

Larry + Elva

✓ Mike Manobos
✓ Henry Wilson
✓ Claude Desatella

✓ Mayor Ryan
✓ Gov. Volpe
Matthew Ryan

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

Cousins

LARRY O'BRIEN TESTIMONIAL DINNER

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 10, 1965

- Lights out -
Here - + white
Hans

↳ We meet tonight to pay tribute to a man who has proved he can deliver the votes . . . and who must now prove that he can deliver the mail!

Deliver the mail

↳ I am glad this is not a political occasion -- because Larry O'Brien has sworn off partisan politics.

not Political

↳ As President Johnson pointed out at Larry's swearing in, General O'Brien is now a true believer in the two party system: The Democratic Party and the Boston Tea Party.

2 party

Send O'Brien

Yes, Larry O'Brien can now join the illustrious ranks of other well-known Massachusetts-born, Irish Postmaster Generals: Samuel Osgood, Amos Kendall, Horace Maynard, Henry C. Payne and George von Meyer.

Larry was sworn in at the Texas post office where President Johnson mailed his first letter. But if he had been sworn in here in Springfield he could have selected the spot that meant most to him. He could have selected Cathedral High where he went to school, the Springfield "Y" where he played in the Saturday basketball league, or maybe the Roland Hotel, where he was born and which his father owned.

yes He might have selected any of these places. Yet, I think his preference -- and I hesitate to say this to a bi-partisan audience -- would probably have been Democratic Party headquarters.

*Sister Mary
Eugene
Principal*

< That's where Larry O'Brien cut his eye teeth in
 politics, working alongside his dad. < Of course, he
 was a "late starter" in politics for a Springfield boy. ↓
 understand he was six before he worked in his first
 campaign.

Late Starter

< But Mayor Ryan and Matt Ryan and Bob ^{Coffin} ~~Coughlin~~
 and many other Springfield friends have been coaching
 him along over the years, so Larry has been slowly
catching up on the art of politics. ↓

< You know, I really don't doubt for a minute Larry's
 capabilities in his new job. < I ran into him several
 times in 1960 -- in Wisconsin and West Virginia --
 and ~~I must say that, even then,~~ ^{and} he knew how to deliver
 the mail. — and votes!

Or should I say he ran over me!

One of the great joys of last year's Johnson-Humphrey campaign was that Larry was on my side.

now a General
↳ But Larry is no longer a politician. Now he's a General. And Generals are always bi-partisan -- especially in a Democratic administration. Tonight I think we should discuss what we can expect from our new, bi-partisan General.

↳ First, let me define "bi-partisan." That does not mean Larry will be issuing a Richard M. Nixon Commemorative Stamp.

~~it does not mean~~
It does mean that we won't put "Vote Democratic" on the sides of mail trucks.

↳ Larry, one of the ugly, unseemly things you will encounter as Postmaster General will be political patronage. !!

↳ One hundred and eighty years ago, Ben Franklin,
our first Postmaster General, set up shop in Philadelphia.

↳ We all know that Franklin was a distinguished diplomat
and statesman. But he was also a pretty fair politician.

↳ In fact, the ink was no sooner dry on his
appointment, when Franklin began organizing his
post office. His first act was to put five relatives on
the payroll.

↳ Abraham Lincoln was a recipient of political patronage.

↳ He served for fifty-five dollars a year as postmaster of
New Salem, Illinois.

↳ But when he became President,
he took a different view. During his trip to Gettysburg
to make his famous address he came down with a
contagious fever.

↳ That did not discourage job seekers, ~~though,~~ who
tried to see him anyway.

↳ "Let them all come in," Lincoln told his secretary,
"I finally have something I can give to everyone."

↳ Larry, as you know, there are some 500,000 postal
employees -- a small army under the command of
General O'Brien. Your army includes 35,000 postmasters
and 30,000 rural carriers. Yes, you will be charged
with delivery of 70 billion pieces of mail each year.

