Monday, April 6.

Breakfast with LBJ. Nothing startling.

President concerned about who handles postal deal in the final arrangements this week between the Post Office and the unions regarding reform. Afraid Blount will again screw it up. Wants someone to take charge, because overall it crosses departments. Usery should handle it with labor leaders, and President will handle Congressional leaders. Feels Democrats are now in a box - have to do what labor wants but don't want to give us a tax increase to pay for it. Thinks Colson should ride on keeping our side presented right publicly.

Another long talk regarding poll situation. Gallup will be out Thursday with the big drop. President trying to analyze why. Feels we have proven that a lot of activity, i.e., messages, stunts, etc., doesn't do any good regarding national popularity - only events affect this. Strongly says we shouldn't worry about doing something every day. It doesn't make any difference - so not worth all the effort and expense. Instead should be sure to do more to follow up and capitalize on the big events that do make a difference. Ordered an immediate phone poll to see effect of past two weeks (since Gallup in field) regarding postal strike, desegregation statement, etc. Feels we have to figure this as a year of hard fights, and without much help from Congress, RNC, press, etc. A soft economy always hurts - just have to ride it out. War, economy and segregation are all that really matter.

Carswell's recommittal vote failed as our troops rallied pretty well. Harlow called in with the 52-44-3. President then decided to go to opening ball game - in about 5th inning. Lasted until 6:30 or so.

Made point again that we need to change the Agnew approach. He is a very effective salesman for himself but not for the Administration. Has become too much of an issue and a personality himself.