

ARCHIVES RELEASE OF LBJ PHONE TRANSCRIPTS

Does this begin with Johnson the b.s. artist telling all he does not call upon how much he needs their help, how inadequate he is and feels, etc.? Is he seeking support? Nothing wrong with seeking support, but he lays it on a bit thick and pretty much the same to all.

If these are in chron order they do not include some of the calls he is know to have made, for example to W. Edgar Hoover the night of 11/22/63. The first Hoover transcript is of 11/25. There were LBJ conversations of the 24th not here. The 25th transcript is missing its beginning and Johnson lies to Hoover in telling him the idea for the commission began with the Post. What Johnson says can indicate that it was Hoover's idea that Johnson have him investigate and report on the crime.

Page 2 of his conversation with Joe Alsop 11/25 can be given the same interpretation. LBJ tells Alsop he is strongly opposed to the commission he appointed. Alsop says the Post's recommendation of a Commission was Friendly's own idea. (p.3) To this point this is the longest transcript.

I just skimmed the rest except for the two phone calls to Russell of 11/29. With one exception that really is no exception it is exactly what Russell had told me. What Russell did not tell me that I recall, and he could have without my now recalling it, was his dislike of Warren. As for the content of the conversations, what Russell had said and how Johnson confronted him with a fait accompli, precisely what Russell had told me. In the conversations I did read Johnson reflects having gotten information from Hoover not in any way reflected in this transcripts. Of course he could have gotten that information indirectly or in writing but that is not the sense in which Johnson speaks. As Johnson put it to Russell, the real job of the Commission would be to give its opinion of the FBI report that became CD1. Johnson visualized and told Russell the work would be done by the Commission's staff, that it would have little to do except give its members' names to the country so their prestige could be exploited for the acceptability of the FBI report. Which in effect is what happened.