✓ ↳ Mark Twain once said: "Trust the mails only when
you have nothing to say. For my part, I prefer to
correspond by mental telepathy."

(But) That was long before General O'Brien's era. And
long before the ZIP code . . . or ABCD . . . or NIMS
. . . or VIM . . . or POMSIP or any of the other
techniques designed to speed our mail to its destruction --
I mean, destination.

L More seriously, Larry, I will point out that you are uniquely qualified for this appointment to the President's Cabinet. It has been rightly said that this promotion merely acknowledges what you have been for the past five years -- a member of the Cabinet without formal portfolio. You have been indispensable to two of the greatest Presidents in our history.

L I know that John F. Kennedy would have warmly applauded this appointment. President Kennedy knew the value of having Larry O'Brien on the team. He knew this in 1952, when Larry played an important part in the smashing victory that brought John Kennedy to the United States Senate. He knew it again in 1958, when Larry helped to direct Senator Kennedy's re-election. And he knew it in 1960, when Larry O'Brien organized the Kennedy campaign for President.

Larry O'Brien

The loyal, talented and
dedicated friend + Political

ally of J.F.K.

Senator

1952 -

Senator

1958 -

President -

1960

✓ Captain of the New Frontier Legal Program

"Let Us Continue" - + Larry kept the faith!

Campaign 1964 -

Tribute of President Johnson to Larry

"I know of no single individual who has
contributed more to the enactment of
legislation that touches the life of every
American. He is a wise counselor,
gifted strategist, efficient manager, and
warm humanitarian!"

And, most important of all, he knew it when he entrusted Larry O'Brien with the task of overseeing the legislative program of the New Frontier.

I was proud to be a part of the team working for those programs. As Senate Majority Whip, I worked closely with Larry to help John Kennedy realize his high ambitions for our country. I can tell you that no man was more loyal or more dedicated to John F. Kennedy than was Larry O'Brien.

Another great son of Massachusetts -- John Adams -- once said of his relationship with Congress: "Although the opposition was still inveterate, many members of Congress began to hear me with more patience, and some began to ask me civil questions."

Congress has always heard Larry O'Brien with patience and civility -- because that's the way he has heard the members of the Congress.

That's why both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson have called him their "strong right arm."

This past session of Congress was the most productive of important legislation in our nation's history. And Larry O'Brien was the man who steered that legislation through Congress. In the process, he has won the continued admiration and respect of legislators of both parties.

(X) Well, now that I've told you the official story, I'll tell you the real story.

I suppose it is inevitable that even a Larry O'Brien can meet his Waterloo. Well, Larry did . . . and it was the 89th Congress that did him in.

Larry and I were teamed up with the Congressional leadership to promote the President's legislative program.

And we felt pretty good about the result. ~~And so it was~~
~~that the President asked us to see him at the end of the~~
~~session.~~ Then the President said: "Boys, you let me
down. I wanted one hundred pieces of legislation passed
and all of our Democratic campaign pledges kept. You
brought in only 80 bills, and 35 per cent of the pledges.

But Almost isn't good enough in this Administration."

So Larry has, you might say, been eased out of his
job, right into the Cabinet. ^{*upgraded to rank of General.*} Luckily for me, I've got a
four-year option on my job. !

~~And so, Lawrence F. O'Brien, who failed to produce~~
~~enough legislation during the first session of the 89th~~

~~Congress,~~ ^{*He*} has been upgraded to the rank of General.

~~History may well record that his so-so record with the~~
~~89th Congress is only a prelude to what he will do with~~
~~the U.S. mail.~~

But there is one hope, one consolation. There was once another General who also was an Irishman. His name was Jim Farley. He did fairly well with the job. So maybe our Larry will succeed after all. Maybe he will prove that the combination of post office and politics is best left to the Irish. *I think so. I know so!*

Larry O'Brien ~~was~~ my friend. I'm proud to have General O'Brien as my new friend. And in his behalf I voice one plea: Write ^{*so we can read it*} ~~legibly~~ and vote Democratic.

####

write plainly - + vote Democratic!



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