

MILWARD L. SIMPSON  
9414 109TH DRIVE  
SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351

December 4, 1974

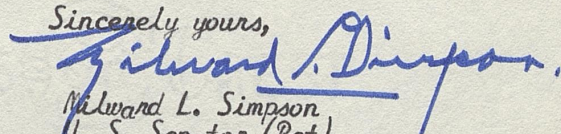
J. L. Pruett - Principal  
Special Education  
713 W. Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Circumstances far beyond my control prevented my answering your letter of October 4th.

I could add but little to what you already know about President Johnson. I do recall one anecdote that is worth repeating. Mrs. Simpson and I were in South America at an Inter-Parliamentarian Meeting. We had a very strenuous but worth while trip and accomplished a great deal. Upon our return we were called to the White House Rose Garden, where the President was also signing a Bill in which I was interested. There were quite a few at this function and as my name was called I stepped forward to receive the signatory pen. To everyone's surprise, the President got to his feet and effusively thanked me and my Wife for "the marvelous job done in behalf of our Country at the Meeting in South America." I said "Mr. President, it was not that good," to which he replied, "oh yes it was, because my Assistant, Mr. Valenti was high in his praises of your work." I thanked him and was quite interested when the following morning, ~~to~~ read in the Washington Post, that the President was intent upon purging me and a few other Conservatives, because of our "obstinacy." A revealing quote in the newspaper article attributed the following to President Johnson: "Find out what those Senators want and maybe I can get it for them."

Sorry to be of such little help to you. Good luck with your project.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Milward L. Simpson  
U. S. Senator (Ret)

MLS/p



**BACHE & Co.**

Incorporated

100 GOLD STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10038

JOHN A. ROOSEVELT  
*Senior Vice-President*

May 9, 1974

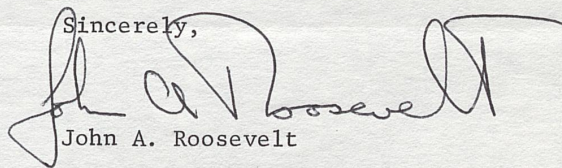
Dear Mr. Pruett,

Thank you for your letter of May 4. As you know, President Johnson was a great student of my father's administration and it was during his term as President when Lyndon Johnson was first elected to the Congress.

Some years ago that President and Mrs. Johnson donated a portrait of my Mother to the White House and at the dedication they were kind enough to invite all the descendents of former presidents to a reception. This, of course, included many Republicans, as well as Democrats. The President and Mrs. Johnson were most cordial to all and, I believe, they were the first to assemble such a gathering.

I trust that you and your students will find the study of my Father's and Lyndon Johnson's terms in office a not only interesting, but rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John A. Roosevelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

John A. Roosevelt

JAR:ljb

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





EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

JOHN A. BURNS  
GOVERNOR  
(1962-1974)

December 19, 1974

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Please forgive me for not responding sooner to your letter of October 19, 1974. I have been somewhat incapacitated because of a protracted illness and I have been a bit tardy with my correspondence.

In general, I do not hesitate to say Lyndon Johnson was one of the finest men I have ever known and a truly great President. Above all, at least from my point of view and that of most people in Hawaii, he was the best friend Hawaii ever had in the White House.

Mr. Johnson was certainly also one of the best friends we had in the Congress. Although he had originally been an opponent of Statehood for Hawaii, he changed his mind after learning something of the contributions of our people to the United States and the potential for greater and more contributions.

It was Mr. Johnson's vision and imagination that produced the East-West Cultural Center that serves today in Hawaii, as Mr. Johnson intended, as an instrument of international understanding.

These are general things, I realize, but I hope they will be of some help.

Aloha pumehana, and my warmest wishes for a happy holy season and a fulfilling New Year. May the Almighty be with you and yours always.

