

Mrs. Humphrey and I moan the loss of a very dear friend just as the nation moans the loss of a remarkable man. A leader who struggled to bring dignity and hope to all of the American people. Lyndon Johnson's public life as we know was filled with controversy. I ~~think~~ believe so above all because he is a man who ~~is~~ was active and cared and he was a man of decision. He ~~was~~ will be remembered most kindly by those who society had forgotten or ignored. He was a strong man. He cared for the weak and the sick. He was a school teacher who dedicated his public career to the cause of education. He was a man of compassion for the elderly and a concern for the young. I believe that no man gave more to the ~~struggle~~ struggle for human rights nor asked more of us in the battle against racism and ~~discrimination~~ discrimination than President Johnson. He was a President who saw America as a guardian of freedom and he acted accordingly. Above all Lyndon Johnson believed in this country. He believed that our country could build a society of opportunity and justice for all. He drew strength, understanding and purpose from his dear wife Lady Bird Johnson, and his devoted family. To them we convey our sympathy. With them we share a great loss.

Question: Senator Humphrey, you know there were lots of people who thought that President Johnson was sort of corny, being from Texas there, the accent and all. What was your view on Lyndon the man? HHH: He was a man first of all. When he was himself, the physical man, the active man, the talented political man, he was a very attractive man. Above all, I think that the attempt to portray ~~him~~ him as you have indicated was really self-defeating because most people knew that this man

had great ability. Some of the actions that he took actually brought him closer to the people. I don't really believe many people like those who try to be overly sophisticated. They prefer to have their leaders understand them. (He wasn't sophisticated. He was earthy and right down to the people wasn't he.) HHH: He was a virtuoso in many ways. He could be sophisticated and some of his messages were erudite, sophisticated and truly intellectual gems, but basically he was a legislator. He was a leader.

He was an earthy man. He was a student of American politics, and above all a student of people. I think this was his great success as a legislator. He knew everything about everybody in the Congress and he knew their prejudices, their hopes, their fears, and their aspirations, and he never permitted himself to be locked ~~xxx~~ up into a pocket so to speak. He wasn't tagged liberal or conservative. He refused to be southern or northern. He said I am an American and some people used to think of that as a bit ~~worney~~. But I remind you that he had the friendship of a man like Wayne Morse and at the same time the devoted ~~xxxxx~~ friendship and the respect of Harry Byrd. He had the abiding friendship and respect and affection of Herbert Lehmann of New York, a truly great person in the Senate. And yet, at the same time he was the devoted friend and had ~~xxx~~ a deep friendship with Richard Russell. He had a wide spectrum of interest and friends and I think that is what it takes to be a President in America, because this country is made up of many peoples with many cultures, many ideas, many regions and I always thought that President Johnson came <sup>pretty</sup> ~~very~~ close to representing the rugged, dynamic, at times ~~unsophisticated~~ unsophisticated and even at times a kind of <sup>rough and</sup> ~~xxxxxx~~ tough ~~xxxxxx~~ spirit of this country. (Well now speaking of roughness and toughness, on occasions he had, I think, one of the towering rages and perhaps you were present at one time or so?) HHH: Well, any man that tells you that he has perfect self-control

is a man that is spending so much time on himself that he doesn't have time for others.

When he was a sentimentalist, ~~and~~ a man of emotion and also a man of understanding and experience,

I not only know that there were times he did get angry on occasions, on occasions he was a bit angry with me but the next day he would put his arms around you. I always

felt that my relationship with President Johnson when I was a Vice President was like a marriage. At times it was ~~about~~ a bit stormy but it lasted and we got along well.

