

November 30, 1963

2:55 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MR. JESSE KELLAM  
(t)

JK ..... but I knew that you'd had a million and one thing... if there's anything we can do down here to lighten the load... but before we get started on anything else... I want to tell you... that your message to the Joint Session was as good as it could have been... both the content and delivery..

LBJ Well, thank you.

JK On your Thanksgiving message... I thought they put a little bit too much oil on your hair... because of the light above... it gave a reflection... that wasn't good... particularly on television... just think that with NO oil on your hair... the effect is good.

LBJ Good..

JK Now your glasses I'm accustomed to and I think it lends a certain... oh... call it dignity or anything else... if you want to... but might I suggest that the best optometrist that you can get... examine the possibility of less color in the rims... because the effect of color on the rims of the glasses on television appearances..

LBJ Well, the ones I've got are just plain flesh color... I've got some black ones but they're always looking bad... I thought..

JK I don't know whether a rimless glasses would do it or not for television but you might want to experiment with that..

LBJ All right

JBK The rims on the glasses... show up pretty well... but I don't believe that anyone could have achieved the effect that the nation needed... anymore than you did in your Joint Session..

LBJ That's good... you know any other news?

JK Clyde Weatherby was in the office when you called... they haven't got all of the abstract on the Logan place... got a 10 day clause in it... and I'm not sure that A. W. notified them the abstract was incomplete... so I'm dropping them a note today to be well within the 10-day line... tell them it is incomplete... in detail..

LBJ AW is coming in and I'll ask him here in a minute..

JK All right fine.. He MIGHT have written them... but just to be sure... I was dropping them a note saying that was true..

LBJ Any other news?

JK No. Don has talked to John Gray in Beaumont... and is fixing to pick up, I believe... maybe 750 shares at John's place down there and haven't heard again from Julius Gordon... I don't know the score on him... on the plane... don't know if you got the word or not... but he's called from Wichita.

LBJ I told him to just tell him not put it on the seat but put it on the cover that fits right over the seat so when I ride it it would be just the opposite from the other one... the other one had it on the chair... and we put the cover over it this time... we won't put the cover... we won't put it on there but we'll have a cover made to fit it.

JK That's good... that's excellent... now did the spare engine go with the twin

JK

Contd

Bonanza on the price?

LBJ

Yes.

JK

Good, good. . . good I wasn't positive but I wanted you to know about that. What would you think of Ralph Busch . . . if we could get him down here. . . address the Rotary Club of Austin.

LBJ

Think that'd be excellent.

JK

I wrote Wash. . . 1) you'all thought it was all right. . . 2) if there's a possibility of getting him. . . and the Rotary Club. . . Harry Akins is Chairman of the First Quarter Committee. . . right after your address to the Joint Session. . . Akin had a meeting of his Program Committee and came up and wanted to know what I thought about it. . .

JK

And I think it would be good for the Rotary Club and think it would be good for the cause. . . and would hope that he could do it and that there would be no expense to the Club even for transportation. . . but they're willing to pay that if necessary. So. . .

Harry Winship from Boston has been down here the last two or three days . . . he's doing pretty much an . . . a study. . . and is going out to A. W.'s house , and is going to meet Marjallen. . . and be out there tomorrow at about 1/2 o'clock. for some interviews. . . he's friendly and we're trying to be as helpful as possible to him

LBJ

All right

JK

On the Johnson City house. . . we're finishing up out there and Roy, I'm working with. . . on selections. . . what colors hadn't been decided and decided to go ahead and put out pictures. . . cost a little bit more now but we'll get it done once and for all.

LBJ

Put what?

JK

Outlets. . . electric outlets. . . where the picture will hang over it. . . On. . . Jim Lane called me two or three days ago. . . that these units that Woody had talked to him about several months ago. . . ought to have his production line within the next couple of weeks. . . and wanted to know if we still had need for them and wanted them. . . and I told them just to go right ahead and let them come off the production line and to get someone to call me when they were in but at that time. . . I would have some answers.

LBJ

I guess so. . . I don't know.

JK

I thought just let him go ahead and assign them and. . .

Now on Sharnhorst. . . traditionally we've let Mrs. Houseman go on one hunt up there. . .

