

LBJ
Telephone
Transcripts

Chrono File

Nov. 1963

[1 of 2]

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#6 transcript	Telephone Conversation between the President and J. Edgar Hoover	11/23/63	A

FILE LOCATION
Tapes and Transcripts of Telephone Conversations and Meetings
"November 1963, Chron File" [1 of 2]

9/17/93

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
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Mr. President:

Attached are three sets of notes. They are taken in:

November 1963
December 1963
January 1964

I have reviewed all of these carefully and would recommend that we show to the writers, *especially Hardesty, the ones which I have marked with green tabs.

There are some unusually good notes on discussions with House and Senate leadership in getting the country back on stable footing after the assassination and also some unusually warm conversations with Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

Also, there is a remarkably good story about how you put together the Warren Commission and follow through on the investigation.

Tom Johnson

Wednesday
September 3, 1969
3:35 p.m.

P.S. — Would recommend ^{*}Limited
distribution to Hardesty only.

4:30 Texas Time -- 11-22-63
From the Presidential airplane --

The President called Mrs. Nellie Connally:

LBJ

Nellie, do you hear me?

We are praying with you, darling, and I know that
everything is going to be all right, isn't it?

God bless you darling.

Give him a hug and a kiss for me.

Good bye.

Date: September 16, 1993

Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between the President of the United States and President Eisenhower, 11/22/63, 7:10 p.m.

The archives staff found a copy of the Eisenhower conversation in unfiled material and added a copy of the conversation to the "Tapes and Transcripts of Conversations and Meetings, Chron File."

Claudia Anderson
Archivist

7:10 P. M. November 22, 1963

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

J: Mr. President, this is Lyndon Johnson. This has been a shocking day.

E: My heart goes out to you.

J: It has been tragic. I appreciated so much your thoughtful message which was delivered through Mr. Bundy and Mr. Atcheson. It meant a lot to me.

E: Thank you very much. That is the way I felt.

J: I have needed you for a long time, but I need you more than ever now.

E: Any time you need me, Mr. President, I will be there.

J: I am going to rely on your good sound judgment and will be calling on you, but I wanted you to know how touched I was by your message. It was typical of you and you know how much I have admired you through the years.

E: The country is far more important than any of us. I am going to be there at 11:00. They have invited ex-Presidents to come right after you and the other officials so I will be there at eleven.

J: Why don't you give me a call right after the service is over?

E: I will. If you would like, I can just step over to see you--wherever the secretaries tell me to go.

J: I wish you would do that. Give my love to Mrs. Eisenhower.

E: Give my warm regards to Lady Bird.

Date: September 16, 1993

Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between the President of the United States and President Eisenhower, 11/22/63, 7:10 p.m.

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Claudia Anderson
Archivist

Copy LBJ Library



November 22, 1963
8:00 PM

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND MR. ALLEN HOOVER (PRESIDENT' HOOVER'S SON)

Note: President Hoover's son, Allen Hoover, came on the line saying the President could not talk on the telephone because he could not hear and said that he had been taking his father's calls. Would the President speak to him?

The conversation went substantially as follows:

President: I just wanted to talk to him and to tell him what a terrible day this has been. He has been my counsel many years. I have been thinking of him and just wanted to be in touch with him.

AH: I know he will be deeply appreciative. I will tell him of this, Mr. President. He is really -- I can't say sad -- but extremely sorrowful.

President: You just give him my message. He is a great patriot. I need his counsel. I feel very inadequate. I need to share with people in whom I have confidence and he has had a great deal of experience. I will call upon him and certainly, I will need to call upon him.

AH: I know he will give any and every assistance within his power, Mr. President.

###

November 22, 1963

9:00 PM

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND JUSTICE
ARTHUR GOLDBERG ✓

LBJ: Arthur, I just wanted you to know -- you've been such a comfort -- such a wonderful friend, you and that good wife of yours. You have been so helpful to me and this Administration that I didn't want to leave my desk tonight without telling you that you're gonna share this heavy thinking with me -- there's no one that I would rather --

AG: I know, and I feel helpless. All we can say is if there's anything we can do, you know --

LBJ: Well, don't be so modest and shy. I want you to come in and out. Now -- because I need all the strength you can give me.

AG: Dorothy and I came over to see you at the airport -- if there's anything at all we can do --

LBJ: I want you to be thinking about what I ought to do to try to bring all these elements together and unite the country to maintain and preserve our system in the world because I -- if it starts falling to pieces -- and some of the extremes are going to be proceeding on the wrong assumption, why we could deteriorate pretty quick.

AG: It won't. I have no doubt about that.

LBJ: I want you to give it some thought, and come back to me tomorrow or the next day. Just, ah, think, think, think.

AG: Anytime, anytime.

LBJ: I want to give some thought, by the way, whether we ought to have a joint session of Congress -- after, and what would I say to them.

AG: I think we ought to --

LBJ: Well, I want you to think about who I talk to on the delivery side and how I ought to do it without, I mean with dignity and reserve and without being down on my knees but at the same time letting them know of my respect and confidence.