. . . . He was the President and there was no mistaking that and I knew it. And

as Vice President I was his loyal partner and to me that was my responsibility. Any

differences we ever had they were very modest . . . those that were done were held in

private. I tried to do my job as a member of the team. I ~~can~~ think he respected

me for that. Question: Senator Humphrey, how do you think he got trapped in that

quagmire of Vietnam? HHH: Well this is the question you could have asked Harry Truman,

Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson. I suppose all of them, all of us,

including myself were of that generation that had the experience of World War II,

and the post war period, the period of cold ~~war~~ war and what was happening in Vietnam

seemed so much like what had happened in those . . . that our response to it was a sort

of Western response to a set of circumstances in a different culture, in a different

part of the world. I have always ~~said~~ said that we made decisions about Vietnam knowing

so little about the Vietnamese, knowing so little about their culture, about their

politics, about their ~~religion~~ religion, the things that move people and cause societies to

be what they are. We are essentially a Western nation oriented towards Europe and

our experience is all there. The only knowledge we had of the Far East was out of

the struggle of World War II and that was knowledge out of war and not out of peace

and understanding. I guess the best way to put it is that we were a world power, knew

it, had world responsibilities and we had had world responsibilities but we had

half world knowledge. Question: After he left office and I know you saw him from

did  
 time to time, President Johnson ~~was~~ never expressed regrets about Vietnam, that  
 he had not pursued a different course for instance. No, not that I knew of, but I  
 know one thing about President Johnson that he sought relentlessly for peace and  
 I know because I said to my wife tonight as we were sitting there really shocked  
 by the news of his death that I recall on the day of March 31st, the morning of  
 March 31st, Sunday, 1968 when he came to my home and sat there and talked to me and  
 said that he was not going to run for re-election. And he said the reason he wouldn't  
 was two-fold. He said if I run for re-election everything I do to search for peace  
 will be interpreted as political and I want peace and I am going to do ~~everything~~ <sup>EVERYTHING</sup> everything I can  
 to get this war over. Secondly, he said something else which I don't think I can  
 reveal ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ . . . he said you know, the men in my family do not live long  
 and I think I could understand very well what he was talking about. But this man  
 wanted peace and I think that the heartache that he had more than anything else was  
 that every effort he made for it seemed not to yield results until the very end  
 as you may recall the summer of 1968. He was able to get some agreement to bring  
 the North Vietnamese to Paris. He really believed then that we were on the road to  
 peace and all during that summer and fall I worked very closely with him and I know  
 how he was tenaciously pursuing every possibility to bring that war to an end. I think  
 that was his heartache that he could not find the peace, ~~xxxx~~ <sup>but</sup> I want to say that as  
 he leaves us now the peace that he sought is in our grasp and is taking place in Paris.  
 And it was Lyndon Johnson that brought the combatants, the viligents to Paris let us  
 not forget that. It was President Lyndon Johnson who brought North Vietnam, South  
 Vietnam, the National Liberation Front to Paris. He set the framework for the pursuit  
 of peace and peace takes time. (Thank you very much.)

(Telephone conversation.) Hello. Yes. Yes, Steve. Well, I am sitting here at the desk and I am pleased to visit with you eventhough it's not the happiest occasion. Yes, I surely do. When we first came into the Senate in 1949. Well I knew that he was important because he seemed to know the important people in the Senate and I was a new comer ~~x~~ from the mid-west with no real acquaintanceship ~~and~~ in the United States Senate and the word had sort of spread that people like Thurmond Arnold a very famous lawyer and jurist here in the city knew him, and that men that Clark clifford knew him and Sam Rayburn knew him. In other words powerful personalities knew Lyndon Johnson and so when I met him I was aware of that. And by the way we sort of hit it off quite well in our very first meeting. Yes. That's for sure. Yes. Well, let me just say that in his style of governing, number one he worked with his cabinet very closely. The cabinet meetings were always priority and they were attended by the cabinet officer. He held everybody accountable for their area of responsibility and literally ran a check list on you like a pilot checks out his plane before he takes off. My own relationships with him were both very private on the one hand and my public duties. Privately ~~and~~ Mrs. Humphrey and I often dined with the President and Mrs. Johnson. Many ~~x~~ times at night he would call me very late and he would say I can't sleep Hubert. Come on over I want to talk to you and that happened many, many times and sometimes I would get a call at 6:30 in the morning and he would say what's the matter with you. I thought you were a country boy. How come you are not up he said, you better get on over here. We are going to have breakfast and he was always in a jocular vein on things like that and yet he had responsibilities that he expected you to assume as Vice President. You were to be second and not first. He was a man that knew his position and wanted you to remember yours. Yes, I surely do. You know one thing that was always interesting to me was

