

Connally Says His Unit Received GOP Money

Post 11/2/72

The chairman of Democrats for Nixon, John B. Connally, acknowledged yesterday that their party-dolting campaign efforts have been financed largely by Republican loans and contributions.

He said this was partly because "we spent more than we expected to" and partly because Democrats for Nixon did not move into high gear until September. As a result, Connally told newsmen at a luncheon session here, "we did not have the time, inclination or money" to do any extensive fund-raising.

The former Treasury Secretary also said that "we've raised a lot of money that's gone to the Committee for the Re-Election of the President . . . A lot of people know we're going to be defunct after the election. They want to be on the (Republican) honor roll."

Even so, Connally estimated that Democrats for Nixon will have raised a total of \$700,000 to \$1 million before the campaign is over. "We'll spend about \$2 million," he said.

Connally predicted a massive victory for Mr. Nixon next week. The former Texas governor contended that the President might even be headed for "the most incredible victory in American politics."

Connally said he felt that description would be justified if the President should defeat Sen. George McGovern by a 60 to 40 margin.

President Johnson got 61.1 per cent of the vote in 1964 to Sen. Barry Goldwater's 38.5 per cent, but Connally argued that the LBJ landslide was made easier by the fact that Mr. Johnson was the majority party's candidate and was enjoying great popularity because of his successes at the White House after President Kennedy's assassination.

By contrast, Connally said, Mr. Nixon is not only the minority-party candidate but "a great many people don't like him. I don't say that he's the warmest, most charismatic man who ever sat in the White House. But I don't judge him that way. I judge him by the question of whether he's been doing an effective job."