

WH6411-01-6121_scroller

Date: 1964-11-03

Participant: Lyndon B. Johnson

Participant: Hubert H. Humphrey Jr.

Start Time: 17:57

Place: LBJ Ranch

SCROLLER TITLE: "I'm Aching All Over"

SCENE SETTER: Sounding hoarse and exhausted while getting a massage and waiting for polls to close on Election Day, President Johnson spoke with his running mate, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey Jr. [DFL–Minnesota], about the physical wear and tear of the campaign.

President Johnson: Hello?

Hubert H. Humphrey Jr.: Mr. President?

President Johnson: How are you, Hubert?

Humphrey: Well, I'm fine, and how are you?

President Johnson: Oh, I'm just kind of broken up. I'm aching all over. I got a headache, and my damn bones—hip's hurting me, and I just . . . I'm just worn out. I just called you, 'cause I hadn't bothered you, and I didn't want to, and I didn't think that . . . I didn't think it was a good thing to do. But I wanted to tell you first, before I told anybody else, that you had no orders, and you had no instructions, and you had no mistakes. And I just don't know how anybody can do any better than that.

Humphrey: Well, Mr. President, you're wonderful to me. We worked hard, and I enjoyed it very much.

President Johnson: Well, you and your wife [Muriel Humphrey], and your family are just perfect. And I was awfully convinced about [it] the night I went up to Atlantic City [New Jersey], but I'm a lot more convinced tonight, and . . . Everybody makes some mistakes, and they got to ride them out, and so you got to suffer with them and understand them. But you and Muriel didn't make—didn't slip a bobble, and your family. And I just wanted all of you to—

Humphrey: Well—

President Johnson: —take whatever little comfort that you knew that Lady Bird [Johnson] and I loved you. And—

Humphrey: Well, we love you, Mr. President, and Lady Bird. And we've been thinking about you. I haven't wanted to bother you, either. I knew you were on the move every day. But we've been keeping in touch with your boys.

President Johnson: Well, that's the way to—that's—way you've handled it, you handled it just perfect, and I couldn't improve on it. And I just give you A-double-plus, and you'll probably never get that good a grade again. I don't—

Humphrey: [*laughing*] We're going to have a big victory tonight, Mr. President.

President Johnson: I don't pass many of them out, but I feel that way about it.

I hope so. I don't know. I'm sitting here with old [W.] Homer Thornberry, and they're rubbing me. I got a bad hip. I got a—I've been standing on my right leg. Your hip ever hurt you?

Humphrey: Yes sirree, and I'll tell you, you know that I had a period in this campaign where I thought my hips and legs were going to kill me!

President Johnson: Well, you just did perfect. You wound it up happier—I told the press this morning you were happier when you started—[at the] end than you were when you started. And you were more effective, and . . .

Humphrey: Well, thank—

President Johnson: All that television . . . those television—I saw them. I didn't see them on TV, but I saw them on the practice thing ahead of time—

Humphrey: Yes.

President Johnson: —and it was just perfect. Oh, you were so restrained and so effective. And you looked, by God, just as fresh as a daisy.

End of excerpt.

CITATION: "Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey on 3 November 1964," Conversation WH6411-01-6121, *Presidential Recordings Digital Edition [Lyndon B. Johnson: Civil Rights, Vietnam, and the War on Poverty]*, ed. David G. Coleman, Kent B. Germany, Guian A. McKee, and Marc J. Selverstone] (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014-). URL: <http://prde.upress.virginia.edu/conversations/4002629>