

TV Interview

Agnew Unworried About Connally



VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW ON TELEVISION
He said he was 'not a bit' worried by the talk

Washington

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said yesterday he was not worried by talk that Treasury Secretary John Connally might replace him as President Nixon's running mate in next year's elections.

Nor was there competition between himself and Connally, former Democratic governor of Texas, for the vice presidential nomination, Agnew said in an ABC television interview, "Issues and Answers."

Connally, who was appointed Treasury Secretary in February and is the only Democrat in President Nixon's Cabinet, has been mentioned by political commentators as a possible successor to Agnew.

Asked whether he was worried that Connally might replace him, Vice President Agnew said, "Not a bit. First of all, I think Secretary Connally, whom I knew and respected as a governor, has been a tremendous asset to this administration. I think he is one of the most capable Cabinet people I have ever observed."

"There is no competition between Secretary Connally and me in the sense that we are trying to elbow each other for the vice presidential nomination in 1972," he said.

In answer to a question, he said the President would have to decide for himself the wisdom of putting a Democrat on the ticket as the Vice Presidential nominee.

"I do not believe that if

Secretary Connally became a candidate for Vice President he would remain a Democrat," Agnew said.

He described as absolutely false a recent magazine report suggesting that his relations with President Nixon were cool.

"My relations with the President have remained consistent and entirely benign . . ." Agnew said.

Reuters