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Connally Bars Race in Texas For Fourth Term as Governor

Says He Fails to Persuade Himself He Can Do Justice to State's Highest Post

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Special to The New York Times
AUSTIN, Tex., Nov. 10 — Gov. John B. Connally Jr. said today he would not seek a fourth term next year. He attributed his decision to a failure to persuade himself he had the enthusiasm, resilience and patience the post demands.

His withdrawal came after weeks of speculation during which friends of the 50-year-old Governor and former Secretary of the Navy tried to persuade him he should run.

He said last week that his close friend President Johnson had not asked him to run. Today he said he had not told the President of his decision before it was announced.

Governor Connally, his hair almost solidly gray, said he had no plans except to "relax, rest and travel" when he leaves office in January, 1969. He said he had no offers of positions, either public or private. Last week he said, in response to a question, that he had not been offered, nor would he accept, a Cabinet post.

Hard-Fought Primary

Mr. Connally was elected in 1962 after a hard-fought Democratic primary and general election races in his first attempt at elective office. He was re-elected in 1964 and 1966. His programs have been centered in the fields of education, water development and public and mental health. The Legislature has almost doubled state spending in the six years he has been in office.

His decision leaves Lieut. Gov. Preston E. Smith, also a Democrat, the only announced candidate for Governor. Former Attorney General Waggoner Carr, who lost to Senator John G. Tower, a Republican, in 1966, is now expected to be a candidate. Don H. Yarborough, Houston lawyer who lost to Mr. Connally by 26,250 votes in the Democratic runoff primary in 1962, is likely to be the candidate from the liberal wing of the Democratic party. Republicans had been seek-



Associated Press Wirephoto
Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas, makes announcement from capitol in Austin.

ing a candidate capable of making a major race against the Democratic nominee, but without success so far. The state Republican chairman, Peter O'Donnell, of Dallas, said Mr. Connally's decision would help the Republican party recruit candidates and win in

Delay by Yarborough

Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, a Democrat, said in Dallas he believed the Connally withdrawal would help President Johnson carry Texas in 1968. He said he would announce his decision after Congress adjourned this fall as to whether he will make the race for Governor. Senator Yarborough and Governor Connally have been hostile to each other.

When Governor Connally was seriously wounded on Nov. 22, 1963, as he rode in Dallas with President Kennedy, it slowed him appreciably. A mild case of stomach ulcers developed last spring, but he came back from a six-week safari in Africa in September in good health.

But today he said:

"I have reluctantly concluded that after the strain of what will have been eight years of vigorous public service, I no longer can be assured in my own heart that I could bring to the office for another two years the enthusiasm, the resilience, the patience that my conscience would demand, and the state would deserve."