that as President he was constantly inviting into the White House old friends of his from Texas, school teachers, school chums, some old family doctor, or a neighbor or a cousin. This man, despite all the public description of him was a very sentimental man and I remember that he invited over to Washington someone that he stayed with when in Australia ~~with~~ he was in the Navy and these people were always given special attention. The people that worked for him that were his, that you might say were his employees at home, his ranch, they would be brought up to the White House. He made the White House, its state functions, its social functions, I think much more of a democratic institution than most presidents do. I guess I shouldn't say most because I haven't known most but I have known several. He was -- and he had an uncanny sense of knowing people, what they have done, what they wanted and what their background was. That was his genius as a legislative leader and he never permitted himself to get pocketed into any sort of comfortable little niche that you could just tag him ~~and~~, put a tag on him and say well he was southern or he was liberal or he was conservative or he was this or that. For example, he refused to sign the southern manifesto which many people now have forgotten but I thought that was rather significant. That was when southern states were rebelling against the decision of the Supreme Court and yet as one of his closest and most intimate friends was the very famous and beloved Senator Richard Russell of Georgia. Yet at the same token a man like Wayne Morse was his friend. I can remember in the presidency when Wayne Morse would denounce President Johnson the floor of the Senate and on the same day the President would invite him over to the White House and say Wayne you are the only man that can put through that education bill over there and dear ~~friend~~ friend I want you to get it done, and Wayne and the President would walk arm ~~x~~ in arm as if they had never had one word of misunderstanding and this would be after Wayne Morse had ~~little~~ literally almost demanded impeachment only to find

out that within the hour the President called him ~~xxxxxx~~ on over and said well now we disagree on the war Wayne but we both agree on higher education or elementary education and you are my leader. You just had to know this man. He wasn't just -- you couldn't put him in any mold. Well, I ~~think~~ think you have to understand that most ~~a~~ men of sentiment and emotion and passion, he had all of that. He had a temper, but he wasn't a hater. It ~~didn't~~ just didn't hang on. I mean he might blow off so to speak on the subject or on a person and very shortly thereafter have that same individual in talking with him working out misunderstandings and treating him with the greatest hospitality. Yes. Not, no strong arm but let me tell you that he had a way of ~~xx~~ walking up to you and we always use to ~~x~~ say that you had to have good strong lapels because he would get ahold of those lapels and he would get right up to you and wisper in your ear loud enough to be heard in the next county as to what he had in mind, but he had an almost computerized membry and he could go from one Senator to another and talk to them and never get confused and then put it all back together when he went back to his office. Yes. Well I know that no man sought more diligently and perserveringly to get people to come to the peace table than Lyndon Johnson. I think tonight we ought to remember that if a truce is signed and cease fire is achieved in Paris and I pray it will be and think it will be that it was Lyndon Johnson that brought to Paris in the summer of 1968 North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Viet Cong and that was no small achievement at the time. And I am confident and in fact I know that one of the reasons he did not ~~xxx~~ run for re-election was that he wanted to dedicate those last months of his administration totally without any necessity of taking care of politics to the cause of trying to obtain peace. And he told me that on the day that he came to my apartment and told me that he wasn't going to run for re-election. I don't know. I honestly couldn't tell you that. I believe that he did what he thought was right and I must say