Sincerely,

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



FRANK E. MOSS  
UTAH

**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 25, 1974

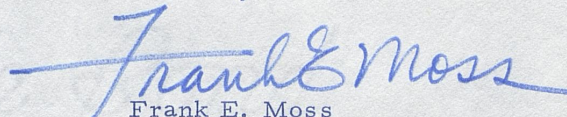
COMMITTEES:  
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DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

J. L. Pruett, Principal  
Special Education  
713 West Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Thank you for your letter of March 7. Since receiving it, I've been probing my mind to remember an anecdote or short story about President Lyndon B. Johnson that might be interesting for your pupils. This story has to do with the 1964 election when Mr. Johnson was elected President in a great landslide vote and I was reelected Senator in Utah in that same election. Because Mr. Johnson ran so far ahead in his election, it was generally said that Senators and Congressmen rode in on his coattails. The Johnson landslide vote was known far and wide. On the morning after the election, President Johnson called me from the ranch in Texas, offered his congratulations, and then asked me how he did in Utah. I said, "Oh, Mr. President, you ran very strong here." And he said, "Yes, but how far ahead was I?". Well, I started to tell him in vote numbers, and he said, "No, no, no, what was my percentage?". I said, "Well, Mr. President, you got 54.2 percent of the vote." He said, "I see. Now, what percentage did you get?". Of course, I knew all the time that he'd looked up the figures, but I said, "Well, Mr. President, I got 57.6 percent." "Oh ho," he said, "I rode in on your coattails!", and then we had a big laugh. I thought this was most magnanimous of the President. It was his way of congratulating me and I appreciated it. I've since checked the record, and there were only four Senators that year that ran ahead of the President in the balloting.

Sincerely,



Frank E. Moss  
United States Senator

FEM:lj





MIKE O'CALLAGHAN  
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF NEVADA  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

May 16, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Responsive to your recent letter, I well remember Lyndon B. Johnson as one of the strongest leaders in the United States Senate when I had the opportunity to work in the Senate in the late 1950's and early 1960's. I came to know him as a warm, compassionate person whose thoughts were always with the common man. He never forgot his own humble origins.

There is no doubt that he was one of the strongest presidents we ever had in the field of domestic affairs. Indeed, his record in this area is unmatched in history.

It is my opinion that because of demonstrated compassion for people history will treat him generously.

When evaluating him as a man, I will never forget the day I sat behind him at the funeral for Speaker Sam Rayburn. When President Johnson turned to leave the church, tears were streaming down his cheeks because of his love for a dead friend.

I hope this short remembrance will be of some value to your Special Education Class in Richwood-Clute, Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike O'Callaghan".  
Mike O'Callaghan  
Governor of Nevada



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH  
STONEWALL, TEXAS 78671

August 1, 1974

Dear Mr. Jackie Pennett,

Many thanks for your letter of July 28, I want to write at once for fear I may forget. I am glad you are well. Thank God I am fine but seemingly always busy, going all day long. Now to your question about President Johnson recreation. Yes he played golf but am sorry to say I am not a golfer he had some neighbours and friends from Fredericksburg playing with him. Sorry to say that I do not know any golf stories. Regards the dogs I only know of the two identical dogs but forgot their names. The little white dog by name of Yuggie was his favorite. When we went riding around through the Ranch in the convertible Lincoln Yuggie was always with us. We drive to Fredericksburg or around the country side and President Johnson would sometimes mention that someday there will be many tourists around here and



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH  
STONEWALL, TEXAS 78671

II

He would always be very anxious to keep the roadside clean of trash especially Ranch road one. Occasionally he would get out of the car & pick up beer cans. We organized the boys & scouts to pick up trash every week for several years. It seems that the Highway Department is doing that <sup>now</sup>. Driving through the Ranch he said: How nice it would be if this would be a national park some day. Personally I doubt that he got his wish since the most of the Ranch was sold to a Oklahoma developing Company. My own observation is that the land and the cattle owned by the federal government - National Park Service are not as well kept as they were when Johnson was alive. I think that's all for today. My best wishes & greetings  
Sincerely Father W.W. Abmischer



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

JAMES NOEL  
U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

October 29, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Pruett:

In response to your letter of October 12th, I am happy to furnish you the requested information concerning our late President, Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1941, I was an Assistant Attorney General of Texas, serving under the Honorable Gerald C. Mann. At that time, Lyndon B. Johnson was a Congressman from the 13th District. Although Congressman Johnson had come to my attention, I did not know him personally.

