

BETHANY COLLEGE  
BETHANY, W. VA.  
26032

PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

October 12, 1976

Mr. J. L. Pruett  
713 West Mahan Street  
Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett:

You have certainly undertaken a delightful assignment in preparing that Lyndon Baines Johnson book.

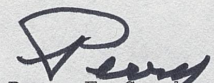
Mr. Johnson had just gained prominence as a very young man when I left Texas in 1942. I shared the platform with him at Austin when he appeared before some statewide body in which he was involved. It could have been a church meeting, the Mental Health Association, Chamber of Commerce or a civic club. I do not clearly remember. His presence was striking. The toastmaster, Harry Hines, introduced him as a man who might one day be President.

My correspondence with him in regard to his coming to Bethany was notable. I wrote to him, "As Texan to Texan and Campbellite to Campbellite, I want you to come up to Bethany and talk to our students. You will make my old academic heart very glad if you can come."

He wrote back, "As Texan to Texan and Campbellite to Campbellite, I'll be glad to come. I hope your old academic heart will be just as glad afterward."

Thank you for letting me see the photographs.

Sincerely,

  
Perry E. Gresham

PEG:pn

Enclosure



3915 Thornapple Street  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015  
Thursday, October 28, 1976.

J.L.Pruett Esq.

Dear Mr. Pruett,

I am Executive Assistant to Senator Williams of New Jersey. Your letter to him came across my desk. He is in the State, campaigning for re-election, and he will not be available to ask for any LBJ anecdotes for perhaps several weeks. Your letter will be brought to his attention at the earliest moment I can.

Co-incidentally, my wife and I were both in the White House with President Johnson -- my wife as Mrs. Johnson's personal secretary -- myself as Assistant for Congressional Relations with the House of Representatives. We were also close friends of the Johnson family, as Ashton, my wife, had been with Mr. Johnson since 1955, at the Ranch originally, and then in his Majority Leader office in Washington D.C.

We have purposefully kept a low profile since we left the White House, preferring not to emulate some former staffers who have capitalized on their service! Ashton has many anecdotes -- I have a few. But there is one that might appeal to you, which is unique.

In 1966, my partner and I won the Two-man Team championship at Columbia Country Club. In 1967, we were due to defend the title in the final on a certain Sunday morning. At 3 p.m. on the afternoon of Saturday, Mr. Johnson called us at home, and announced we were going with him to Camp David for a "non-working" week-end. I was in a quandary. How could I play golf at 10 a.m. in Chevy Chase if I was up at Camp David? I felt I could not let my partner down, but an LBJ "invitation" to Camp David was always more than just an invitation. I decided to take a chance that I would not be missed for three hours on Sunday morning -- I arose at 6 a.m., went to the main cabin for breakfast, with the intention of driving down to Washington, playing the match, and rushing back.

When I arrived at the breakfast table, it already had an occupant, dressed in bathrobe, and reading the New York Times. I greeted the President, who said "What in the hell are you doing up at this hour?"

I explained my predicament. He looked at me over his glasses and growled "Is a damn golf game more important than the President of the United States?"

I replied "No, sir, but as this is a non-working week-end, I thought you wouldn't mind". No comment or answer -- back to his newspaper.

I finished my breakfast, asked to be excused, and



stood up. LBJ looked up again from the paper, fixed me with a steely glare, and said " You gonna go ?"

"Mr. President" I said "not if you say I can't".

Again no comment, and back to the Times. I took his silence for permission, and left, drove to Washington, and returned at 2.30 p.m.

The matter was never brought up by Mr. Johnson till, one night six months later, my wife and I were attending a State Dinner in the White House for the then Prime Minister of Australia, Harold Holt. As I reached the President in the receiving line, he turned to Mr. Holt, and said " Mr. Prime Minister, this is John Gonella -- member of my staff -- he thinks a damn golf game is more important than I am".