that even now it's rather difficult for contemporary to pass final judgment. I am always reminded of how people judged Mr. Truman in 1952, 53 and 54. He was not very popular. There weren't many nice editorials written about him but by 1972 when he passed away, Harry Truman was the nation's hero. I have the feeling that history will judge Lyndon Johnson well if for no other reason but for the fact that he did such amazing things in the field of human rights, leading the battle for civil rights, leading the struggle for aid to education, getting medicare for the elderly and doing many things which will live long after ~~after~~ his contemporary critics have faded into dust. In New Orleans about a little over two or three weeks ago at the memorial services for Hale Boggs. Hale was a very dear friend of Lyndon Johnson as he was of mine and Mrs. Humphrey's and we stood alongside of each other at the service. He did not. Both Muriel and I were very concerned. He looked very weary and very tired and much more so than he had when we saw him in Austin in early December. We were in Austin, Texas, with Mrs. Johnson and the President at the civil rights symposium and he looked ~~very~~ much better than. Well I thank you. Both Mrs. Humphrey and I are sad tonight because this man was very close to us and his dear wife, Lady Bird, is one of our dearest friends and we, you and other Minnesotans share in their grief. Thank you.

Hello. Yeh. I have got a brief statement. Will that be alright? Yes.

Mrs. Humphrey and I moan very much the loss of a dear friend just as the nation moans the ~~loss~~ loss of a most remarkable man and leader who we believe struggled to bring dignity and hope to all of the American people. And we all know that Lyndon Johnson's public life was filled with controversy. I think it was so because he was a man of action, a man who cared, a man of decision. He will be remembered most kindly not by the high and mighty but by those who society has forgotten or ignored. He was a strong man who care ~~for~~ for the weak and the sick. As we ~~recall~~ recall he was



once a school teacher ~~was a school teacher and the sick~~ and he dedicated his public life to the cause of education. He is a man of compassion of the elderly and concern for the young and no man gave more to the struggle for human rights or asked more of us in the battle of racism and discrimination. He was a President who saw America as the guardian of freedom and he acted accordingly. Above all, Lyndon Johnson believed that our country could build a society of opportunity and justice. He drew purpose and understanding from his dear ~~four~~ wife Lady Bird and his devoted and to them we convey our sympathy and with them we share a great loss. Thank you so much.

Good. How are you. Yessir I am fine. Well my good friend, that's to put it very ~~very~~ mildly. Both Mrs. Humphrey and I were very, very much shocked and deeply troubled by the bulletin tonight. We have a brief statement here, would you care for that? Well, let me give you the statement here and you take down what you want and if you have any questions, you ask me. Have you got a tape there or you. . . We will start right out now. . . . . I think that's enough what you have there. Well I was attending a reception for Congressman Wright Patman, one of the senior members of the house who was a devoted friend of Lyndon Johnson when the news bulletin came ~~xxx~~ through. No I did not know that he was. Well I don't believed anybody phoned us here today at 3 o'clock to tell us that he was ill. ~~Ex~~ No I .l. as a matter of ~~xx~~ fact I called the ranch and I don't think that he was in any serious trouble until almost at the time of his death. No I didn't talk to him but after his death I talked to one of the Secret Service officers. I don't know. My Minneapolis office, huh, said that somebody had called them at 3 p.m. Bill Magrand. He doesn't know what he's talking about. Well, let me put it this way. Within this last month we have lost two ex-presidents, Harry Truman and

Lyndon Johnson. I would remind my fellow Americans that five years after Harry Truman was out of office, he was not a popular man, but as time went on, the nation saw his greatness, and when he passed away even his most severe critics were ~~was~~ heralding him, praising him. I have a feeling that contemporaries are never good judges of men who occupy a high office. It takes the cleansing of time, the purification of time to arrive at an objective judgment and I am quite confident that history will treat Lyndon Johnson very well. I don't believe we have been in ~~xxxxxx~~ contact with UPI here have we? (Betty. No we haven't) I will be here for another hour. That's a good idea. Why don't you do that.