LBJ (cont'd) There's nobody in town I believe in more than you and I have got to have your help.

AG: Well, it is there for the asking and we wish you every good fortune in the world. You will do well, we have complete confidence.

LBJ: Well, I'm totally inadequate, but I'll do my best.

AG: No, no, not at all, I don't agree with that. Dorothy is right here and she wants to say hello. Here she is/.

Mrs. G: Mr. President.

LBJ: Hi, beloved, how are you?

Mrs. G: Just God give you strength.

LBJ: Well, I'll get some from that great husband of yours and nobody gives me more comfort and more strength and that's why I wanted to talk to you both.

Mrs. G: Well, we'll be here and we'll bear witness with you and Mrs. Johnson. Now just take care of your health because care very much about that.

LBJ: Thank you, hon.

Mrs. G: You just get some rest and care. Dorothy didn't want to say another word except that. I won't take a minute of your time.

LBJ: Thank you. I want you to make a good speech for me sometime before long...

Mrs. G: Please, you take care of yourself. Here's Arthur.

LBJ: O. K.

AG: Mr. President. I suppose you have lots of affairs to take care of tomorrow but late tomorrow afternoon, I will call you.

LBJ: Please do that.

AG: And, have a good night's rest.

LBJ: Thank you.

AG: Say hello to Lady Bird.

LBJ: All right. Thank you.

This Joint Session, this labor thing and the general feeling of trying to bring them together. I had a general meeting with the leaders tonight and needless to say, ~~they~~ ^{the Republicans are} probably really more united than the Democrats. Mansfield didn't say a word.

Thank you so much

AG: I'll call you.

LBJ: Goodbye.

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
JUSTICE ARTHUR GOLDBERG NOVEMBER 22, 1963

President Johnson said that he wanted the Justice to know how much he appreciated the help that he had been given and that he wanted the Justice to know that he was going to be depending on him for advice and guidance.

Justice Goldberg said: "Well, it is there for the asking and we wish you every good fortune in the world. You will do well; we have complete confidence."

November 22, 1963 (9:10 PM) 5

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
MR. RICHARD MAGUIRE

LBJ: Dick.

RM: Yes sir.

LBJ: I know what a great personal tragedy this is to you, but it is to me, too and you have been so wonderful to the President and I want to rely on you more than he did.

RM: Just tell me what you want, sir.

LBJ: Well, I just wanted to say that I want the same relationship tomorrow as I had yesterday and I've been on your team ever since I got here and I just want you to know that you've got to be candid and frank and come in and tell me what we need to do and how we need to do it. I know how saddened you must be tonight, and so am I. We're in the same family and one thing I know he would want us to do is to carry on, be effective and that's what we're going to do and you be giving some thought to what needs to be done and we'll get together in the next day or two.

RM: Yes sir, you just give me a ring.

LBJ: Thank you, Dick. Bye.

November 23, 1963
10:17 a. m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
MR. GEORGE MEANY

GM: Mr. President

LBJ: George, you know how tragic this whole thing is and I just called you to tell you that you have been of inestimable help to this Administration and to your country and I need you as we never needed you before.

GM: Well, I'm still in a state of shock. I just can't fathom a thing like this. And I can tell you, we'll go down the line and you've done a tremendous job and I know you can do it.

LBJ: Well, I know I'm totally inadequate, George, but maybe with friends like you, and if you'll be candid and frank with me and the phone is always close, I'm just as close as it is, if you'll just let me know and come over and let's try to put our country at close ranks and pull it out of this terrible situation in which we find ourselves.

GM: Well, I think we can. I think that with your ability and leadership and training and everything else, as President you can do it and you have me and all of our gang right back behind you.

LBJ: I know that. And I have great respect to your patriotism and I want your counsel and your friendship. I know I've had it, but I want it more than ever now.

GM: Well, you have it.

LBJ: Thank you, my friend.

GM: Thank you very much.

LBJ: Goodbye.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
MR. GEORGE MEANY NOVEMBER 23, 1963

President Johnson told Mr. Meany that: "you have been of inestimable help to this Administration and to your country and I need you as we never needed you before."

Mr. Meany said: "I think that with your ability and leadership and training and everything else, as President you can do it and you have me and all of our gang right back behind you."

November 23, 1963

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
CONGRESSMAN CARL ALBERT

- LBJ: Hello. We were thinking about -- wanted to get your thoughts on it -- a Joint Session similar to what President Truman had after President Roosevelt died and the Speaker made a suggestion last night and I gave it a little thought. I am going to talk to _____ at 2 o'clock. And before I do I thought I ought to talk to you and get your thoughts on it.
- CA: I believe you should. I think you need to.
- LBJ: Well, we'll do it just the day after the funeral -- and I guess we'll try to do it Wednesday. Now what are you'all's plans for the holiday. Anybody going to be here with me? What do you plan to do, go on over until Monday?
- CA: We were going to adjourn over Thursday, Friday and until Monday without any business until Tuesday - but now, the picture has changed. We've got ^{to have} one legislative day because we've got to pass a continuing resolution, appropriations, ---
- LBJ: Thank you, my friend. I'll be in touch with you. Don't speculate on it. Keep it confidential until I have a chance to talk to Dirksen then... thank you, my friend.
- CA: Yes sir. Goodbye.