The late Senator Morris Sheppard of Texarkana, Texas, died in 1941, which necessitated a special election for the U. S. Senate. I took leave from my duties as Assistant Attorney General of Texas and went to Dallas, Texas, to manage the campaign of Gerald Mann for the U. S. Senate. He had three opponents, Governor W. Lee O'Daniel, Lyndon B. Johnson, and the late Martin Dies, also a Congressman.

Gerald Mann was an extremely popular Attorney General and former football star. He knew that Governor O'Daniel would be hard to beat, but we felt it could be done. Congressman Dies had a tremendous reputation for his investigative work in the Congress, but we felt that in a special election he would be more of a local candidate limited to his Congressional District and that he could not win. We heard rumblings that Lyndon Johnson might be a candidate and we knew that he would be formidable, which he was.

Being of approximately the same age and having a somewhat similar appeal to the electorate, we knew that Johnson and Mann would offset each other and split a certain vote.



Mr. J. L. Pruett  
Page Two  
October 29, 1974

However, little did we realize how much momentum Johnson could generate in the short period allotted for the special election.

The net of it was that although in the early stages of the campaign Mann was running neck and neck with Governor O'Daniel, as Johnson built up steam, which only he could generate, we felt the election slipping away.

As history records, on election night Lyndon Johnson got on the airplane and left for Washington, feeling that he had won the election by a small margin. However, there were late reports from country boxes in East Texas, which when received on the following day gave Governor O'Daniel a slight margin and, therefore, election to succeed Sheppard as the second United States Senator from Texas. The late Senator Tom Connally became the Senior Senator and Governor O'Daniel the Junior Senator. While the facts of the story are interesting, the significant part to me is that Lyndon Johnson was a dedicated man, a real leader, who could generate tremendous momentum in whatever direction he chose. Out of that experience grew a very warm friendship which has been the source of great strength, pride and satisfaction to me throughout the years.

One more observation might be of interest. Throughout the years following our initial experience, I had a great deal of correspondence with Lyndon Johnson, as well as personal contacts. There was one single characteristic common to all of our correspondence - I could never write him the last letter. He was not only very interested in his friends, but he ran an extremely efficient office as a Congressman, Senator and Vice President. His friends simply could not write him the last letter. I gave up years before his death.

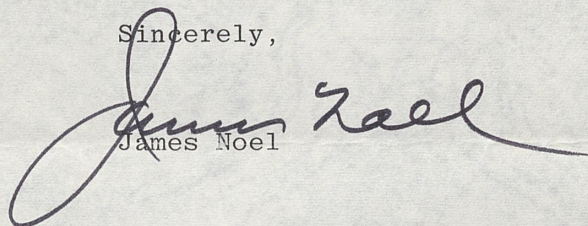
I am glad to give you these observations on the late President Johnson, to whom I was very devoted and whom I admired very much. I feel that history will award to him a much higher rank in the list of our Presidents than would be accorded by his nit-picking detractors who still persist in occasional unfair comments.



Mr. J. L. Pruett  
Page Three  
October 29, 1974

I should appreciate a copy of whatever you write as a result  
of your research.

Sincerely,

  
James Noel

JN:df



Box 4 2  
Gonzales, Tex.  
20/Sept. 1924

Mr. Jackie L. Pruitt, Prin.  
Dept. of Special Ed.  
713 W. Mahan St.  
Richwood - Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

Pardon my delay, please, for being so slow to answer your letter relating to L. B. J. I was away from home for a long period of time.

