

November 30, 1963

3:16 p. m.

119

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND LUCIA
ALEXANDER (t)

LBJ Hello..

LA Hello...

LBJ Hi.. my darling..how are you?

LA Pretty good..how are you?

LBJ Fine..this is the first moment I've had to try to get anybody on the phone
I just wanted to tell you I'm thinking of you.

LA Well, you know we've been thinking of you..

LBJ I sure do..I wish you were here..

LA I don't know..I think I'd rather be in my place than yours..

LBJ Laughter..well, I'd like to trade with you...laughter..

LA I went up to Johnson City to look at the wall paper.

LBJ I see..how are they doing?

LA There were doing fine..

LBJ Well it is going to cost a million dollars to rebuild that old, old, \$5,000
house, isn't it?

LA Well...it looks that way. I didn't know what to do..I started to call A. W.
but I didn't know where to go from here so I just came back...

LBJ Well, he's here now. He's in the office right now.

LA Well, I'll say, tell him hello.

LBJ Don Thomas came up to work some of our private business things.

LA Well..if there's anything you want me to do.. why...

LBJ No..I don't think so..wait a minute...

LA Lyndon...listen...what am I supposed to do when these newspaper reporter
call me?

BA LBJ Do you want to rent or sell your house, he says?

LA Do I want to rent or sell it?

LBJ Yes, he says you'd better get in touch with him...he says there's some
Secret Service men moving up and others that are going to be renting houses.

LA Well, I don't know..haven't thought about it.

LBJ He said he'd Cecil Presnell on his house before he left... you can
think about it..he just says that they're moving in there and being stationed
there..

LA Well, that's the only place I've got to go hide....

LBJ He said he's trying to get them in Johnson City instead of sending them to
Fredericksburg...laughter...I imagine those dutchmen would be more happy
at Fredericksburg..

LA Lyndon.. what am I supposed to do when these newspaper people call?

LBJ I'd just tell them as little as I could...

LA Well..that's what I do..but things happen..if you don't say anything..they
think...I don't know what to say except tell them some...I'm just afraid they
take a pot-shot at me?

LBJ Laughter...I think I'd just tell them you all have talked it over in the family

LBJ and you think the best information they want to get is to get it through the President's Secretary..and for that reason you're not going to be conducting interviews...because, very frankly, you don't have the facilities to handle them and the time either..that you'd have to do your own work...just hope they'll understand.....Sam Houston and Rebecca gave out a good interview. I see..

LA Who did?

LBJ Sam Houston did yeah...

LA I haven't seen it...

..... weak can't distinguish words being said....
but the other paper of course has been real nice..

LBJ Who was that..the Press was the mean one..wasn't it?

LA Yes, the Press was the mean one...this womanappreciated my position but everyone knew that I loved here and would I please express confidence in...and just things like that...Then they asked where Birge worked...and I figured if I didn't say something..they'd make something out of nothing... I mean..it wasn't bad...but she told me she'd call me before she printed anything...and when I came back...why..it was all over the front page... OK...well I just wanted to tell you I love you and tell Becky...

LBJ

LA

LBJ

SANITIZED

LA I know it..I don't know whether it would be a good idea for me to pull Becky out..or not..I thought I'd wait a week or two...see if there were any repercussions...I just take her out...and...

LBJ I wouldn't dare..they wanted to give me an honorary degree down there now. Texas University..wired me this morning..

LA Well, honey, you know how I felt...about...

LBJ Well, I guess, you're one of the last ones to talk to him..

LA That's right..but it was you I was worried about and John..

LBJ Well, God bless you and I'll see you..

LA Bye

LBJ Bye