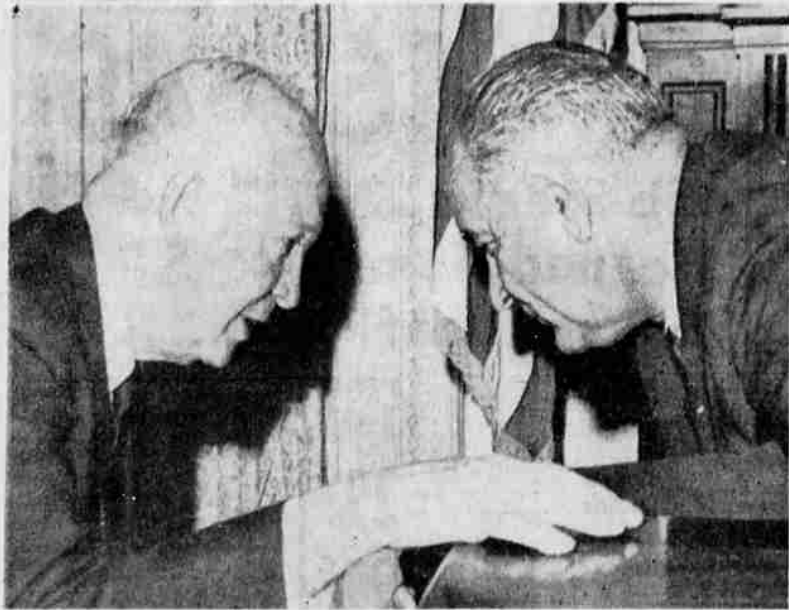


President Johnson Well Prepared For New Task



NEW DUTIES BEGIN — President Lyndon B. Johnson (right) confers with Secretary of State Dean Rusk (top photo) and with former President Dwight Eisenhower (bottom photo) early Saturday as he began his new task as President of the United States. —UPI Telephoto

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Lyndon B. Johnson, the nation's new president, is a hard-driving Texan who lost the 1960 Democratic nomination to John F. Kennedy, but then served as his younger rival's vice president with unflinching loyalty.

Friday's tragic assassination of Kennedy in Texas elevated the 55-year-old Johnson to the post he sought and lost in a bitter convention fight three years ago.

Johnson, who suffered a near-fatal heart attack eight years ago, is possibly better prepared legislatively and administratively than any vice president in history who has been called upon to take up the task of the presidency.

And in his service as vice president with the slain President, Johnson showed a humility and devotion that was new to many political observers.

The hate-killing of Kennedy came ironically only six months after Johnson, in paying lavish tribute to Kennedy, had said "seeds of hate... have fallen on stony ground and withered in the sunshine." The reference was to the way he said Kennedy had won the hearts of many people who formerly disliked him.

Johnson has close to three decades of Washington experience behind him. He became president with infinitely greater experience for the job than Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry S. Truman—or even Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Not only in Congress, however, did Johnson accumulate the background that will stand him in good stead at the White House since becoming vice president—a job he said he

would never accept while he actively opposed Kennedy for the nomination—Johnson has added to his wealth of experience.

In turn, Kennedy refused to assign Johnson to the back of the political shelf, even though their political beliefs were often sharply contrasting when they were in the Senate together. Johnson took a major hand in many domestic and foreign affairs—and knows many of the world's leaders.

Kennedy sent his vice president around the world where Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird, won warm popularity. He visited sections of Europe as recently as early this month.

Foreign Power Not Connected

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A State Department official said Saturday that to his knowledge there was no evidence that Russia, Cuba or any other foreign power was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Other officials conceded that the alleged slayer, Lee H. Oswald, had a record of Communist utterances, had once lived in Russia, had tried to renounce his U.S. citizenship and more recently made speeches supporting Castro.

But they said there was nothing in government files to show a direct link between Communist powers and the assassination of Kennedy Friday.

Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini was canonized in 1946.

But Johnson now has been thrust into the world's biggest job only after pulling one of the biggest surprises of the decade—when he said "yes" to Kennedy's request that he be his running mate.

Johnson's health appears good. There has been no recurrence since he was felled by a severe heart attack in July, 1955. It was the most serious crisis of his life but he recovered.

Johnson—the eighth vice president to become the president—served as a House member, as a senator and as what many congressional veterans call the greatest Senate majority leader in current political memory.

Lyndon Baines Johnson was born Aug. 27, 1908, in a frame house on the banks of the Pedernales River, near Stonewall, in the scraggly hill country of central Texas. Sam Ealy Johnson, a Texas legislator, and Rebekah Baines Johnson, a gentle, education-minded woman, were his parents.

