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Connally May Get A New Nixon Call

(Mary McGraw
Washington WX Star News)

Nobody has been fired as yet—but rumors are already abroad that President Nixon may call upon John Connally to come in and rout out the White House staff and create a new one in an image of probity and rectitude.

Connally heeded his country's call, as transmitted by Richard Nixon, once before, when he became Secretary of the Treasury. The President regards the handsome Texan as a person of awesome gifts and worthy to be his successor.

Connally's pre-Watergate scenario called for a publicized conversion to the GOP, followed by a spell as Secretary of State. These plans have been flood-damaged by the Watergate revelations, which are, it is hard to remember, still in the first stages.

Whether Connally would wish to take on the job of super janitor in the White House is not known. If he wishes someday to become its master, he may have no other course.

DEMOS

The Democrats, gleeful over the stupendous turn of events, feel little cordiality toward the chairman of Democrats for Nixon; they actively resent his savaging of George McGovern in a gratuitous foreign-policy telecast.

Connally is, however, at least nominally and technically, a Democrat, and Mr. Nixon could claim his advent as the scourge of cor-

ruption as a partisan move. The Republicans would possibly in time come to hail him as the savior of the party.

There are, of course, those who feel that the situation has gone far beyond any such cosmetic move.

RIGHT

The conservatives, enraged by what they regard as Richard Nixon's betrayal of their cause, are talking impeachment. They say stoutly that it is the presidency and not the President that must be saved, and that only through the cleansing ritual of removing the man can the office be restored to honor.

Victor Gold, an ideologue who a few weeks ago was belaboring the perfidious press, weighed in over the weekend with an impassioned denunciation of the President, comparing him to Henry II in the murder of Thomas Becket. The President, whether he knew what was going on, Gold wrote in the Sunday New York Times, must bear responsibility. He forebore to write the bottom line, which was to impeach him.

Gold is Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's erstwhile press secretary, and might have been suspected of ulterior motives.

LIBERALS

The liberals, curiously enough, seem inclined to let the President serve out the remainder of his term—his capacity for government, and thus harm, lost. They prefer a downed Nixon to an ascendant Agnew. They feel generally that the country has been over-governed in

the past ten years, that it could not stand the trauma of impeachment. Let Congress, weak and inept as it is, reassert itself.

There have been no indictments, no hearings, no trials. But already the President has suffered such a fall that it is unlikely that even the forceful Connally, or some other strong man, can put together shattered prestige. He has suffered the worst fate that any man can suffer: he has discovered that the men who served him did not love him.

They are knocking each other down in their rush for the lifeboats.

For a chief executive who put such a premium on 'loyalty' that he discharged first-term high officials

who consorted with his enemies after hours, it is a severe, although perhaps, preliminary, punishment.

COMFORT

He may be comforted by reports that his hard-rock of support in the country is still clinging to the original contention that the Watergate raid was both witless and routine in politics.

They are bewildered by the what Common Cause calls the "underground streams of cash" that flowed through the "nether-world of politics" as practiced by the Committee for the Re-Election of the President. They still want desperately to believe that he did not know about the break-in or the cover up. The country is yet to be outraged.

Analysis
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