5a

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
CONGRESSMAN CARL ALBERT NOVEMBER 23, 1963

President Johnson asked Congressman Albert what he thought of having a Joint Session, similar to the one President Truman had had after the death of President Roosevelt.

Congressman Albert said: "I believe you should. I think you need to."

November 23, 1963
1:15 pm

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
MR. FRED KAPPEL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF AT&T

- LBJ: Ejust wanted to say that I rely on you, and want your advice --also wanted to have a chance to visit with you the first time you're down this way but in the meantime to share your thinking with me.
- FK: All right, sir, I'll be more than glad to do what I can and I want you to know
- LBJ: Well, I wish you'd take your group, your committee, and leaders of it and others that you associate with and tell them of our talk and give me the benefit of their wisdom.
- FK: You, sir, don't have anything right now -- at the moment -- in mind, do you?
- LBJ: No, no, no, I'm going to probably have a Joint Session in which I'll talk about carrying on and trying to get out probably the tax bill this year, if it is at all possible.
- FK: Well, we're all going to be in town on the 4th of December -- the Texas committee and make some public observations in line...
- LBJ: I think that would probably be good -- let me see what the situation is and I will get right back to you. Who did you leave this with?
- FK: I left it with Larry O'Brien -- I guess that's all right. We're going to be there anyway on that date. Be there late afternoon and also the next day, December 4th.
- LBJ: I would think that we'd probably just have them all over for some coffee and have a meeting in the East Room and talk over the situation. You might have them meet there and pick out two or three that you think could make some worthwhile observations

for about two or three minutes and I might come in and speak for five or ten minutes and then you all could take over and select your spokesman. I'll be back to you, Fred.

FK: All right.

LBJ: I didn't know it, though, I was just thinking of you. They haven't told me.

FK: Well, I think it is wonderful of you and all my confidence is with you.

LBJ: Well, we've got to preserve this system, my friend, and there's a good deal more to ...

FK: You have a great responsibility and your leadership is an inspiration to us all..

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
MR. FRED KAPPEL NOVEMBER 23, 1963

President Johnson told Mr. Kappel that "I rely on you, and want your advice....and wanted you to share your thinking with me."

Mr. Kappel answered: "...All my confidence is with you.. You have a great responsibility and your leadership is an inspiration to us all...."

November 23, 1963

1:35 P. M.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
MR. ED WEISEL

LBJ: I wanted to talk to you yesterday, just wanted to say I missed you -- I'm gonna talk just a few minutes to let you know that I never needed you more than I do now and I wish you'd put on your skull cap and give me your thinking in a memo now and then and tell me what you think the situation is..

EW: I'll do it right away, Lyndon. Anything you want me to do.

LBJ: Well, I know that and I want you to give that Alice a great big hug for me first -- and then, uh....

EW: Rita had a little baby.

LBJ: Oh, goodness. Isn't that wonderful .. isn't that wonderful. What is his name?

ED W: Angela.

LBJ: Angela -- a girl. That's wonderful, that's wonderful. Where is she?

EW: At the New York Hospital.

LBJ: How much did she weigh?

EW: It was a premature baby and weighed four pounds __ ounces.

LBJ: Is she doing all right?

EW: Wonderful. They are both wonderful.

LBJ: Well, I'll get her a message and give her my love and in the meantime -- I'll probably have a Joint Session and if you have any thoughts on what we ought to say in uniting the country -- I'd like to have it.

EW: All right. Where shall I send it?

LBJ: I'd just send it to President Lyndon Johnson, The White House and I'll get it -- attention of Walter Jenkins. Tell me, what's your stock market doing? What are the folks saying and talking?

EW: Well, of course, it came so suddenly, it created quite a panic but I think that with you in there -- there's great confidence on the part of business and it is felt that if the legislation could be pushed a little bit -- you know -- if we could the foreign aid bill and the tax bill, well, it would mean the greatest restoration of confidence -- not restoration -- but the preservation of confidence that we can have.

LBJ: Well, maybe you can get some of them to say that -- I'd try to do that -- talk to Bobby. I'd certainly indicate what you say the feeling is -- confidence -- we don't want anybody to panic.

EW: That's right. Well, they won't Lyndon, not with you there -- you know there is no concern about that.

LBJ: Well, you get some of them to say that -- you go over there to your boys and talk to them and I don't think you need to tell them but I think before the Special Session, it would be very good, to show that we're going to preserve the system.

EW: I certainly will -- I'll tell them that.

LBJ: I may -- have a lot more complications -- you know about them so -- it may lead deeper. So I think this would be very good --O.K.