At the age of 27, Johnson made a bold bid for a seat in Congress. He defeated nine op-

ponents as an out-and-out New Deal backer.

President Roosevelt, fishing in the Gulf off Texas, sent for the youngster, liked him, and invited him to ride back across

the state on the presidential train. Johnson was on his way. Even as his first House term began in 1937, Johnson began building a record with an eye on the White House.

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Highlights Of Johnson's Life

AUSTIN, Tex. (UPI)—Highlights in the life of President Lyndon B. Johnson:

1908—Born Aug. 27, near Johnson City, Tex., eldest son of Samuel Ealy Johnson Jr., a school teacher, and member of the Texas Legislature, and Rebekah Baines Johnson.

1919—Entered public school at Johnson City, was graduated in spring of 1924.

1924—Began work at \$1 per day on a road-building gang. Had urge to travel and wanted to see the West. Worked his way to California where he worked in Imperial Valley. Later returned to Texas and resumed work on road-building gang.

1927—Decided to go to college. Enrolled in Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos, Tex., in February. Worked as janitor, door-to-door salesman and other odd jobs to pay for education.

1928—Had to leave college when money ran out. Took a job teaching school at Tullia, Tex. Used first pay check to buy athletic equipment for underprivileged Latin American children.

1929—Returned to college.

1930—Graduated from Southwest Texas State in August. Took job teaching school in Houston, Tex.

1932—Went to Washington, D.C., as secretary to Rep. Richard Kleberg, D-Tex., remaining in that post until 1935.

1934—Married Claudia (Lady Bird) Taylor on Nov. 17. Attended night school at Georgetown, Tex., law school.

1935—Named Texas administrator of the National Youth Administration by President Roosevelt.

1937—Successfully sought 10th congressional seat without opposition and remained there until elected to U.S. Senate in 1948.

1940—Masterminded congressional campaign and instrumental in retaining Democratic leadership in House.

1941—Sought seat in U.S. Senate vacated by death of Sen. Morris Sheppard. Lost to Gov. W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel by 1,311 votes.

1941—Within hours after casting vote to declare war on Japan and Germany, was in uniform. He was first member of Congress to enter active duty. Received Silver Star for gallantry in action on a flight over New Guinea.

1942—Returned to Congress when FDR ordered all members of the Congress in the armed forces to return to their offices.

1948—Made second try for Senate. Defeated Former Gov. Coke Stevenson in an unusually tight election. Out of about one million votes cast, Johnson won by a majority of 87 votes.

1950—Became chairman of the armed services preparedness subcommittee.

1951—Unanimously elected party whip. Won praise of colleagues for his work and ability as a "can-do" man.

1953—Named minority leader when Democrats lost control of Senate by a single vote.

1954—Re-elected to U.S. Senate for second term.

1955—Elected majority leader of Senate, the youngest (46) majority leader in history. Steered Senate to impressive record. Suffered heart attack July 2. After hospitalization in Washington, recuperated on his Texas ranch and returned to Senate Dec. 12.

1956—Southern Democrats launched a drive to win presidential nomination for Johnson at national convention.

1957—Steered through passage of first civil rights bill in 75 years.

1958—President Eisenhower invited Johnson to go before United Nations to throw his support behind the U.S. resolution calling for peaceful exploration of outer space.

1959—Texas Legislature passed so-called "Johnson for President" bill, a statute permitting him to have name on 1960 Texas ballot for re-election to Senate and for president at the same time.

1960—Lost out in bid for presidency to Kennedy. Accepted vice presidential nomination and won re-election as senator from Texas and the vice presidential post.

1961—Resigned from U.S. Senate and took oath as vice president of United States.

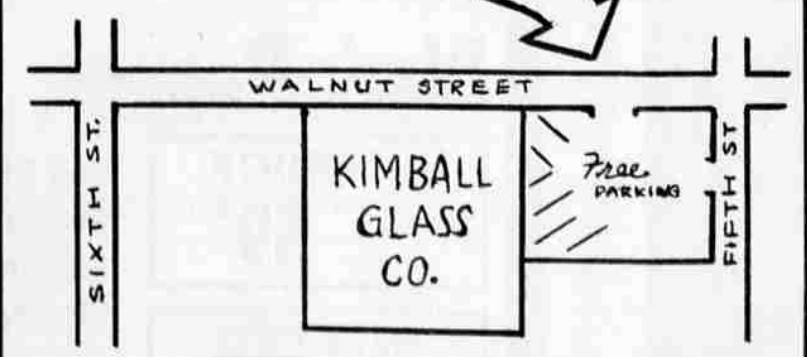
1963—Became 36th President of United States when Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

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