LBJ

Just talked to A. W. . . he said he didn't notify them and the ten days may be up

JK

. . . It is up tomorrow, I think. . . tomorrow or the next day and we thought we'd write them today

LBJ

He says just today and tomorrow.

AW

Hello. Jesse. . . I believe that contract said that they had to submit an up-to-date abstract. . . and what they submitted. . . wasn't. . . it was just a piece of an abstract. . .

JK That was the position that Clyde took ..that it was a partial abstract but just to be on the safe side...thought we would write them today.. within the ten days and call that to the attention  
.....that they'll be hearing from you direct...

AW All right. How are you doing.

JK Pretty good A. W. Your wife has been wonderful in helping with folks up there...

AW Well, that's good...been aggravating a lot of people up there?

JK A good many of them..and I've to get that fellow from the Farm Journal wants to go up tomorrow and is hell bent on talking to Dale and I've been telling him that you'll be back most anytime and he ought to be talking to you..so I've got him held off till tomorrow...when are you planning on coming back?

AW Tonight..in just a little bit. We'll be pretty late..though..by the time we get home

JK Well, he's going to call me at one~~o'clock~~ o'clock tomorrow..so maybe we can get him up there...I just rather you'd talk to him than Dale about our farm practices.

AW OK..Ok. You want to talk to the President again?

JK Yes..if he's free.

LBJ Yeah..

JK On Sharnhorst..I thought it was all right to let one or two hunt up there and maybe one or two at the Stewart place...during the balance of the season..

LBJ All right ....wouldn't have many though..cause I'm going to want to do some of that myself..

JK Houseman..and maybe Loui Shanks and Roy White...that'll be about all of it.

LBJ All right.

JK I thought I'd work out some kind of arrangement with either Jimmy Morris or through Brasos and Jimmy where they could lease the grazing rights to the  
at regular going rates.

LBJ Well, I'd see about what we need up there for their own cattle...if they've got any grazing out there to graze..

JK All right. I'll talk to Dale about that..see if it would work in/ and ..I've discussed it with him once and I'll talk to him again

LBJ Yeah..do that..OK

JK I told Bob that Bob Armstrong had asked if there was anything that they could do..so forth..Seabrook has been after me several times..wanting to know if you'd want him to come up there ...if he did come up to be helpful..if he could be properly recognized...I just told him I'd see about that..

LBJ What does he mean, properly recognized....

JK Well, he didn't want to come up and not see the President, I guess.

LBJ Laughter...well, I wouldn't have him come right now..

JK Well, I'll just give him the ---off....

LBJ How's Jake coming?

JK

It has been awfully quiet...

LBJ

Well...you start a campaign today to see that every person, patriotically in your organization and every one you know goes and votes absentee right now.. cause we found out..last time..Bird missed a vote..and lets see how many you can get out of your 104 to vote absentee.

JK

I'll do it..I dropped by this morning and they were closed but I'll do it the first thing Monday.

LBJ

All right

JK

It is damned important.. cause that is his court...that's his biggest problem and we'll start a little campaign on him and publicize him only a few more days.. only three more days.. whatever it is..

LBJ

When is election? 17th?

JK

I believe that's right.. you hit me right in the face with it.. but I'm not positive.. almost sure it is the 17th..

LBJ

Want to bring Chancellor Erhardt of Germany to the Ranch on about the 27th ...I'll be there Christmas.. and won't come back..

JK

Good.. good.. you will get to spend Christmas down here, though?

LBJ X

I think so.

JK

Now..I am.. can I talk pretty freely on this line?

LBJ

Yes.

Charlie

JK

I saw Cliff yesterday...and I'm taking care of him.. with \$1500.. ~~Don't~~ I've taken care of... Melvin has got to be taken care of the same way..

LBJ

Well, I'd just wait and let us see.

JK

All right.. and then the balance of them.. every envelope that came in.. just hold it.

LBJ

That's right.. that's right.. I would just turn them back to them.

JK

Just turn them back to the writers?

LBJ

Yes

JK

All right, sir, I'll do that and as I say.. have taken care of Charlie.. have taken care of Cliff.. now just hold up on the Winters.. those are the things that I've been anxious to chat with you on..

LBJ

We didn't have you come up here cause we thought it would be better that these trustees operate independently.. and they meet and hire you...

JK

I'm in agreement 100 percent with that

LBJ

And Waddy and...

