John Connally: From Poor Boy to Millionaire

man of Connally's wealth should have comes to trial. The puzzle is that a fund payoff. ment charges, with \$10,000 in a milk been diddling around, as the indictperjury says he is convinced he will struction of justice, illegal payoffs and prove his innocence when his case

butcher in the butcher shop in Flores flourishes in the most exotic form in poor boy to millionaire syndrome that ville, his birthplace. Texas. His father was the second Connally is a prize example of the

the politics of influence and pull. who was to hold a succession of high in 1937 when the late President was a ally to Washington to be his assistant ough master who knew every angle of pffices including three terms as gover-nor of Texas got his schooling from a young congressman. The young aide Lyndon Johnson. As his friend and po-litical mentor, Johnson brought Conant form was evident in the career of That syndrome in even more luxur-

jaken at Johnson. Didn't he deserve investigated? Nixon? Why wasn't his mpeachment as much as President tles of impeachment potshots were Miciary Committee's debate on the arti-Now and then during the House Jupresidency

nerged Republican defense line: You impeach a Republican President when Democrats in the majority are out to This has been part of a half-sub-

> and others don't. and it happens that some get caught cism that all politicians are corrupt tions. This fosters the corrosive cynigone on in Democratic administra-

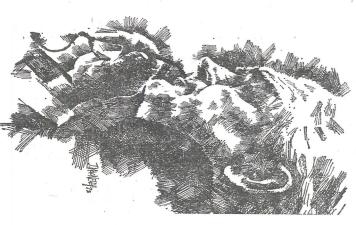
stakes, Lyndon Johnson was no slouch. He was on a public payroll all his life until he left the presidency. While in the five years in the White House his salary was \$100,000 annually with an additional \$50,000 expense account; both amounts were taxable. In the poor boy to millionaire sweep account;

vision property had been sold not long some of which had been disposed of properties and in large landholdings, was in valuable television and radio two daughters Lynda Bird Robb and Luci Nugent. The bulk of the estate before for \$9 million. shortly before his death. One televilions he had previously given to his million. This included the several milwas estimated at \$35 million to \$40 Yet after his death in 1973, his estate the estate

acquired the TV stations. To this reporter's knowledge only one newspaper, the Wall Street Jourhow the President and Mrs. Johnson an in-depth investigation of

Johnsonian fashion. "outsiders" to compete in the Johnson President vented his wrath in the Journal articles appeared and the domain in Texas. I was at the ranch as Influence and pressure marked the ail that made it impossible for typical

Power and money were the two



By Jeff MacNelly

not necessarily mean political power. often heen demonstrated, wealth does was as simple as that since, as has so his mentor. Power meant money. It poles of attraction for Connally and

hally in 1968 organized "Democrats Sniffing the political winds, Con-

> high, this set in motion the boom for Connally as the party's nominee in Treasury. With the Republicans riding Nixon named him Secretary of the But Connally got his reward when sided campaign, it was superfluous for Nixon." Like so much in that lop-

more than a year. history. The agreement lasted hardly significant event in world financial in the history of the world," the most most significant monetary agreement ment on the realignment of exchange Group of Ten that reached an agreemeeting of the finance ministers of the Secretary Connally presided over the The President called it "the

the big, tough talking Texan. He had all the bold assurance that Nixon, so insecure in his background, lacked. Yet the President was enamored of

Even if he got through, it would be after a bruising fight that would seridential nomination. ously impair his chances for the presi gress could block his confirmation. House, he felt that Democrats in Con-Connally. Connally declined the offer fall, first offered the vice presidency to President, after Spiro Agnew's down-Contrary to the belief in the White What has been forgotten is that the

year of our distillusionment suits. It is one more trial in the the bracket of private planes and boy from Floresville who moved tragic procession haunting Now this all goes glimmering for the

© 1974, United Feature Syndicate