EW: O.K., Lyndon, you just let me know about anything that I can do.

LBJ: Yes, you can tell Bobby, just say that -- it's tragic -- but, confidence and experience and so and so.

EW: I'll take care of that rightaway.

LBJ: Right. Goodbye

**TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - SENATOR YARBOROUGH TO THE
PRESIDENT**

✓
11

Senator Yarborough said, substantially,

"I think we ought to close ranks and give you a solid base of operation. Especially with the Governor's being injured, everyone wants to help."

The President said,

"You're wonderful, and I'll be in touch with you."

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
SENATOR YARBROUGH NOVEMBER 23, 1963

Senator Yarborough said: "I think we ought to close ranks and give you a solid base of operation. Especially with the Governor's being injured, everyone want to help."

President Johnson replied: "You're wonderful and I'll be in touch with you."

NOTES: TELEPHONE CALL -- THE PRESIDENT TO SENATOR DIRKSEN

November 23, 1963

12-
1:50 pm

LBJ I'm rather of the opinion that it might be a good thing the day after the funeral assuming the one in Boston is Tuesday, probably Wednesday, to have a joint session and make a brief statement. We've been talking it over, I thought I ought to, and the boys on the staff thought I ought to, and I wanted to get your thoughts on it. ✓

Dirksen I think that would be reassuring to the country.

LBJ I think every chance you get to say like you did this morning and let them know that you're part of this partnership and your country comes first would be good too.

Dirksen You know I will.

LBJ The President spent a couple of hours and we reviewed a good many things including staffs and other things. I won't make it definite, I'll have to see when the funeral is, but I'll let you know one of the first just as soon as you decide if you think that's indicated -- we'll just tentatively shoot at probably Wednesday.

Dirksen Yes, Mr. President.

LBJ Thank you.

NOVEMBER 23, 1963

11:50 O.M.

TELEPHONE NOTES
THE PRESIDENT AND EVERETT DIRKSEN

12a

- A I'm rather of the opinion that it might be a good thing the day after the one in Boston's Tuesday, probably Wednesday to have a Joint Session and make a brief statement and talk we've been talking it over and _____ thought I ought to and the boys over on the staff thought I ought to and I want to get your thoughts on it.
- B I believe it would be ~~significant~~ reassuring to the country
- A Well, I think every chance you get to say what you did like you did this morning and let them know it gives part of this partnership and your country comes first it would be good too. And the President spent a couple hours with me and we reviewed a good many things including staffs and other things and I won't make it definite I want to see when the funeral is but I will let you know one of the first just as soon as we decide and if you think that is indicated we will just tentatively shut it probably til Wednesday.
- B That's good.
- A Thank you.

November 23, 1963

TELEPHONE NOTES

THE PRESIDENT AND BOB ANDERSON-1:55

A I was just thinking of you and we were ~~just~~ talking ~~you~~ about you. President Eisenhower and I. I had lunch with him and we speaking of you and it would have burned your ears if you had been listening.

B Well, Polly and I sent you and Bird a telegram and Polly and I have been saying our prayers

A Well, we knew you would be

B If there is anything I could do ??

A I thought maybe if you could that you might, if you are free any time tomorrow I would like to visit with you a little bit.

B You just name the time Mr. President and I'll be there.

A What about 4:00 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, suit you?

B Four o'clock tomorrow afternoon will be fine. I'll come down.

A All right. I'll be at my home. that is 4045 2nd. If you will let me know or call my office I'll have a car meet you.

B What is that? 4040 52nd?

A 4040 52nd. Right.

B I'll come over on the shuttle bus. Just let

A Just let me know which one and I'll have a car there. Let Walter Jenkins know.

B I'll let Walter know.

B Mr. President. Bobby would like to speak to you.

A Bob? We are probably going to have a Joint Session Wednesday

B ean.

A In which we appeal for you to carry on and ask them to pass the tax bill and tell them we're going to try to watch expenditures, etc. which you would be giving a little thought to that.

continued:

B I will sir. All right here's Dotty?

A Good.

B Hello Mr. President.

A Hello sweetheart, how are you?

B You know that gives me great pleasure to say that to you.

A Well I know it does and I'm

B The circumstances are terrible but on the other hand I am real happy that you are there.

A Well you are mighty sweet to feel that way about it and I knew you did and I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

B Well, did you have anything else to say to Bob?

A No, just tell him I love him and I'll see him tomorrow.

B Well, that is very mutual with both of us and we certainly hope you every luck in the work and we know you will have it.

A Thank you dear.

B Okay.

A Bye.

November 23, 1963

1:55 pm

NOTES ON TELEPHONE CALL
THE PRESIDENT TO ROBERT ANDERSON

The President told Mr. Anderson he has been talking with President Eisenhower about him and had been thinking of him. The President then asked -- if it would be possible and if Mr. Anderson were free -- if he could come to Washington tomorrow. He said he would like to visit with him a little bit. Mr. Anderson said, "Just name the time, Mr. President," and the President replied, "How about 4:00 tomorrow afternoon?" They agreed on a meeting at 4040 52nd St. Then the President told Mr. Anderson they would probably have a joint session on Wednesday to tell them we would carry on, and ask them to pass the tax bill and watch expenditures, etc. and asked Mr. Anderson to be giving some thought to that matter.

