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**Ford May Appoint  
 Connally to Cabinet**

**Andrew Tully**

**P**RESIDENT FORD, according to sources in his administration, wants very much to appoint former Governor John B. Connally of Texas to a high government post, possibly that of Secretary of State when Henry Kissinger departs.

Mr. Ford is described as holding Connally's proven capabilities in high esteem. The President is said to feel that "it's a shame" Connally's expertise is "being wasted," and reportedly is determined to find a spot for the former Treasury Secretary on his team. One educated guesser predicted that Connally would be moving back to Washington "before Christmas."

Connally, who was acquitted last April of taking a bribe from a milk producers association, has remained close to Mr. Ford. They chat frequently on the telephone and have met at least twice since Connally's acquittal. Mr. Ford is said to agree with what one source described as "Connally's understanding of the economics of foreign policy."

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**T**HERE is no doubt Connally would be an asset to the Ford Administration, whether as Secretary of State or in some other cabinet post. He is a career government official and has done well in two national offices — as Secretary of the Navy under John Kennedy and in the Treasury job under Richard Nixon. He has imagination and vigor and has never been afraid to do something the first time.

Whether Mr. Ford would appoint Connally to a post as sensitive as Secretary of State, however, is a difficult question. Although Connally was vindicated in a jury trial, he would be subject to criticism and attack by prejudiced opponents in and out of government. He was found innocent, but to many his indictment for bribery and perjury will remain a blemish on his career.

And, of course, Connally would have to be confirmed by a Democratic Senate all of whose members do not sit among the angels. His nomination undoubtedly would set off a hot fight, and Gerald Ford — a canny politician — could be forgiven for not looking for trouble with a presidential campaign in the offing.

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**H**OWEVER, giving Connally a big job might be good politics. Connally has substantial support, not only among conservatives but among his bedrock moderate Democratic backers going back to his days as governor of Texas. He has charm, personality, good looks and vigor. He has the "boldness" he thinks a President must possess.

Moreover, naming Connally to his team would permit Ford to eliminate a potential rival for the Republican nomination. Other sources in the official Ford family suggest that Connally might be an ideal running mate for the President if Nelson Rockefeller is dumped.