I shall try to recall a few items of interest about Lyndon. I remember seeing him enter S. W. T. S. U. in the Summer of 1926 as a tall, thin country boy from Johnson City, Texas. I can still see him in my memory as a friendly, hard working freshman. He did custodial work to help defray his college expense. I was working as a night watchman from 9 P.M. on



1:30 a.m. to help me pay my <sup>2.</sup>  
college expenses. I left S.W.T.S.U.  
in August to coach. My work  
for a degree was completed during  
Summer Sessions. Therefore,  
I didn't see Lyndon often. We  
did receive our Bachelor Degree  
in August of 1930.

I recall one of L.B.J.'s questions,  
He wanted to know which job  
for students was the most  
important one on the Hill. We  
told him - Be Secretary to Presy,  
our beloved C.E. Evans. J.L.B.  
went after the job and got it.  
Later, when J.L.B. ran for Rep.  
of the U.S. Congress, Presy really  
helped him. Also, he helped him  
become U.S. Senator. Presy  
contacted a lot of us Epes and we  
helped, too.

I saw Lyndon on a good  
many occasions through the



year though I would not <sup>claim</sup> to have been a close friend. I admired and respected him most highly. I voted for him on every chance ~~that~~ that I had. I think he was a great man.

Just yesterday, along with a group from Gonzales, we spent the day visiting the L. B. J. Park and his final resting place as well as the L. B. J. Ranch. If you haven't been there, please go.

In conclusion may I state that it <sup>was</sup> wonderful knowing Lyndon personally, being able to graduate from College with him, to watch his development, to see him succeed so successfully in the field of politics and to become the President of the U. S. of America.

If I can probably any answer any specific questions, please contact me.  
Sincerely,  
Arthur O. Bird



TEXAS' LEADING NEWSPAPER

## The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN BUREAU  
Box 12097, Capitol Station  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

May 7, 1974



Dear Principal Pruett:

I am sorry to have been so long in responding to your kind and flattering letter. But I have been out on the campaign trail for more than a month and have just returned to the office.

My relationship with Lyndon Johnson was not too different from that of other Texas reporters of my generation who covered him in Washington. But it was strikingly different from that of older reporters, such as my father, who covered LBJ campaigns in Texas from the 1940s through 1964. The difference, I think, is that LBJ changed during his last years in high public office to begin thinking more about young people and less about the old ways of doing things.

The anecdote that I remember most vividly as a reflection of this change was a personal experience I had with him in early February, 1968. The Vietnam war's toll was rising constantly, as was anti-war pressure against the President. Eugene Mc Carthy and Robert Kennedy were making serious efforts to, for the first time in modern history, challenge a sitting President within his own party.

LBJ took a swing through the south and out to California, making only stops at military installations to bid goodbye and God-speed to thousands of troops en route to the war zone. At each stop, he personally visited with several dozen servicemen--enlisted men, mostly--in addition to formal troop reviews. After two days of this kind of thing, we helicoptered out to spend the night on the aircraft carrier Constellation. There were only about a dozen reporters on the Presidential trip, and I was the only one from a Texas newspaper.

About the middle of the night, I got a call in my cabin, to the effect that the President was going to take a stroll through the carrier. Remembering that he had been a Naval officer during World War II, I thought it might make a good human interest story to watch LBJ's reaction to the Navy of 25 years later. So I walked with him for nearly two hours, casually chatting with him as he talked to the troops and the reporters.

Finally, we were standing down in the bowels of this huge ship--the President, three Secret Service men and four reporters, plus a complement of the Constellation's crew. LBJ came over to me, put that big arm of his on my shoulder and got a watery look in his eyes as he looked out at men preparing for a war that they didn't control. He said, simply and quietly, "You know, Sam, some of these men are going to Vietnam for the first time and some for the third time. Last time out, they lost nearly 100 young men--the oldest was 33 or 34. God, can you imagine what this war is doing to a whole generation of young Americans?"

That's all he said. He didn't apologize for the war policies for which he was being criticized. He didn't promise any change in the policies. But, as you probably know, it was just two months later that he announced he would not seek re-election in hopes of achieving peace in Vietnam before the end of his term.

I hope this is the kind of vignette you wanted. And thanks again for your letter and the chance to share this experience.