NOVEMBER 23, 1963

2:00 pm

NOTES

TELEPHONE CALL

THE PRESIDENT TO MRS. TIPPIT, Dallas (widow of slain policeman)

LBJ Mrs. Tippit?

Mrs. T Yes sir.

LBJ2 This is Lyndon Johnson. In Washington. I know that words are not very useful at times when your grief is so great but Mrs. Johnson and I wanted you to know, you and your children, Allen, Branda Kay and Curtis Ray, are not only in our thoughts, but in our prayers.

I hope that in the years to come your husband's bravery and his dedication to his country and his President will be a great inspiration to law enforcement officers everywhere in the world.

I just want to say "God bless you," and I know you're a brave and a great lady.

Mrs. T Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

LBJ Could I get your address there? I want to drop you a little note.

Mrs. T 238 Glen Cairn, Dallas
Would you give my sadness to Mrs. Kennedy, I can certainly appreciate how she feels.

LBJ I know you can. God bless you, my dear lady.

November 23, 1963

TELEPHONE NOTES
THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. TIPPETT.

A Mrs. Tippett?

B Yes.

A This is Lyndon Johnson . In Washington.

B Yes Sir.

A I know that words are not very useful at times when your grief is so great but Mrs. Johnson and I want you to know that you and your children, Allen, Brenda Kay and Curtis Ray are not only in our thoughts but in our prayers. I hope that in the years to come that your husband's bravery and his dedication to his country and his President will be a great inspiration to law enforcements officers everywhere in the world. I just wanted to say God Bless you and I know you are a brave and great lady.

B Thank you so much. It was thoughtful of you to call and we certainly appreciate it.

A Could I get your address now I want to drop you a little note too.

B 238 Glen Cairn, Dallas. And would you please accept my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Kennedy because I can certainly know how she feels, etc.

A I know you can. And God Bless you my dear lady.

B Thank you.

November 23, 1963

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION.
PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND SENATOR SMITHERS.

A Tell me, what is their situation on the tax bill? I am going to meet with the Cabinet at 2:30 and I -

B I'll tell you what it is. I made a deal just confidentially, with the knowledge of the White House with Larry and the President with Harry Byrd, that Ribicoff and Long and myself and Fulbright would vote against any motion to take the bill away from the Chairman. If the Chairman would agree on that if we didn't tell the press if he would agree to hurry the - close the hearings, which he did. He's cut them off - he's cut them off - announced they would be out of the week of December 6th, that weekend. Now, I asked him the other day what Byrd was really trying to accomplish is to hold up the tax bill until he could prove that Kennedy was going to have the budget announcement over one hundred billion dollars, see. So he could then argue you know that we are financing this tax amendments, debt, etc. So I sort of felt him out with the approval of Henry Fowler, Joe Fowler, you know _____, and tell him that I would try to make another arrangement with Byrd and if we, the President would come out and tell him now in December that what he thought his budget was going to be would Byrd cooperate and help them to get the clearance in the Executive Session over with. So that we could at least when we close the Congress in December we would at least have finished writing the bill in the Committee. And I had just gotten started on that good when we said well as far as he was concerned he said I don't have any problem. He said your problem is Hartke's got six amendments, Gore's got twenty, etc. He said now I will, if the President will do that, I will try to expedite it, but he said I've got no ~~assess~~ inkling, which is right, over Gore. I said I agree with you, but if - so this is what we are working on trying to get it into a position where by the time we end at Xmas we can go ahead and have a tax bill passed. Now at the last Legislative breakfast you were not there. I very strongly said that I thought we had enough votes on the floor to pass the tax bill this year. But we are going to require sort of a Caesarian operation. We were going to have to go around Harry Byrd in the Committee. And Mansfield spoke up and said he didn't want to do that and he thought we didn't have that many votes. And so I said, and Kennedy was there, without pushing it too hard, Hubert was with me, I said now if Frank Valeo or somebody would go and ask every member of the Senate on our side "will you support the tax bill and then put this condition in, would you support the tax bill if it came over from the House and would you support it if it were added as an amendment to some pending bill after a reasonable time had expired for the Committee (Finance) to operate in Executive Session. I said if we get those numbers figured out

then we will know which way to go, but until we do that and until we do that and until we know exactly how many votes we've got, I don't know that and very frankly Mr. President Mr. Mansfield is sorta poo-pooing the idea that we can't do it. That way we lose to many votes if we upset Harry Byrd. He said you'd lose Ribicoff, you'd lose others. I said I don't believe you'd lose Ribicoff and these guys - we just can't - this is the type of bill you're either going to vote for or against it and I think By God I'll vote for it. Now if you want it passed this year I said you're going to have to this is the only way you going to have to be able to do it.

