

Connally, in Cabinet Post, To Aid Texas Democrat

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Texas Republicans may have been premature in expressing elation at President Nixon's decision to name a Democrat, former Gov. John B. Connally Jr., as Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Connally is a major figure in Texas Democratic politics. By placing him in a Republican cabinet, the theory went, Mr. Nixon had guaranteed the 1972 re-election of Republican Senator John G. Tower. Surely, the Republicans said, Mr. Connally could not work on behalf of any Democrat opposing Mr. Tower.

Now it appears he plans to do just that. According to well-placed Texas Democrats, Mr. Connally is offering them reassurance that he will not sit out the 1972 Senate election. He is said to have told President Nixon he would back a Democrat against Mr. Tower and to have won Mr. Nixon's pledge to let him do so.

Will R. Wilson, the Deputy Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, was noticeably mum when other Administration officials were praising the selection of Mr. Connally. Now a Republican, Mr. Wilson was a Democrat in 1962 when Mr. Connally defeated him in a party primary for the Texas Governorship nomination.

Among the issues in the 1962 campaign was Mr. Wilson's charge that Mr. Connally had been a key figure in a 1956 lobbying effort on behalf of the natural gas industry—which Mr. Connally denied at the time.

What did Mr. Wilson think of Mr. Connally's nomination to the Cabinet post? "I don't have any comment on that," he said last week.

When President Nixon introduced Mr. Connally to the White House press corps last week he admonished him not to answer any questions "because the Senate," which must approve his nomination, "wants to ask you the questions."

Three days earlier, appearing with George Bush, his nominee to become Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Nixon made the same stipulation, saying, "The Senate is quite jealous of its right to ask the first questions."

In neither instance did the White House correspondents object—or ask any questions of the nominees—although the restrictions had no precedent and, as far as staff officials of the Senate committees involved knew, no Senators had made a point of getting first crack at Presidential nominees.

An Administration spokesman said later that Mr. Nixon had been kidding.



The New York Times

John G. Tower, Republican Senator from Texas.

for an analysis of his campaign speeches, including their tone, content and the gestures he made while delivering them. The objective is to determine what improvement can be made for 1972.

Ellsworth Bunker, the United States Ambassador in Saigon, is said to be miffed about a long series of challenges, arguments and contradictions cabled him by the State Department in response to a set of recommendations he submitted on foreign aid.

According to diplomatic sources, Mr. Bunker stomped into the embassy code room and told a clerk to send a cable that the sources paraphrased as follows:

"Within the next eight hours, every member of this mission, male and female, proposes to go to the rest room. Can we have your detailed guidance?"

Conflict of interest charges stemming from the stock portfolio held by United States Judge Clement F. Haynsworth Jr. played a hole in his rejection by the Senate as a nominee to the Supreme Court. Friends of William O. Douglas were accordingly relieved to learn that he did not own any stocks.

The Special House Judiciary subcommittee looking into impeachment charges against Mr. Douglas reported in a long document last week that there were no grounds for impeachment. The report did not mention any stocks, but it turned out that records Mr. Douglas prepared for the subcommittee showed that his wife, Cathleen, holds 20 shares in a Tennessee corporation, Performance Systems, Inc.

To those who know Mr. Douglas it was an ironic footnote. In keeping with the aura of controversy that seems to surround Mr. Douglas, Performance Systems, Inc., is the marketer of Minnie Pearl Chicken Restaurants, and the company, under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission, was a major issue in Tennessee's 1970 governorship campaign.

No less ironic was the disclosure that the 92-foot yacht Patrica, which served five Presidents until Mr. Nixon put it up for sale as an economy measure this year, wound up in the hands of Victor Muscat, the controversial former president and board chairman of Fifth Avenue Coach Lines, Inc.

Muscat pleaded guilty last year in a Federal District Court in New York to two charges of filing false statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission. He is awaiting sentencing, which could total four years in prison and \$20,000 in fines.

Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans presented a box of cigars to Mr. Nixon when he met with the President last week. The cigars had been sent to Mr. Stans by President Anastasio Somoza Debayle of Nicaragua.

"Who do I know who smokes cigars?" mused the President as several aides tried to think of a politician or friend.

"I know," Mr. Nixon said, snapping his fingers. "Tito."

The latest indication that the White House is much more realistic in private about Republican losses in the 1970 Congressional elections than it has conceded in public was a terse notice to Presidential aides to stop talking about the elections.

Mr. Nixon has also asked