Regards,  
Sam Kinch Jr.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, DALLAS, TEXAS 75222, TELEPHONE (214) 747-4611 Sam Kinch Jr.



April 26, 1974

Mr. J. L. Pruett

Dear Jakie,

I am happy to attempt to put into writing the story I told you concerning former President Lyndon B. Johnson and his correspondence with a relative of his former schoolmate at Southwest Texas State Teachers College, Russell Sanders. However, before I tell it, let me tell you the source of my information, and you may be able to get a much more accurate account there, since my report is from memory of something I read several years ago. The story was published as a news item in the Groesbeck Journal during the early part of Mr. Johnson's term. You might get the publisher to send you a copy of it if you contact him. Mr. Sanders died a year or two ago, but his wife still lives there, and you might be able to get her to relate more information by writing Mrs. Russell Sanders, Groesbeck, Texas 76642.

Here is the story as I remember it:

Russell Sanders and Lyndon Johnson were schoolmates at Southwest Texas State Teachers College during the late 1920's or early 30's and both lived in the same boarding house which was run by a widow woman and patronized mostly by boys of rather modest means. Johnson and Sanders became very good friends, and apparently both were capable of mischievous jokes.

Of course, you know the story of Mr. Johnson following his graduation from Southwest Texas. Following graduation, Russell Sanders became a school teacher. He served as principal of some school for a number of years, but in his later years, he moved back to his home county and completed his career as a mathematics teacher in Groesbeck High School. This is where he was when Lyndon Johnson became President of the United States. Shortly after Mr. Johnson moved into the White House, one of Mr. Sander's relatives - I believe it was a grandchild, but it could have been the elementary school age child of some other close relative - wrote the President and asked him if he remembered a prank in which he and Sanders had been lead characters while they lived in "Ma Gates" boarding house in San Marcos. A few days later, the child received a reply, which President Johnson had written personally, saying that he certainly did remember it. He also related another incident which had happened at the same boarding house, and asked the child to ask Russell if he remembered that one.

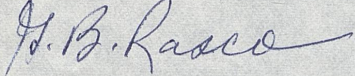
I suppose such incidents happen every day and are unimportant except to those who are involved, but two things made this story especially interesting to me. First, it gives considerable insight into the heritage and character of Lyndon B. Johnson, and second, I lived in "Ma Gates" boarding house a few years after the Johnson and Sanders crowd had lived there. They must have been an interesting group, for I remember that Mrs. Gates often talked about them and told of things they did when they stayed with her. Once while I was there Lyndon Johnson, who was N.Y.A. Director



-2-

for Texas at that time, came to San Marcos on official business, and he stopped by for a short visit with "Ma Gates."

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. B. Rasco". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

G. B. Rasco

GBR:mm

COLLEGE COLLEGE  
FEBRUARY  
NINETEEN FIFTY



TOM STEED  
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL  
BUSINESS

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

August 12, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Your request for an anecdote about the late President Lyndon B. Johnson has been received and I submit the following in the hope it will meet your needs:

A short time before his term ended, I was granted a rare privilege of having a final audience with him alone. Most Members of Congress were being called to the White House in groups for the farewell chats. Since I chair the subcommittee that provides funds for the White House, I enjoyed a unique relationship with the President and his staff.

It was a chilly January day but he insisted that we take a walk on the White House grounds while he conversed on the many years of his service, the people he had worked with and his general pleasure of knowing his heavy burdens would soon be lifted.

As we came back toward the White House he spotted an artist who had made arrangements to paint the famous Truman porch. Set up on the grounds, the artist had little protection from the cold. In fact he was almost turning blue from it. The President, as he always did, let his curiosity prevail and stalked up to the artist and began asking questions. It soon became apparent the artist was overly-chilled. He advised the President he was enduring the cold because he desperately wanted to finish without having to make another visit.



Mr. Pruett

- 2 -

August 12, 1974

The President yelled at a Secret Service agent who had been roving in our general area and said: "Bring this man some hot coffee. I think his paint pot has frozen."