Telephone conversation with Al Eisele. You have gotten that haven't you. Yeh. I was over at the House of Representatives -- Wright Patman 's -- yes, not the Rayburn building, what was that building - the Longworth Building. They were having a reception honoring Congressman Wright Patman. He's chairman of our Joint Economic Committee so I went over just to pay a brief stop. I got over there about ~~at~~ 6:30. One of the aides there came and told me - I was standing talking to Congressman Foley, Tom Foley, and to Adams, Brock Adams, and a couple of Congressmen one from South Carolina~~xxx~~ and one from Georgia, I have forgotten their names, and some man came up to me and wispered and said that there is a bulletin that President Johnson is dying. And Congressman White of Texas from the El Paso area within a half a minute and said did you hear that ~~xxxx~~ President Johnson had died. I said I just heard it and he said would you like to come into my office or what do you want to do. I said I think I had just ~~xxxx~~ better go home and see if I can get in touch with the family and I went home and I called ~~xxxxxxx~~ to the family. Lucy was not there and Linda was going to fly down and I did not bother Mrs. Johnson. I just left a message. She was a very upset woman at the time, but Mrs. Humphrey and I left a message of condolence and ~~xxxx~~ sympathy and ~~xxxxxx~~ then I was successively on the phone.

Well, I ~~W~~ guess in light of all that had been happening I said this is just too much. I ~~was~~ actually just overwhelmed because within these days we had gone to the memorial service for Hale Boggs and the death of Harry Truman and just this past weekend, one of my dearest friends and strongest supporter, Gene Wyman out in Los Angeles, who was a tremendous help to me and to the Democratic ~~Party~~ party and Nick Beckidge who was a very close friend of mine and it just seemed as if it was one thing after another, along with ~~Milk~~ Milt ~~Clapton~~ Caplan. Well he was with the UPI and Hearst papers and used to be out in the Minneapolis papers. Well Milton's ~~x~~ wife Doris were very good friends and he had just dropped off just like that. I just - it just seemed like it just couldn't be true but yet I ~~xxx~~ had known that President Johnson was not feeling well. I saw him in New Orleans at the memorial service there I believe the 10th of January for Hale Boggs. Lady Bird and the President were there and Muriel and I had a visit with them. He looked very tired, very tired, much more so than he had when we saw him in December at Austin and ~~we~~ he was most friendly and affectionate. You know the President had moods and I just said to someone I remember so ~~xxxx~~ vividly walking into the service and he sat right in front of us in the cathedral and as we were walking on in, he put his arm around me and gave me one of those special extra hugs as he would when he was feeling sentimental and affectionate. He put one arm around Muriel and one around me and we visited particularly at that time about Hale. You know that Hale Boggs had been very close to them, very friendly with President Johnson and we just visited. I remember he said it's a shame to lose a man like Hale and we said ~~goodbye~~ goodbye to him that afternoon because we were outside in front of the cathedral when the military, the navy was giving the final salute to Congressman Boggs. And since then - well during Christmas we received a very lovely present from them and we had had a letter from both the President and Mrs. Johnson, just a ~~xxx~~ friendly little Christmas note. I think the one thing

that would be maybe closest was when he called me to the White House from Atlantic City and we sat there in the side office, his office there, and he discussed the Vice Presidency and said that he - he asked me whether I wanted to be Vice President. Do you know what it means, and we talked about it and he said I am going to ask the convention to nominate you. Obviously I thought that was the most precious moment at least up to that time that we had had, and there were many other times that were very meaningful to me. I can remember when we had returned from one of our visits overseas that he gave us a marvelous reception at the White House with full honors. The first dinner that he gave to Mrs. Humphrey and myself inviting all of our children to the White House when I was Vice President. In the Senate we had many times together because I was one of his lieutenants in those days. He recommended me as you may recall for ~~ix~~ Majority Whip. So there were many very friendly and significant relationships between us and to be close to President Johnson was not to live on a tranquil <sup>sea</sup> ~~xxxxx~~. Sometime you were ~~xxxxx~~ storm tossed but generally you got safely into port. Thank you.

