

Connally Says He Has 'No Plans' To Hold an Office or to Seek One

NYTimes

FEB 2 1973

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—John B. Connally expressed his gratitude today to President Nixon for the President's public declaration that Mr. Connally "could handle any job I can think of," including the Presidency.

However, Mr. Connally, who was President Nixon's Secretary of the Treasury for 18 months, said he had "no plans to hold office or seek office."

Asked whether that meant he was not going to serve the President again in any capacity, Mr. Connally, interviewed by telephone, said, "I didn't hardly say that, I said I have no plans to. I didn't say I wouldn't. I said I had no plans to, and I don't anticipate that I will."

There have been reports, circulated by supporters of Vice President Agnew, that President Nixon wanted to groom Mr. Connally for the Presidency by appointing him Secretary of State.

"He has not discussed it with me," Mr. Connally said.

Yesterday, at a White House news conference, Mr. Nixon was asked about a report that he had said Mr. Connally, a Democrat, would be the 1976 Republican candidate for President. That led to the exchange of compliments between the two men.

Today, Mr. Connally said he

was "extremely grateful" to the President and was "very proud of the President and what he's done on the Vietnam thing." He said the President had shown "remarkable courage in the face of very severe criticism."

"I know the American people agree with him," Mr. Connally said.

Told that he talked like a man who thought he had voted right in November, Mr. Connally said, "I do, I do. I was proud of my support of him [Nixon]. I still am."

Mr. Connally, a former Governor of Texas and Secretary of the Navy under President Kennedy, was chairman of Democrats for Nixon in the 1972 Presidential campaign.