Sincerely yours,

  
TOM STEED, M. C.

TS:tf



JONATHAN DANIELS  
23 NORTH CALIBOGUE CAY  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S. C. 29928

December 9, 1974

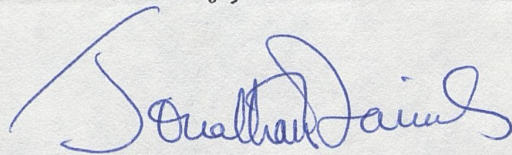
Dear Miss Pruett:

Thank you for your very generous letter. It pleases me that my books have been useful to you and your students. I was interested to learn that your son is writing about the advisers of President Wilson. He will, I think, find much that is helpful in two volumes of my father's autobiography both entitled ~~The~~ Wilson Years, one the years of peace and the other the years of war. They were published by the University of North Carolina Press and I should think would be available in Texas libraries. In addition he might find useful another book of mine. I am sending you with my compliments a copy of it: The End of Innocence.

I am not sure that I can be of much help as to the young Lyndon Johnson. I first knew him as a Congressman in World War II. He was certainly ambitious but he was amiable and energetically helpful to others in politics, notably FDR. I have a good deal about him then in a new book of mine which Doubleday will publish early next year. It will be called White House Witness - 1942-45.

With ~~all~~ all good wishes,

Sincerely,





**Brown & Root, Inc.** Post Office Box Three, Houston, Texas 77001

George R. Brown  
Chairman of the Board

(713) 676-4271



June 6, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Lyndon Baines Johnson was a man of deep compassion and was always helping the underdog and the misfortunate. Early in his life, he gave up the job as secretary to Congressman Kleberg to become State Director of the National Youth Administration, created by President Roosevelt. He made this move because of his desire to help young people who were out of work by teaching them crafts so they could become employed. He was only 27 years of age and had young people from age 16 to 25 in this Youth organization. He made many, many friends and they helped him in his future career because they knew of his undying efforts to improve their lot. This characteristic carried him through his entire political life.

A month after he became President of the United States, I was talking with him on the pros and cons of the United States becoming more involved in the Vietnam situation, and I told him he could not help people who could not and would not help themselves. He turned to me and said, "Do you mean I should not help Sam Houston?" (his younger brother who was an alcoholic), which points out his compassion.

I hope this will be "somewhere in the ballpark" as to the type thing you had in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'George R. Brown'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and 'B'. Below the signature is the printed name 'George R. Brown'.

George R. Brown

GRB/ddj





Department of Sociology  
Brooklyn College  
of The City University  
of New York  
Brooklyn, New York 11210  
Telephone: (212) 780-5314, 5, 6

USE HOME ADDRESS

345 - 8th Ave., 20-F  
New York, N.Y. 10001

January 4, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Pruett: Because of the deterioration in the mail service of the U.S., your letter of December 21, 1973, has just arrived. Thank you for writing. I am pleased to see that you are trying to expand the horizon of your students, so that they will reach out beyond the usual boundaries of occupation as they search for a creative way to serve our country and am glad to send along the following remarks, as you requested.

Yes, I met the late President Lyndon B. Johnson several times. When one is appointed an Ambassador it is customary for the President to receive those he appoints to this position. But President Johnson was a very warm and human individual who had a great liking for people in general, the same as did his widow, the wonderful Lady Bird Johnson, who continues to carry on his work and hers much in the same tradition as they did when serving in the White House in Washington. As you may know, the President was also highly informal and I can recall his placing his arms around me and talking about the problems of the assignment he was giving me, but most of all his emphasizing his great belief and trust in me to carry out the work in the best interest of this country and people of the world in general. A man with a real sense of humor and a down-to-earth quality, one instantly felt at ease with him; he smiled a lot, had a tough inner quality, understood the lot of those who suffered and were deprived, and you felt confidence in him to do all he could to bring us together as a nation and to improve the lot of those who have so little of the goodies of this affluent country. We talked about the problems of the poor, discussed relations with the people to the countries he sent me as an American envoy---Syria and Malta--- and he passed along to me some of his personal ideas about how best to help make the image of the U.S.A. a very positive, cooperative, constructive one. As an embassy that underwent attack by rioters during the Middle East War of 1967, the President was quick to commend my staff and me for the manner in which we conducted ourselves when we had to be evacuated from Syria under protection of the Syrian armed forces, and his worry and concern were quite manifest throughout that trying period.