.....Senator did you hear a bulletin that has just come through that President Johnson has died? I said, are you sure? Well, he said, I don't know. I just heard it. I said, let's see. So I said to John White, to Congressman White. I said, did you hear? He said, yeh, I just heard it, but maybe we ought to walk into the office and double check it. So we did. He said do you want to stay here because you will be getting a lot of telephone calls. I said no, I'd better -- no first I ~~xxxxx~~ when ~~xxxxx~~ said I had better go home because Muriel ~~xxxxx~~ hears this she is going to be really upset, because she had been out to Gene Wyman's funeral and had just gotten back. I went home and when I walked in the door Muriel was in tears. She said it's just more than I can take Daddy. It seems like it has just been one friend after another

We went down to ~~Gene Wyman's~~ Hale Boggs', out to Gene Wyman's and out to President Truman's and then there was Nick Beckidge and his wife. Nick was a very close personal friend. Then Milt Clapman; you knew Milt. Milt and Doris were close friends of mine. (He died too?) HHH: No. Just dropped dead! I didn't know that. 47 or 50 years or something. Just boom! Just like that. Yeh. Just last week. And who was it? Somebody that was one of our friends. g It finally gets ahold of you and I know that President Johnson was not well and I saw as I think I've indicated. Did I indicate to you? I have talked to so many people. No. The last time I saw the President was at the New Orleans services at the cathedral for Boggs. I did see the President on the television football game somewhere along the line back here. But when we saw him there he looked very tired, much more so than when we had seen him in December at Austin. While he looked a little tired in Austin. Was that for that civil rights symposium? Yes. He seemed to get better as the day went on. As I have said there is nothing like praise to make you feel better and he was being praised and rightly so by a large number of leaders in the civil rights field. But on that day, Frank, when we were in New Orleans, Johnson sat right in front of us at the church. In ~~the~~ fact, the first row was President and Mrs. Johnson and Lucy/<sup>and her husband,</sup> and Linda and her husband. Then right behind them - <sup>there</sup> and with the governor, sitting ~~there~~ with Governor Edwards and Senator Long -- and right behind them was myself and some of the members of the House, Chip O'Neil and others, Carl Albert. We sat right behind President Johnson. On the way coming in when we arrived just before the services - there was a kind of reception room and I don't know whether this will mean much to you but President Johnson if you knew him, you knew that he was a sentimental fellow. Sometimes he was like a warm, friendly, big bear. You know. I mean just a warm friendly man.

He was a very sentimental man and on this day when Muriel and I came in he walked in between us and he put ~~his~~ his big arms around us, right around our waist and he said you know it's good to see both of you. He looked at Muriel and he said I am so glad to see you. He said when are you going to come down to the ranch, when are you going to ~~come down to the ranch~~ see us. And Lady Bird was there. I know the President because I have been with him so much and I have seen him at times when he would be preoccupied with something when he hardly even recognize you. Well he would ~~xxx~~ recognize you but it was perfunctory. And then the very next day it might very well be that he is just full of you, just wanting to be so friendly. And the last two or three times that we had seen him he seemed like each time it was the most precious time because --