Mr. Holt, of course, was totally mystified by this cryptic introduction. I shook hands with him, and moved on down the line. I had taken only a few steps when I heard " John, did you win that golf game ?"

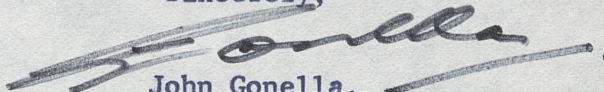
"No sir, we lost it".

"Serves you right".

I hope the above story amuses you. Perhaps, if you are interested, Ashton and I might put a few more on a cassette tape, and send them to you.

Allow me to express my condolences to you now for the dreadful thrashing that our Washington Redskins will hand out to the Dallas Cowboys three days from today,

Sincerely,



John Gonella.



GORDON GRAY  
1616 H STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

October 22, 1976

Mr. J. L. Pruett  
713 West Mahan Street  
Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett:

I have your letter of October 12.

I came to know President Lyndon B. Johnson when I first arrived in Washington in late 1947 to become Assistant Secretary of the Army. He was at that time on the Armed Services Committee and during the next three years in which I became Under Secretary of the Army and finally Secretary, I, of course, appeared before the Committee on various occasions. This, I believe, was the basis of my initial professional relationship with him which continued through the years until he left the Presidency. However, I think it is fair to say that we were never intimate friends.

I doubt that I can tell you very much that you have not already learned about him. I think, though, of two incidents.

When I was nominated to become Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization (an organization which no longer exists as such), I owned insubstantial oil exploration interests. Because of the responsibilities of the office for which I had been nominated, it was clear to me that I might at some time face the problem of oil imports under old section 7 of the Trade Agreements Act. I think at the time he was Majority Leader of the Senate, and I went to call upon him for his advice in the matter. What he said to me was something like this: "I have always been a Gordon Gray fan. However, even in my position of great influence, I cannot be of help to anybody in a potential conflict of interest situation. My advice to you, therefore, is to choose between retention of these oil interests or becoming Director of ODM for which, in my judgment, you would have no difficulty in confirmation." I responded that of course service to my country came first and that I would dispose of my oil interests, which I did forthwith. It turned out that his advice was quite sound because later, while serving as Director of ODM, it became necessary for me to make



Pruett

-2-

October 22, 1976

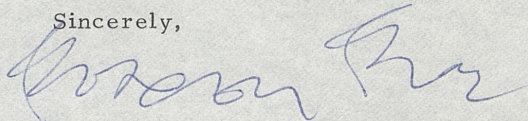
certain recommendations to the President regarding placing limitations upon the importation of oil.

I probably would have made the same decision, in any event, but my conversation with him made the situation crystal clear.

On another occasion, when the members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, to which he had reappointed me upon his becoming President, met with him, we were assembled in the Cabinet Room. He entered the room and went around shaking hands with all of the members. He announced to all present, "I sure am in high clover today."

I hope this might be of some help to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon Gray", written in a cursive style.

Gordon Gray



JONATHAN DANIELS

55 N. Calibogue Cay  
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928  
October 20, 1976

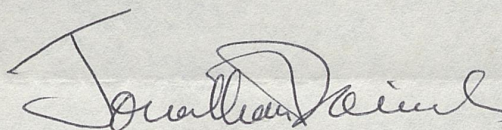
Dear Mr. Pruett:

Better than any off-the-top-of-my-head comments I might make now are, I think, the memories I have written about him in two books: Frontier on the Potomac (1946) and White House Witness (1975). I believe you should be able to find them in a good Texas library.

The xeroxes you send me arouse no special memories in me. The best Texas memory I have of LBJ was when he came aboard the Truman campaign train on which I was riding in 1948. At the end of his own campaign for the Senate he was unshaven, disheveled, not sure whether he would win by a few votes or lose by a similar number. It was a moment in which he might have disappeared from history or, as happened, rise to heights he could hardly have contemplated then though somehow I suspect he meant to be President even before he was first elected to Congress.

