

CONTINUATION OF ROBB BURLAGE'S COMMENTS ON LYNDON JOHNSON - call he placed to Mary after he had finished recording earlier statement on tape.

Robb Burlage:

Nov. 22, 1963

from Texas, now with State Planning Commission of Tennessee,
grad pol. sci. at Harvard
same circle as Tom Hayden, Todd Gitlin, other SDS types
has done some work with the Liberal Democratic Coalition of Texas, as has
Dorothy Dawson

Johnson's Voting Record - additional comments

re anti-lynch law vote he mentions in tape: It was not that Johnson voted against it, as Robb had said, but the position he took in his campaign for the Senate, which was against the anti-lynch law that should be noted.

Robb says that ultimately, Johnson may be responsible for the failure of the civil rights bill to pass because he failed to use his pressure as vice-president in favor of cloture, but rather he blocked cloture.

Robb says that if no one could trust JFK, LBJ is to be trusted half as much. Dorothy and Robb say we should check the article in Harper's in 1962 by Willy Morris which details his record as a brilliant opportunist. They say that LBJ's power is not power as such, but a balance of power similar to Rayburn's. It is not ruthless patronage power but his ability to move back and forth - that he will say anything to any side.

They both feel that little will change in the way of policy changes now. The Justice Department will remain about the same, with the significant possibility being that if the assassin was with Fair Play for Cuba and Communist groups, the FBI will start rounding everybody up, including civil rights groups, and that therefore, we may be able to count less on any help from the FBI.

On the possibilities for passage of the civil rights bill:
They think two things are possible. Either Congress will dissolve till the next election, leaving the handling of the bill till then, or they will try to push through the compromise bill as a sort of a tribute.

Robb mentioned something that I don't understand fully - that SNCC should work on finding out if there will be a breakup of the JFK coalition, and find out if there will be a fallout of Reuther, Humphrey and Bobby Kennedy. If things go left and Bobby runs for the '64 election, SNCC should be prepared to make strong demands.

Johnson will be in trouble as far as riding the Kennedy machine, they say.

They think that SNCC releases and statements should be sympathy and all, but should stress that Johnson should never forget that the meaning of President's term was in his raising the questions, and that we should refer to Medger Evers and others who have lost their lives because of hate. And that we should stress to the new President that rather than chasing around the Mexican border, he should try to deal with the hate in the Delat, etc.

Both say the bottom will fall out of Goldwater now.

and that there will be a shakeup in the Senate.

Both talked a long time about the red-baiting that will begin now. And that our local people should not have more fear, but certainly no reassurance