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Connally Raising Funds and Issues

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HOUSTON, Aug. 1 — John Bowden Connally played host to a fund-raising dinner for himself here last night, raised \$300,000 to \$400,000 from both Republicans and Democrats, and showed that he had retained much of his old political power in Texas.

Mr. Connally said he was not a candidate for anything but that he needed the money so he could travel around the country and "speak out on important issues." It was his first try at money-making which is a test of political power in Texas, since he was acquitted on bribery charges three months ago.

More than 3,500 supporters from around Texas paid \$25 each for a plate inside the Albert Thomas convention center where a bill-board read "Salute to John Connally, a Non-Partisan Tribute to One of America's Most Distinguished Leaders."

A pre-dinner reception was held at a nearby hotel for more than 1,000 of the guests who paid \$1,000, \$500, or \$250 to become a Connally patron, sponsor or supporter.

Aides to the 58-year-old former Texas Governor said that since he was not running for any office, the exact amount of money raised and the names of donors would not have to be made known under Federal campaign finance disclosure laws.

Contributors will not be able to deduct from their income taxes their donations to Mr. Connally, the aides said. And they said they presumed that Mr. Connally would have to declare last night's donations to him as personal income on his own tax returns.

Dinner guests were ferried by bus from the hotel reception to the dinner throughout a rain-storm. Outside the convention center, a lone man stood with a sign that read:

"Demos let's not forget King Connally, Dick Nixon gave Texas the Shivers—signed, a loyal Democrat." The reference was to the former Governor, Allen Shivers.

Democrats abounded at the dinner, as did wealthy oil and other Texas businessmen. Even Gov. Dolph Briscoe, a Democrat, lent his name to fund-raising efforts, but missed the meal, in behalf of Mr. Connally, who switched to the Republican party and became Secretary of the Treasury under President Nixon.

Some of the Democrats on hand said they were there because the dinner was billed as a "nonpartisan tribute to

a man." Billie Carr, a Democratic National Committeewoman who was not present, said that description was nonsense.

"If any person believes that this money will be used for nonpartisan purposes, then he must also believe in Santa Claus, the tooth fairy and Richard Nixon," she said.

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, now retired set the tone of the speeches in behalf of Mr. Connally by warning that the Soviet Union, measured in constant rubles, was spending 60 per cent more for military purposes than was the United States.

"Detente without defense is a delusion," he said.

Other speakers championed unbridled free enterprise and condemned government regulations and bureaucrats.

Mr. Connally said the dinner, arranged by Julian Read, his long-time public relations man, was "part of my commitment to do a better job myself of speaking out."

He called for a strong national defense and strong Central Intelligence Agency to "protect the vital interests of this nation in a treacherous world."

Mr. Connally also said that American Presidents should be limited to one six-year term of office, the Federal bureaucracy should be reduced; a constitutional amendment should be adopted prohibiting deficits ending except during wars or national emergencies, and Federal judges should be reconfirmed every 10 years and retired mandatorially at age 70.

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