

Connally Blames U.S. Media for

SAN ANTONIO—Former Texas Gov. and U.S. Treasury Secretary John B. Connally said yesterday that "character assassination has become a way of life" in this country, and blamed newspapers, television and radio for it.

"We live in a time of blanket condemnation, class indictment, social and political polarization and bitter re-creation," Connally told 2,000 persons at the State Bar of Texas meeting.

"We live in a time when the mass media has become a pervasive influence on all our lives, when instant communication has exposed and magnified every failing of our society, and even when manipulation of the news to accomplish a desired end has become an art for any number of self-serving practitioners."

After the speech, reporters asked Connally whether he was talking about news reports linking him with a \$10,000 payoff to get a national increase in milk prices for Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

"No, I was talking about a larger picture," Connally said.

The reporters then asked whether the milk scandal would affect any hopes he had of running for President.

"Let's wait and see," Connally answered.

'Character Assassination'