

Stuart Flack Script Treatment for Johnson-Obama Speech Collage

LBJ

My first job after college was as a teacher in Cotulla, Tex., in a small Mexican-American school. Few of them could speak English, and I couldn't speak much Spanish.

OBAMA

I am the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas.

LBJ

My students were poor and they often came to class without breakfast, hungry. They knew even in their youth the pain of prejudice.

OBAMA

I was raised with the help of a white grandfather who survived a Depression to serve in Patton's Army during World War II

LBJ

Somehow you never forget what poverty and hatred can do when you see its scars on the hopeful face of a young child.

OBAMA

my white grandmother — a woman who helped raise me, a woman who sacrificed again and again for me, a woman who loves me as much as she loves anything in this world, but a woman who once confessed her fear of black men who passed her by on the street, and who on more than one occasion has uttered racial or ethnic stereotypes that made me cringe.

LBJ

I never thought then, in 1928, that I would be standing here in 1965. It never even occurred to me in my fondest dreams that I might have the chance to help the sons and daughters of those students and to help people like them all over this country. But now I do have that chance—and I'll let you in on a secret—I mean to use it.

OBAMA

**I am married to a black American who carries within her the blood of slaves and slaveowners — an inheritance we pass on to our two precious daughters.**

**LBJ**

**As a man whose roots go deeply into Southern soil I know how agonizing racial feelings are. I know how difficult it is to reshape the attitudes and the structure of our society**

**OBAMA**

**I have brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, uncles and cousins of every race and every hue, scattered across three continents,**

**LBJ**

**This is the richest and most powerful country which ever occupied the globe. The might of past empires is little compared to ours. But I do not want to be the President who built empires, or sought grandeur, or extended dominion.**

**OBAMA**

**and for as long as I live, I will never forget that in no other country on Earth is my story even possible**

**LBJ**

**I want to be the President who educated young children to the wonders of their world.**

**OBAMA**

**But it is a story that has seared into my genetic makeup the idea that this nation is more than the sum of its parts**

**LBJ**

**I want to be the President who helped to feed the hungry and to prepare them to be taxpayers**

**OBAMA**

**that out of many, we are truly one**

**LBJ**

I want to be the President who helped the poor to find their own way and who protected the right of every citizen to vote in every election.

OBAMA

Working together, we can move beyond some of our old racial wounds, and that in fact we have no choice if we are to continue on the path of a more perfect union.

LBJ

I want to be the President who helped to end hatred among his fellow men and who promoted love among the people of all races and all regions and all parties.

OBAMA

The complexities of race in this country that we've never really worked through — a part of our union that we have not yet made perfect

LBJ

The time of justice has now come. I tell you that I believe sincerely that no force can hold it back. It is right in the eyes of man and God that it should come. And when it does, I think that day will brighten the lives of every American.

OBAMA

For the African-American community, that path means embracing the burdens of our past without becoming victims of our past.

LBJ

So I say to all of you here, and to all in the Nation tonight, that those who appeal to you to hold on to the past do so at the cost of denying you your future.

OBAMA

In the white community, the path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African-American community does not just exist in the minds of black people. that the legacy of discrimination — and current incidents of discrimination, while less overt than in the past — are real and must be addressed, not just with words, but with deeds.

LBJ

**This great, rich, restless country can offer opportunity and education and hope to all: black and white, North and South, sharecropper and city dweller. These are the enemies: poverty, ignorance, disease. They are the enemies and not our fellow man, not our neighbor. And these enemies too, poverty, disease and ignorance, we shall overcome.**

**OBAMA**

**And if we walk away now, if we simply retreat into our respective corners, we will never be able to come together and solve challenges like health care or education or the need to find good jobs for every American**

**LBJ**

**but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome.**