

Is LBJ Eying a Kingmaker Role?

By Jack Anderson

Sam Houston Johnson has hinted that his famous brother, Lyndon, might try to return to the White House in 1972. Intimates agree that the former President doesn't like some of the leaders who are speaking for the Democratic Party and maneuvering for the presidential nomination.

He believes Ted Kennedy, George McGovern, William Fulbright and the other Senate doves are repudiating the foreign policy and world leadership provided by Democratic Presidents since World War II. Even the more moderate Senator Ed Muskie, in his campaign for the nomination, is edging too far to the left to suit LBJ.

Mr. Johnson will be 64 in 1972, five years older than Richard Nixon but no older than Harry Truman was during the 1948 campaign. But LBJ, who has already suffered one heart attack, has expressed private apprehension over his longevity. In discussing his future with intimates, he has remarked that long life doesn't run in his family.

Those who know LBJ say he

would rather be a kingmaker than attempt a comeback himself. They believe he would dearly like to install his close friend and political protege, John Connally, in the White House. For Connally is cast in the LBJ image, a carbon copy politically of the old master.

But even with Mr. Johnson's support, Connally has small chance of ever winning the Democratic presidential nomination. Intimates claim that LBJ has guided him instead into President Nixon's Cabinet. Connally accepted the appointment as Secretary of the Treasury, they say, with Mr. Johnson's quiet advice and consent.

This opens the door for Mr. Johnson himself to join the Nixon team. If an unacceptable liberal wins the 1972 Democratic nomination and if Mr. Nixon would accept Connally as his running mate, LBJ might come out for Mr. Nixon in 1972 and lead conservative Democrats into bolting the party.

The Defense Department has been cutting back expenditures so sharply that GIs are short of replacement parts for their jeeps and maintenance supplies for their barracks.

But Assistant Defense Sec-

retary Roger Kelley is trying to squeeze \$79,000 out of the budget for a brace of color TV cameras. He is eager to tape Pentagon propaganda in living color for the armed forces television network.

Given the new emphasis on economy, however, the budget shrinkers consider Kelley's cameras nonessential. They turned down his request, to quote a confidential memo, "in light of congressional criticism" of the number of communications devices already "controlled by the Secretary of Defense."

Undaunted, Kelley has now appealed over the heads of the budget boys. His deputy, Vice Adm. W. P. Mack, contended in a return memo that "television cameras certainly do not fall in this category."

While Kelley is maneuvering to get new color TV cameras, incredibly, the Air Force is closing down its color studio at Andrews Air Force Base not far from the Pentagon. If the short ride to Andrews is too inconvenient for Kelley, there are other Air Force color facilities only a few steps away in the Pentagon itself.

In any case, most stations on the armed forces television

network aren't equipped to show color tapes.

Fidgety Hoover

J. Edgar Hoover's rise from an obscure bureaucrat to an omnipotent crimebuster, whose name is familiar to every American, can be attributed partly to his bulldog look and his public relations genius.

Our FBI-style investigation of Hoover indicates, however, he is no longer the gun-toting, staccato-talking, fearless foe of crime and communism that his press notices would have the public believe.

He is the only government official, except for the President himself, to rate a bulletproof limousine.

A youth with shoulder-length hair, who lives in Hoover's neighborhood, said the FBI chief seems nervous about him. The youth told us that when he is around, Hoover won't leave his bulletproof Cadillac. The G-man and his chauffeur just sit in the car until the youth has moved up the street.

At times of civil disorders, plainclothesmen park in unmarked cars in the neighborhood and read newspapers interminably.

© 1971, Bell-McClure Syndicate, Inc.