

WH6808-05-13341_scroller

Date: 1964-08-29

Participant: Lyndon B. Johnson

Participant: Hubert H. Humphrey Jr.

Start Time: 16:16

Place: LBJ Ranch

SCROLLER TITLE: "I'd Go with Muskie"

SCENE SETTER: Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey Jr. called President Johnson to inform him that he had chosen Sen. Edmund S. Muskie [D–Maine] to be his running mate in the 1968 presidential election. Humphrey asked if the President would be at the upcoming Democratic National Convention, and Johnson said no. He suggested that if he did attend, he would get in the way and distract attention from Humphrey's presidential nomination.

President Johnson: Hello?

Hubert H. Humphrey Jr.: Mr. President?

President Johnson: Yes, my friend.

Humphrey: Well, Mr. President, I did a little praying, I did a little walking, I did a little thinking, and I decided, despite everything, I'd go with [Edmund S.] Muskie [D–Maine].

President Johnson: Let's go.

Humphrey: And he and I . . . sort of talked it out. I think it's the right thing.

President Johnson: That's good enough for me. I'll do all I can to help, my friend.

Humphrey: God bless you.

End of excerpt 1.

President Johnson: Well, the only important thing is—

Humphrey: He'll be loyal.

President Johnson: —for you to be sure that that's who you can go to. You got to have a wife and a vice president that you don't have to worry about, and I've had that blessing, and you know it, and if that's your decision, that's mine.

Humphrey: Thank you, Mr. President.

President Johnson: God bless you, and keep in touch with me.

Humphrey: Are you coming in with us tonight?

President Johnson: I don't much think so, Hubert. I would—if there's anything in the world I could do to help, I'd do it, but I feel this way about it: that . . . it's run well. You've got a good platform. You got a good candidate. I couldn't do anything except just come in and kind of divide and share and try to . . . Well, I think it's your day and that you ought to have—anywhere I can go and

anyplace I can do anything, or any of my people or my staff or family, we want to do it. But I don't want glory, and if I did, I'd be running.

End of excerpt 2.

CITATION: "Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey Jr. on 29 August 1968," Conversation WH6808-05-13341, *Presidential Recordings Digital Edition* [*Johnson Telephone Tapes: 1968*, ed. Kent B. Germany, Nicole Hemmer, and Ken Hughes] (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014-). URL: <http://prde.upress.virginia.edu/conversations/4011162>