

SF Chronicle

11 Oct 72

Connally's View On Watergate

Los Angeles

Former Treasury Secretary John Connally called the Watergate bugging incident a "silly and stupid move" yesterday, but said political intrigue has long been "the very essence of political activity."

"Political intrigue is not anything new," Connally told a news conference here. "It has been going on for well over 100 years."

Asked if he was admitting the Committee to Re-elect the President was directly involved in the bugging of Democratic headquarters, Connally said he was speaking in general terms.

"I suspect it of both sides," he said.

"I'm not condoning political intrigue," he said. "I'm simply saying it is a fact of life. I am simply saying that it exists because we are all human."

Connally, who heads a group called Democrats for Nixon, called Senator George McGovern an isolationist and said he would think seriously about leaving the Democratic party if McGovern supporters retain control after the presidential election.

But Connally said again that he has no plans to run for office or accept another Nixon post. *Associated Press*
