

# Sam Johnson's Book Will Annoy LBJ

By Jack Anderson

While President Nixon was entertaining the Lyndon Johnsons on the West Coast, LBJ's elusive brother Sam slipped into Austin, Tex., dropped off the manuscript of his forthcoming book, "My Brother Lyndon," then discreetly beat it back to New York.

Once brother Lyndon starts reading the unauthorized manuscript, Sam won't be safe within bomb burst of LBJ's voice. The manuscript is loaded with comments and confessions that LBJ isn't going to like.

The former President has been trying to get his hands on the manuscript ever since he learned about it, but Sam has been studiously keeping out of his brother's way. Sam didn't show up at the LBJ Ranch for the family Christmas last year, turned down an invitation to join LBJ for his last presidential flight on Air Force One and ignored another invitation to attend LBJ's last State of the Union address.

"Silent Sam," as he was known before he decided to tell all, didn't want his brother to talk him out of publishing the book. Lyndon has been making the decisions for both of them most of their lives.

Sam has spent a frustrating life in Lyndon's shadow, keeping in the back rooms, running his brother's errands.

Sam was divorced twice while Lyndon and Lady Bird ascended the political heights together. At the pinnacle of Lyndon's power in the Senate, Sam fell in a bathtub and broke his leg. The leg didn't mend properly and had to be broken again.

To ease the pain and frustration, Sam started drinking too much. While Lyndon was winning the 1964 election by the greatest landslide in history, Sam was confined for weeks in a Myrtle Beach, S.C., hospital, exhausted, emaciated and alcoholic. One of his nurses swore out a warrant for his arrest when a check he didn't remember writing bounced.

On another occasion, Sam and a divorcee were dumped into a Mexican jail after causing an altercation at a gas station south of the border. They were released only after Sam finally convinced the Mexican authorities that he was the brother of the President of the United States.

## Lyndon to the Rescue

The relationship between the two brothers has been as trying for Lyndon, however, as it has been for Sam. Repeatedly, Lyndon has been obliged to bail his brother out of trouble. He arranged through the late Sen. Olin Johnston (D-S.C.), for example, to quash the bad-check charge against Sam. Clark Clifford also pulled

strings to keep the story out of the newspapers.

As President, LBJ once told his brother pleadingly, "If you just stay out of trouble until I leave, I'll make you president of Chase Manhattan Bank."

Sam, in turn, complained to friends that his brother was always watching him.

In the manuscript he has just completed, Sam tells of his role as intermediary for LBJ's harassed staff.

"Anybody who worked for Lyndon over 30 days," Sam says, "deserves the Legion of Merit or the Purple Heart."

Sam's most scathing comments are directed at the Kennedys, whom he accuses of playing cat-and-mouse with brother Lyndon. Sam believes his brother should have given all the Kennedy aides 30 days notice after moving into the White House.

In his original manuscript, Sam gave the needle to "Professor" Mike Mansfield who succeeded his brother as Senate Leader. Sam wrote that his brother didn't like anyone as smart as himself as a deputy and selected Mansfield because of his mediocrity. The publishers, however, edited out this passage.

On the other hand, Sam reports that LBJ had a good relationship with the man who succeeded him in the White House. As Vice President, Richard Nixon once offered

to help LBJ keep a Democratic district attorney in Texas, Charlie Harris, in office throughout the Eisenhower years. However, Sam claims his brother used the late, Senate Appropriations Chairman Styles Bridges, who simply called then-Attorney General Herbert Brownell and reminded him, "You can't even buy toilet paper without my permission."

Brownell got the message and retained Harris as DA, Sam recalls.

It looks as if "Silent Sam" isn't going to be silent much longer, and brother Lyndon will be furious.

## Inside Muckraker

Fellow muckraker Clark Mollenhoff, who recently signed on at the White House, has been assigned to spot scandals for President Nixon before they cause a political backfire.

To keep his administration untainted, the President would like to stop wrongdoing before it is detected by outsiders. Mollenhoff's job is to stay ahead of Congress and the press in searching out malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in the government agencies.

Mollenhoff has one of the best noses for scandal in the newspaper business. His stories in the Des Moines Register and Tribune helped to bring the downfall of former Teamsters boss Dave Beck and his successor, Jimmy Hoffa.