

November 22, 1963

9:00 PM

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND JUSTICE  
ARTHUR GOLDBERG ✓

LBJ: Arthur, I just wanted you to know -- you've been such a comfort -- such a wonderful friend, you and that good wife of yours. You have been so helpful to me and this Administration that I didn't want to leave my desk tonight without telling you that you're gonna share this heavy thinking with me -- there's no one that I would rather --

AG: I know, and I feel helpless. All we can say is if there's anything we can do, you know --

LBJ: Well, don't be so modest and shy. I want you to come in and out. Now -- because I need all the strength you can give me.

AG: Dorothy and I came over to see you at the airport -- if there's anything at all we can do --

LBJ: I want you to be thinking about what I ought to do to try to bring all these elements together and unite the country to maintain and preserve our system in the world because I -- if it starts falling to pieces -- and some of the extremes are going to be proceeding on the wrong assumption, why we could deteriorate pretty quick.

AG: It won't. I have no doubt about that.

LBJ: I want you to give it some thought, and come back to me tomorrow or the next day. Just, ah, think, think, think.

AG: Anytime, anytime.

LBJ: I want to give some thought, by the way, whether we ought to have a joint session of Congress -- after, and what would I say to them.

AG: I think we ought to --

LBJ: Well, I want you to think about who I talk to on the delivery side and how I ought to do it without, I mean with dignity and reserve and without being down on my knees but at the same time letting them know of my respect and confidence.

LBJ (cont'd) There's nobody in town I believe in more than you and I have got to have your help.

AG: Well, it is there for the asking and we wish you every good fortune in the world. You will do well, we have complete confidence.

LBJ: Well, I'm totally inadequate, but I'll do my best.

AG: No, no, not at all, I don't agree with that. Dorothy is right here and she wants to say hello. Here she is.

Mrs. G: Mr. President.

LBJ: Hi, beloved, how are you?

Mrs. G: Just God give you strength.

LBJ: Well, I'll get some from that great husband of yours and nobody gives me more comfort and more strength and that's why I wanted to talk to you both.

Mrs. G: Well, we'll be here and we'll bear witness with you and Mrs. Johnson. Now just take care of your health because care very much about that.

LBJ: Thank you, hon.

Mrs. G: You just get some rest and care. Dorothy didn't want to say another word except that. I won't take a minute of your time.

LBJ: Thank you. I want you to make a good speech for me sometime before long...

Mrs. G: Please, you take care of yourself. Here's Arthur.

LBJ: O.K.

AG: Mr. President. I suppose you have lots of affairs to take care of tomorrow but late tomorrow afternoon, I will call you.

LBJ: Please do that.

AG: And, have a good night's rest.

LBJ: Thank you.

AG: Say hello to Lady Bird.

LBJ: All right. Thank you.

This Joint Session, this labor thing and the general feeling of trying to bring them together. I had a general meeting with the leaders tonight and needless to say, ~~the~~ <sup>the Republicans are</sup> ~~probably~~ probably really more united than the Democrats. Mansfield didn't say a word.

Thank you so much

AG: I'll call you.

LBJ: Goodbye.

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH  
JUSTICE ARTHUR GOLDBERG NOVEMBER 22, 1963

President Johnson said that he wanted the Justice to know how much he appreciated the help that he had been given and that he wanted the Justice to know that he was going to be depending on him for advice and guidance.

Justice Goldberg said: "Well, it is there for the asking and we wish you every good fortune in the world. You will do well; we have complete confidence."