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Ford Cautioned on Choosing Connally

Washington

Moderate Republican congressmen, including two who voted to impeach former President Nixon, are urging President Ford to examine certain court documents and evidence of the impeachment inquiry before seriously considering John Connally as his running mate.

Representative William Cohen (Me.) and Tom Rallsback (Ill.) said yesterday they have asked for a meeting with Mr. Ford to present evidence that linked the former Texas governor to a milk fund scandal. The meeting was proposed by the Wednesday Group, an organization of about 35 moderate Republican congressmen.)

Although Connally was acquitted of bribery charges in a trial that grew out of the scandal, Cohen said Mr. Ford should study evidence that was not admitted at the trial. The evidence includes the transcript of a White House tape of a conversation in which Connally promised Mr. Nixon he would have at his discretion "a very substantial allocation of oil in Texas," Cohen said.

Cohen said the tape was among several that the House Judiciary Committee subpoenaed, but the White House failed to turn over before the impeachment inquiry ended.

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