

Connally To Face Tough GOP Fight, Governors Say

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New York (AP)—Several moderate Republican governors say John B. Connally, former Democrat, faces a difficult task in establishing his Republican credentials sufficiently to win the 1976 GOP presidential nomination.

That view was expressed in interviews during the Republican governors' conference by Governors Daniel J. Evans of Washington, Francis W. Sargent of Massachusetts, Christopher S. Bond of Missouri, Robert D. Ray of Iowa and John S. Love of Colorado.

However, two conservatives, Governors Stanley K. Hathaway of Wyoming and Jack Williams of Arizona, said they thought the former Texas governor, named Thursday as a part-time White House consultant by President Nixon, won't be at any disadvantage if he challenges more established Republicans for the 1976 nomination.

The three-day GOP governors' conference winds up tonight with a state dinner at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The governors scheduled a day-long political discussion today at New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's Pocantico Hills estate in suburban Westchester county. Newsmen were excluded.

The Watergate case is one subject that presumably won't be on the agenda as the governors discuss ways to assume a larger role in the GOP. The governors decided Wednesday night against, issuing a joint statement on the scandal now shaking the Nixon administration.

However, Watergate and the indictment of former Nixon Cabinet officers John M. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans dominated much of the conversation of the governors Thursday.