

November 27, 1963

5:01 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND BILL WHITE
(to Mr. White)

LBJ
..... and I don't think that these folks up here can understand the quality of our friendship.

BW I don't suppose they can. Mr. President, I want to tell you and I'm measuring my word. . . and I mean exactly what I say. . . and after thinking this over. . . I think your speech today was the greatest I've ever heard in my life. I think that not for the substance alone but for the manner of delivery, and I tell you I don't normally get terribly emotional, maybe I do, but I was crying there at the end, myself.

LBJ Well, you're mighty good. Homer Thornberry came in crying and poor old boy from the Cleveland Press, Louis Seltzer, called me up and he was crying said he'd been home with his wife. . 35 years he has been listening to speeches and he thought I made myself a great one today. . he thought that it was the greatest speech that he'd ever heard. . 34 applauses in 24 minutes.

BW Well, I think that I was watching as objectively as I could because I was interested, you know, in the whole reaction and I think your manner, your determination, your sincerity, your honest effort to get this country together again and keep it together with something I've never seen in any Presidential speech in my life. . and as you know, I've seen a few.

LBJ You sure have Bill. God bless you and give that sweet wife of yours my love. . .

BW She asked me to tell you this is the greatest moment of her life. . today.

LBJ Well it is mighty great to have friends like you. You don't know how much strength they give me and I am going to need you more in the days ahead. . so keep your chin up and put on that "thinking cap" of yours and come in with some suggestions cause we've got to save this country.

BW All right, sir.

LBJ Thank you my friend.

BW Thank you. Bye

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
WILLIAM S. WHITE

NOVEMBER 27, 1963

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Mr. White: "Mr. President, I want to tell you and I'm measuring my words -- and I mean exactly what I say --...I think your speech today was the greatest I've ever heard in my life. I think that not for the substance alone but for the manner of delivery, and I tell you I don't normally get terribly emotional...but I was crying there at the end....I think your manner, your determination, your sincerity, your honest effort to get this country together again and keep it together was something I've never seen in any Presidential speech in my life...."

The President: "It is mighty great to have friends like you. You don't know how much strength you give me and I am going to need you more in the days ahead...."