I send you my best wishes for the success of your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Daniels". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Jonathan Daniels".



JONES, DAY, REAVIS & POGUE

1100 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

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TELEX: INTERNATIONAL 64344

IN CLEVELAND:  
1700 UNION COMMERCE BUILDING 44115  
(216) 696-3939

April 3, 1976

Mr. Jakie L. Pruett  
Department of Special Education  
713 West Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett,

This is written in response to your letter of March 20th, in which you inquire about my contacts with President Lyndon B. Johnson.

On September 30, 1967, I was flown to the Texas ranch from Boston, Massachusetts. The plane stopped in Washington, and there picked up Steven J. Pollak, Edward J. Weisler, and one or two others. We arrived at the ranch just before noon. President Johnson was at the airstrip to meet us, driving his own open car. The announcement of the appointment was made in the barn on the ranch, which was fixed up with a stage, and lights, so as to be available for the television cameras. After the announcement, we proceeded to the ranch house.

Probably my most vivid recollection is the graciousness and kindness of Mrs. Johnson. We had lunch, family style, around a big table. Mrs. Robb, and her then five or six months old child, were there. Mrs. Johnson kept everything very informal. The food was mildly Mexican, and good, and Mrs. Johnson saw that we all had plenty of it. During much of the meal, President Johnson held his grandson on his knee, and obviously enjoyed talking to him, putting things in his fingers, giving him some milk, and so on.

Following the lunch, I sat in the yard for a while. Then the President asked me in to the office part of the ranch house, and we talked about the job I was taking up, and other people in the Department. Following this, the President took several of us in his car (which he drove) down the road to see the house where he was born, and the school. He pointed out the cemetery, but I do not believe that he made any mention that he would some day be buried there. We did see some cattle and horses, and we did see the dogs, but not a great deal was made of them. We left the ranch in the late afternoon, and I was back in Boston by eight o'clock.



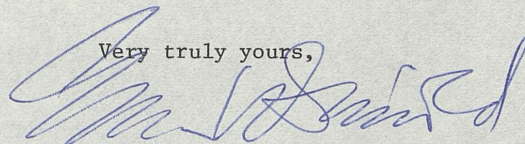
JONES, DAY, REAVIS & POGUE

Mr. Jakie L. Purett  
April 3, 1976  
Page Two

On a number of other occasions, I saw President Johnson. One time I went as a member of a group which was working for his election in 1964. On another occasion, I went as a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association. On both occasions, it seemed to me that the President talked too long and too much. In particular, at the Bar Association meeting, he talked at length about his lack of educational opportunities, how he could have been a lawyer, how he had made more law than most lawyers, and so on. On both occasions, he referred frequently to his lack of opportunities when he was young.

I hope that these observations will be of some interest to you.

Very truly yours,



Erwin N. Griswold



MRS. ANNA ROSENBERG HOFFMAN  
444 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

April 8, 1976

Dear Ms. Pruett:

I have been away from my office; hence this belated reply to your letter asking me for information about Lyndon Baines Johnson.

I first met LBJ when he was with the National Youth Administration. I remember when he was elected to Congress - when he really was a "New Deal" Congressman. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt told me to watch this new Congressman from Texas and work with him whenever I could. As you know, LBJ became one of the **strongest** forces in the history of the Senate when he became its leader.

President Johnson had great ability, amazing vitality as well as being a compassionate man. He knew and understood the poor, the disadvantaged, and the minorities in this country and had great compassion for them.

I remember his telling me that, as a boy, he used to see his mother carry water a long distance to the house they lived in and what a hard chore this was for her. He told me he made up his mind then and there that if he ever had the power to do something about it no woman would have to carry water such great distances, which probably was injurious to her health.

LBJ's concern for the poor came about from his experience as a school teacher. He said many children came to school without breakfast and without bringing lunch; he wanted to make sure that such conditions were eliminated. Many of his social reforms were prompted by his own knowledge and observation of people's lives.

