala. (AP)—Integration from Mary shot in death beside a plane of Cuba.

Russia's purpose in trying to keep troops in Cuba is to prevent Tuesday night. A full-scale

Shot Photo by Andy Hanson

Vice President Johnson flays government critics at a reception for 2,000 at the Baker Hotel.

# CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.  
524 West 57 Street  
New York, New York 10019  
(212) 765-4321

Dear Mr. Newcomb:

Thanks for your letter on the background of President Kennedy's Texas trip. We were already aware of the incidents you mention and document.

I hope that you'll have a chance to watch our broadcast, scheduled for May 2, and that your obviously well-informed interest in the subject will be rewarded.

Cordially,

*JSS*  
(LS)

John Sharnik  
Producer  
CBS NEWS

Mr. Fred T. Newcomb  
4640 Noble Avenue  
Sherman Oaks, California  
91403



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FRED

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April 4, 1970

Mr. John Sharnik  
Producer - CBS NEWS  
Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.  
524 West 57 Street  
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Sharnik:

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my letter of February 12, 1970. Enclosed please find two glossy prints of the DALLAS TIMES HERALD story of April 24, 1963 - headlined "LBJ SEES KENNEDY DALLAS 'VISIT'".

For your information, these prints were made directly from the microfilm of that paper which was recently obtained from the University of Texas through inter-library loan facilities at the University of California at Los Angeles.

If time allows, could you answer one question for me? Your last letter states: "We were already aware of the incidents you mention and document."

If you had known about this enclosed item before, I would be very interested to know the source of your information.

I feel certain that this April 24th DALLAS TIMES HERALD story is not mentioned in any published work on the assassination, including books written by men who spent years researching the subject - Jim Bishop and William Manchester - nor is this story mentioned in any books written by any of the critics of the Warren Report.

I have noticed that your staff, and Mr. Cronkite, has not hesitated to rebut Mr. Johnson, where his statements are in conflict with the public record. One of the outstanding examples of this was your program concerning the bombing halt, where you ran the film clip of Dean Rusk testifying before the Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Rusk's testimony here appeared to be in direct conflict with Mr. Johnson's version of the chronology of events.



Where these seeming conflicts in the historical record have arisen, Mr. Johnson has deftly turned these aside by producing heretofore unknown memos or quoting self-serving conversations with his intimates.

In this case, however, it would appear to me that the only way Mr. Johnson can square the April 24th story with the existing record would be for him to produce an earlier news story that would render this item insignificant. Mr. Johnson could claim, for example, that Kennedy asked HIM to arrange this Texas trip and display a clipping to prove it.

If this should happen, then we will be left to puzzle over the following story by John Connally, who dominated much of the trip planning and who is also very close to Mr. Johnson. Governor Connally tells of a meeting at the White House on October 4, 1963 with JFK, where a specific itinerary of the Texas trip is agreed upon. JFK approved Connally's plan and according to the Governor, said: "I'll accept your judgement on that John."

Connally goes on to say:

"I was having dinner that (same) night at the home of Vice President Johnson and when I arrived he had already learned that I had been with the President. He was distinctly irritated. He greeted me: "well, did you all get the trip all worked out?" I said yes and he said, "I guess you think I have no interest in the state of Texas or in this visit?" I pointed out that I could hardly instruct the President as to his White House visitors, but Mr. Johnson was not mollified: "Well, I hope you know that I've got a slight interest in Texas and in this trip, too." I regretted my thoughtlessness in not discussing the plans with him, and I apologized."

LIFE MAGAZINE, page 100A  
November 24, 1967

Governor Connally says that on October 4th he and President Kennedy agreed on a specific itinerary for the Texas trip and that this angered Mr. Johnson because he was not consulted.

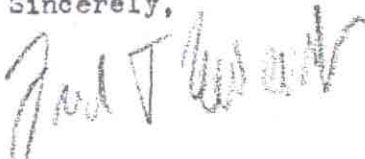
This story makes no sense in light of the facts. How could Mr. Johnson be angered over not having been consulted, when, six months earlier he had correctly announced this very same itinerary? The odds that one could predict the right cities and times of day for an unplanned event six months away are astronomical.

I'm sure you will agree, that the importance of this matter indicates that, historically speaking, it might be well to interview Kenneth O'Donnell, or better yet, Jerry Bruno, JFK's advance man. These men could either verify what you already have on video tape with Mr. Johnson, or dispute his account. Either way, you should have one whale of a show.

My family will be glued to our "set" on May 2nd to see Lyndon Johnson come out of his corner.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred I. Newcomb". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

FRED I. NEWCOMB

FTN:mkn

Enclosures

# CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.  
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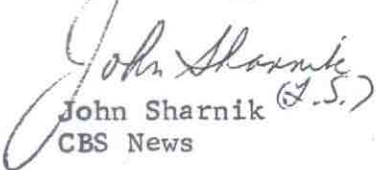
Dear Mr. Newcomb:

Thanks again for your interest in our Lyndon Johnson project.

To answer your question as to the source of our information: in previous years CBS News has broadcast a number of programs on the subject of the Warren Report, and in the course of research for these projects, members of our staff became aware of the Dallas Times-Herald stories you referred to.

I am returning your photographs with thanks.

Yours truly,

  
John Sharnik (J.S.)  
CBS News

Mr. Fred T. Newcomb  
4640 Noble Avenue  
Sherman Oaks, California  
91403

April 13, 1970

## Johnson Asks Deletion in TV Interview

Exclusive to The Times from  
the Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The final scheduled installment of a CBS interview with former President Lyndon B. Johnson omits, at Mr. Johnson's request, a comment questioning the Warren Commission's "single assassin" theory on the death of President John F. Kennedy.

The deletion, in an interview to be televised Saturday at 7:30 p.m. PDT, was requested by Mr. Johnson on the grounds of national security.

A CBS source, who confirmed that the former President expressed reservations about the Warren Commission finding that Mr. Kennedy was murdered by a single assassin, refused to disclose the wording of the question put to Mr. Johnson and his answer.

### Oswald's Motives

Mr. Johnson also expressed doubts about the "motivations and connections" of Lee Harvey Oswald, the sources said. The reference was apparently to the accused assassin's attempted defection to the Soviet Union and claimed relationship with the Communist Party.

Mr. Johnson and his liaison with CBS, Tom Johnson, could not be reached for comment at the LBJ ranch Monday.

Richard S. Salant, president of CBS news, which purchased the right to film the interviews for a reported \$300,000, confirmed that deletions had been made and said the interview will include this message:

"Certain material has been deleted from this broadcast at President Johnson's request, made on the ground of national security."