As for my career, while trained in several social sciences, I was always very much interested in international affairs and continue to function in this area. Almost any Who's Who collection will outline my background, or you can find additional narrative information in such volumes as MANY SHADES OF BLACK (William Morrow, 1969) and DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS (Heritage Foundation Press, 1966). In 1966 Jet and Ebony magazines also carried career sketches about me. Let me once again congratulate you and your students on this useful project.

Very sincerely,  
*Hugh H. Smythe*  
Hugh H. Smythe  
Professor



MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38152

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 2, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Pruett:

Again I am honored by a letter from you. The 1968 picture of which you speak is not known to me because I did not become associated with Southwest Texas until September, 1969. You will have to direct your question to some other individual.

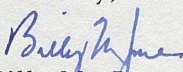
His recreational habits were many. However I have limited knowledge other than to note that he loved football. It was not unusual for him to see two SWC games plus the Dallas Cowboys (if all were playing in Texas) during a weekend. Also he thoroughly enjoyed driving around and managing his ranch, and observing the activities of tourists in the park area adjacent to his ranch. I have spent many pleasant hours driving with him around the ranch and park.

Finally he seemed always to enjoy a relaxed visit with students and staff at SWT. While I was president there, he made no less than eight official trips, and several which were unplanned. The students and staff always returned his warm affection. SWT loved LBJ.

He was proud of the LBJ Library, and spent considerable time there, even entertaining visiting dignitaries in the reception area just off the Oval Office display. I was only occasionally invited to these affairs, but the ones I attended were very much characteristic of the way he liked to relax and talk with people he admired and loved.

I hope this helps you with your project.

Sincerely,

  
Billy M. Jones  
President



Parker T. Hart  
Special Representative for the  
Middle East and North Africa

Bechtel Corporation

Engineers - Constructors  
1620 Eye St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

November 25, 1974

Ms. Jakie L. Pruett, Principal  
Special Education Department  
Central Campus  
713 West Mahan Street  
Clute, Texas 77531

Dear Ms. Pruett:

I am sorry to take so long in replying to your letter of September 23, 1974, however, I have been traveling extensively and just recently returned from another trip to the Middle East.

I might give you the following anecdote with regard to President Lyndon Johnson:

When I was named Ambassador to Turkey in the summer of 1965, Mrs. Hart and I were received, along with a few other appointees and their wives, in the Oval Room of the White House. I had met him before very briefly on two occasions, neither of which offers a story to tell. On this occasion, however, after very cordial greetings and warm references on the country to which I was proceeding, the Johnsons invited us and the other appointees into the Rose Garden. Here he launched into a little talk, the essence of which was that recently he had come to know the Soviet Ambassador to the United States well enough to realize that the latter had studied this country from one end to the other, visiting every state and becoming conversant with a remarkable amount of detail on American life and history. President Johnson then said, "Please take this as the guide for your activities in the countries to which you are going. Get to know them better than the people of the countries themselves.



To Ms. Jakie L. Pruett  
November 25, 1974  
Page Two

I want you to travel about, observe, study hard and make every effort to dig deep into the culture and customs of the people to whom you are accredited. "

My wife and I took him seriously and during our 3 years in Turkey we were able to cover all but 12 of the 67 provinces (vilayets). We worked hard on our Turkish, read history as much as we could -- and there was plenty to read -- and I believe we came to know many parts of the country unknown to the great majority of Turks, particularly the Western Turks from Istanbul.

