

Lady Bird's note to Estes could mean friendship

United Press International
AUSTIN — Lady Bird Johnson wrote a friendly note to convicted con man Billie Sol Estes in 1962, placing in doubt a Johnson family contention that the former first lady had almost no relationship with the swindler, the Dallas Times Herald reported Wednesday.

The letter from Mrs. Johnson to Estes, who served two prison terms for fraud, began, "Did you think I had forgotten about you?"

The letter, dated Feb. 15, 1962, was released Tuesday with other Johnson documents from the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin.

The relationship between Estes, Mrs. Johnson and former

Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson again came under question after Estes testified this spring before a Texas grand jury that Johnson ordered the murder of a Department of Agriculture official.

Estes said Johnson ordered the slaying of U.S. Department of Agriculture official Henry Marshall because Marshall was close to uncovering Estes' frauds and could have linked Estes to Johnson.

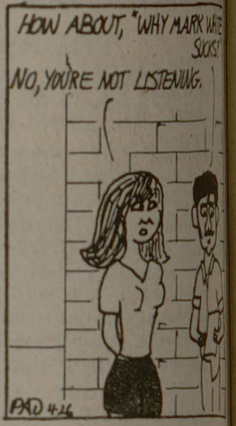
Mrs. Johnson's 200-word note is one of 20 known letters sent to Estes by Johnson, his family, and his staff to Estes during a four-year period that ended in early 1962.

The letter, which discussed backyard landscaping, does little to indicate the type of relationship between the Johnsons and Estes. It does, however, refute the statement of former Johnson administrative assistant Walter Jenkins.

Four months after the letter, when Estes' West Texas million-dollar financial empire was collapsing amid allegations of influence-peddling, Jenkins said Mrs. Johnson never had any correspondence with Estes. Jenkins was chief aide to the vice president at the time.

Johnson supporters contend he had no dealings with Estes other than to send him form letters in response to queries.

R.I.



by Paul Dirmeyer

Prelaw

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The Pre-Law Society gives its members another advantage — they are virtually the only Texas A&M students who know that Jessup is the designated pre-law coordinator for Texas A&M and that she has a large store of information available.

"If you're not in the Pre-Law Society, you wouldn't know about her," Cartwright said. "She's nice, and she's helpful if you go to her, but not everybody knows she's the pre-law adviser."

Kellett isn't sure what Jessup's official role is.

"There are other pre-law advisers on campus, but I think she's the main one," she said. "I don't think it's very well-publicized who to go to for pre-law specifically. If I were a freshman coming in, I wouldn't know who to go to."

"There are a lot of advisers that don't even know Hilary ex-

ists. They do need some coordination if people in other departments are trying to give some advice."

As a result, students outside the pre-law society go elsewhere for their information.

Rodger Drew, a senior history major who's headed for law school next August, didn't join the Pre-Law Society because he wasn't sure he was going to law school until this semester. It took him a while to find out where the information was.

"I don't think I went to the pre-law adviser here on campus until late in the game," he said. "I didn't know there was one."

But Drew said it is important for pre-law students to be around other pre-law students.

"You need somebody to talk to — there's no question about that," he said. His uncle, a retired lawyer, and four of his friends who are planning to go

to law school were his own pre-law society when he started thinking about law school.

"The process is costly, it's time-consuming, and you need someone to give you that moral support," he said.

For Steve Thomas, a senior journalism major, the moral support of a group isn't important.

"It's all according to the student," he said. "If you're not sure, if you're a group person, then what the Pre-Law Society offers will be important to you."

Rather than getting his information from a third party, Thomas went after it himself. He went to law schools, talked to lawyers and wrote to deans for information.

"To tell the truth," Thomas said, "I didn't realize they had a

pre-law counseling service until just a few weeks ago.

Even though the source of information is not well-publicized, most students manage to find out about school somehow.

But Liz Kellow, a first pre-law student, says she sometimes feels neglected, as law students aren't always in Texas A&M.

"I'm taking a pre-law program I made up for me," she said. "I don't even know what I have to do. I don't know what courses to take, just mainly picking the one that sounds good."

"I'm sure we have a lot of advisers here for pre-law pre-vet students. They're sure of where they're going

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Yellow Pages ads aren't open to all

United Press International
AUSTIN — Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. has the right — just like any other private publisher — to refuse to print certain ads in its Yellow Pages business directory, an appeals court ruled Wednesday.

A-ABC Appliance Co. Inc. sued Southwestern Bell in 1982 when the telephone company refused to accept the firm's proposed advertisement in the Austin edition of the Yellow Pages.

Bell claimed the name ABC Appliance would be unfairly placed in the head of the alphabetized appliance company listings.

A-ABC Appliance claims its lawsuit that as a public utility, Southwestern Bell was obligated to accept the ad as part of its public service.

But the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin ruled the phone company could refuse to print an ad it deemed improper.

"Bell does not have a monopoly on advertising and the legislature has determined that advertising is not part of public service," the 3rd Court of Appeals ruled. "Thus, Bell is free to contract in its capacity as any other publisher. In Texas, publishers are free to deal or decline to contract with whom they please."

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