

*Q. Is it not a fact that Richard Nixon never wanted Gerald Ford as his Vice President, that his first choice after the Spiro Agnew scandal was Governor John Connally of Texas?—K.F., San Antonio, Tex.*

*Parade 9/8/74*

*A. Nixon preferred Connally to Ford. It was Melvin Laird, however, who convinced Nixon that Connally was a too new convert to the Republican Party to win Congressional approval as Vice President. Under the circumstances it was lucky that Nixon listened to Laird since Connally was subsequently indicted on five counts in the milk support scandal. One of Mr. Nixon's major weaknesses was his incredibly bad personnel judgment.*