President Johnson also exhibited to us a great sense of humor on more than one occasion. It was a particular Texas brand style humor. He related how he had found a piece of statuary in a dusty, old antique shop and on being assured it was genuine, bought it as a gift for Lady Bird. Desiring to play a practical joke upon her he developed a story, confirmed on many sides, that the statuary was a fake and that the President had been cheated but didn't really know it until it was too late. The gift was turned over rather shamefacedly and it wasn't until sometime later that Lady Bird learned of the hoax and that the statuary was quite genuine and very valuable.

President Johnson struck me as both a very outgoing and a somewhat withdrawn man. Depending on his mood, he could be most communicative or quite the opposite. In general, he preferred to learn by direct observation and lively give and take, rather than by listening. By contrast, Lady Bird was always fully communicative and in a warm and delightful fashion. She always looked at you as though you were the one person to whom she wished to talk and from whom she wanted to receive



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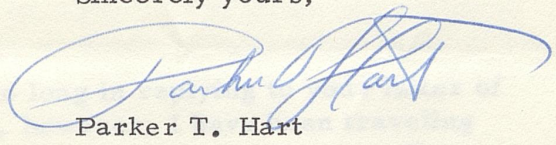
To Ms. Jakie L. Pruett  
November 25, 1974  
Page Three

November 25, 1974

impressions, thoughts and warm response. She counter-  
balanced her husband in many ways, sparkling with  
hospitality and inner gaiety.

I hope the foregoing will be of some use.

Sincerely yours,



Parker T. Hart

PTH:del



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

ROBINSON HALL

May 24, 1974

Mr. Jakie Lee Pruett  
Principal  
713 West Mahan Street  
Richwood-Clute, Texas 77531

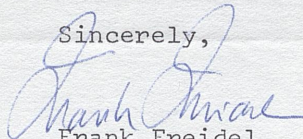
Dear Mr. Pruett:

I was much touched by your letter describing your work with handicapped students. I am delighted that they like Our Country's Presidents, and that they especially like the piece on Lyndon B. Johnson. One cannot help sympathizing with Johnson, starting out in poverty, shining shoes, and working hard, yet being determined to rise above his humble beginnings. I have always been personally impressed that he at one point operated an elevator in San Bernadino, California, since at about that time, as a small boy in need of pocket money, I was working part-time in the public library washing books for 10¢ an hour.

What is most significant about President Johnson in this regard is that when he became President of the United States, he did not forget poor people, especially poor children. He referred to them from time to time in his speeches, and tried through his programs to give them the kind of opportunities that made it possible for him to obtain a better life for himself.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Frank Freidel  
Charles Warren Professor  
of American History

FF/pd



## GUADALUPE CHAPTER No. 1336

Texas Federation of Chapters  
National Association of Retired Federal Employees  
P. O. Box 22  
Seguin, Texas 78155



'In Union There is Strength'

WILTON WOODS  
PRESIDENT

GUYLER ALLBRIGHT  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

W.F. (JACK) DeLANY  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

HERBERT MOELLER  
SECT'Y - TREASURER

August 7, 1974

Dear Friend:

Your letter about LBJ came this morning and it will take a while or some thought at least for me to decide how much I can help you, if any.

Meanwhile, have <sup>you</sup> read the books that have already been written? Many of them are pretty poor in quality, I must admit, but you will want to read everything of course. If you have not read "LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON, The Formative Years" by Pool, Craddock, & Conrad, you must read it. It is the best so far about LBJ's early years. It is on sale at the LBJ Library in Austin.

Just a hasty word about Lyndon being disliked when in college. As you go along you will find that most of his detractors have one thing in common to start with--they are all (without exception) jealous. And then there is the group that expected to be appointed to high office just because they went to college with him. The worst "haters" of all or those who tried to get him to use his influence or office so they could benefit in some substantial way--and he ignored their request.

For over a year now I have been trying to reduce to writing some of the important (and some of the amusing things) about LBJ that stick in my memory. My son, who works for Fortune magazine, thinks it may after considerable touching up, be worthy of submitting to some magazine for their possible purchase and publication. If this undertaking develops into a published magazine article, I'll let you know.

Sincerely,

Wilton Woods