- A Do you think you could get him to close hearings and table these amendments in the week and give them reasonable time to explain it - thirty or forty minutes and then table them and report it in time to pass it this year.
- B I don't think Byrd will do make that kind of an agreement. I think that the only thing he would do because he really doesn't want it, you know, he's really against the tax bill. But I think
- A Well, if you put that to him you didn't, then you could you have some justification for that
- B That's right, that's right, we can put that to him. Now how Halleck, and these fellows, we were talking over there last night, they are going to _____ strong feeling, and I don't know if you want to do it or not, but the smart thing to do in light of developments would be for you to get the appropriation bill through real quick and then just
- A No, no, I can't do that. That would destroy the Party and destroy the election, and destroy everything. We've got to carry on. We can't abandon this fellow's program because it is a national help and they are going to those people want his program passed and we've got to keep this Kennedy aura around us through this election.
- B Yeah. Well, in that connection I think I can tell you I had a most instinct visit with ~~xxxx~~ last night after we met with you. He invited me over to his office to have a drink so I said sure so we went there and sat down and we went into the intricacies which might arise at the convention etc., and the danger there would be if this if we let this break out into a liberal versus a conservative fight in the Senate or anywhere else and give responsibility that he had etc. Now as for myself, Hubert, and I think that the new President has just got to have a liberal running with him as VP candidate and I am just speaking for myself and I think my God that most of the southerners would be for Hubert, and I said you'd have to keep them and their views in mind and keep things going, so he was not at all adverse to the idea and as a matter of fact does this I am not going to tell anybody but I will have a chance to talk to the President about it and I am going to just tell him very frankly that this is just one man's thinking but so he jumps for it and I says that can you hold Joe and can hold Paul and can you keep them lined up. And he said well I'm sure that I can.

He said well this is going to be the problem. Is to they have just been cussing - they are going to try to make the new President look immediately like he is an old Texas oil man and that he is now the President of everybody and Muzert says I couldn't agree with him more but

Continued

November 25, 1963

TELEPHONE NOTES
THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR SMATHERS.

- A before I have to leave.
- B Now we have eight Democrats and if we can get Bobby to stay with us.
- A He has told us ----- and other people that he would - fought with us to cut off the _____ and to bring it out this year. Now then he went to Byrd a little later on and told Byrd that he had not said that. But he told me to my face that he would do it. So with this cost, -
- B Well the real problem is what Ribicoff
- A Ribicoff's enjoying his independence from Kennedy very much and Ribicoff denied to me the other day when I quoted him to Byrd that Ribicoff would vote with us to expedite the ? and try to have a vote this year. Then Ribicoff told me I didn't have any right to do that and I had to go tell Byrd that I had apparently misquoted Ribicoff. So it still, Mr. President --- one more part and we don't know really what
- A Are you already counting Ribicoff?
- B I am counting Ribicoff. With Ribicoff and with Morton we can do it.
- A You've got to have both of them.
- B - We've got to have both of them.
- A Well that means if you could get those two and _____ amendments and report a bill.
- B Right?
- A It will be a long/ⁱⁿtwo weeks.
- B- I think we can do it, in two weeks.
- A How many more witnesses you got.
- B Oh, we've got 88 to go and Byrd has agreed to cut the hearing down to December 6th and so I have personally gotten rid of about 20 and I think he gotten rid of about 18 so we have only got about 30 to go. But
- A What of your holidays. What are you planning on holidays - Thanksgiving.

Continued Mathers & Johnson - November 23, 1963

- B Holidays I plan on to start on Thursday you know we are having a holiday here Monday and Tuesday I guess there is going to be one day so I guess there are only two more days in this coming up week. Erik Then that puts us into December so there is one more week of public hearing
- A Well then you mean it will go over Monday and Tuesday you won't have anything and we will probably have a joint session probably Wednesday
- B Wednesday - and that wee .
- A Well then you won't have anything that week.
- B Byrd doesnt plan any hearings from now onto that week on Thursday on the grounds that there wouldn't be - .e couldn't get a quorum. He told me. That _____ have told him they would be gone.
See, Long has been going down and running a campaign down there so it's been a little rough going. beat on the debt ceiling down there
- A You think we ought to have a joint session?
- B I think right now as many appearances. Yes. First yes. I think you are terribly popular over here and this is your bailwick. People respect you here and they know you you know this business I think we ought to have a joint session.
- A You think we ought to ask them in this session to pass a tax bill this year.
- B I think you got to say that the country needs it yes. And the sooner the better and it would be my hope that it can be passed. But I tell you, Mr. President, I hate to see you make that a big issue, but I am afraid we are not going to be able to do it. I am willing to hang short of anything to get it passed. I am willing to make anybody mad at me to do it. But
- A Don't say anything about this conversation or about the Joint Session because I don't know when the funeral is and I don't know if I'm going to do it and I have got to talk to some of the other leaders, but I wanted to give some thought to it and if you think about it if you have any suggestions call me.
- B I'll do it.
- A Thank you.
- B Thank you sir.

