

Texas Democrats Again

By Saul Friedman
Chicago Daily News Service

DALLAS —In the perverse politics of Texas, Democrats have observed the melancholy anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death by reopening the vicious intraparty war that Kennedy journeyed here to settle three years ago.

A powerful coalition of Texas Democrats — liberals, labor, Negroes and Latin Americans — bolted the party Nov. 8 to elect Republicans, including Sen. John G. Tower and two Congressmen.

Fresh from that spoiler victory, leaders of the coalition are vowing now to sit on their hands or vote Republican if Lyndon B. Johnson is at the head of the Democratic ticket in 1968.

Among Democrats here, private polls have shown, Mr. Johnson's popularity has slipped badly, as in the rest of the Nation. The reasons are mostly the same: Distrust, dissatisfaction over the Vietnam war, the rising cost of living, and race issues.

But there is a special rea-



GOV. CONNALLY
... arouses liberals' ire

son in Texas for the disenchantment that is obvious among liberals, union leaders, Negroes and Latin Americans. They resent deeply Mr. Johnson's refusal to help them loosen the tight control that Gov. John B. Connally and the conservative business Es-

tablishment exercise over the Party.

"We supported Kennedy, we worked for Johnson, we favor his domestic programs and the national Democratic platform," said Mrs. Billie Carr, a liberal leader. "Connally and the conservatives oppose all those programs, yet Johnson continues to let them run the Party because they will deliver the State for him just as long as he lets them alone."

Connally and other conservative leaders argue that Texas is a conservative State. If they pressed for liberal social reforms patterned after the national platform and the Great Society, they say, they could not keep the State in the Democratic column.

Houston labor leader Chris Dixie, a close associate of Democratic Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough, and the leader of a flourishing new group called Texas Liberal Democrats (TLD) says: "Connally is the leading purveyor of conservatism in the national Democratic Party, and all Johnson



SEN. YARBOROUGH
... has liberals' support

wants is for him to head and control the delegation to the National Convention. Even when Connally opposes most of his legislation Johnson keeps hands off.

"Well, we proved in this last election that Connally cannot get his kind of Demo-

Split Into 2 Feuding Factions

crat elected. We don't need Connally any more and we don't need Lyndon."

A top source in State Republican Headquarters said emissaries from anti-Connally forces have already informed Republican leaders that they could support moderates against Mr. Johnson and Connally, who is also up for reelection in 1968.

Liberal Democrats in Texas have demanded of Connally a \$1.25 minimum wage for farm workers, equitable taxes, programs for the poor, for education, and for the ill and disabled, and for an end to segregation.

A Houston attorney, Bob Hall, a leader of the liberal Democrats, said: "We had hoped that once Johnson climbed out from his Texas base and had a national constituency he would support those people in the Texas party who helped him and his programs. It was a false hope."

Actually, Mr. Johnson had little choice but to support



WAGGONER CARR

... Connally's man lost

Connally, who has long been a close friend. After the murder in Dallas, Connally, who was wounded, became unbeatable.

But during the 1964 campaign Connally rather openly sought Yarborough's defeat. Not until the last day of the

campaign did Mr. Johnson come to Texas to help Yarborough. And since then there have been reports that Connally will seek Yarborough's seat in 1970.

So it was to show their muscle against Connally and protect Yarborough that Texas Liberal Democrats openly supported Tower this year against Connally's hand-picked candidate, Attorney General Waggoner Carr, a paid-up member of the conservative Establishment.

Yarborough privately and personally helped Tower.

The Senator even withdrew the nomination for Federal District Attorney of a Democrat who helped Carr.

Labor and liberals did nothing to get the bloc vote to the polls. And they succeeded in getting for Tower a chunk of votes among Negroes and Latins in South Texas, usually controlled by machine bosses loyal to Connally and Mr. Johnson.

When the Texas legislature opens in January, Mr. John-

son may prevail on Connally to yield to some liberal demands. And the President may try to bring peace by assuring liberals there will be no threat to Yarborough.

"There will be no peace through Connally," vows Dixie. "I don't think Connally or Johnson can do a thing for us."