JK

All right.. and hows your business?

JK

Well it went to hell of course this week ..that Friday.. we carried no commercials from Friday shortly after noon till sign-off Monday.. but we've been working like hell even during that period... trying to get... and most of these have been pretty understanding.. few of them have said.. arbitrarily give me credit.. but we're going to go forward from there.. I've gotten back into this Muzak thing which is not on an even keel at all and do something there.. looks like the challenge in the job is not big enough .. too big for both and Humphries..

And I'll work something there as we go along.. we're getting into it though..

LBJ Did he ever finish up Mary Margaret's?  
JK Yes... all except painting the place..he told me...and we'll doublecheck..  
LBJ He said he had to get something.. get something from Paul Taft.. some  
equipment..  
JK A receiver from Paul.. and I understood that they had gotten that, sir...  
LBJ No..I didn't think so.  
JK Well, I'll double check him on that.  
LBJ See that he goes and gets a turn-key job..  
JK All right..I'll do that.  
LBJ Got it in the Johnson City House, all right?  
JK Yes sir.. yes sir. we haven't completed installation there but ~~it~~  
it has to be done in the stages of painting..  
LBJ We ought to have it out in the tree too.. couple of them out there.  
JK All right  
LBJ Backyard.. any other news..  
JK No sir. Believe that's all I can think of right now.  
LBJ Don is here..do you want to say anything to him?  
JK Yes..I do..please.  
LBJ I wanted to tell you about Erhardt primarily so that we could get ready  
..how is Dale doing? ....27th..  
JK When does it look like you'll be down..  
LBJ I might be there the 14th?!!!  
JKX That'll be wonderful.  
LBJ Here's Don Thomas..  
JK Thomas...  
DT Yes...  
JK Damned.. where have you been?  
DT All around..  
JK All around.. anything I can do here for your family while you're gone.  
DT No..I think not.. We'll be in tonight about 11:30, I think.  
JK All right. Has A. W. got a car?  
DT Yes. his car is at the airport..and I think I have one..  
JK Tell A. W. that his wife has got Larry Winsome of the Boston Globe with  
three or four people out at his house at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.  
and I'll have the fellow from the Farm Journal ..that we've arranged for him  
to meet if he will...at the ranch or at his place...about 2:30 or ~~2:30~~  
3:00 where he can strap both of them up at one time maybe..  
JK And I had something else I wanted to ask you but I guess it will wait..  
DT Anything going on there locally?  
JK Awfully quiet, Don. People are still numb..terribly impressed by events of  
the last few days..as you know..but did you get to see any of the game  
Thursday..  
DT Not a minute...  
JK Damned it was sensational, Don..  
T Must have been.

DT Just a minute...just amminute...  
LBJ Jesse... run one of your telephone Woody polls on Jake and Dobbs..  
put about 100 calls..keep the secretaries busy for about a day or so..  
JK All right, sir..all right.  
LBJ Get about 4 of them per outfit and be sure that about 15 of them are out East  
of Austin..  
JK All right, sir.  
LBJ East of Austin.  
JK Tell Don if you will, sir..that I talked to Morrel yesterday and Morrell says  
that Holmes Theatres ..going public and maybe buying Midwest Video..  
was talking in circles as only Morrell can...as soon as Don gets back mkr  
I want him to get on that and see what they're finigling with there.. Morrell  
tried to make a run at me on some mxx for the power lease and I  
blew all fuses..told him that I didn't think that he'd had sense enough to ask..  
he's promised to get that squared away for sure..the thing that disturbed me  
in talking with Morrell inore than anything else..was his statement that  
Mr. Moses had turned things over to him.. Mr. Moses is not feeling well..  
I take it he's sick..he said no...but he's cutting down on his work in the law  
firm and got a lot of workload and turned it over to me as Executive Pres.  
so tell Don I sure want to get on that first thing Monday..  
LBJ Bird wants to give up her option..I told her she's crazy..  
JK Can't afford to give up that option...we might sell or transfer...I discussed  
that with Don and A. W. a little bit..but we don't want to give it up..sure  
don't..I wouldn't mind selling it to A. W. and Melvin or Melvin and Earnest..  
but I sure don't want to give it up..sir...  
LBJ OK  
JK Thank you..