adieu

almost kind of an ~~xxx~~ - you know. (Yeh. Like he knew the time . .) Yeh, and Lady Bird had told me that he had not been well, that it had been more difficult for him. He had these pains, angina, and that in the afternoon he would suffer a good deal of pain. But, when he told me on March 31, 1968, that he was not going to run, there were two reasons ~~x~~ he assigned to this. He came over to my apartment. I was to go to New Mexico City; I was being sent there to sign the Treaty for keeping ~~the~~ Latin America a nuclear free zone. It had been something I had worked on as a Senator and advocated, so he was kind enough to say now Hubert you go down and take that over and do - go through all the formalities. You sign for the government of the United States. Take care of that. Well that had been arranged to be done on the first - April 1. So on the 31st we were to leave to fly to Mexico City that afternoon. In the morning we were already to go. We were supposed to go to the airport at ~~xxxxxx~~ Andrews Field. We were supposed to be there by ~~x~~ one o'clock and at 12 o'clock, in comes the President about 12:10, just as we were leaving. And he had been to church and he came and wrapped on the door without any forewarning or anything else, just came on up and he said well, you know how he talkes. What are you going to do, where are

you going. You running out of town? I said you maybe have forgotten Mr. President, but you gave me a little assignment. Oh, you said, you and Lady Bird, you always like to travel. You'll find any excuse to get out of town. Whenever I want Lady Bird, I look around, he said, you never can find her. He said, she will be either out with Lawrence Rockefeller or Hubert Humphrey. He said all you have to do is find Lawrence Rockefeller or Hubert Humphrey and you will find Lady Bird. You know how he just talked like that. He just go on and on, teasing her, and I said well, you are not letting Lady Bird go with us, we are going to Mexico City. Yes, he said, but don't mention it, she'll go along. Then he said to me could I talk to you alone. I said, of course Mr. President. So we went - the ladies excused themselves and went on into a x room with a fireplace. We sat out there - tonight Muriel and I were sitting at the same place. We were just thinking about this -- you have been up to our home I think. One balcony there in the center where there are a couple of sofas one on each side, and he said to me - I want to tell you what I have in mind. He said I am not going to run for re-election. I said, oh, now Mr. President, don't talk like that. You know that you are going to run and you owe it to me and to the country, and you owe it to the party. You have just got to run. He ~~siss~~ said, no I am not going to run. He went all through this. He said, you know I almost didn't run in 1964. He said actually I really shouldn't have run in 1964. Lady Bird didn't want me to run and our communications got mixed up. I got Lady Bird's note may not run. He said, I am not going to run and I am going to tell you why. He said, I got a chance maybe to end this war if I don't run, but whatever I do from here on out up ~~until~~ until election time will be ~~a~~ interpreted political. No matter what moves I make, it will be interpreted as if it is a political manuver on my part for my re-election. He said, Hubert, I want to get this war over. I want to get peace so much I can hardly bear to think about it. He said that if I do not run, I put my full time

can

on a non-partisan basis into getting this war over and nobody can suspicion. ~~xxxx~~

He said they can't say Johnson is trying to ~~whirl~~ wheel and deal and Johnson is doing this and that just to get re-elected. He said I think I can may be get the conference started and I think I have got a chance, but I can only do it if I don't run and he said I want peace. He said I am going to get it and the second thing is if I were to run it's a terrible physical strain. He said you know I have had my problems. He said the other thing is the men in my family don't live long and he started to cite the different men in his family that had died in their early 60's, and he said that I just think the strain of the campaign and if I were elected the strain of the office would be too much. He said it wouldn't be fair to the people and he said now I want you to keep your mouth shut about this because he said I have got to really finalizex what I am telling you between now and 8:30 tonight. I don't want you to tell a living one. It's 99 chances out of a 100 that ~~I~~ what I have told you is what I am going to do and he said, I'll let you know in Mexico City. And I am going to show you my speech so he gave me his speech. He said I have got two endings to it. One ending didn't say anything about the elections at all, just simply said what ~~he~~ course he was going to pursue on the peace conference and the other one was the ending that I hereby announce and . I'll call you or have Marvin call you and he said if it's number 2, he will simply say that I am going to give the second speech and that will mean that I am ~~go~~ not going to run because I don't want you to be down there and have this announcement come without you knowing about it.