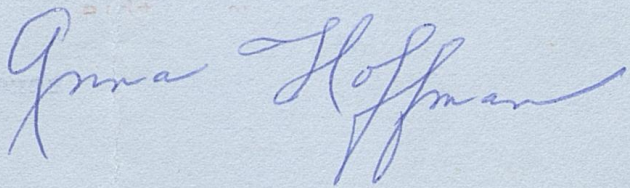


I don't know how LBJ felt about the MacArthur incident. From my own knowledge of the situation, I can tell you that President Truman was more than patient with General MacArthur who paid very little or no attention to either the President or the Pentagon's orders. I doubt if President Johnson would have been sympathetic to such an attitude.

I regret that I can tell you no anecdote relative to LBJ, but I hope what I have told you will be of interest to your students.

Thank you for writing to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Irma Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "I" and "H".

Ms. Jakie L. Pruett  
Principal  
Department of Special Education  
713 West Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute  
Texas 77531



L. E. DERRICK

Post Office Box 440  
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS  
78666

February 15, 1976

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Some of your questions I cannot answer. I knew of his interest in the social sciences, which would have led him to enroll in Prof Green's classes; but I know nothing else about their association during Johnson's student days. Nor do I know anything about Lyndon's association with Votaw.

I was amused when Johnson as president initiated some kind of a physical fitness program, because to my knowledge he never took a physical education course in college. I believe the reason was that he was too busy to do so, and Dean Nolle would permit him to write a paper instead.

Lyndon registered twice for sophomore English classes with me. He was an average student in my field but better than average in history, economics, and government.

As a student he never talked with me about his family. After his retirement he visited the university occasionally. On one visit some older professors were in a very informal conversation with him. At one point he looked at me and remarked that I had not changed greatly in appearance since he was a student. I told him that most of my hair had left me and that what remained had turned white. That reminded him to relate that his father, who was quite bald, was offended when an old man rubbed Sam's bald head. Sam said, "I would rather have something inside and nothing on top than a lot on top and nothing inside."

I was acting president in 1968 and introduced Dr. McCrocklin, then on leave to be Under Secretary of HEW, to present President Johnson as the commencement speaker at the summer commencement. After the ceremonies and on the way to the Alumni House in town, Johnson looked up at the partially completed building that was to become the Library-Administration Building and said, "I want an office in that building." That got me busy. The walls of the structure were already in place. I found a large room that had been planned as a conference room. I ordered a partition built across it, provided curtains and carpet to match those in the Oval Room in the White House, and furnished the room attractively. It was his office when he came to the campus. Upon my retirement it became my office when he was not here. This arrangement led my son, Dr. Gus Derrick, to boast jestingly that Johnson and I shared an office.

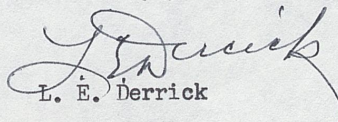


I saw Lyndon several times here while he was congressman, senator, and president. I did not see him, or at least remember seeing him, during the campaign of 1948. I last saw him a week or ten days before his death, when he brought his former economic advisor to the campus to give a lecture. On his last visit prior to that one we talked about our common health problems. I asked him whether he walked regularly for exercise. He said he tried to but was not always able to do so. A few days later I received a letter in which he wrote: "You can be assured that I am taking care of myself and trying to have an early morning walk when possible, but the best medicine I have had in a long time was our wonderful and enjoyable visit at Homecoming."

My clearest recollection of him as a student was seeing him walking down the hall of the ole Main Building, long strides, a pencil over his ear and a sheaf of papers in his hand. He had run an errand for President Evans to some part of the campus. We did not have in those days telephones to all department offices.

I wish you success in your project. If you have not done so, I suggest that you should read LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON: THE FORMATIVE YEARS by Pool, Craddock, and Conrad, published by the University Press in 1965. I was project officer on this publication and did most of the editorial work on it. I doubt you can purchase the book, but you may be able to borrow it from the University Library.

