“Just Merely to Tell You I Loved You”

**Date:** 1964-08-04  
**Conversation:** WH6408-05-4698  
**Participant:** Lyndon B. Johnson  
**Participant:** Lady Bird Johnson  
**Start Time:** 20:35  
**Duration:** 00:40  
**Place:** Oval Office

SCENE SETTER: While working late and attempting to reach Republican presidential nominee Sen. Barry M. Goldwater Sr. [R–Arizona] with a brief on impending air strikes against North Vietnam, President Johnson took a moment to speak with Lady Bird Johnson.

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**White House Operator:** There you are.

**President Johnson:** Darling?

**Lady Bird Johnson:** Yes, beloved.

**President Johnson:** Did you want me?

**Lady Bird Johnson:** I just wanted to see you whenever you’re all alone.

**President Johnson:** All right.

**Lady Bird Johnson:** Just merely to tell you I loved you. That’s all.

**President Johnson:** Well, I'll be over there. The Russells [Robert L. and Betty Ann Russell] still there?

**Lady Bird Johnson:** No, they left at 3:30 this afternoon, dear.

**President Johnson:** I’'ll be darned. Well, I . . . Why didn’t they tell me good-bye?

**Lady Bird Johnson:** Uh . . . Because I guess they just—they figured you just didn’t have a moment.

**President Johnson:** I’ll be darned. Well, any other news?

**Lady Bird Johnson:** *[chuckling]* Nothing in comparison to yours, darling.
President Johnson: I'm trying to get Senator [Barry M.] Goldwater [Sr.] [R–Arizona], and I'll come over just as soon as I get through.

Lady Bird Johnson: Honey?

President Johnson: Yeah?

Lady Bird Johnson: Bring anybody who’s a bachelor or who wants to eat or who would otherwise be doing without supper until real late with you, will you?

President Johnson: OK.

Lady Bird Johnson: Bye.

End of excerpt.