And so on the way going out of the door when he left, he picked Muriel up literally and put his arms around her and gave her a big kiss. And when we went to the airport -- he always liked Muriel very much. She liked him. They were real good friends. On the way to the airport, Muriel asked me, what's wrong with the President? What did he talk to you about, what was he talking about/? She said you know you were in there



talking so long. You know we are terribly late. I said you know you don't tell the President you know I am in a hurry, I have got to ~~g~~ catch an airplane. After all, I am going because he sent me. She said, well what did he say? I said, honey ~~xx~~ I never talk about that. I said you know we have ground rules here. ~~W~~ You know you don't generally ask me questions like that. If there is anything I want to tell you <sup>even</sup> I'll tell you. She said, is there something wrong with him? ... has something special come up? ~~why~~ I said, why? From the way he put his arms around me . . . you know I know him pretty well, he's got something on his mind that's different than ordinary. Just that woman's intuition, just like that. I said, oh yes. The trouble with you women is that you think that anytime the President gives you a hug, he's in love with you. You know you are just vain. So when we got down there and I got that telephone call about 20 minutes after eight, he had gone on radio and TV at 8:30, I then told the ambassador that I wanted him to call in to the President of Mexico. By the way the President of Mexico had never been to the American embassy nor had any President of Mexico ever been to the American embassy since the revolution in 1910. The first time - ~~xxxx~~ . . . was the first President that ever came because the American embassy is American soil in Mexico and in their nationalism they just never went to the American embassy. But he happened to come that night to that dinner so he and his wife, the President of Mexico and his wife, Muriel and myself, Ambassador Freeman and his wife and about two or three others were in there and I announced. I said listen I am sorry to interrupt our proceedings Mr. Ambassador and I am not at liberty to tell you why except that it is important that <sup>we</sup> ~~you~~ be in your study and that you tune in the radio to the President because he is going to make a very important announcement and I have got to insist that whatever your plans are for the dinner - because he called first for us to be seated. I said we cannot do it and he said well that's a rather unusual request but you are the Vice President, I guess . Then

he whispered and said what about the President of New Mexico. He said that's most unusual. I said he'll understand. ~~Believe~~ Believe me, just follow me. So he sat and listened. ~~And~~ And Muriel broke down and said well ~~x~~ why didn't you tell me. That was in the paper you know. When she ~~x~~ came out she was so upset. But that was the background to that particular episode. . . He called me; the President of the United States, 1964, February. And he said, well Hubert, I have had a talk with Mike Mansfield. I told Mike that I want you to be the floor leader of the ~~vt~~ civil rights bill. This has been your life in the Senate and I want you to handle it. I said I also told him that you won't win. He said it won't be because you don't want to win, but you liberals will never stick together long enough to ~~xxx~~ ever beat Dick Russell. He said you will all be off running off making some speeches. Dick Russell knows the rules. Your people don't and they won't abide by them if they do. But he said it's going to be your test and I am guessing going to lay it on the line to you. He said this will be your real test as a legislative leader, but I am going to predict right now you won't make it. He knew me. He knew - he was ~~gouging~~ gouging me into action. He said I know you will give it everything but ~~x~~ he said you'll never be able to hold that gang together. They'll all be off chasing ~~xxxxxx~~ rabbits when they are supposed to be there. So when we settled in and I organized that Senate for that civil rights fight like nobody has ever organized it. We had daily bulletins. We had captains. We had people that were responsible for forums. We divided up the Senate into groups and we only once failed to get a forum and we beat them on their own game. (With Everett Dirksen's help.) Well yeh, but it took a ~~xxxxxx~~ little time to get Ev Dirksen around. And the next time as I said, the most impressive time was when - most exciting time also the most frustrating time was during the summer and spring of 1964 when he was playing that game of who would be Vice President. But I think that of all the liberals in Congress that I always had the best relationship with him. We got

along well and we hit it off - you know about as good as you could with Johnson.

. . . . . Thanks, you bet



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