Sincerely yours,

  
L. E. Derrick



Philip M. Klutznick

875 North Michigan Avenue · Suite 4044 · Chicago, Illinois 60611

November 22, 1976

Mr. J. L. Pruett  
713 West Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett:

I have been out of the country and just returned to find your letter of November 10 asking for some assistance in connection with Lyndon Johnson recollections. I regret that my limited time permits only a casual communication but I give you a few references to your letter in the hope it may serve your purposes.

1. I met Lyndon Johnson when he was a young Congressman sometime in 1944. I was then serving as the Commissioner of the Federal Public Housing Authority engaged in handling the development and management of war housing and the granting of priorities for public buildings of any kind. My first contact with him was at the time when he sought a priority to permit the construction of a public building; as I recall it, at one of the universities in Texas. We were very tight on allotting those priorities. He was one of the best salesman that had ever contacted me during that trying period. He almost persuaded me.

2. I would see him from time to time along with other people after he got into the Senate. A memorable contact with him was immediately after he, as the majority leader, and Senator Knowland, as the minority leader, met with the then President, Dwight D. Eisenhower in early 1957 after the war in the Middle East had settled down to a dreary refusal on the part of Israel to withdraw. After I had joined the delegation to meet with Secretary Dulles, we paid our compliments to Senator Johnson. The night before, the President had asked him and Senator Knowland to get a resolution of sanctions through the Senate in order to get Israel to withdraw from Sharm-el-Sheik. Senator Johnson's remark was typical. He



told the President that he could not do any such thing. There is no sense in using sanctions against a small country like Israel when the administration had refused to do anything when the Soviet invaded Hungary.

3. In 1959, when he was already on his way to making a campaign for the Presidency, I was asked to go to Houston, Texas, to deliver the principal talk at a Bonds for Israel dinner honoring him. It was a remarkable evening. Everybody was out, but in typical Lyndon Johnson fashion, when it came to setting up pictures, he arranged them all and pushed everybody around until they were in the alignment that he liked. He was always, from the first day I met him until the last, a man who took over responsibility and got things done in the best way he could.

4. During the Kennedy-Johnson campaign, I acted as Chairman of the Committee of Business and Professional Men for Kennedy and Johnson. He was the darling of the business fraternity and we used him often. However, he was obviously in a changed role. He knew how to take over and he knew how to show deference to the candidate for the Presidency.

5. My final recollections of him involve two visits in the early days of his Presidency. The first was when he was serving out the remainder of the Kennedy term. He had asked a few of us in to visit about certain problems in the Middle East. During that visit, he was busy preparing himself for an appearance in Austin at a synagogue function which he had promised a friend he would attend before he became President. He had a few remarks ready and he wanted to read them to us. One of the words involved a CH which we had to train him to pronounce with a guttural sound instead of a soft one. He learned rapidly.

Then I attended one of the series of black-tie stag parties that he held for his supporters after his election in the landslide of 1964. These parties were about as bipartisan as I guess any President has had. The speeches that were made showed one Republican after another who doubtless supported the President heaping praise on him to a point which embarrassed him and those of us who were Democrats.



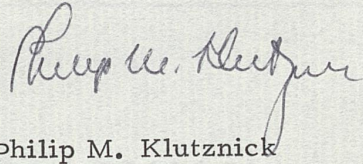
3.

The beginnings and until the Vietnamese split found the Johnson administration with as broad based support as I have witnessed in all my years in and out of Washington.

I have refrained from adding other incidents because time does not permit. I have also rejected your invitation to make comments about the photographs.

Thank you for asking me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Philip M. Klutznick".

Philip M. Klutznick

PMK/mlm



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March 16, 1976

Mr. J. L. Pruett, Principal  
Department of Special Education  
713 W. Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Your letter of January 5th concerning Lyndon B. Johnson arrived during my absence and I trust that failure to answer promptly has not obstructed your study.

