

Connally's Second Thoughts

New York

John B. Connally was on the brink of switching to the Republican party last week but stopped short due to the growing furor over possible White House involvement in the Watergate break-in, sources said yesterday.

The former Texas governor reportedly is still uncertain as to whether he wants to run for President in 1976 but apparently has no doubts remaining about his inclination to forsake his life-long allegiance to the Democratic party.

Sources said he was primed to make the switch last week or, at the latest, this week, but was stymied by the uncertainties arising from the raid on Democratic party headquarters in the Watergate office building in Washington.

TIME

"Obviously, this wasn't any time to be joining the Republican party," the source told a reporter.

Connally was the only

Democrat in President Nixon's cabinet in Mr. Nixon's first four years in the White House. He served as treasury secretary during the tumultuous period when Mr. Nixon imposed wage-price freezes and took dramatic new actions in the international monetary and diplomatic fields.

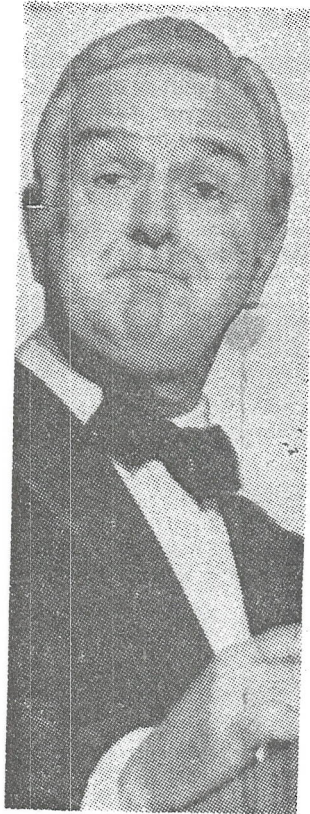
During last year's presidential campaign, Connally headed the successful Democrats for Nixon organization and rumors of his imminent switch to the GOP have been prevalent ever since.

Interviewed before speaking to the Wharton Graduate Business School Club of New York, Connally said he had not spoken to Mr. Nixon lately.

DECISION

Asked what was holding him back from making his decision about switching parties, Connally replied: "I'm working . . . I've been working very hard."

He did not deny that he had talked to Republicans such as presidential counse-



AP Wirephoto

JOHN CONNALLY
Worried about Watergate

lor Anne Armstrong of Texas about his plans. But he refused to elaborate on any timetable or to reveal any current leanings one way or another.

I have nothing to say about my future plans . . . I don't have any," Connally said. "I'm busy at representing my clients — I just might do it for some time."

Associated Press