15a

November 23, 1963 2:10 p:

NOTES
TELEPHONE CALL
THE PRESIDENT TO SENATOR SMATHERS

v

The President told Senator Smathers he was going to meet with the Cabinet at 2:30, and asked the situation of the tax bill.

The Senator then brought the President up to date on the status of the bill.

November 23, 1963

TELEPHONE NOTES
THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR MAGNUSON - 3:15

A Thank you pardner, I need your help.

B I'm going home next week. When I get back week after next we'll get together Monday or Tuesday.

A I'll make it.

B How look Lyndon, just one small suggestion. That Irv is pretty smart, You know.

A Oh.

B ---him a little bit.

A Thank you my friend.

B Good luck. Goodbye.

A Bye.

November 23, 1963

3:15 ¹⁶²pm

NOTES
TELEPHONE CALL
SENATOR MAGNUSON TO THE PRESIDENT

The Senator called with some kind words of encouragement for the President. The President thanked him and said he'd need the Senator's help. The Senator told him he was leaving town ^w and would be back in a couple of days.

November 23, 1963

TELEPHONE NOTES
THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR ROMNEY. -

A Yes Governor.

B If there is anything we can do just call on us.

A Governor, this is terribly nice of you and I would expect it of you because I was so you were so generous of me when I was out in your state and you are such a patriot I am grateful to you and I certainly will need you and I hope you stand in readiness because I will need all the help that I can get.

B Well we are very fortunate to have a man of such great experience and who can step in at such a situation and the nation is fortunate and our hearts and our prayers are with you.

A Thank you Governor and I will be in touch with you. Goodbye.

B Bye.

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
GOVERNOR ROMNEY NOVEMBER 23, 1963

Governor Romney said: "...We are very fortunate to have a man of such great experience and who can step in at such a situation and thenation is fortunate and our hearts and our prayers are with you...If there is anything we can do just call on us."

November 23, 1963

3:22 pm

NOTES
ON TELEPHONE CALL
GOVERNOR ROMNEY TO THE PRESIDENT

✓

The Governor called to offer help and assistance and words of encouragement. The President expressed his gratitude and asked the Governor to stand in readiness because "I'll need all the help I can get." The Governor said the country was very fortunate to have a man with such great experience who could step in, and told the President his prayers were with him.

November 23, 1963

13 -

TELEPHONE NOTES

THE PRESIDENT AND ALEX ROSE-3:35 p.m.

B I was just thinking of you, Mr. President I want you to know that all day long I was thinking of you and that I talked with Mayor Wagner before he left Washington and I told him that if he will see you today which I have my doubts he will, but I said if you will, tell the President you and I have a big job to do for him and we will do it.

A Well, you are mighty wonderful Alex and I am awfully grateful and I will need you and I want you to come by here the first time you are in town and I need to talk to you.

B Well Mr. President I will be at your call any time and I must say that I must have had a great intuition.

A You did.

B Isn't it a most unbelievable thing.

A Yes, you did.

B being in the light of this happening, that background and your speech that you made a few days ago in the Kennedy program will stand out in making you sort of an _____ successor and all those who respected _____ of Pres. Kennedy will now have the opportunity to submit the same feeling to you.

A Thank you, Alex. You are always very generous and I appreciate it.

B I can tell you Mr. President we will most certainly not only pray but also work for you. In fact, I did say to the Mayor as soon as there is an opportunity we will come down and see you.

A I want your suggestions. Drop me a line.

B Yes sir.

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
ALEX ROSE NOVEMBER 23, 1963

Mr. Rose said: "We will not only pray but will also work for you."

November 23, 1963

3:35 pm

NOTES ON
TELEPHONE CALL
THE PRESIDENT TO ALEX ROSE

The President told Mr. Rose that he has been thinking of him, and Mr. Rose replied that he has been doing the same thing. He promises to work for the President -- and prayers for him are offered often. The President asked to see Mr. Rose the next time he was in town, and Mr. Rose replied that he was at the President's service.

NOVEMBER 20, 1960

TELEPHONE NOTES

THE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER McCORMACK-3:54 p.m.

- A I would guess that Wednesday would be the best day for us. Tentatively to plan on and I will know within the next hour what the family thinks would fit into Tuesday but I'm afraid they might think that's a little too early. Now what problems will you have with your Membership on Wednesday. Hang away for Thanksgiving.
- B (cannot hear Mr. McCormack at all here)
- A I'll make it Tuesday if I can, except for the family. If not we'll make it Wednesday.
- B All right. Now I'm not going to say anything for the present.
- A No. No, I'll call you when that decision is made.
- B Because I want to know. (cannot hear rest of McCormack here)
- A They may have a mass there, I am not sure. But as I understand it they finally decided to have it finally here in Washington on Monday.
- B I see. Well, I'll be available here, or tonight at the hotel. Thank you my friend, I'll be in touch with you.
- B You're not talking tonight are you?
- A No, I think it's best to do it before the Congress and let them take some extra ____?
- B It's not an immediate situation.
- A Very frankly, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to -- I think that almost anything you do -- I can't sit still -- I've got to keep the government going. I met with the Cabinet this afternoon-- we've got the budget to resolve next week, but I don't want the family to feel that I am having any lack of respect, so I have a very delicate wire to walk there.
- B On the question of Tuesday or Wednesday, don't you let that disturb you at all. You make your own decisions. It is a

LBJ

Cont'd they can get a tax bill...before January 10th. He said if they finished their hearing..then they have to write the report during Christmas and then if they can get back and get a report and debate it six or eight days after the first of the year...