I first met President Johnson immediately after he had been elected to the Congress at a dinner party at the Shoreham Hotel attended by Justice Tom Clark and his wife and Ladybird. Our host, who had had asparagus flown in to Washington from California for the occasion, which took place in mid-winter told me of his background with Congressman Kleberg and said that he was a protege of Speaker Rayburn and that he had been introduced to him by President Roosevelt who said that he was a man to be watched, that he was a "comer."

Some time later he came to St. Louis and we occupied a box at an evening ball game together. I do not remember the details of the conversation except that we spoke of his election to the Senate, the count for which dragged out over a number of days and the result of which was just a few votes in his favor. Laughingly he referred to himself as "landslide Johnson."

I did not see him again for several years but he had a remarkable ability to recall names and faces. I was in Washington working in the Senate, working on either rationing or price control matters, when he came out the back door and saw me. Immediately his face lightened up, he recalled my name, my home town and inquired about the friend who had been his host at the asparagus dinner and at the ball game. Then, of course, was interested in what I was doing and what my opinions were.



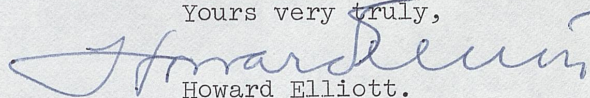
Mr. Pruett:

-2-

March 16, 1976

I saw him several times after that at smaller gatherings in St. Louis County but no incident of consequence comes to mind at this writing. Should there be I will be glad, if you desire, to send it along.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H".

Howard Elliott.

HE:ac



CARTHA D. DELOACH  
96 PERKINS ROAD  
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT 06830

May 12, 1976

Mr. Jakie Pruett, Principal  
Department of Special Education  
713 West Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett:

I have your letter of April 19, 1976, and have given consideration to the two questions raised by you in this communication.

The President became angry with me on only one occasion that I recall. This concerned a certain investigative matter in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He wanted action taken at approximately 11 p. m. at night and I cautioned against such action inasmuch as I thought it would cause adverse public relations as a result. He informed me that he was "The Commander-in-Chief" and that I should follow directions. I again counseled against such action at a late time of night and he agreed with me to the extent that the action should be taken early the following morning. There was no need of any apology--this was simply a difference of opinion. He would send my family and me gifts at Christmastime and on one occasion one of his chief assistants, at the President's special invitation, asked my family and me to join his family at Camp David for an Easter weekend.

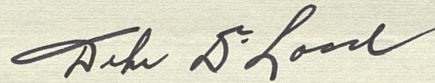
I agree with your statement that the President was somewhat of a lonely man but only because a man of his great talents and ability to get things moving needed ~~some~~ ~~one~~ around him. He enjoyed people, he enjoyed doing things for people, and he enjoyed helping the downtrodden and making people feel happy.



Mr. Jakie Pruett

I do hope that the above information will be of some value to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. D. DeLoach".

C. D. DeLoach



CARL D. PERKINS  
7TH DIST., KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE:  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

18 May 1976

Mr. Jakie Pruett, Principal  
Department of Special Education  
713 West Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

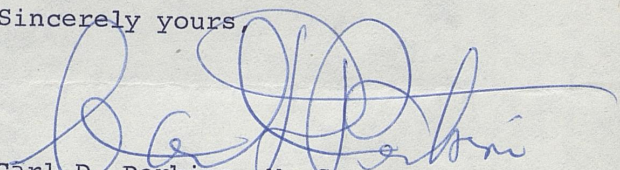
Dear Mr. Pruett:

In response to your letter and request, I am pleased to return the enclosed signed tribute which I delivered in the House of Representatives in memory of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

I had the pleasure of meeting President Johnson, then Senator, when I first came to Congress in January 1949.

I personally believe President Johnson is one of the great Presidents in the history of our country except for the Vietnam war situation.

Sincerely yours

  
Carl D. Perkins, M. C.

CDP/nx  
enclosure