TS: Well, you see, it is pretty tough to make these decisions..until we talk to Larry and to the Democratic leadership and get their judgment..

LBJ: Do you think we ought to try to talk to the leadership sometime tomorrow?

TS: Not a bad idea...well, I don't think for purposes of the speech you have to now...

LBJ: O.K...

TS: But I think before you decide on this budget, you should and before you decide on which comes first, taxation and civil rights, you should ...you were at the last leadership breakfast..before going to Texas...

LBJ: That's right...

TS: And, actually, we tentatively decided then to move civil rights before taxes..

LBJ: Well, Humphrey tells me that its got to be done...can't do anything else...well...if you do, you won't have a tax bill for four months my friend.

TS: I think...I think that's possible ...that's why I think you ought to...but I think that it would probably be a good idea to take the whole thing and hear what the reasons are...

LBJ: That's right...that's right...I think we'll just have to try to do that ... maybe Thanksgiving..if you haven't quit me completely by then... this is a mighty hard life.. you didn't tell me it was going to be this kind of life when you made me Vice President...

TS: It is a hard life...it is going to get harder. On the other hand, I think you ought to think about going away for Thanksgiving..

LBJ: Well, now, how do we get it going... we've been working on it since January... what can we do? That's what they tell us the choice is..

TS: Well, you have to bear in mind the fact that the fellows who told you that.. happen to be giving you the fact which justifies the conclusion with which they sympathize... we'll have to check with Larry....

LBJ: I think that's right... I think Larry ought to check it out pretty well with the committee... I sure hope he's working on that "wheat" thing, too.. I talked to him about it this afternoon... I hope that gets murdered ...

TS: Yes, ... well its got to...

LBJ: And, they don't know how many votes... I've asked Mansfield personally and Humphrey, too, not to bring it up unless they've got it but they agreed to bring it up tomorrow or the next day... so I hope Larry's on that.... How you coming along the stuff they sent you... any of it any good..

TS: Well, one of the reasons I called you earlier was to ask you if you'd had a chance to read it...

LBJ: Yes, I read Galbreast.. and I rather liked it... I agree with everything he said.. I think maybe that we ought to add two or three little things to it.. and do just what he says "not do ~~F~~ ... HE says don't have a lot of patchwork but Doug Dillon says we've got to have a sentence on being frugal and thrifty and at least talk like we're going to watch expenditures... even if we have to make them \$101.5... I'd like to have a sentence or two along that line... I'd like to have a little more along the "hate" stuff... I don't think you got into that quite enough.. I don't know whether we ought to ask for civil rights and taxes with any given date... I think we just ought to urge the Congress to pass them.. I think if we have a given date, we're going to fall on our face ... I think if they'll say the Kennedy program was defeated and next Johnson is repudiated and then since we've repudiated him, let's don't take it up any more... don't you see what I mean? \square ...

TS: Yes

LBJ:q I want to keep it alive.. but Dillon says there's no way in the world

- LBJ I'm afraid to..I don't have enough breast of this, Ted. I just..I haven't read one third of the stuff I need to read and I read until 2 o'clock in the morning...all these Ambassadors...I bet I saw 20 of them this afternoon...I mean heads of state, DeGualle and Pearson and all this crowd...then they're running 15 more on me tomorrow...then I've got this speech.
- TS: Well, if you go down to your ranch you'll get a lot more reading down there than you ever will here...
- LBJ: Yes, that's right..
- TS: Well, anyway, you liked Galbraith..
- LBJ: Yes sir, I did...I didn't think it was any ball of fire..I thought it was something that you could improve on ...bunch of general statements but I liked the compassion of it...I don't reject it as a philosophy.. No, I read it about three minutes while economic counselors were coming in here..but they got me in a debate and I had to quit it..but I think a much better speech could be written...I'm expecting you to write a better one.
- TS: All right. I'll give you another one...and I'll give you Galbraith at the same time and you can take a look at the two of them..
- LBJ: Well, I'll see you in the morning. Thank you, my friend.

November 23, 1963

TELEPHONE NOTES

THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR McORMACK-3:54 p.m. (continued)

delicate field for us all and you should respect the delicacy.

A Thank you my friend.

B This is of paramount importance and gravity.

A All right, my friend.

B Thank you Mr. President. Goodbye

A Goodbye.